



*Image 1: The Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA) audit team receives welcome salusalu from Vetimboso Vocational Training Centre (VTC) staff and board members at Vetimboso VTC in March*

# TORBA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report  
Q1, 2025



# SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

**Priority Area: Small scale replicable projects - water system upgrades for five communities on Merelava**

## **Achievement/Outcome:**

- The Torba Skills Centre, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) and the Merelava Area Council, facilitated upgrades to rainwater catchment systems in five communities on remote Merelava Island.
- In total, 20 rainwater harvesting buildings were constructed on the island with support from DoWR and Torba Skills Centre. Large-scale water tanks were also installed to ensure that these communities can store clean water, promoting community resilience to drought, while the buildings can also be used as a marketplace for sales of local food.
- As part of this initiative, DoWR supplied building materials while local communities and the Area Council contributed by providing labor in preparing sites for the rainwater harvesting buildings to be constructed and water tanks installed.
- A basic village plumbing workshop is planned for late April, which will equip and empower members of the local community to maintain the systems and respond effectively to any maintenance issues.



*Image 2: One of the 10 rainwater harvesting systems constructed on Merelava*

# TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

## Priority Area: PSET Sector Delivery- Quality Assurance Committee visit to Vetimboso Vocational Training Centre (VTC)

### Achievement/Outcome:

- On 17 March, a quality assurance team from the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA), led by Principal Officer, Norma Tugu, made a visit to Vetimboso VTC to verify information and evidence provided for the Centre's application to deliver Certificate I in Automotive Engineering -Small Engine Servicing.
- Their visit consisted of interviews with Vetimboso VTC's Board, the manager, and trainers responsible for delivering the courses. The committee also assessed basic equipment and infrastructure, including classrooms, to ensure they meet the required standards for learners.
- The visit was crucial to ensuring Vetimboso VTC meets the required standards to deliver this Certificate I course and to ensure the training centre is equipped to provide practical and relevant skills to learners. Overall, the assessment was positive, and 17 students will be issued with certificates for completing their Certificate I course at the next graduation ceremony.
- The VQA assessment unit led by Principal Officer Estelle Vutinadamu, officer Jojo Fletcher and IT Officer Ray Vakessa also joined the Quality Assurance Committee on this trip. A formal request for assistance was submitted to the VQA assessment unit to ensure Vetimboso trainers have the required skills needed to ensure they are accurately uploading results to Post School Education and Training and Vanuatu Education Management Information Systems.



*Image 3: Members of the Quality Assurance Committee during their visit to Vetimboso Vocational Training Centre*

# SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

## Priority Area: Sustainable and Resilient Farming Development- East Vanualava Achievement/Outcome:

- The Torba Skills Centre continues to support three farmer groupings in East Vanua lava, the most agriculturally fertile part of Vanualava. These farmers are the main suppliers to the Sola market and as there is currently no Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Field Officer in the area, the Torba Skills Centre and local agriculture coach continue to provide support.
- A coaching visit was conducted in Quarter One to encourage farmer groups and individual farmers to continue in their production efforts, to review progress and celebrate their achievements in engaging in the agriculture sector.
- The follow up coaching has identified that several of the farmers groups have made savings and were able to invest in other revenue-generating initiatives with incomes made from their production sales to strengthen their farmers cooperatives. They are now ready to meet the Office of Cooperatives to progress formal registration.
- Additionally, individual farmers have increased their revenues by selling their agricultural products over the past 12 months. For example, a farming couple who live in East Vanua lava, have raised over 300 chickens and are supplying people in Sola with meat and eggs. This couple are the lead farmers in agriculture and livestock production over the past year. They received support from the Torba Skills Centre, which helped them construct a chicken pen.
- The coaching activity has also highlighted several challenges including the high cost of fuel and limited transport options available to get to markets in Sola and Motalava.



*Images 4 & 5: Chickens and eggs in East Vanualava  
Results from a couple who have successful  
developed a poultry farm*



# WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 2

## Skills for Creative Industries

- Financial literacy training for handicraft producers and Torba Handicraft Manager.
- Product development coaching.

## Skills for Tourism

- Facilitate Certificate I in Computing for two women in the tourism sector.

## Skills for Infrastructure

- Merelava Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Village Plumbing Workshop.
- Launching of Merelava and Ureparapara fish market, Losalava Technical Vocational Education and Training in school classrooms and Gaua cooperative petroleum station.
- Vetimboso VTC graduation and opening of new classroom.

## Disability Inclusion

- Providing support to Disability desk office, including delivery of a menstrual hygiene workshop.
- Support to the disability desk officer to set up a vegetable nursery for people with disabilities on Mota Island.

## Skills for Agribusiness

- Good governance workshop and setting up the East Vanua lava farmers cooperative.
- Good governance workshop and setting up a new cooperative for Merelava fish market, and Fishermen's Association.

# PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING\*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Agribusiness	13	9	22	0

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