

# FIJI FRONTLINE NEWS

## Inclusive Vocational Carpentry Training Benefits Four Fijian Villages



Participants preparing for their practical session

A seven-week Vocational Carpentry Training program was successfully conducted in Northern Vanualevu, benefitting 20 participants from four different communities: Cawaro, Qaraniwai Village, Nabubu Village, and Naua Village.

In collaboration with the Fiji National University – National Training Productivity Council, the training covered a wide range of topics essential for carpentry work such as interpreting plans, using hand power tools, interpreting basic footing design, constructing timber floor and wall systems, and constructing timber roof frames, among other theory and practical concepts. The theory and practical knowledge is enabling individuals to build household and community level resilience through climate safe housing.

We understand that rural communities often face challenges in accessing quality education and training opportunities. As a result, we take the training right to their doorstep overcoming the barriers of distance and limited access.

The *Turaga Ni Koro* (Village Head) said that the "Cawaro Village feels immensely fortunate to have hosted the vocational training, with the majority of students attending from our community. The skills they've gained will play a crucial role in the village's development, as well as benefiting the broader *Tikina*." Amongst the trainees, we had four women participants as well.

Supported by Habitat for Humanity New Zealand and the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the training program is making a significant contribution to reducing the skills gap in the construction sector.

## Building Capacity of Water Committee on a Remote Island

In a significant step towards ensuring sustainable water management, 16 residents of Avea Village in Vanuabalavu, recently completed a three-day Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) training. This initiative aimed at equipping community members with the necessary skills to maintain and improve their water systems.

During the training, the Avea Water Committee underwent a strategic restructuring, forming three specialized teams: Operation and Maintenance, Inspection, and Promotion. Each team was tasked with critical roles including ensuring safe water practices, maintaining the water system, raising funds for post-disaster recovery, and enhancing reporting and record-keeping mechanisms.

Senitiki Raikoti, President of the Avea Water Committee, shared his enthusiasm: "I am so moved by the training, especially the installation of our reservoir component. Learning about the different fittings, brands, specifications, and purposes of each component has been incredibly valuable. This knowledge will be crucial for the operation and maintenance of our water system, both during normal times and in post-disaster scenarios."

This training marks a pivotal moment for Avea Village, as it enhances the technical skills of its residents and fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards their water resources.

The training was supported by the New Zealand High Commission.



Participants doing activities as part of the training



# Building Partnership & Enhancing Collaboration

This year, Habitat Fiji has achieved a remarkable milestone by establishing partnerships with various organizations, fostering meaningful engagement towards our common goals. A MOU was signed with:



MOU signing with Ministry of Housing & Community Development

- Fiji Ministry of Housing and Community Development which is responsible for strategy, policy, funding assistance, monitoring and regulation of Fiji's housing system
- JP Bayly Trust, a charitable trust provides for the welfare of the less fortunate and needy with their basic yet essential medical, food and clothing and education support to Fijian families and their children.
- Selfless Fiji, a youth led organization that coordinates volunteer activities throughout the country.

These partnerships signify a collaborative effort to address housing and community development challenges in Fiji, and we look forward to engaging with more organizations to leverage resources and expertise to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.



MOU signing with Selfless Fiji

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS







## Stakeholder Consultation: We Value Your Voice

We recently conducted a stakeholder consultation in the village of Togobula as part of our ongoing efforts to improve livelihoods and promote sustainability in partnership with local communities and government agencies.

The consultation began with an introduction to Habitat for Humanity Fiji's services, emphasizing the organization's commitment to creating homes, strengthening communities, and supporting integrated community development. This was followed by an update on activities already carried out in Togobula to highlight the progress made and the positive impacts on the community.

One of the key highlights of the consultation was the discussion on proposed activities for the next project. These activities aim to further enhance the quality of life in Togobula and address specific community needs identified through previous engagements.

In line with our commitment to sustainable practices, we shared plans to plant Kavika and Tamarini trees in Togobula. This initiative, supported by the Ministry of Forestry, aligns with the organization's broader efforts to promote environmental conservation and biodiversity.

The consultation was attended by various stakeholders, including the Togobula Turaga Ni Koro, Water Committee Representative, Ministry of Forestry Representative, Village Health Worker, and Roko Tui.



*Consultation with different stakeholders*

This project is supported by the United Nations Development Programme.



**We are thrilled to share that Global Village is back. Join us in Fiji to make a meaningful impact by building homes, strengthening communities, and supporting integrated development projects. Don't miss the chance to contribute to Habitat for Humanity Fiji's mission and experience the beauty and culture of this incredible island nation. Let's build hope together in Fiji!**

For more information, please visit  
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