Thinking politically and working differently: DFAT skills programs in the Pacific
Fremden Yanhambath, Director
Economic Overview

- 70% of population live in remote and rural areas
- Subsistence farming and fishing are the main sources of livelihood and income
- Less than one third of the working age population are in formal employment – formal economy produces less than 700 jobs/year
- Tourism accounts for around 40% of GDP
Skills Sector Overview

- Ministry of Education solely focused on institutional based TVET delivery – long cycle, full time, Vila/Santo based
- Supply driven – not in response to economic opportunity/demand
- No formal skills delivery in rural areas
- Poor training quality – limited industry participation, limited qualified trainers, no national quality assurance framework
- No skills sectoral policy
Political Overview

• Very unstable government – 10 changes of government in the last 8 years
• Very corrupt – 35/100 points on the 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index
• Informal power structures
• Limited success of donor projects/NGOs working with government
• Inter-community tensions: expatriates v local/Anglophones v Francophones/private sector v development practitioners
Key objectives of partnership modality

- Commenced August 2008
- **Model** what an effective national skills system could look like – small scale, experimental
- Skills Centres established to:
  - coordinate skills development services at the provincial level – broker between demand and supply:
  - through a Skills Development Fund, purchase training from formal providers and business coaches that is:
    - Demand-driven – linked to sectoral economic growth
    - Quality assured
    - Flexible delivery
    - Promotes access for marginalised groups
- Economic growth + influencing system reform > Sustainability
Tourism in Torba promising

Australian gov’t applauded for its contribution

By Anita Roberts

Tourism in Torba province looks promising and its small beautiful islands are looking forward to welcoming more tourists in the upcoming months/years now that more new tourism products have been developed.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) found it very hard to promote tourism in Torba in previous years.

Today, the province is still facing problems uncommon to other provinces as infrequent shipping to and from the islands and poor market infrastructure.

Department of Tourism on December last year.

Just last week, nearly 10 tourism new products were declared open to visitors on the second biggest island, Gaua, having met all DOT’s standards.

It includes five new bungalows, four tours and one attraction site:

Chez Maureen, Tammesse Bungalows, Wongo Grass Travel Lodge, Peba and Weal Bungalows all fall under the category of island style bungalow. Two accredited women’s water music groups and two newly built campsites were part of the tour, including Lake Lata on the
System Change

2014 – Ministry of Education restructure:

- Ministry of Education and Training (MoET)
- New Directorate for Tertiary/Skills
- Skills Centres integrated into the MoET
- MoET commitment to fund all Skills Centre positions
- Flexible delivery of accredited courses
- GoV productive sector departments’ commitment of annual budget to Skills Development Fund
- Co-investment with Pacific Women, DID fund, GfG
Mainstreaming Themes

- Gender Equality
- Disability Inclusion
- Climate Change Resilience
Long Term Outcomes

- Coordinated & Resourced Skills System
- Quality Assured Qualifications
- Pathways to Further Education
- Enhanced Status of Women & Persons with Disability
- Sustainable Development
- Increased Income
- Improved Productivity
TONGA SKILLS
for Inclusive Economic Growth

Dr ‘Uhila moe langi Fasi, Team Leader
POLITICAL OVERVIEW

- Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- Strong Christian tradition and cultural customs
- First democratic elections (2010)
- Cabinet appointed by Prime Minister
- Local government administrated by Island District Governor (appointed by Prime Minister), district and town officers (elected by local communities)
- Limited representation of women in parliament
- Long-standing issues of corruption and mismanagement within government
ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

- Graduated to upper middle-income status in 2012
- Local economy heavily reliant on remittances
- Geographically isolated population
- High vulnerability to severe natural events
- Large informal economy and subsistence sector
- Fragmented markets
- Narrow resource and production base
- Priority productive sectors:
  - Agriculture
  - Tourism
  - Handicraft (manufacturing)
  - Construction
BACKGROUND TO TONGA SKILLS

• Two previous investments in skills development
  • Tonga Skills Program (TSP1)
  • Interim Skills Development Facility (ISDF)

Issues:
• Lack of local engagement and empowerment
• Complicated procurement/implementation arrangements hampered service delivery
• Programs seen as working in parallel to local reform efforts

• Tonga Skills design informed by Vanuatu Skills Partnership and DFAT Skills for Prosperity strategy
INCLUSIVE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH