

VESP View

VANUATU EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

November 2017

Issue 3: School recovery program in Tanna



Opening of 42 new classrooms in Tafea Province

Responding to the TC Pam Emergency

Following the devastation of category 5 Tropical Cyclone PAM that hit Vanuatu on 13 March 2015, more than 70,000 children were out of school. Tanna was the most impacted island with wind over 250km/h resulting in around 90% of the classrooms damaged.

International agencies responded quickly to manage the cyclone PAM recovery process. In May 2017 the VESP Steering Committee approved the re-allocation of VESP infrastructure funds to support classroom reconstruction on Tanna. Following this decision, VESP assisted the Ministry of Education and Training to:

- Conduct rapid assessments of schools in cyclone affected areas
- Establish agreed minimum infrastructure standards for primary schools and conduct a survey of all schools against these standards
- Develop a classroom design for all new classrooms to be constructed in Tanna that meet the minimum infrastructure standards
- Consult with the Vanuatu Civil Society Disability Network (VCSDN) and gain approval for design of the classrooms
- Engage and supervise an Implementing Partner (Kramer Ausenco) to manage the construction of 42 classrooms located in 18 schools in Tanna
- Engage a team to work with the communities in the 18 schools to raise awareness on the school construction project and to encourage them to support the project, take part and commit over the long term in school life and management



Working With School Communities

The communities from all schools involved in the project contributed to the construction works by providing manpower or materials such as sand and coral. The Ministry of Education and Training with support from VESP, also used the opportunity provided by the community consultations to raise awareness on the importance of community ownership of their schools and how the principal, teachers, parents, communities, school council, parent and teacher association all have their parts to play in making sure that children can have a safe and supportive learning environment.

Map of the 18 schools in Tanna



Handing Over of the 42 New Classrooms

After more than two years working on the project, the Ministry of Education and Training unveiled the 42 new classrooms funded through VESP in the 18 primary schools across the island. On 11-12 October 2017, four teams of representatives from the Ministry, the Tafea Provincial Education Office, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand and the Nokoletan council of Chiefs visited 17 of the schools to hand over the classrooms to the communities. This was followed on 13 October by a mass opening at Isla School in the presence of Honourable Joe Natuman, Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Honourable Jean-Pierre Nirua, Minister of Education and Training, Jenny Da Rin, Australian High Commissioner, and Georgina Roberts, New Zealand High Commissioner.

The Tafea Provincial Government, the Provincial Education Office of Tafea and the communities expressed their gratitude to the Government of Vanuatu, the MoET and the VESP Team for their efforts in completing the projects. They extended their appreciation to the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for their funding.



“Parents and communities play a key role as they will ensure the maintenance and the sustainability of the classrooms over the years.” New Zealand High Commissioner, Georgina Roberts

“Those 42 classrooms are only a part of a bigger project. There are some 150 classrooms yet to be delivered through the Education Recovery Program of the MoET funded by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.”

Minister of Education and Training, Hon. Jean-Pierre Nirua

“Education is important. When we build such facilities, we want to build them to be safe and strong. I would like to join the Minister of Education and Training and say a big thank you to the Australian and New Zealand Governments for their ongoing support and to the VESP Team for managing this project up to the completion.”

Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Joe Natuman

“A good education means more choices and better choices for all students. A good education means a better life for every man and woman. It will positively impact our communities and the whole of Vanuatu”

Australian High Commissioner, Jenny Da Rin



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