



# TAFEA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report  
Q3 2025 (July-October)

*Image 1: Inclusion Manager, Mrs. Sherol George, at the Public Service Commission Day celebrations booth on Tanna, engaging with students and the public on the importance of decentralising skills for development.*



# SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

**Priority area:** Progress supporting Enaula/Whitesands Farm-to-School (F2S)

## **Achievement/Outcome:**

- There was good progress at Enaula/Whitesands Bilingual School as partners continue to advance implementation of the F2S model.
- A partner health check meeting was held in September 2025 to review roles, responsibilities, progress, and upcoming priorities. The timing aligned well with the appointment of the new Tafea Acting Provincial Education Officer, allowing her to be fully briefed on F2S objectives, progress, and challenges.
- Engagement with the Tanna Resilience Women Network continues to be positive, with discussions focused on strengthening the supply of local food to the school. All partners reaffirmed their understanding of the F2S approach and their ongoing commitments.
- Building on the Training of Trainers chef training delivered in May and recommendations from the partners meeting, the team agreed to procure a solar freezer to improve storage and preservation of local produce. The Tafea Skills Centre completed the procurement in September and organised a formal handover ceremony.
- Installation was carried out by Enaula's tradesperson in collaboration with the South Tanna Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)'s officer on ground and VSP's F2S Coordinator.



*Image 2: Manager of the Tafea Skills Centre, Mr. Charlie KichiKichi, hands over a solar unit and freezer to Mrs. Kota Fatapa, Principal of Whitesands Bilingual Secondary School, and the School Council as part of the F2S initiative.*

# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



*Image 3: Mr. Lorenzies Lintamat of VanIPO presents registration certificates for 12 Futuna Handicraft Inherited and Creative Arts to Chief Lishie Bill, Chairman of the Futuna Chiefs Council, during the National Arts Festival in Tanna.*

**Priority area:** Product Development and Cultural Protection in Futuna

## **Achievement/Outcome:**

- The Tafea Skills Centre, in partnership with the Vanuatu Intellectual Property Office (VanIPO) and the Tafea Provincial Government, supported the Futuna Island Council of Chiefs to officially register 12 Copyright Certificates for their traditional mats, baskets, fans, and other cultural designs.
- The official handing-over ceremony took place during the National Arts and Culture Festival 2025 at Lamenu Stadium, Lenakel, Tanna, following the Futuna Custom Dance performance.
- This activity represents a strong example of local leadership supported by the Partnership, with the Futuna Chiefs and Area Council taking proactive steps to protect traditional knowledge and creativity from exploitation.
- It is also an example of decentralisation in practice, ensuring that culturally-grounded product development and intellectual property protection reaches communities in remote islands such as Futuna.
- Registration of these products with VanIPO strengthens traditional authority, cultural identity, and community ownership, while also promoting inclusion by recognising women weavers and artisans with disabilities as key cultural producers.

# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**Priority area:** Local Production and Market Access (Domestic & International)

## **Achievement/Outcome:**

- Multiple handicraft producers from across Tafea Province—including women and producers with disabilities—successfully supplied high-quality products to both domestic and international markets throughout the reporting period.
- Participation in major events, through the Tafea Creative Hub, generated strong sales, with 826,020 Vatu during the National Arts Festival and PSC Week in Tanna and 405,800 Vatu during Vanuatu Made Week in Port Vila.
- Producers showcased a diverse range of items including baskets, mats, hairpins, salusalu, paintings, and accessories made from locally sourced materials from Tanna, Futuna, Aniwa, Aneityum, and Erromango.
- During this reporting period, Industry coach Chris Delany provided practical coaching on product presentation, pricing, and sales techniques, contributing to improved market readiness.
- International exposure through the DIVA Exhibition in New Zealand and the ongoing partnership with Auckland Museum resulted in an additional 311,395 Vatu in overseas sales.
- Client monitoring with 19 Tanna-based craft clients indicated that 78% had earned a higher level of income in 2025 compared to previous years.
- Additionally, 95% of handicraft producer clients (18 of 19) said skills development was 'Important' or 'Very Important' to the income they had earned, while 100% (19 of 19) said market access support was 'Important' or 'Very Important'.



*Image 4: Mrs. Sitani Iarakei, a talented weaver and person with disability, joins Hub Manager Mrs. Lina Numake to showcase Tafea products at the Vanuatu Made Festival and the Tanna Art Festival, celebrating local craftsmanship.*

# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



*Image 5: H.E. Max Willis, Australia's High Commissioner, and Hon. Job Andy, Minister of MOJYCS, officially open the new concrete wall with the Nikoletan Council of Chiefs, represented by President Mr. Peter Marcel, in Tanna.*

## Priority area: Provincial Leadership and Governance

### Achievement/Outcome:

- On 1st August 2025, new concrete fencing for the Nikoletan Council of Chiefs Nakamal in Tanna was officially opened.
- The fencing was built by 8 local construction graduates (6 men including one with a disability, and 2 women) who had previously completed Certificate II in Building Construction facilitated by the Tafea Skills Centre.
- The project represents a major achievement for the Chiefs of Tanna, securing their cultural site and strengthening local leadership. It also demonstrates how locally trained graduates can use their skills and expertise for the benefit of the local community.
- The official opening was witnessed by Hon. Minister Job Andy, Hon. Minister Marco Mahe, Hon. Minister Simil Johnson, Australian High Commissioner H. E. Max Willis, and the British High Commissioner H. E. Nicolette Brent, highlighting national and international partnership.
- The gifts presented by the Nikoletan Council of Chiefs to the Australian High Commissioner, including a pig, yam, fish, kava, and mats, were powerful cultural signs of honour and showed the Chiefs' deep trust in the partnership and appreciation for Australia's support in helping young people in Tanna develop their skills.

# TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

Priority area: WASH Workforce Development

## Achievement/Outcome:

- On 1st August 2025, 49 new WASH Technicians graduated with a Certificate II in Plumbing from the Pacific Vocational Training Centre (PVTC), supported by the Tafea Skills Centre and the Ministry of Education and Training.
- The graduation was officiated by Hon. Minister Rick Mahe, joined by the Australian High Commissioner H. E Max Willis, celebrating a major milestone for skills for livelihoods and resilience in Tafea.
- The cohort of graduates included 7 women and 2 men with disabilities, showcasing strong inclusion and equal opportunity in skills development.
- Graduates came from Tanna, Aniwa, Futuna, and Aneityum, reflecting provincial-wide participation and the decentralisation of technical training supported by the Tafea Skills Centre.
- These WASH Technicians are now equipped to address water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges, especially in disaster-prone communities—strengthening climate resilience and community health.
- Seven of the graduates are now employed under a World Vision contract for a WASH project in Central Tanna, and others are doing plumbing work with the South Tanna Area Council as well as completing small jobs within their own communities.



*Image 6: Group photo of 49 WASH technicians celebrating their graduation, receiving their Certificate II in Plumbing from PVTC.*

# Skilled Plumbing graduates giving back to their communities



*Image 7 & 8: After graduating with a Certificate II in Plumbing, Mr. George Namry and Mr. Tom Kahi returned to South East Tanna to support the Yasur Run Local Organising Committee with funding from the DFAT Community Grant, they help build and install proper sanitation and toilet facilities for the event—showcasing true local leadership and how skills training delivers real benefits for communities.*

# INCLUSION

## Priority area: Women's Inclusion and Skills Development in Trades Courses

### Achievement/Outcome:

- Mrs. Patricia Iauto from West Tanna successfully completed the Certificate II in Plumbing in 2025. Demonstrating a significant achievement in a trade area traditionally dominated by men, Patricia graduated as one of seven female participants. There were 42 male participants.
- Patricia completed the full accredited training program and achieved competence in plumbing skills. Her graduation adds to her earlier Certificate II in Building Construction which she completed through the Tafea Skills Centre in 2022. These qualifications strengthen her role as a qualified tradeswoman working with the Youngster Construction Company.
- To support Patricia and the other women who participated in the training, the Tafea Skills Centre worked with the Area Administrator to raise awareness with the community and trainees about including female participants, which helped create a respectful environment. The Tafea Skills Centre also contracted a female coordinator to be present throughout the training, ensuring the women had a reliable and supportive person to speak with. Safe accommodation and weekly transport back to their Area Councils was also arranged.
- Patricia's success supports the growing participation of women in skilled trades, improving gender balance and showcasing women's capacity in technical fields. This aligns with the Partnership's objectives to support Women's Economic Empowerment by enabling women to access new job opportunities and leadership roles. It also contributes to Women in Leadership as women gain confidence and recognition in community development work.



*Image 9: Mrs. Patricia Iauto receives her Certificate II in Plumbing on her graduation day, presented by H.E. Max Willis, Australia's High Commissioner.*

# SKILLS FOR TOURISM



Image 10: The Community-Led Yasur Volcano Run Event: Local Organising Committee celebrating the successful event with support from Coach Mr. Mark Giraud.

*“This event united our communities like never before. We proved that Tanna can host an international race with professionalism and heart, and that the spirit of the volcano truly lives through our people.”*

Daniel Samson, LOC Chairman

## Priority area: Strengthening Community Leadership and Sustainable Tourism through the Yasur Volcano Run

### Achievement/Outcome:

- The first ever Yasur Volcano Run took place from 1–15 October 2025, led entirely by local communities in East Tanna, with coordination support from the Tafea Skills Centre and Department of Tourism (DOT).
- The event engaged over 200 participants including local youth, women, and people with disabilities, in logistics, safety, cultural performances, and tourism services.
- Coaching sessions prior to the event, led by Partnership Coach Marc Giraud built the capacity of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) to manage all aspects of the event — logistics, safety, sponsorship, and trail management.
- The Yasur Volcano Trail was officially launched as part of the event, establishing a new adventure tourism product for Tanna that will generate long-term income and pride for future generations.
- The LOC was supported through the Vanuatu–Australia Community Grant, to develop trail infrastructure (wash stations, signage, and rest areas)
- The event showcased strong collaboration between community leaders, tourism operators, and government, aligning with the DOT’s Sustainable Tourism Policy.

# LESSON LEARNED AND ACTIONS

**LESSON 1:** New companies established by graduates after accredited training courses need ongoing support

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Provide a good business coach/mentor to guide them on their business concepts.
- Develop simple management tools to help them run their companies.
- Offer basic computer training to improve their record-keeping and communication.
- Support the companies to understand and complete government tender forms so they can submit bids.
- Hold quarterly catch-up meetings with the companies to check progress and provide updates.

**LESSON 2:** There are opportunities to improve the delivery of our Client Monitoring Surveys

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Work closely with the Area Administrators so they can support the survey and understand why client monitoring is important in their Area Council.
- Visit the clients in their actual locations. For example, if clients are from Futuna, we must travel to Futuna — not interview them while they are staying in Tanna.
- Avoid collecting feedback without giving follow-up support. We must balance listening to clients and helping them improve their products and activities.

**LESSON 3:** There are opportunities to strengthen the way we plan and monitor our work

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Quality Systems (QS) team and the Tafea Skills Centre should meet every quarter to share updates on each sector, and ensure our work aligns with the Partnership's Spheres of Change.
- Ensure there are feedback loops from Senior Management Team / QS team to the Skills Centre, so we understand what needs to be improved, strengthened, and delivered with better quality.