



TAFEA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q1, 2025

Image 1: Opening ceremony for the West Tanna Plumbing Training, featuring officials including the Director of the Department of Water Resources, - Mr. Erickson Sammy, Province Assistant Secretary General - Mr. Karlton Sam, Pacific Vocational Training Centre Director - Mrs. Lisa Toa, and 47 trainees who will attend the training at Loukatai, West Tanna



LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



Image 2: Group photo of the Tafea Provincial Retreat Planning Team at White Grass Resort

Priority area: Provincial Leadership and Governance

Achievement/Outcome:

- In February, the Tafea Skills Centre participated in the 2025 Tafea Provincial Government Planning Retreat. For the first time, government departments, Area Administrators, International Non-Government Organisations, and local Non-Government Organisations participated and shared their priorities for 2025.
 - This retreat aimed to support the develop of a consolidated provincial plan for 2025, aligning with the Five-Year Strategic Development Plan (2023-2027) while reflecting community needs and context.
 - Under the leadership of the current Secretary General, the activity signifies a step towards better coordination for the delivery of essential services in Tafea while helping to promote resource sharing between partners.
 - The context and current challenges in each Area Council were explored during the event including environmental challenges such as the impacts of rapid population growth, increased seasonal worker participation, and coastal erosion due to sand and coral depletion.
- The retreat included a diverse range of voices from men and women in addition to people with disabilities, while Area Administrators from remote islands such as Futuna and Aniwa were able to participate via Zoom.
 - Partners will be invited to present on their progress at the last sitting of the Provincial Council in May.

SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority area: Market access for Vanilla farmers from Tanna and Aneityum

Achievement/Outcome:

- In partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DaRD) and local Vanilla Farmer Associations, the Tafea Skills Centre facilitated sales of over VUV 2,000,000 of vanilla from the 2024 harvest.
 - 28 farmers (including seven women and a man with disabilities) from Aneityum sold 167kg of cured vanilla to Nasituan, a local NGO, valued at VUV 1,446,000.
 - 15 farmers from Tanna sold 65kg of cured vanilla to Venui, a company based in Santo for VUV 627,350. Late last year, those same farmers also sold 66kg of cured vanilla to Nasituan, valued at VUV 821,000.
- The income from vanilla sales is the result of over six months of hard work curing beans.
- Farmers who attended two curing skills training sessions in 2024 have demonstrated improved quality in their vanilla beans from this season compared to previous harvests.
- Some Tanna farmers had noted challenges during the curing process due to their commitments to *kastom* ceremonies that were happening at the same time. Recognising this challenge, the Tafea Skills Centre supported these farmers to sell green beans to Nasituan instead of proceeding with curing themselves.
- There is a need to continue to support the Executive Groups of the Vanilla Associations to strengthen communication and coordination between producers, buyers, and government officers to ensure no miscommunications on pricing or quality in the future.



Image 3: Mrs. Rosalin from Nasituan handing over vanilla payment to Mr. Tafarou, a person with disability and local vanilla curing expert in Port Patrick, witnessed by Aneityum ADO officer Mr. Mike Jimmy

SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS



Image 4: Tanna vanilla farmers, Mr. and Mrs Sanga, receive a cash payment of VUV 390,000 for their 2024 vanilla harvest. Mr. Sanga was recognized as the top vanilla farmer in Tanna this harvest having both the highest yield and grading quality. The payment was handed over by Aneityum DARD officer Mr Mike Jimmy

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority area: Futuna – Teri Dye workshop (Product Development)

Achievement/Outcome:

- A total of 42 people (2men and 40 women, including one woman with a disability) participated in a three-day Teri Dye product development workshop at Herold Bay, Futuna. The workshop was delivered by international industry coach, Chris Delany, a local assistant coach, Clera Waka, the Tafea Creative Hub Manager, Mrs Lina Numake, Disability Inclusion Coordinator, Mr. Knox Lanny, and Vanuatu Intellectual Property Officer (VanIPO) Officer, Mrs. Lavina Donald.
- Women from six different communities in Futuna attended and showed strong commitment to learning how to mix and use Teri Dye. As a result, the new skills and dyeing techniques have helped improve the quality and colour of baskets to meet both local and international market demand.
- The team encouraged the replanting of pandanus trees as part of their discussions to ensure future supply is sustainable and to support climate resilience on Futuna.
- The Tafea Creative Hub Manager took the opportunity to introduce the Hub product catalogue and explain the pricing system for buying baskets—this motivated producers who are excited to commence selling quality products through the Hub.
- During the workshop, the VanIPO Officer provided awareness on the importance of registration and protection of traditional products. As a result, 14 Futuna-made basket designs were identified and registered for cultural protection with the support of local chiefs.



Image 5: Industry Coach, Chris Delany, hub guides participants through hands-on practice in mixing Teri Dye paint during the product development workshop in Futuna

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Image 6-8: Results of the product development workshop on Futuna which focused on improving handicraft baskets using Teri Dyes

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Image 9: VanilPO Officer , Mrs. Lavina, works with the Futuna community to register and sign agreements for the protection of their handcrafted products



Image 10: Mrs. Pamali, a craft producer with a disability, participates in the workshop held in Futuna. She is recognised as one of Futuna's best weavers

INCLUSION

Priority area: Disability Inclusion – Wheelchair Follow-Up Visit in Futuna

Achievement/Outcome:

- After advice from Tafea Disability Desk Officer, Mr. Maxwell, VSP's Disability Inclusion Coordinator Knox took advantage of recent travel to Futuna to conduct a follow-up visit with five clients (three women and two men) who received wheelchairs from the Tafea Skills Centre in 2023.
- The follow-up was important to ensure that the wheelchairs were still safe and functional, particularly in a remote area like Futuna. Knox visited these clients at their homes to check the condition and use of the wheelchairs in addition to providing some small support items.
- Two of the clients expressed frustrations about their wheelchairs because they did not match what they had expected. They expressed disappointment that other organisations had since visited them in Futuna and had promised to send different wheelchairs, but nothing had been received. We understand that the types of wheelchairs they wanted are no longer available in Vanuatu.
- To address their concerns, we will be organising a return visit to Futuna with the Disability Inclusion Desk Officer and we will bring pictures of the different wheelchair models that are currently available. This will allow these people to choose what suits them best and what fits their environment.



Image 11: VSP Disability Inclusion Coordinator Knox, visits Mr. Ranaldo to provide support with goods during his follow-up visit regarding his wheelchair

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority area: Projects of Provincial Significance- Building Plumbing Human Resources on Tanna

Achievement/Outcome:

- The opening of the first ever Certificate II in Plumbing training in Tafea Province was held in March, marking a significant milestone for the province.
- The training was officially launched by Mr. Erickson Sammy, Director of the Department of Water Resources (DoWR), and was attended by Mrs. Lisa Toa, Director of the Pacific Vocational Training Centre (PVTC), Mr. Karlton Sam, Assistant Secretary General of the Province, along with area administrators, government officers, and local community members.
- The training will be held in Loutkatai, West Tanna and delivered over the coming months by two male trainers from PVTC. As part of practical training delivery, several water systems will be upgraded.
- 47 participants, including six women and one male participant with a disability, are currently completing this inclusive training. These trainees will form a network of skilled plumbers who can support essential WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services like water system maintenance, and disaster response efforts in the future.
- This groundbreaking training has been made possible through partnerships between the Tafea Skills Centres with DoWR, PVTC, the Provincial Government, and West Tanna communities.



Image 12: Mr. Erickson Sammy, Director of the Department of Water Resources, officially opened the 5th Provincial Plumbing Training on 24th March 2025 in West Tanna

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 2?

Skills for Creative Industries

- Tafea Handicraft Annual General Meeting.

Skills for Tourism

- Support the Vanuatu Tourism Office and the Department of Tourism with a skills training workshop for Tanna business operators.

Skills for Infrastructure

- Complete the new Vanilla Storage House at Port Patrick on Aneityum and support the Aneityum Agriculture Development Officer to start using the building.
- Complete Nikoletan Wall cement fencing.
- Assist Plumbing trainees to form new companies in their Area Councils.

Disability Inclusion

- Providing Disability Inclusion Backyard Gardening support to active clients.

Skills for Agribusiness

- Sign the Whitesands Farm to School partnering agreement.
- Start engaging with the Office of the Registrar of Cooperatives and Business Development Services, Department of Industry, and Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics to oversee the Vanilla Association operations in Port Patrick.

Leadership and Governance

- Recruit the contractor for the Tafea Provincial Economic Development Plan.

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Creative Industries	40	2	42	1 woman

**Participants in skills training activities only- this data excludes market access activities, consultations and events.*