



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING



THE WORLD BANK

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Education

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TONGA SAFE AND RESILIENT SCHOOLS (TSRS) PROJECT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS



Project Highlight: The project successfully completed several key activities and made strong progress across all areas. Consultation sessions, workshops, and monitoring visits were carried out, ensuring schools and stakeholders were actively engaged. The progress to date reflects a clear commitment to delivering positive outcomes, with more milestones expected in the months ahead.



WORLD BANK IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT MISSION 27TH APRIL 2026

The Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP) carried out its implementation support mission, bringing together key stakeholders to review progress and strengthen delivery across all project components. The mission focused on three objectives: assessing overall project performance and advancing key activities, providing technical support across all components, and reviewing technical, environmental, social, procurement, and financial management aspects to ensure strong alignment with development goals.

The opening session was formally led by Task Team Leader Simone Esler, joined by representatives from the Office of the Chief Executive, including Kalo Moeaki and Sekonaia Tu'ipulotu, alongside Program Manager William Fonua of the Project Management Unit.

This mission served as a critical checkpoint, confirming that the project remained on track and continued to deliver resilient outcomes for Tonga's education sector.

COMPONENT ONE : IMPROVING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF EDUCATION FACILITIES.

Tsunami School Reconstruction Progress

A total of 11 schools are currently enrolled under the Tsunami School Reconstruction Program, which continues to make steady and encouraging progress. To date, nine of the 11 schools have been completed and formally handed over to their respective school communities. The remaining two schools, GPS Tungua and GPS Fonoi, are still pending completion and remain an active priority for the program in the period ahead.

During this reporting period, four schools reached the milestone of full completion. These are Maamaloa ECE, Maamafo'ou ECE, GMS Nomuka, and Tupouto'a College, all situated in Nomuka, Ha'apai. Their completion represents a significant achievement for the program, bringing renewed hope to the communities of Nomuka and providing students and staff with safe, resilient learning environments that have been rebuilt to withstand future natural hazards.

To mark the occasion, a formal opening and key handover ceremony was held in Nomuka. The event brought together school principals, community members, and program leadership in a meaningful celebration of the milestone. The ceremony was opened with prayers, reflecting the deep significance the occasion held for the local communities. Chief Executive Officer 'Isikeli Oko then formally presented the keys of each completed school to the respective principals, officially transferring the facilities back into the care of their school communities. The handover was a proud moment for all involved, recognizing the collective effort and dedication that made these rebuilds possible.

Work on the two remaining schools, GPS Tungua and GPS Fonoi, is continuing, and further updates on their progress will be provided in the next reporting period.



1. GMS KOLOMOTU'A



Figure 1: new staff quarter



Figure 2. New Wash facility

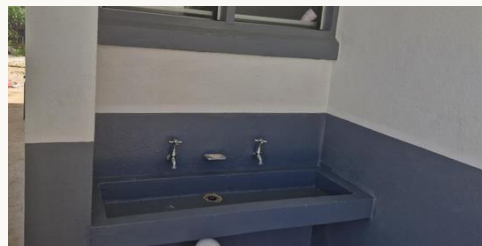


Figure 3. Washing hand basin

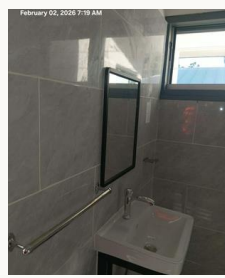
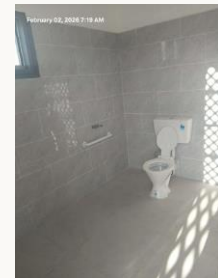


Figure 4. Disability wash facility as part of the wash facility.

II. NOMUKA, TUNGUA FONOIFUA, HA'APAI ISLAND

NOMUKA - FWC Maamaloa Early Childhood Education (ECE)



Figure 5: Maamaloa ECE, Wash Facility



MAAMAFOO'U ECE



Figure 6. Chief Executive Officer, 'Isikeli Oka, handed over the key of Maamafo'ou ECE to the principal.



Figure 7. Opening of the Maamafo'ou ECE at Tokaikolo Church, with leaders, school directors, parents, and children.



III. NOMUKA , TUPOUTO'A , COLLEGE



Figure 8. MET Chief Executive Officer Isikeli Oko hands over the keys of the Maamaloa ECE Wash Facility and Tupouto'a College's new classrooms, staff quarters, and the new Wash facility.



Figure 9. 1x3 New Classrooms



Figure 10. New Wash Facility



Figure 11. Two staff quarters, interior



IV. NOMUKA, GPS NOMUKA



Figure 12. Group Photo: Chief Executive Officer's Isikeli Oko in the middle and Director Hepeti Takeifanga together with the contractors and community of Nomuka.



Figure 13. Isikeli Oko, Chief Executive Officer, MET, opening the new classroom shown in this photo; the CEO of 'Ofa Construction Service; and the GMS Nomuka principal.



The opening of the new Classroom 1x2 and the new Wash Facility at GMS Nomuka took place recently. The CEO, 'Isikeli Oko, inaugurated both buildings alongside the contractors and senior officials from various ministries, including the Ministry of Police and the Ministry of Health.

V. GPS FONOIFUA , FONOIFUA, ISLAND



Figure 14. New Wash Facility



Figure 15. New Staff Quarter

Construction works at GPS Fonoifua have reached 90 percent completion, reflecting the considerable progress achieved on site throughout the course of the project.

VI. TUNGUA ISLAND ,GPS TUNGUA

Construction works at GPS Tungua have reached 90 percent completion, reflecting the substantial progress made on site to date. The project is in its final stages, with only a number of remaining tasks to be carried out before the facility is fully handed over.



Figure 16. New staff quarter



Figure 17. New Classrooms

1.1 RISK-BASED SCHOOLS

Design & Supervision — Weekly Update

Ongoing weekly coordination meetings are held between the PMU and the design and supervision firm, providing a platform to review and update progress on both design development and works completed to date. These regular engagements ensure that all parties remain informed and aligned throughout the program.

As of this reporting period, Packages 3, 4, and 5 have reached a significant milestone, with the designs now finalized and ready. The next step for these packages is procurement, with the tender documents set to be released to the market in the period ahead.

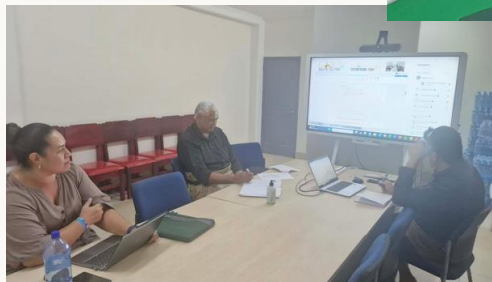
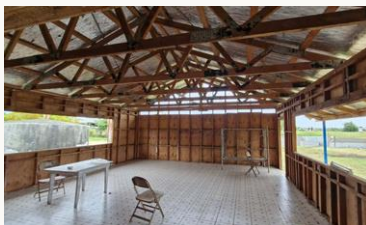


Figure 18,19,20: PMU and Kramer Asia Pacific Team attending weekly meeting

1.1.1 RISK-BASED SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION

1.FWC PETELI



2.GPS PEA



3.GMS TOKOMOLOLO





Package 1 — Risk-Based Schools Construction Update

Construction under Package 1 is now underway, covering the risk-based schools identified for priority intervention. Contracts have been signed with the appointed contractors. Hikaione Loumoli Consulting has been awarded the works for FWC Peteli and GMS Tokomololo, while GPS Pea has been awarded to 'Ofa Construction Services.

Following the contract signings, community consultation and site possession induction have both been completed for all sites. With all pre-construction requirements now fulfilled, the teams are on the ground and have commenced work, marking a positive and significant step forward for Package 1.

1. GPS ALELE'UTA



2. GPS TONGAMAMA'O



Figure 21. William Fonua and Vava'u Kalia Construction CEO were visiting Niuafo'ou for the consultation.

3. NIUAFO'OU HIGH SCHOOL



The **Niua Package 2** contracts have been signed with both appointed contractors. Vava'u Kalia Construction has been awarded the contract for the reconstruction of 'Aleleuta GPS and Tongamama'o GPS, while LJ Construction will be responsible for Niuafo'ou High School. GPS Tongamama'o has also been awarded under this package.

With contracts now in place, the community consultation phase has commenced. The design team (Kramer) traveled to the sites together with PMU representative Program Manager, William Fonua and Saipalesi Unu from the Ministry of Education and Training (MET), as well as the two contractors, Vava'u Kalia Construction and LJ Construction. This marks an important step forward in the planning and design process, ensuring that all key parties are aligned from the outset of the project.



COMPONENT 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF EMIS AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF CURRICULA AND ASSESSMENTS

WORLD BANK MISSION IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT- COMPONENT 2



Both photos: Figures 21 & 22. William Fonua, program manager; co-team task leader, Janssen Teixeira; Mr. Kebede Feda; and both officers from the PMU under COMPONENT 2, Pauli Fifita and Tepola Siale.

The Implementation Support Mission for Component 2 was attended by Task Team Leader Mr. Janssen Teixeira, Senior Education Specialist and Co-Task Team Leader, and Mr. Kebede Feda, Senior Economist. The mission reviewed the progress of key component activities, including EMIS, Curriculum, Counselling, Science, ICT, and both outdoor and indoor equipment procurement and installation. The two officers responsible for overseeing these component activities are Pauli Fifita and Tepola Siale, who provided updates and supported the review process throughout the mission.

2.1 EMIS TRAINING



Figure 23. Tevita Finau from the EMIS Team is presenting the agreement that will be signed before handing over the tablets to the teachers to use.



Figure 24. The EMIS team travels to the outer islands, training the EMIS system.



Expanding EMIS to Non-Government Schools

The Ministry of Education and Training's EMIS Team is extending the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to non-government schools across Tonga. This rollout ensures that all schools, whether government or non-government, can benefit from modern digital tools for managing student data, attendance, and school assets.

Training in Vava'u

Our dedicated team, Mr. Tevita Finau, Mr. Talaiasi Maile, and Ms. Eseta Pasikala, recently traveled to Vava'u to deliver training at Tailulu College, St. Peter Channel College, and Mizpah High School. In addition, extra support was provided to Vava'u High School and local government primary and ECE schools to strengthen their use of EMIS.

Tools and Support

To ensure a smooth transition, each participating school is being equipped with tablets and a monthly 15 GB data plan.

2.2 CURRICULUM MONITORING REVISED SUBJECTS CLASS 1- 4 PRIMARY EDUCATION

The revised curriculum for Classes 1 to 4 has been distributed to all government schools, as well as to non-government schools that use the government curriculum, such as FWC Primary Schools (including FWC Maamaloa, Kolovai, and others) and Catholic Primary Schools like St. Francis of Assisi.

Currently, monitoring is underway to evaluate how teachers are delivering the revised subjects in each school. The process has started in Tongatapu, and once completed, it will extend to the outer islands. Visits to non-government schools will also be included, and this monitoring will continue as an ongoing initiative.

2.3 COUNSELLING AND COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN



Figure 25. Project Manager William Fonua, supported by Education Assistant Tepola Siale, met with the Truancy Team Deputy Director Sekona Tu'ipulotu.



Figure 26. Sekona Tu'ipulotu (Deputy Director) opening remarks at the counseling and campaign workshop



The design of the counseling and communication campaign has been completed, and translation into the Tongan version is currently ongoing. The counselling and communication campaign was introduced at the local education group meeting (LEG), where representatives from non-government schools and government leaders' committees were invited to provide comments. In addition, a workshop was conducted by the Truancy Team of the Ministry of Education to support the project, ensuring it is more effectively adopted in schools.

2.3.1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS



Figure 27. Dr. Visesio Pongi and Tepola Siale (PMU), Seilose Fifita, and Teresa Pahulu were attending to support the consultation



Figure 28. Seilose Fifita, Deputy Director of Professional Teachers, do the opening remarks first, consulting with both government and non-government teachers

Dr. Visesio Pongi, professional teacher consultant under the TSRS Project, led consultation sessions with government and non-government schools. The sessions refined the work plan and implementation plan for teacher professional development, building a shared understanding across the education sector.

Key discussions reviewed the National Teacher Professional Development Framework and Program, focusing on technical assistance, deliverables, and strengthening both pre-service and in-service training. Divisions such as the Quality Assurance Division and the Professional Development Unit examined their roles in supporting teacher growth.

The consultations brought together leaders from government and non-government systems, including FWC, Catholic, LDS, and Anglican schools. Final sessions engaged primary and secondary directors, principals, and head teachers, emphasizing school leadership and the integration of national and district master teacher trainers.

The consultations concluded with a debriefing to the Honorable Minister and CEO. Outcomes included finalizing the draft implementation plan, clarifying staff responsibilities for the PDU, and setting timelines for observer training under the “TEACH Primary” initiative, marking a clear way forward for professionalizing Tonga’s teaching environment