MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

TONGA SAFE AND RESILIENT SCHOOLS PROJECT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2026

PHOTO CREDIT: CENTRAL SERVICE UNIT /MOF - FOURTH TONGA WORLD BANK COUNTRY PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CPPR), TANOA HOTEL, 26TH AUGUST 2026

HIGHLIGHTS OF Q3 : JULY,AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Figure 1: PC- Ministry of Finance and Planning - The Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Mo'ale 'Otunuku met with Mr. Nakhafi Hassan, Alternate Executive Director of the South East Asia Group at the World Bank Group during his official visit to Tonga 26 August 2026

Figure 3 :Natalia Palu Latu, WB Country Officer handover ICT equipment on behalf of the TSRS Project to the Chief Executive Officer, 'Isikeli Oko

TABLE OF CONTENT

COMPONENT 1 - IMPROVING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF EDUCATION FACILITIES

1. TSUNAMI SCHOOLS

1.1 GPS FONOI
1.2 GPS TUNGUA

1.2 DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD

1.2.1 TUPOUTO'A COLLEGE
1.2.2 GPS 'EUIKI

1.3 SATISFACTORY SURVEY - CONSTRUCTION

1.3.1 GMS KOLOMOTU'A
1.4 OUTREACH - COMPONENT 1

2. RISKED BASED SCHOOLS' CONSTRUCTION

2.1 GPS TONGAMAMA'O,
2.2 GPS 'ALELE 'UTA,
2.3 NIUA HIGH SCHOOL

3. PACKAGE 3 SIGNED CONTRACTS

A. GPS HA'ATUA,
B. GMS ANGAHA,
C. TAILULU COLLEGE,
D. GMS HA'AFEVA.

COMPONENT 2 - ESTABLISHMENT OF EMIS AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF CURRICULA AND ASSESSMENT

1. CURRICULUM CLASSES 1 AND 6 ONGOING—TELEVISION PROGRAM
2. ASSESSMENT ONGOING
3. COUNSELLING AND COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN BASELINE SURVEY
4. ICT EQUIPMENT HANDOVER
5. STARLINK INTERNET HANDOVER
6. ECE INDOOR PLAY RESOURCES HANDOVER

- NEW RECRUITMENT
- FAREWELL

Figure 2: *Chief Executive Officer, MET, 'Isikeli Oko signed the contract with Digicel Tonga in providing 48 Starlink funding by the TSRS Project with Lionel Tu'inukuafe, Digicel Technical Manager*

Figure 4 : *Chief Executive Officer, 'Isikeli Oko, received the handover of the Early Childhood Education indoor play resources, represented by Natalia Palu Latu, WB Country Officer , here in Tonga on behalf of the TSRS Project*

Figure 5 *; TONGA COUNTRY PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO REVIEW Meeting 26 August 2026 - Chief Executive Officer, MET, 'Isikeli Oko represents the TSRS Project in presenting the progress of activities of the project supported by the Program Manager William Fonua and Communication and Monitoring Evaluation Officer, Malini Teulilo .*

Ministry of Education and Training

UPDATE - COMPONENT 1 AND COMPONENT 2

Email : cme@tsrsp.to

Website : https://www.education.gov.to/

COMPONENT 1: IMPROVING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF EDUCATION FACILITIES

OFFICAL VISIT OF THE WORLD BANK SOUTH EAST GROUP ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TONGA

The World Bank's South East Group Alternate Executive Director, Mr. Nakhafi Hassan, paid an official visit to Tonga. During his visit, he met with the Minister for Education and Training, Hon. Mo'ale 'Otunuku, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education and Training, 'Isikeli Oko.

The meeting focused on the project's current implementation challenges and practical ways to improve project delivery. As part of his visit, Mr. Hassan also toured one of the project-supported schools, GMS Kolomotu'a.

He was accompanied by Ms. Saane Lolo, Director for Aid and Resilience at the Ministry of Finance, as well as Isikeli Oko, CEO of the Ministry of Education and Training; Hepeti Takeifanga, Director of Primary and Middle Schools; Siosaia Faletau, CSU/MOF Project Manager; and William Fonua, PMU Program Manager.

During the site visit, Mr. Hassan encouraged the students and highlighted the importance of the World Bank-funded initiatives, which aim to improve educational opportunities and support future generations in Tonga.

***Figure 6 A** : PC - Ministry of Finance and National Planning: L - R - CEO 'Isikeli Oko, Mr. Nakhafi Hassan, Alternate Executive Director of the South East Group at the World Bank, Hon. Mo'ale 'Otunuku, Minister of Education and Training, Ms. Saane Lolo, Director, Aid and Resilient Division /MOF, during the official visit of Mr. Nakhafi Hassan on 26 August 2026 to the Ministry of Education office at 'Apimataka , Havelu.*

***Figure 6 B** : The Alternate Executive Director of the South East Group at the World Bank, accompanied by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, shared remarks with students, teachers, and principals of GMS Kolomotu'a. As part of the Tsunami Schools program, GMS Kolomotu'a has successfully retrofitted existing classrooms and constructed new facilities, including a building with WASH amenities and staff quarters.*

TONGA PORTFOLIO REVIEW MISSION -26 AUGUST 2026

The Tonga Portfolio Review Mission was held on the 26 August, 2026, at Tanoa International Dateline Hotel. The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education and Training, Isikeli Oko, attended the mission in support of William Fonua, Program Manager, and the Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, during their presentation on the progress and key activities of the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP).

The review mission brought together all World Bank-funded projects in Tonga, providing an opportunity for project teams to present their achievements, ongoing activities, implementation progress, challenges, and upcoming priorities. The session fostered knowledge sharing and encouraged discussions on strengthening project delivery and development outcomes across the World Bank portfolio in Tonga.

***Figure 7** : Chief Executive Officer presented the progress and key activities of the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project during the Tonga Portfolio Review Mission held at Tanoa International Dateline on 26 August 2026.*

COMPONENT 1: IMPROVING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF EDUCATION FACILITIES

TSUNAMI SCHOOLS

Schools	Construction Company	Location
1. GPS Tungua 2. GPS Fonoi 3. Tupouto'a College 4. GPS 'Eueiki	1. Luna'eva and Sons Company 2. Luna'eva and Sons Company 3. Vava'u Construction 4. Masila Construction Limited	1. Tungua ,Ha'apai 2. Fonoifua ,Ha'apai 3. Nomuka 4. 'Eueiki

GPS TUNGUA ,TUNGUA ISLAND ,HA'APAI

Figure 8 : *New classroom*

Figure 9 *: New Staff Quarter*

Figure 10 : *New Staff Quarter kitchen.*

Construction works at GPS Tungua, Tungua, Ha'apai are now 99% complete. The project includes the construction of a new staff quarter, classroom, and WASH facility, which will significantly enhance the school's learning environment and provide improved educational and sanitation facilities for both students and teachers.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) Building Inspector and Environmental and Social Safeguards Officer, Saipalesi Unu, Senior Education Officer (MET), recently traveled to Tungua with the Luna'eva Construction team to conduct a final site inspection. The inspection was carried out to assess the quality and completion status of the works before the issuance of the Practical Completion Certificate for the project.

DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD (DLP)

Tupouto'a College , Nomuka Island

Figure 11 : *Tupouto'a College New 1x3 classrooms*

Figure 12 *: Tupouto'a College Staff Quarters*

The Defect Liability Period for Tupoutoa College, Nomuka, Ha'apai is currently underway. During this period, the contractor has been carrying out remedial works and addressing minor defects identified following the completion of the project.

The works include the installation of new classroom tiles, repairs to roof leaks, and the rectification of other minor building defects. Maintenance activities have also been completed on the two staff quarters, the WASH facility, and the school's water supply system, which has now been fully repaired and restored.

These improvement works are helping to ensure that the facilities continue to provide a safe, functional, and comfortable learning and working environment for students, teachers, and staff.

GPS 'Eueiki , 'Eueiki Island

Figure 13: *The team was able to travel to 'Eueiki to check the defect of the new buildings and retrofit existing staff quarters.*

Figure 14 : *GPS 'Eueiki Staff Quarters*

GPS 'Eueiki Defects Liability Period: the project team travelled to GPS 'Eueiki to inspect and address outstanding defects identified following the completion of the construction works. The inspection confirmed that several rectification and maintenance activities had been successfully completed to improve the functionality and quality of the facilities.

Completed remedial works included:

New paintwork applied to all security window frames.

Connection of all downpipes to the water tank system.

Installation of a water tank stop valve.

GPS FONOI , FONOIFUA ,HA'APAI ISLAND.

Figure 15 : *New Wash Facility - Boys /Girls / Disability with ramps*

Figure 16 ; *Disability Wash Facility with ramps and sink*

Figure 17 : *New Staff Quarter with ramp*

Figure 18 : *New Staff Quarter Kitchen*

The project team successfully travelled to Fonoi Island, Ha'apai, to inspect the ongoing construction works. The inspection confirmed that the newly constructed staff quarter and WASH facility have been completed and have now reached 100% completion.

The site visit was conducted by the PMU Safeguards Officer, representatives from Lunaeva and Sons Construction, the PMU Building Inspector, the Ministry of Infrastructure Inspection Officer, and Senior Education Officer Saipalesi Unu. The joint inspection ensured that all completed facilities were thoroughly reviewed and assessed for compliance with project specifications, quality standards, and operational requirements.

The successful completion of these facilities will provide improved accommodation and sanitation services, creating a safer and more supportive environment for both teachers and students on Fonoi Island.

KITCHEN JOINERY INSTALLATION COMPLETED – GPS KANOKUPOLU, GMS TE'EKIU , GMS KOLOMOTU'A

The installation of the new kitchen joinery at GPS Kanokupolu, GMS Te'ekiu, and GMS Kolomotu'a has been completed, along with all associated plumbing works. These improvements provide enhanced kitchen facilities that support the daily operations of the schools and contribute to a safer, more functional environment for students, teachers, and staff.

The completed works ensure that the kitchen areas are fully operational and meet the required standards for functionality, hygiene, and long-term use.

Figure 19 : *Installation of kitchen joinery at GPS Kanokupolu*

Figure 20: *Kitchen installation at GMS Te'ekiu*

Figure 21: *Kolomotu'a GMS Staff quarter completion of kitchen installation.*

RISKED BASED SCHOOLS

Schools	Construction Company	Location
1. FWC Peteli 2. GPS Pea 3. GPS Tokomololo 4. GPS Tongamama'o 5. GPS 'Alele'uta 6. Niuafo'ou High Schools	1. Hikaione Loumoli Consulting 2. 'Ofa Construction Limited 3. 'Ofa Construction Limited 4. Vava'u and Kalia Construction 5. Vava'u and Kalia construction 6. L&J Company	1. Pea , Tongatapu 2. Pea,Tongatapu 3. Tokomololo,Tongatapu 4. Niuafo'ou 5. Niuafo'ou 6. Niuafo'ou

GPS PEA, TONGATAPU

Figure 22: *The contractors' team improvement works to one of the 2-classroom blocks that is in their refurbishment scope.*

Figure 23 *: Replaced all the existing ceiling lining.*

Figure 24: *Renovation and demolition work on one of the classrooms at GPS Pea.*

Retrofitting works at GPS Pea are currently underway, with several key upgrades being carried out to improve the safety, durability, and functionality of the school facilities.

The classrooms are being upgraded through the removal and replacement of damaged ceilings with new ceiling lining, providing greater durability and creating a safer learning environment for both students and staff. Existing blockwork and masonry walls are also being repaired, with cracked areas reinforced and new mortar applied to strengthen the structures. Fresh rendering is being added to the walls, enhancing the appearance of the classrooms and providing a cleaner, more modern finish.

In addition, damaged floor tiles will be replaced, while deteriorated window frames and louvers have already been renewed to restore proper ventilation and improve the overall condition of the buildings. Roofing repairs and improvements are also being undertaken to enhance weather protection and strengthen the resilience of the facilities.

Once completed, these works will provide a safer, more comfortable, and resilient learning environment, supporting the wellbeing of students, teachers, and the wider school community.

FWC PETELI , PEA , TONGATAPU

Figure 25: *retrofitted Wash Facility starting the renovation*

Figure 26 : *extension of the Disability Wash Facility and a ramp make it easy for the disability students*

Construction works at FWC Peteli are currently focused on the extension of the WASH facility for persons with disabilities, which is being added to the existing WASH block to improve accessibility and inclusion for all students.

Work is ongoing at the existing WASH facility, with priority being given to the construction of the disability-friendly WASH extension. A new access ramp is also being installed to provide safe, convenient, and equitable access for students with disabilities.

At this stage, the team is focused on completing the disability-accessible toilet facility. Once this component is completed, work will continue on upgrading the female and male WASH facilities to ensure the entire block meets inclusive, accessible, and user-friendly standards. These improvements will provide a safer, more comfortable, and supportive environment for all students and contribute to the school's overall resilience and functionality.

COMPONENT 1 : IMPROVING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF EDUCATION FACILITIES

Figure 27 : *Demolished of the classroom buildings*

The retrofitting works, including the demolition of the existing classroom structures, have been completed. The team is now preparing for the continuation of ceiling installation works and the repair of damaged flooring as part of the next phase of the upgrades.

GPS TONGAMAMA'O ,NIUAFO'OU ISLAND

Retrofitting works at GPS Tongamamaʻo, Niuafoʻou Island, are progressing steadily under the management of Vavaʻu Construction Limited. Despite the logistical challenges associated with transporting construction materials to this remote island, the contractor has continued to make good progress on site.

Recent shipments of construction materials to Niuafoʻou have supported significant advancement in the construction works. Floor tiling has now commenced and is currently underway, marking another important milestone in the school's upgrading and rehabilitation program.

The ongoing retrofitting project will enhance the learning environment for both students and teachers by improving the condition, functionality, and durability of the school facilities. Once completed, the upgraded infrastructure will provide a safer, more comfortable, and resilient learning space for the school community.

Figure 28 *: Demolished of existing classrooms*

GPS ALELE'UTA , NIUAFO'OU ISLAND

Figure 29 : *GPS Alele'uta classrooms*

Kalia and Vavaʻu Construction Limited (VAVCON) continues to mobilize construction materials to Niuafoʻou Island while making steady progress on the retrofitting works at GPS Alele'uta.

A significant milestone has been achieved with the successful completion of floor tiling works in all four classrooms, providing a refreshed and durable learning environment for students and teachers. To strengthen the existing structures, plywood bracing has been installed to reinforce the classroom walls, while wall cladding and wall lining works are currently underway.

Figure 30: *installing of tile floor and timber framing*

In addition, the replacement of window frames, doors, and louvers is progressing well, enhancing the safety, functionality, and overall appearance of the school facilities. Once the wall cladding works are completed, the construction team will continue with the remaining finishing works to ensure the project is delivered to the required standard.

Despite the logistic challenges associated with transporting materials to the remote island, construction activities continue to advance steadily. Upon completion, the project will provide a more resilient, safe, and comfortable learning environment for students, teachers, and the wider school community.

NIUAFO'OU HIGH SCHOOL , NIUAFO'OU ISLAND

Figure 31 *: cement of the footing*

Figure 32: *Existing classroom foundation from the old building the contractor was testing*

Figure 33 *: continued reinforced concrete base distribute to the buildings*

Figure 34: *Consultation before testing and lay the foundation of the trench footing .*

Figure 35 : *LJ Company in doing their site meeting*

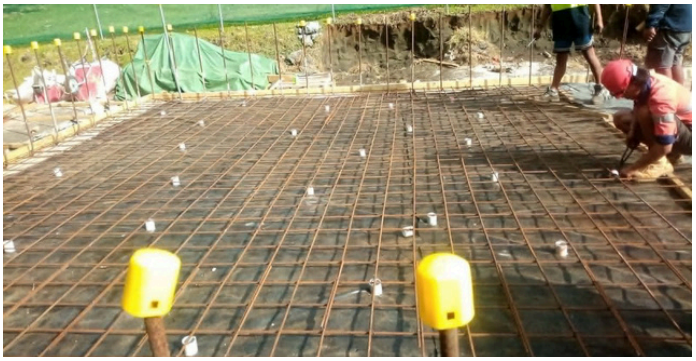


Figure 36 *: reinforce slab*

Construction works at Niuafo‘ou High School, undertaken by LJ Company Limited, are progressing steadily. Foundation works are currently underway and awaiting inspection by the Design and Supervision Consultant (DSC) Team, who will visit Niuafo‘ou this week to review progress and conduct site meetings across all active school construction projects.

Site establishment has been completed, ensuring all necessary facilities and preparations are in place to support ongoing construction activities.

A key milestone has been achieved with the completion of the main building footings, providing a solid foundation for the new classrooms.

Work on the main building slab is progressing well, with approximately 75% of concrete preparation completed, while the verandah footings have reached 65% completion.

Despite the logistic challenges of mobilizing materials and equipment to the remote island, construction continues to advance steadily.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING FOR COMPONENT 1 - TSUNAMI SCHOOLS

The Technical Team recently met to review the progress of tsunami-affected schools and discuss strategies to address ongoing challenges affecting project delivery.

Several schools have already been completed, while others are awaiting inspection and the completion of final remedial works. The meeting highlighted key challenges, including limited transportation to remote islands, outstanding retrofitting works at some school sites, and the need for enhanced coordination between contractors and inspection teams to ensure timely project completion.

The team also acknowledged the Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI) as a key stakeholder in the implementation process. Tevita ‘Aho, Acting Director of the Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI), and Rocky Fatiaki, Senior Building Officer, have been working closely with the project team to conduct inspections and provide technical support. Their contributions have been instrumental in ensuring quality assurance, compliance with resilient infrastructure standards, and the successful delivery of school reconstruction and retrofitting works.

Figure 37: *Tevita 'Aho Acting CEO, MOI, and Rocky Fatiaki meet with the team discussing the remaining schools in tsunami schools*

PPIUF MID - TERM REVIEW SITE VISIT

***Figure 38** : PPIUF Mid-Term Review Site Visit to GMS Kolomotu'a here is the director of primary and middle schools and building inspectors PMU and two consultants from PPIUF*

As part of the Papua New Guinea and Pacific Umbrella Facility Funds (PPIUF) Mid-Term Review, two consultants visited Tonga to conduct a comprehensive review of the project's progress and achievements. During their mission, the consultants met with the Project Management Unit (PMU) team to discuss project implementation, accomplishments, challenges, and future priorities. The mission also included a site visit to GMS Kolomotu'a, one of the schools benefiting from infrastructure improvements supported through PPIUF funding. The visit provided an opportunity for the consultants to observe the completed construction works and assess the impact of the project on the school community.

During the visit, Mr. Hepeti Takeifanga, Director for Primary and Middle Schools, welcomed the consultants and acknowledged the importance of the PPIUF-supported investments in strengthening educational facilities across Tonga. The PMU Building Inspector also provided an introduction and a detailed briefing on the construction works completed under the project, highlighting the quality of the buildings, key features, and the benefits they bring to students and teachers.

SURVEY - Building of new classrooms, Retrofitting , Staff Quarters, and Wash Facility

***Figure 39** : GMS Kolomotu'a Principal - Solomone Siulua doing the statisfactory survey*

Following the completion of new school buildings and retrofitting works under the project, a Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey is conducted to assess the views of school leaders and stakeholders regarding the quality and effectiveness of the completed infrastructure. The survey provides an opportunity for principals and school communities to share their feedback and indicate whether they are satisfied with the works delivered.

As part of this process, GMS Kolomotu'a successfully completed its beneficiary satisfaction survey. The survey captured feedback on the newly constructed and upgraded facilities, including their functionality, quality, safety, and overall contribution to improving the teaching and learning environment. The results will help the project team evaluate the impact of the investments and identify lessons to support future school infrastructure initiatives.

COMPONENT 1 - TELEVISION PROGRAM OUTREACH

***Figure 40:** Component 1 Team in doing tv program L-R Captain Taukafa (Engineer) Moala Loumoli (Asset Management), Saipalesi Unu (Senior Education Officer ,MET) Malini Teulilo (CME)*

As part of Component 1: Resilient Infrastructure, the project team conducted television and radio awareness programs to inform the public about the project and its ongoing activities. The purpose of these outreach programs was to increase public understanding of the project's objectives, achievements, and benefits for schools and communities across Tonga.

The TV and radio sessions provided an opportunity to share information on the infrastructure improvements being implemented under the project, including the construction of new school facilities and the retrofitting of existing buildings. The programs also encouraged parents, school communities, and the general public to become more aware of the project's efforts to create safer, more resilient learning environments for students and teachers.

Through these awareness activities, the project team strengthened community engagement and ensured that stakeholders remained informed about the progress and impact of the project.

PRE-BID MEETING FOR RBS PACKAGE 4 SCHOOLS

***Figure 41A:** Pre-bid meeting for Package 4 schools conduct by the CSU Procurement and Safeguard Team*

The Procurement Team successfully conducted a pre-bid meeting for the Package 4 Schools Construction Project at the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) Conference Room. The meeting was facilitated by the Procurement, Environmental, and Social Safeguards teams under the leadership of the Central Services Unit (CSU) of the Ministry of Finance (MOF).

The project consists of the following construction lots:

Lot 1: GMS Atele , Lot 2: GMS Fatai , Lot 3: GMS Fua'amotu , Lot 4: GPS Hala'ovave

Lot 5: GMS Popua, Lot 6: GMS Tu'aliku'o Pilolevu

The objective of the pre-bid meeting was to provide interested contractors with a comprehensive overview of the bidding process, including guidance on completing bid documents and meeting submission requirements. The session also served as an opportunity for contractors to seek clarification and raise questions regarding the tender documents and procurement procedures.

Pre-bid meetings are an important component of the procurement process and are conducted following the public advertisement of a tender. These meetings help ensure that all interested bidders have a clear understanding of the project requirements, enabling them to prepare complete, responsive, and compliant submissions.

More than 20 contractors attended the meeting, reflecting strong interest in the project. Participants gained valuable information on the technical, environmental, social,9 and procurement requirements associated with the bid submission process.

Figure 41 B: *L-R Tu'amelie Mahe (MET) Contractors ,Leveni 'Aho)Kramer) Vili Leha'uli (Kramer)*

The pre-bid site meeting was successfully completed, with contractors participating in the meeting to gain a better understanding of the project scope, site conditions, and bidding requirements. The session provided an opportunity for contractors to visit the site, raise questions, and receive clarifications before submitting their bids.

RISKED BASED SCHOOLS PACKAGE 3 CONTRACTED SIGNED : GPS Ha'atu'a ,GMS Ha'afeva,GMS Angaha and Tailulu College

Figure 42 *: L-R : Matani Puloka , Puloka Construction Limited award contract to GPS Ha'atu'a*

The contract for the construction works at GPS Ha'atu'a, 'Eua, has been officially awarded to Puloka Construction Limited. Matani Puloka represented Puloka Construction Limited during the contract signing ceremony, while 'Isikeli Oko, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education and Training (MET), signed on behalf of the Ministry.

The project forms part of the Risk-Based Construction Program, which aims to strengthen and improve school infrastructure to create safer, more resilient, and conducive learning environments for students and teachers. Through this initiative, critical infrastructure improvements are being implemented to enhance the quality and sustainability of educational facilities across Tonga.

The award of this contract marks another important milestone in the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Education and Training and its partners to invest in resilient school infrastructure and support improved educational outcomes for communities and all of Tonga.

Figure 43 *: Vaihoi Masila from Masila Construction Limited with the CEO in signing the GMS Ha'afeva construction*

The construction contract for GMS Haʻafeva in Haʻapai has been officially awarded to Masila Construction, marking an important milestone in the implementation of the project.

The contract agreement was formally signed by Vaihoi Masila, representing Masila Construction, and 'Isikeli Oko, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education and Training (MET). The signing ceremony signifies the commencement of a key investment in educational infrastructure for the Haʻafeva community.

The project will contribute to improving the school's learning environment by providing enhanced facilities that will benefit both students and teachers. The contract award also reflects the Ministry's ongoing commitment to delivering safe, resilient, and quality education infrastructure across Tonga

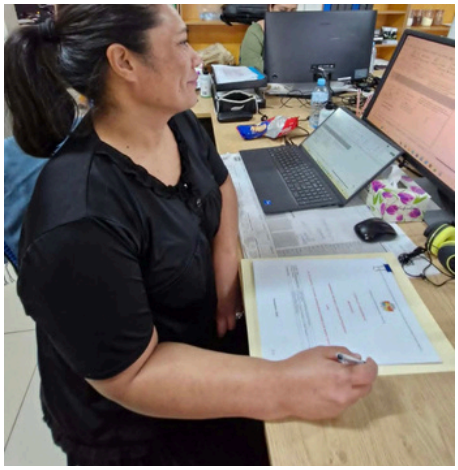


Figure 44 *: Contract to GMS Angaha and Tailulu College award to Alliance Vavcon /Jones Industries ,the contract with the Program Manager . Ms. 'Ana Fekau Kris*

The Ministry of Education and Training (MET) has officially signed contracts with Vava'u Construction Limited (Vavcon) and Jones Industries for the implementation of school infrastructure works under the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project. The contract signing was completed by 'Isikeli Oko, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education and Training, on behalf of the Ministry, while representatives of Vava'u Construction Limited (Vavcon) and Jone Industries signed on behalf of their respective companies.

The awarded works form part of the Ministry's ongoing commitment to improving and strengthening school facilities throughout Tonga. Through these investments, the project aims to provide safer, more resilient, and inclusive learning environments that will benefit students, teachers, and school communities for years to come.

L-R :Pauliasi Fifita (TSRSP Education Co-ordinator, 'Amelia Folaumahina (MET Director for Assessment and Curriculum , 'Ileini Takeifanga (Senior Education Officer), and Teresa Pahulu (Deputy Director)

COMPONENT 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF EMIS AND IMPROVED QUALITY AND ASSESSMENT

COUNSELLING AND COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Figure 45: *Truancy TESD team preparing surveyors for the baseline survey.*

Figure 46: *Team starting the survey in Tongatapu, Vava'u and Ha'apai and currently in 'Eua*

The training session for the Baseline Survey on Counselling and Communication Campaign Activities was successfully launched, marking an important milestone for the project. The survey will collect essential data on key issues affecting students and schools, including school dropouts, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), early pregnancy, and corporal punishment.
The findings will provide valuable evidence to guide the implementation of counselling services and communication campaign activities. The survey will also help identify and address emerging concerns such as vandalism, climate change awareness, and student well-being across both government and non-government schools. Through this process, the project will gain a clearer understanding of the current situation and the support needed to improve learning environments.

The activity is being implemented in-house by the Truancy and Education Social Development (TESD) Team of the Ministry of Education and Training (MET). Project-supported field officers have been deployed to conduct the survey and ensure comprehensive data collection across schools. Their contribution is critical to obtaining accurate information and ensuring the effective implementation of project interventions.

As a priority activity under the project, the baseline survey will provide the foundation for evidence-based decision-making and enable the project to measure progress and impact over time. The training equips field officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out the survey effectively, ensuring the quality and reliability of the data collected.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS

Figure 47 : Dr. Visesio Pongi *(PMU TA for Professional Development) conducting a consultation in preparing for the framework for development of teachers*

The Ministry of Education and Training (MET), in collaboration with the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP) Technical Consultant, Dr. Visesio Pongi, has commenced a series of consultations aimed at strengthening the alignment between teacher training institutions and their graduate teachers from 2023 to 2025. These consultations are being conducted in support of the Tonga Education Strategic Policy Framework (TESPF) 2025–2035.

The initiative brings together key stakeholders, including representatives from Tonga National University (TNU), the University of the South Pacific (USP), Tonga Teachers Institute (TTI), as well as primary and secondary school teachers. The consultations provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences, identify challenges, and discuss strategies to better align teacher preparation programmes with the needs of schools and the education sector.

The findings and recommendations from these consultations will help strengthen teacher development, improve collaboration between training institutions and schools, and support the delivery of quality education across Tonga

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN - REVISED CURRICULUM CLASS 1 TO 4

The revision of the Classes 1–6 curriculum is currently ongoing and has been supported by a series of public awareness and engagement campaigns throughout the process. These awareness activities began at the initial stages of curriculum development through in-house consultations and stakeholder discussions.

As the curriculum revision reaches its final stages, the focus has shifted to monitoring and validation activities conducted by the curriculum writers. These ongoing efforts ensure that the revised curriculum meets the intended learning outcomes, addresses the needs of students and teachers, and aligns with national education priorities before its final implementation.

Figure 48 : Campaign and awareness on the revised curriculum class 1 to 6 for primary levels

Figure 49 : *L-R Pauliasi Fifita (PMU Education Co-ordinator with the Director of Curriculum and Assessment 'Amelia Folaumahina , 'Ileini Takeifanga (Senior Education Officer) and Teresa Pahulu (Deputy Assistant Director)*

STARLINK CONTRACT SIGNED

The Ministry of Education and Training (MET) has officially signed a contract with Digicel Tonga Limited for the provision of 48 Starlink internet units, financed through the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP). This milestone marks a significant step toward strengthening digital connectivity and improving access to online learning opportunities for students across Tonga.

The contract agreement was signed by Mr. Lionel Tu'inukuafe, representing Digicel Tonga Limited, together with Chief Executive Officer Mr. ‘Isikeli Oko and Director Ms. Kalolaine Moeaki on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Training.

Through this partnership, Starlink internet services will be installed in secondary and middle schools across Tongatapu, Haʻapai, Vavaʻu, and the Niuas. The initiative complements the recent distribution of ICT equipment to schools under the project, ensuring that students and teachers, particularly in the outer islands, have reliable internet access to support teaching, learning, research, and digital education opportunities.

The deployment of these Starlink units will help bridge connectivity gaps, enhance access to educational resources, and enable schools to make full use of the ICT devices provided through the project, contributing to a more inclusive and resilient education system throughout Tonga.

Figure 50: *L-R Lionel Tu'inukuafe (Digicel Tonga Limited) and Chief Executive Officer 'Isikeli Oko*

Figure 51: *Starlink contract signed award to Digicel Limited Tonga representing by Lionel Tu'inukuafe and CEO 'Isikeli Oko and Director for Finance Kalo Moeaki shown in this photo Tepola Siale (PMU Education Assistant)*

COMPONENT 2 : ESTABLISHEMENT OF EMIS AND IMPROVED QUALITY AND ASSESSMENT

ICT EQUIPMENTS HANDOVER TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (MET)

***Figure 52**: L-R William Fonua (PMU Program Manager ,CEO .'Isikeli Oko , Natalia Palu Latu , (Country Officer , WB in Tonga) Kalo Moeaki (Director of Finance MET*

The official handover of ICT equipment under the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP) took place at the Ministry of Education and Training (MET). The equipment package, which included desktop computers, laptops, projectors, peripherals, and microprocessor kits, was formally presented by Ms. Natalia Palu Latu, World Bank Country Officer, to the Chief Executive Officer of MET, Mr. 'Isikeli Oko.

Speaking on behalf of the donors, Ms. Natalia Palu Latu expressed sincere appreciation to the Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands Umbrella Facility (PPIUF) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for their generous financial support. She highlighted that this represents one of the largest ICT equipment packages provided to schools and students in Tonga, aimed at expanding access to digital learning and enhancing educational opportunities across the country.

In receiving the equipment, Mr. 'Isikeli Oko conveyed his gratitude to the donors and development partners for their continued support of Tonga's education sector. He noted that the handover marks a significant milestone in strengthening teaching and learning through technology and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that the equipment is effectively utilized to benefit both students and teachers throughout their educational journey.

The ICT equipment will support the integration of digital learning in schools, improve access to technology, and contribute to the development of essential digital skills for students across Tonga.

ASSESSMENT TRIALS - HA'APAI AND 'EUA

***Figure 53 :** GMS Angaha, Eua, students exercising the trial assessment*

***Figure 54** - GMS Faleloa, Ha'apai students while the assessment team doing the trial of the assessment*

Classroom assessment trials are currently being conducted using assessment instruments aligned with the Tonga Large Scale Assessment (TLSA) framework. The trials are being implemented across Classes 1 to 6, ensuring consistency and alignment of assessment practices at different year levels.

The trial process is ongoing and is gradually being extended to the outer islands, with ʻEua and Vavaʻu identified as the next locations for implementation. These field trials provide an opportunity to test the effectiveness, reliability, and suitability of the assessment instruments in a range of school settings.

This initiative represents an important step in strengthening Tonga's national assessment system by ensuring that classroom assessment practices are aligned with large-scale evaluation standards. The trial results will help refine the instruments and support their successful implementation on a national scale, ultimately contributing to improved teaching, learning, and student achievement outcomes.

ECE EQUIPMENT HANDOVER

Figure 55 : L-R Tepola Siale (PMU Education Assistant) 'Anipule Tei (Acting Director ECE) Natalia Palu Latu (WB country officer /Tonga) CEO 'Isikeli Oko , 'Ana Fekau Kris (PMU Program Manager)

The Ministry of Education and Training (MET) today received a new set of Early Childhood Education (ECE) indoor play resources, officially handed over by Ms. Natalia Palu Latu, World Bank Country Officer, to the Chief Executive Officer of MET, Mr. ‘Isikeli Oko.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Ms. Natalia Palu Latu described the event as an important milestone for the project and highlighted the continued support of the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in strengthening early childhood education in Tonga. She noted that many young children previously had limited access to educational play resources, making this contribution a significant investment in supporting learning and development during the early years.

In receiving the resources, Mr. ‘Isikeli Oko expressed his sincere appreciation to the project donors for their ongoing commitment to improving ECE services across Tonga. He emphasized the critical role of early childhood education in building strong foundations for children and preparing them for a successful transition into primary school.

Project Manager Ms. ‘Ana Fekau Kris also acknowledged the support and collaboration of MET leadership and project partners. She noted that the indoor play resources represent just one component of the project’s support to ECE centres, with additional resources, including outdoor play equipment, science materials, and air-conditioning units, expected to be delivered in the near future.

The provision of these resources will help create more engaging, inclusive, and stimulating learning environments for young children, contributing to improved early learning outcomes throughout Tonga.

AWARD CONTRACT AND SIGNED AIR CONDITIONING

***Figure 56:** L- R Luseane Fisi'italia Khan and 'Ana Fekau Kris after signing the air conditioner for ICT Computer Room - Middle Schools and High Schools*

The contract for the supply and installation of air conditioning units for school ICT rooms has been awarded to Khan Services Tonga, based in Tufuenga, Kolomotu‘a.

These air conditioning units will support ICT rooms in schools that are receiving ICT equipment financed through the project and recently handed over to the Ministry of Education and Training (MET). The installation of the units is an important component of ensuring that the ICT equipment is housed in a suitable environment, helping to protect and maintain the equipment while providing a comfortable and conducive learning space for both students and teachers.

The contract was formally signed by Mrs. Luseane Fisi‘itali Khan, owner of Khan Services Tonga, and MET Chief Executive Officer Mr. ‘Isikeli Oko, in the presence of Program Manager Ms. ‘Ana Fekau Kris.

This initiative reflects the project's ongoing commitment to strengthening digital learning infrastructure and expanding access to quality education. By improving ICT facilities and ensuring the sustainability of ICT equipment, the project will help create better learning opportunities for students and support the effective integration of technology into classrooms across Tonga.

ICT DISTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE OUTER ISLANDS

***Figure 57 L-R** : Vava'u High School Lili Fangupo in recieving some of the ICT equipments and Tepola Siale (PMU) shown in this photos*

The Ministry of Education and Training (MET) Asset Team successfully distributed ICT equipment, including laptops, projectors, and microprocessor kits, to Vava‘u High School, ‘Eua High School, and Ha‘apai High School.

The distribution of these ICT resources marks an important milestone in strengthening digital learning opportunities for students and teachers in Tonga’s outer islands. The equipment will support classroom instruction, enhance access to technology, and contribute to improving the quality of education across the three schools.

School principals, deputy principals, and teachers expressed their appreciation and enthusiasm upon receiving the equipment, recognizing its potential to enhance teaching and learning outcomes and support the effective integration of technology into the classroom.

Figure 58 *: Tepola Siale (PMU) together with the 'Eua High Schools Principal and teacher*

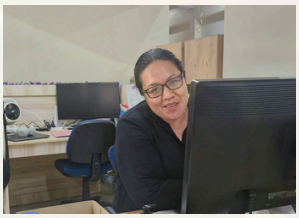
Figure 59 : *Ha'apai High School Principals and teacher recieving some of their ICT equipment*

The delivery of the ICT equipment forms part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen digital education infrastructure and ensure that students, regardless of their location, have access to modern learning tools. The remaining desktop computers are scheduled to be transported to the schools by sea in the coming weeks, ensuring that the schools receive the full ICT package required to support teaching, learning, and digital skills development.
This initiative reflects the Ministry's commitment to expanding educational opportunities and fostering a more connected and technology-enabled learning environment across Tonga's island communities.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT / RECRUITMENT

PROJECT MANAGER - 'ANA FEKAU KRIS

We are delighted to welcome 'Ana Loiloi Fekau Kris as the new Program Manager for the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP), succeeding William Fonua.
'Ana is already well acquainted with World Bank-funded projects, having previously served as the Project Manager, for the Pacific Resilience Program (PREP). Her extensive experience in project management and strong understanding of World Bank procedures will be a valuable asset to the project and its stakeholders.
We warmly welcome 'Ana to the TSRSP team and look forward to her leadership and contributions as we continue working together to strengthen safe, resilient, and inclusive learning environments across Tonga.
At the same time, we sincerely thank William Fonua for his dedicated service and significant contributions to the project and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

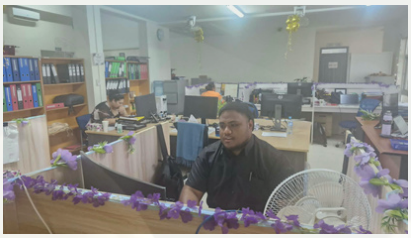


PROJECT ACCOUNTANT - SESILIA HALAHOLO

We are pleased to welcome Sesilia Halaholo to the project team as our new Project Accountant. Sesilia is a former Project Accountant with the Central Services Unit (CSU), Ministry of Finance, and brings valuable experience in financial management and World Bank-funded projects.
Sesilia joins the team, replacing Kisione Taufa, who is transitioning to another World Bank project. We sincerely thank Kisione for his contributions and dedication to the project and wish him every success in his new role.

ASSET TECHNICAL OFFICER - POTESIO VEATUFUNGA

We are pleased to welcome Potesio Veatufunga to the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP) team as a new member of the Asset Team.
Potesio joins the project to support the management, coordination, and tracking of project assets, contributing to the effective delivery of project activities across the project implementation. His addition strengthens the Asset Team's capacity to ensure that project resources are managed efficiently and reach the schools and communities they are intended to serve.
We warmly welcome Potesio to the team and look forward to his contributions in supporting the successful implementation of the project.



ASSET TECHNICAL OFFICER - SOSIUA KAMOTO FINAU

We are pleased to welcome Sosiua Kamoto Finau to the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP) as a new member of the Asset Management Team.
Siosiua joins the project with skills and experience that will add significant value to the team. His contribution will help strengthen the management, tracking, and coordination of project assets, supporting the efficient delivery of project activities and resources to the schools.
We warmly welcome Siosiua to the team and look forward to his valuable contributions as we continue working together to achieve the project's goals and objectives.

FAREWELL - KUBER BOGATI , MOSESE FATUKALA , LESIELI TU'IVAI AND WILLIAM FONUA

The project team would like to sincerely thank and farewell several valued colleagues who have been an important part of our journey. As they move on to new opportunities and projects, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for their dedication, professionalism, and contributions to the success of the project.
We wish the very best to:

Kisione Taufa – Project Accountant
Kuber Bogati – International Engineering Specialist
Mosese Fatukala – Procurement Officer
Lesieli Tu'ivai – Environmental and Social Safeguards Officer
William Fonua – Project Manager

L-R Contract Manager : Athol Greentree and Kuber Bogati International Engineer

L- R - William Fonua and Mosese Fatukala - Procurement Officer

L- R William Fonua and Lesieli Tu'ivai - Environmental Social Safeguard Officer

L-R - William Fonua and 'Isikeli Oko ,CEO MET