

Advancing the MoET-led Foundational Learning Reform **Curriculum Improvement Program (CIP) from Kindy to Year 3**



▲ *Early Childhood Education Coordinators demonstrate the practice of explicit instruction to fellow participants*

Improving learning in the classrooms through explicit instruction

From 7 to 15 April, 38 provincial Early Childhood Education and Primary Coordinators, together with CIP Senior Coaches, completed a training on explicit instruction—the third high impact teaching practice being introduced in CIP schools. Facilitated by Bastien Lawac, Curriculum Development Unit (CDU) Primary Coordinator – Francophone, and Edmund Vurobaravu, CDU Primary Coordinator – Anglophone, in partnership with Michelle King, VAESP Quality Strategic Specialist, and Hopkins Dick, VAESP Curriculum Support Manager, the training equipped participants to coach teachers in delivering more effective classroom instruction. Explicit instruction is a structured teaching approach where teachers clearly model new learning using the "I do, we do, you do" method, providing guided practice before students work independently.

This approach promotes active student participation, positive reinforcement, and improved literacy and numeracy outcomes. As part of the Ministry's commitment to decentralising professional development, participants will now coach kindergarten and primary teachers in their respective provinces, ensuring consistent, high-quality teaching practices reach classrooms across the country.

"This training reflects the Ministry's commitment to strengthening professional development through effective coaching and decentralised support. I commend the leadership of CDU and our partners for equipping provincial teams with the knowledge and skills to improve teaching practices and ultimately achieve better learning outcomes for every child", said Marcel Yamsiu, MoET Principal Education Officer for Education Services.

Bringing explicit instruction to classrooms across Vanuatu

From 18 April to 8 May, MoET rolled out explicit instruction across CIP schools teams in Tafea, Malampa, Sanma, Penama and Torba provinces. More than 200 kindergarten and primary teachers received practical, in-school professional development to strengthen student engagement and improve literacy and numeracy outcomes. The face-to-face coaching was complemented by online support sessions delivered in both English and French, ensuring teachers continued to receive guidance as they implemented the new teaching practice.

"By taking professional development directly into schools and empowering our provincial coaching teams, we are ensuring teachers receive practical support where it matters most—in the classroom. This collaborative approach is helping build confident teachers and stronger learning outcomes for children across Vanuatu," said Nanise Lapi, MoET's Director of Education Services.



▲ *Shefa ECE and primary teachers learn how to effectively implement explicit instruction practices*

Strengthening instructional leadership in Shefa CIP schools

On 15–16 April, Bastien Lawac, MoET's CDU Primary Coordinator - Francophone, in partnership with Hopkins Dick, VAESP Curriculum Support Manager, led a two-day instructional leadership workshop for principals from 10 Shefa CIP schools. Instructional leadership focuses on guiding teaching and learning by supporting teachers, monitoring student progress, and using evidence to improve classroom practice.

During the workshop, Shefa Provincial Curriculum Improvement Officers, Florence Olul and Janet Bong Ure, reinforced high-impact literacy and numeracy teaching practices and highlighted the importance of using data walls to track each student's progress and growth. As part of the CIP implementation from Kindy to Year 3, all 40 CIP focus schools are required to lead Professional Learning Communities, where school leaders meet fortnightly with teachers and literacy and numeracy champions to discuss teaching practices and student learning outcomes.

"Instructional leadership is about ensuring that every decision made by school leaders supports better teaching and improved learning for every child," said Bastien Lawac, CDU Primary Coordinator - Francophone.



▲ *VAESP Curriculum Support Manager, Hopkins Dick, conducts an instructional leadership workshop for ten Shefa CIP school leaders.*

Strengthening collaboration to drive teaching and learning reform

On 19 June, MoET's Director of Education Services, Nanise Lapi, chaired the inaugural meeting of the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group (CIAG), bringing together all national principal education officers to strengthen coordination of CIP from Kindergarten to Year 10. The meeting provided an opportunity to review implementation progress and collaboratively address challenges to ensure the successful rollout of one of the Ministry's flagship reforms. By encouraging cross-organisational collaboration, CIAG will help align planning, improve decision-making, and support consistent implementation across the country.

"CIP is one of MoET's most important reforms, and the CIAG provides a valuable platform to ensure all divisions work towards the same goals. It also enables us to better align teacher professional development with CIP implementation, so our teachers receive the right support to deliver quality learning for every child," said Director Lapi.



▲ MoET's Director of Education Services, Nanise Lapi, spearheads the inaugural CIAG meeting

Strengthening CIP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

On 18 June, 22 officers from MoET's CDU, School-Based Management, Early Childhood Education, Policy and Planning Unit, the Global Partnership for Education, and VAESP participated in a CIP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) review workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity to review and strengthen the CIP MEL framework by aligning monitoring tools and indicators, identifying gaps in data collection, improving cross-unit collaboration, and agreeing on practical actions to enhance evidence-based planning and decision-making across the education system.

"Bringing together technical teams from across MoET and our partners has helped us develop a more coordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation. By strengthening how we collect, analyse and use data, we will be better equipped to make informed decisions that improve teaching, learning and education outcomes for all children in Vanuatu," said Benjamin Nari, MoET's Policy and Planning Unit Statistics Officer.



▲ MoET staff, in collaboration with VAESP and GPE officers, examine the CIP MEL framework

Building climate resilient and inclusive education facilities

Empowering local contractors to support construction of education facilities in Sanma and Malampa provinces

MoET's Asset and Administration Project Management Unit Senior Procurement, Benicio Obed, in partnership with VAESP Infrastructure Support Officer, Larry Abel, delivered a one-day contractors' briefing at Church of Christ Luganville, Santo Island, Sanma Province on 16 April and on 2 June at the Tautu Presbyterian Church Hall on Malekula Island, Malampa Province.

The workshops brought together 53 local contractors and suppliers, including 3 women, to strengthen their understanding of government tender processes, procurement requirements, and opportunities under MoET's education recovery program. Through practical guidance, interactive discussions, and a question-and-answer session, participants gained valuable skills to submit more compliant and competitive bids. The initiative has already shown positive results, with the latest Request for Quotation (RfQ) attracting nearly three times the usual number of responses.

"By equipping local contractors with the right knowledge and tools, we are strengthening transparency, improving procurement outcomes, and ensuring communities are better positioned to contribute to the development of education and training across Vanuatu," said Benicio Obed.



▲ MoET conducts a briefing session with construction companies in Sanma Province



▲ MoET conducts a briefing session with construction companies in Malampa Province

Progress on school reconstruction following the December 2024 earthquake

Eighteen months after the 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Port Vila in December 2024, significant progress has been made in restoring damaged education facilities through the Vanuatu-Australia Partnership, UNICEF and Save the Children. Of the 31 school reconstruction projects, six have now been completed: Malatia Primary School, École Publique Centre Ville, Lycée de Montmartre, Etas Grace School, École Primaire de Suango and Amarao Primary School. These completed facilities will enable students and teachers to return to safe, quality learning environments while reconstruction continues across the remaining sites.

"This progress reflects the strength of our partnerships. We acknowledge the Australian and New Zealand Governments, UNICEF and Save the Children for their continued support—not only through funding, but also through the technical expertise provided by VAESP. The dedicated support of the VAESP Infrastructure Support Officer has strengthened our project management capacity," said Samson Sawan, Principal Education Officer, Asset and Administration Project Management Unit.



▲ Newly completed double-classroom at Malatia Primary School, Efate Island, under the earthquake recovery program

Strengthening the education system

Institutionalising professional development for teachers



▲ The Director General of MoET heads the steering committee for education programs, ensuring that all activities are in line with MoET priorities

On 29 April, the MoET Steering Committee for Education Programs endorsed the Ministry of Education and Training's vision to institutionalise continuous professional development for teachers through ongoing coaching and classroom support delivered by its Provincial Skills Centres across Vanuatu.

The initiative is led by Principal Education Officer for Teacher Education and Development, Thomas Butu, and his team within the Directorate of Tertiary Education, which is responsible for Post-School Education and Training (PSET) and Adult Learning. The approach will strengthen teachers' professional practice by providing sustained, school-based support that responds to classroom needs and contributes to improved student learning outcomes.

VAESP is supporting MoET's Teacher Education and Development Unit to establish this system with the recruitment of a Teacher Development Specialist, Jeffsen Trief. Mr Trief is assisting with the development of key documentation, including the implementation plan that will guide the national rollout.

"Professional development should not be a one-off event but an ongoing journey that supports teachers throughout their careers. By drawing from our Provincial Skills Centres, we are building a sustainable system that ensures teachers across Vanuatu have access to coaching, mentoring and practical support where they need it most. This is an important investment in our teachers, our schools and ultimately the success of every learner," said John Kaltau, Director of Tertiary Education.

On 26 May, VAESP brought together key individuals such as Gideon John, the Director of Policy and Planning, Nanise Lapi, the Director of Education Services, Marcel Yamsiu, Principal Education Services, and VAESP officers to advance the 2026–2030 MoET Infrastructure Capital Works Plan (CWP).

The focus of the workshop included enhancing long-term infrastructure planning, aligning school selection with population growth, forecasting the replacement of outdated pre-independence education facilities, ensuring climate resilience for new educational facilities, and supporting multi-year budget planning for government investments in education infrastructure.

The CWP aims to serve as a foundation for strategic planning for the construction of new schools and significant renovations, adhering to national infrastructure guidelines, and will be backed by detailed scopes of work to ensure effective implementation.

"This Capital Works Plan is a critical tool for ensuring that our infrastructure investments are evidence-based, well-coordinated, be climate resilient and responsive to the needs of our growing student population. It strengthens our ability to plan ahead, secure sustainable funding and deliver safe, quality learning environments across Vanuatu," said Director John.



▲ Construction of a double-classroom for Amaro Primary School on Lelepa Island, Shefa Province



▲ Analgauhat Primary School teachers participate in the Corporate Plan Baseline activity

Establishing a strong baseline for better education planning

With support from VAESP, MoET's Policy and Planning Unit (PPU) completed the nationwide Corporate Plan Baseline Data Collection to establish school-level baselines under the MoET Results Framework. The activity supports implementation of the Vanuatu Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (VETSS) 2020–2030 and the MoET Corporate Plan 2024–2028 by providing reliable baseline data to measure progress, strengthen evidence-based planning, and improve monitoring and reporting across the education sector. Following the development and piloting of survey tools, PPU led data collection across all six provinces, coordinating provincial teams and training enumerators to collect information from 181 schools nationwide, representing a sample size of 30% of all schools.

"A strong baseline gives us the evidence we need to measure progress and make informed decisions. With VAESP's technical and operational support, we have established a solid foundation that will enable the Ministry to monitor the implementation of our Corporate Plan, identify priorities, and ensure resources are directed where they are needed most," said Cobin Ngwero, Principal Education Officer, PPU.

Strengthening partnerships between MoET and Education Authorities

With facilitation and technical support from VAESP, MoET PPU, has commenced the review of its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Education Authorities. The first consultation, held on 17 June in Port Vila, brought together representatives from 18 Church Education Authorities—comprising 11 men and 7 women from Efate, Santo and Malekula—to discuss ways to strengthen the MoU and clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of Education Authorities and the Ministry. The review will reinforce collaboration, accountability and shared commitment to improving education governance and service delivery across Vanuatu.



▲ Representatives from Education Authorities and MoET share insights on their collaboration aimed at enhancing the education system.

"Education Authorities are key partners in delivering quality education across the country. This review provides an important opportunity to strengthen our partnership, clarify roles and responsibilities, and ensure we have a new framework that supports effective collaboration for the benefit of all learners," said Director Gideon.

Enhancing Vanuatu workforce through Australia Awards

Australia Awards Vanuatu strengthens regional partnerships

On Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 June, Australia Awards Vanuatu (AAV) Lead, Junila Sese, accompanied by Australian High Commission Program Manager, Vanessa Dick, visited Suva, Fiji, to strengthen partnerships with the University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University, Australian High Commission in Suva and Vanuatu Australia Awards scholars. The mission focused on enhancing scholar support through improved mobilisation, academic monitoring, welfare services and stronger collaboration throughout the scholarship journey.

"Strong partnerships with our regional education institutions are essential to ensuring Ni-Vanuatu scholars are well supported to succeed academically and personally. By working closely together, we can continue to improve the scholarship experience and maximise the long-term benefits for Vanuatu," said Junila Sese, AAV Lead.



▲ Australian High Commission Assistant Program Manager, Vanessa Dick, alongside AAV scholars at Fiji National University



▲ Australian High Commission Program Manager, Vanessa Dick, and AAV Lead, Junila Sese, engage with staff from Fiji National University

Australia Awards Vanuatu Advances 2027 Selection Process

Following the closure of applications in April, AAV completed the assessment of 745 applications including 437 female applicants (58.6%) received for the 2027 Australia Awards Scholarships and Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships, demonstrating strong nationwide interest from aspiring Ni-Vanuatu leaders. Shortlisted candidates will now progress through the next stages of the selection process before final scholarship offers are made.

"The strong response to the 2027 intake reflects the ambition and potential of Ni-Vanuatu to contribute to the country's development. We look forward to supporting the next cohort of scholars as they begin this exciting journey," said Junila Sese, AAV Lead.

VAESP Team

Strengthening Project Management Skills Across the Education Partnership

On 22–23 June, 15 MoET senior officers and 8 VAESP staff took part in a VAESP-facilitated Project Management Training aimed at strengthening planning, coordination and delivery of education activities.

The two-day professional development workshop equipped participants with practical project management skills to effectively plan and deliver activities from start to finish. Participants gained a better understanding of the project life cycle, identified the tasks required to successfully implement an activity, and learned how to use Gantt charts to schedule and monitor progress. The training also focused on prioritising workloads, establishing realistic timelines, improving team communication and strengthening reporting processes.

As part of the hands-on learning approach, each participant selected a real work activity they are responsible for delivering and applied the project management tools to develop a detailed implementation plan. This practical exercise ensured participants could immediately apply their new skills to their day-to-day work.

"This training gave us a much clearer understanding of everything that needs to happen behind the scenes for an activity to be delivered successfully. It helped us break down each stage into manageable tasks, set realistic timeframes and better coordinate with colleagues. The practical exercises, where we developed Gantt charts for our own activities, made the learning immediately relevant and useful," said Henry Jimmy, Principal Education Officer, Examinations and Assessment Unit.



▲ MoET's Principal Education Officer for Examinations and Assessment, Henry Jimmy, shares updates on his activities with fellow participants



▲ VAESP staff reflect on their efforts to align with MoET priorities

VAESP's Pause and Reflect activity

On 27-28 May, the VAESP team regrouped to review progress, align priorities and strengthen its coordinated approach to supporting MoET in delivering its priority activities. By reflecting on what is working and where support could be better targeted, the team refined priorities for the program's remaining months across support for principals, teachers and education systems.

Key actions include advancing principal induction and instructional leadership training, strengthening school self-evaluation and leadership discussions, and refocusing teacher support on literacy through the Morning Routine and the Big Six of Reading.

At the system level, VAESP will work with MoET to improve provincial financial reporting, strengthen education data through new dashboards and continued Statistical Digest automation, and support the review of the Vanuatu National Curriculum Statement to help build a stronger, more decentralised education system.

VAESP wellness session

On June 16, the VAESP Social Club Committee organized a mental health session with Dr. Obed Jimmy, a registered psychiatrist from the Mind Care Clinic at the Vanuatu National Hospital. This initiative highlights the importance of mental health and work-life balance, ensuring that VAESP staff receive adequate support in managing stress and navigating challenging situations.

Snapshots of our education partnership



MoET's Senior Communications Officer along with VAESP Strategic Communications Coordinator discuss with representatives from CDU, GPE, and Impruvum Sekonderi Edukesen the development of strategic communications products for CIP - 30/06/2026



Minister of Education and Training recognises CIP implementers for enhancing literacy and numeracy in kindergartens and primary schools - 14/04/2026



MoET Senior Officers and VAESP officers strengthen their skills in leading education activities through a Project Management Training - 23/06/2026



Inaugural Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group (CIAG) meeting - 19/06/2026



MoET's First Political Adviser and the Director of Education Services, together with education partners, conclude the MoET-led prayer breakfast event - 02/04/2026



MoET Director General discusses strategic engagement with VBTC CEO, facilitated by VAESP Communications - 08/05/2026



VAESP staff take part in the launch celebration of the FIFA World Cup in Vanuatu - 05/06/2026



Minister Johnson Simil Youse congratulates Malampa Provincial Curriculum Improvement Officer, Jeffrey Angele, for his leadership in implementing CIP - 14/04/2026



VAESP ECE Specialist, Jennifer James, highlights MoET's recent achievements in ECE - 08/04/2026



Shefa ECE and primary educators engage in explicit instruction practices training - 23/04/2026



Vanuatu Prime Minister alongside the MoET Director General opens a temporary classroom at École Primaire de Suango, supported by Save the Children, with joint MoET and VAESP communication contributions - 27/04/2026



VAESP Social Club celebrates VAESP officers' birthdays - 16/06/2026



VAESP officer, Honorine Chabod, and Tafea PCIO, Jenny Waiwai, conduct field visits on Tanna Island to assist in the development of a numeracy baseline - 19/05/2026

