



Image 1: Mrs. Lina Numake, Manager of Tafea Handicraft Hub, proudly displays a Tanna-style KitKit basket featuring Teri Dye painting — a product developed after the recent workshop.



TAFEA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q2, 2025



LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



Image 2: Tafea Provincial Secretary General, Mr. Joe Iautim, hands over the Central Tanna Area Council Building contract award to Mrs. Mary Lauwilu, the first female contractor to lead the construction of an Area Council building, at his office.

Priority area: Promote inclusive leadership and gender mainstreaming in the construction sector by empowering women to lead in technical industries

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Tafea Skills Centre has been actively promoting the inclusion of women in accredited training courses delivered in Tafea in recent years. In 2023, Mary Lauwilu graduated with a Certificate II in Building and Construction, which was delivered by Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) at Lenakel.
- Since then, the Tafea Skills Centre has continued to support Ms Lauwilu, including through the establishment of her building company Bargain Youngster Construction Company, which is now registered with the VFSC. She is the first woman to lead a building company in Tanna.
- Earlier this year, the Tafea Skills Centre supported Ms Lauwilu to prepare a bid for the contract to build the new Central Tanna Area Council Office. In June 2025, it was announced that Ms Lauwilu's company was the successful tenderer. Ms Lauwilu has nominated Mr. Charlo Malikum, a man with disability, as her site supervisor, setting a powerful example of inclusive leadership.
- Work on the Central Tanna Area Council office building commenced in mid June 2025 and is expected to be completed by November. Eight people (including 1 woman) are employed through Ms Lauwilu's company and are working on the construction of the building.
- Ms Lauwilu's leadership is a powerful local success story. It shows how inclusive, gender-balanced support can break barriers, create income opportunities, and strengthen the local construction industry's competitiveness and resilience.



Image 3: White Sands Bilingual School hosted the Farm to School (F2S) Chef Workshop with school cooks from Enaula, Lenakel College, Tafea College, and Kwataparen Secondary School .



Image 4: The participants from the F2S Chef Workshop receiving their certificates. The workshop was facilitated by Coach Chef Knox Taleo.

SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority area: Governance workshop for Vanilla association members in Port Patrick, Aneityum

Achievement/Outcome:

- In partnership with the Department of Cooperatives (ORCBDS), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and Aneityum Area Council, the Tafea Skills Centre supported the delivery of a 4-day governance workshop in Port Patrick, Aneityum, for members of the Port Patrick Producer Cooperative.
- There were a total of 27 participants in the training (21 male, 6 female, including two men with disabilities).
- The training focused on cooperative governance, business structure, financial management, and vanilla processing value chains. Farmers gained skills to manage a functional vanilla processing facility, from green bean purchasing to marketing of finished products.
- The workshop aimed to improve the financial literacy of participants and led to the introduction of a transparent payment system for cooperative members.



Image 5: Port Patrick vanilla farmers take a group photo after completing a successful training facilitated by Cooperative Training Officer Mr. Leintz Vusilai.

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority area: Strengthen community-led governance and economic empowerment through the first AGM of the Tafea Creative and Cultural Market Hub

Achievement/Outcome:

- In May, the Tafea Skills Centre supported the delivery of the first ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Tafea Creative and Cultural Market Hub, which saw strong participation from the Board, producers, and shareholders. A total of 35 participants attended the Board meeting (26 female, 9 male).
- At the Board meeting, it was confirmed that access to both domestic and international markets has been successfully established, most notably with a confirmed supply order to Auckland Museum and ongoing partnerships with major resorts on Tanna such as Rockwater, Whitegrass Ocean, and Tanna Evergreen.
- It was reported that the Hub has generated a total of VT 3,180,895 in cash sales from September 2023 to April 2025, indicating strong market demand for locally made handicrafts.
- A key resolution of the AGM was to promote pandanus planting, responding to raw material shortages due to drought and environmental stress.
- Holding the first AGM for the Tafea Creative and Cultural Market Hub is an important step in building a strong, community-owned handicraft business. It promotes good governance and transparent decision-making, and gives local artisans a voice in business development and strategy. It also contributes to the preservation and promotion of traditional Tafea handicrafts and strengthens local ownership and management through the community company model.



Image 6: Group photo after the first ever AGM of the Tafea Creative and Cultural Market Hub, bringing together shareholders, board members, and producers.



Image 7 : Participants of the product quality development workshop on Tanna.



Image 8: A product produced by the participants during the product quality workshop.

SKILLS FOR TOURISM



Image 9: Yasur Run Local Organizing Committee takes a group photo after their meeting with the Chiefs of Naprantata at the Area Council building.

Priority area: Tourism product development – Yasur Run

Achievement/Outcome:

- The 'Yasur Run' is a locally led tourism event planned by the Eastern Tourism Association to take place on 11 October 2025. The event is promoted internationally in Asia and Europe to attract athletes and visitors.
- The Tafea Skills Centre supported a local coach, Marc Giraud, to set up the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and work with local stakeholders and community members to develop the full Yasur Run Preparation Plan. A total of 8 participants (7 males, 1 female) are involved in organising the event.
- At the end of the week, the LOC presented the plan to the Naprapnata Area Council of Chiefs and Area Administrator, gaining strong community support. The run route will pass through 8 local communities, showcasing the natural beauty of the area, including waterfalls and forest trails.
- The event is seen as an opportunity to bring new income for the local tourism sector. Plans are in place to make the Yasur Run an annual event, promoting sustainable local tourism.

" This coaching was essential to help the LOC structure in its work and ensure the successful delivery of what will be the first ever international event fully led by the communities of South East Tanna."

Jimmy Tom Noale, Department of Tourism Provincial Officer (Tafea)



Image 10: Tafea Provincial Council's final sitting for the year 2025. Mr. Jonathan (PSDO) presents Skills Centre's and partners' impact results during the session.



Image 11: Disability Desk Officer Mr. Maxwell Nasak stands with two trainees with disabilities, Mr. Ben and Mr. Edwin, during their plumbing practical—constructing a VIP toilet slab.

INCLUSION

Priority area: Inclusion– Strengthening Livelihoods for People with Disabilities through Backyard Farming

Achievement/Outcome:

- Since early 2025, the Tafea Skills Centre has been supporting five female clients with disabilities to establish inclusive backyard gardens in their respective communities.
- This quarter, the Tafea Skills Centre provided chicken wire fencing materials to all five clients to protect their crops from free-range animals (which was identified as a priority in Q1).
- Partnerships with Tafea DARD and Napil ATC remained strong, with both agencies providing nursery seedlings (vegetables), basic farming tools, technical advice and regular on-site visits through their Agriculture Officers. Families of each client were actively involved, showing strong support for farm setup and crop maintenance.
- The Disability Desk Officer maintained regular communication and coaching with each client, helping them link to local markets for produce sales.
- The clients applied their own gardening knowledge with the support provided, and some are already earning income from their harvests.
- Climate resilience has been encouraged through the use of local seed varieties and organic, low-cost farming practices.



Image 12: Mr. Lava George (West Tanna Agriculture Development Officer) and Mr. Tom Kasso (Napil ATC Manager) visit a backyard farm belonging to a female client with disability, providing technical support to assist her and her family.



Image 13: Handicraft development continues to roll out to Tafea outer Islands. Four local coaches from the islands — 2 from Erromango, 1 from Aneityum, and 1 from Futuna — during their induction session.



Image 14: Mrs. Precilla Kapalau an active client with disability, sells lettuce to a community member from her backyard farm. Her first sales earned 2,000 vatu, helping support her daily livelihood.

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

Priority area: Certificate II in Plumbing and establishment of new plumbing businesses

Achievement/Outcome:

- In April, a total of 47 participants (40 male, 7 female, including 2 men with disabilities) successfully completed a Certificate II in Plumbing qualification, which was delivered by the Pacific Vocational Training Centre at Loukatai.
- Following the training, 16 new plumbing businesses were established by the trainees.
- Five area-based businesses are being set up under the leadership of Area Councils in partnership with Department of Water Resources (DoWR) in Southeast Tanna, Southwest Tanna, Central Tanna, West Tanna and Tafea Outer Islands. These businesses will register under the Area Councils and become part of a network of community service providers.
- The DoWR, together with Area Administrators, will support these groups to access government and NGO water system contracts, creating income and local employment.
- Graduates will be listed in the Tafea Water Advisory Committee Database as WASH Technicians and Plumbers, ready for community service and professional contracts.
- Women and people with disabilities are members of the new plumbing businesses. They will be officially recognised by their Area Councils and communities and be supported to grow their businesses. The plumbers will help to maintain clean and safe water systems in their communities, which is important for climate resilience. Having trained plumbers in each area council means communities will be better prepared to manage water issues during droughts or disasters.



Image 15: Plumbing training trainees take a group photo after meeting with their Area Council Administrators to discuss next steps for setting up their plumbing businesses.



Image 16: The 47 plumbing trainees received their WASH and Sanitation Certificates from the Ministry of Health.



Image 17: The same group of 47 trainees were awarded Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan (DWSSP) Certificates from the Department of Water.

LESSON LEARNED AND ACTIONS

LESSON 1: Partner discussions relating to roles, responsibilities and contributions are critical before the delivery of accredited training.

NEXT STEPS:

For future accredited training courses:

- Clearly define and communicate the financial contributions and responsibilities of all partners.
- Area Administrators to include support for trainees in their annual budgets.
- Ensure all partners clearly understand their role in supporting the Training Provider — the program does not fund trainee allowances during the course, but rather supports overall training operations and outcomes.

LESSON 2: There is a need to strengthen our support for clients with disabilities in the agriculture sector in order for them to participate successfully.

NEXT STEPS:

- Tafea DARD to allocate budget and ongoing technical support for active clients.
- Complete profiling of clients for better targeted support.
- Strengthen access to markets for selling backyard produce.
- Build a dedicated nursery to support seedling supply for clients.
- Organise a Financial Literacy workshop tailored for persons with disabilities and their families.

LESSON 3: There is a need to strengthen the communication between the new Tafea PEO Office and the Tafea Skills Centre.

NEXT STEPS:

- Utilise regular Provincial Government Training Board meetings to align our plans.
- Activate the Tafea VIT Sub-Campus Working Committee for shared planning and delivery.
- Set a schedule for bi-weekly briefings with the PEO to provide updates and foster coordination.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 3?

Training Provider Support

- Participate in PSC Day celebrations

Skills for Infrastructure

- Organise graduation ceremony for Certificate II in Plumbing

Skills for Creative Industries

- Organise Tafea Handicraft display at the National Arts Festival.
- Facilitate the participation of craft producers from Tafea at the 'Vanuatu Made' event in Port Vila
- Facilitate the delivery of product development training for handicraft producers on Erromango

Skills for Agribusiness

- Launch the new vanilla processing facility on Aneityum

Skills for Tourism

- Support the Eastern Tourism Association to deliver the Yasur Run Event

Tafea VIT Sub-Campus Launching

- Support the official opening of the Tafea VIT Sub-campus at Isangel Secondary School.

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Tourism	16	8	24	
Skills for Creative Industries	33	0	33	1 woman
Skills for Agribusiness	6	21	27	1 man
Skills for Infrastructure	7	40	47	2 men
TOTAL	62	69	131	4 people (1 woman, 3 men)

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