

## DLA & EPI VCAP SITE

### RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### *Recommendations for DLA: Epi VCAP Site*

- Provide budget for communications so Site Coordinator is able to communicate with PIU and report about progress with project activities.
- Support initiative with Shefa Province to construct an AC office in Vermaul AC where the VCAP Site Coordinator and Vermaul AS may share working space. If possible it could also serve as disaster shelter for nearby community members
- Do not consider as a priority the proposal to construct new AC office for Vermali AC as proposed as there are existing provincial facilities available at Rovo Bay where office space is available
- Support strengthening of capacity of field office in Vermali AC through the provision of a solar power system and laptop computer for the AS of Vermali and DAO of Epi Sub-District to utilize
- Consider the procurement of a "quad bike" or four wheel All Terrain Vehicle to enable the work of the Site Coordinator and Vermaul Area Secretary to access communities. Otherwise, a transport budget must be allocated for this site to allow the Site Coordinator to charter a truck as needed to access communities and monitor project activities
- Expand community profiling / vulnerability assessment initiative on Epi to include communities outside of immediate VCAP site, so that DLA has completed community profile results for both Vermali AC and Vermaul AC



(Left to Right: Epi District Administrative Officer- Louis Korah; AS for Vermali AC- Graham Api; AS for Vermaul AC- Gideon Yonah; VCAP Site Coordinator- Basil Mael)

#### *Vermaul & Vermali Area Councils (AC's) & Epi Sub-District*

Both the Vermaul and Vermali AC's, which each contain communities located within the VCAP site are well-established and functional and consist of chiefly, women, disabled, youth, church and business house representatives. They each have established bank accounts and have had several Area Council seatings in 2015. AC members requested training in financial reporting & general capacity building so that they feel comfortable deciding how to plan, spend the allocation from the national government and report back.

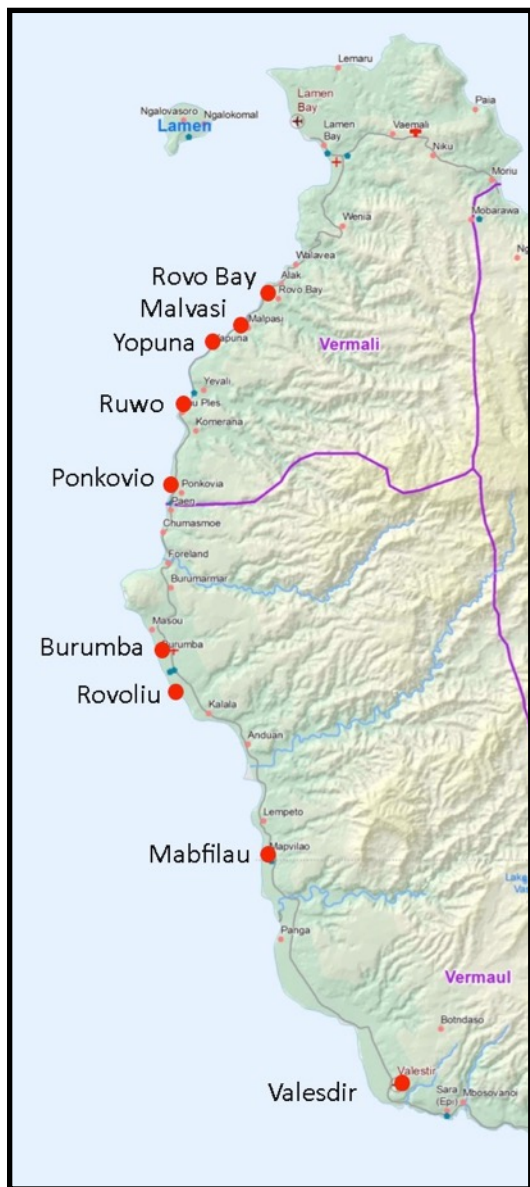
Vermaul and Vermali AC's have a support mechanism that is unique to Shefa Province, which is the Sub-District. There are four Area Councils on Epi that report that report directly to the Epi Island Sub-District following this structure created by the provincial government. The provincial officer responsible the Epi Sub-District is the District Administrative Officer (DAO), Louis Korah. Sub-District Headquarters are located in Rovo Bay, located within Vermali AC. There is an administrative assistant working in Rovo Bay as well. The Sub-District provides administrative support to the Area Council and Area Secretaries.

#### *Area Secretaries*

The VCAP site on Epi contains communities from two different Area Councils (Vermaul & Vermali) with two responsible Provincial Area Secretaries (AS) for this area. The AS for Vermaul AC from Mabfilau is Gideon Yonah has several years of working experience in this position. The AS for Vermali AC is Graham Api lives on Lamén Island and was just recently hired in September of 2015 and has no prior working experience.

## Area Council Office / Resources

There are Sub-District Headquarters located in Rovo Bay, containing office buildings, meeting rooms, a market house, the bank, a court house, a playing field and accommodation that is in moderate to very good condition. As the Sub-District is located within Vermali Area Council, the provincial Area Secretary for Vermali AC has been allocated working space in Rovo Bay. However, Vermali AC members stated their intent to build an AC office in another location that would be independent from the Sub-District HQ in Rovo Bay. **VCAP should not prioritize an additional office space for Vermali AC** as there are already adequate facilities located in Rovo Bay belonging to the province. Suggested improvements to the facilities in Rovo Bay by AC members included providing **solar power for the Sub-District office** and a **laptop computer** to assist the AS / DAO in performing work.



(Above: Map of Epi VCAP Site)

**Vermaul AC has absolutely no AC office facilities** and is in **need of support from VCAP** in establishing a functional working space that the VCAP Site Coordinator for Epi and the AS for Vermaul AC may share. If there is no functional working space constructed in Vermaul AC as an immediate priority, this lack of field capacity will slow down project delivery. Shefa Province previously attempted to construct an AC office in Vermaul, where there is an allocated parcel of ground. However, TC Pam completely destroyed the frame of the building in March, 2015.

It may be beneficial to **provide the Epi VCAP Site with an “quad bike” or All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)** to enable both the Vermaul AS and the VCAP Site Coordinator to have safe access to communities. Walking along the primary road, it takes approximately three hours to reach Mabfilau from Rovo Bay in good conditions. Also, the AS for Vermaul and Site Coordinator were **both injured in a motorbike accident** while traveling to consult with communities regarding VCAP and the formation of VDC's in August of 2015. The accident occurred as the two attempted to share the motorbike to attend a community meeting. A quad bike could be considered a safer option for transport and would be more affordable than chartering trucks for transport throughout the life of the project.

### Technical Advisory Group

No established Technical Advisory Group for the either the Vermali AC or Vermaul AC has been formed.

### Village Development Committees (VDC's)

Five VDC's have been established in the Epi VCAP Site (see Vulnerability Assessment Report for listing of community committees, NGO's and FBO's that are included among VDC's:

1. Mabfilau VDC
2. Burumba VDC (Burumba & Rovoliu Sub VDC's)
3. Ponkovi VDC
4. Ruwo / Yopuna VDC (Ruwo & Yopuna Sub VDC's)
5. Malvasi VDC

## Community Profile / Vulnerability Assessment & Area Council Plans

Community profiling initiative conducted by VCAP in September of 2015.

Vermali and Vermaul AC's have no formalized development plans. However, the provincial “Shefa Sector Analysis Report and Strategic Development Plan of 2013” does contain planning priorities for both of the Area Councils along with the entire Epi Sub-District.

**Sign-In Sheet for VDC / Area Council VCAP Meeting (01.10.15)**

Attendance of VDC chairmans at Roorby Date: October 01, 2015.		Area Council	Position
Mem	Conduct	Village	
1. Jenny Christie		Nasovo Island	Vermali Area Council Member
2. Lapet-Ben		Bisitima Ruvo	UDC member
3. Pamela Tom		Bonkovo	Vermaul Area Council Member
4. Keliu Orava		Yafuna	UDC member / Chairman Vermali Area Council
5. KALIAP ALICK		BONKOVU	UDC member
6. CHARLIE ALEN		TOPUNU	UDC Chairman
7. Tommakia		Rooliu Bay	Area Council member
8. AVO JACK		Ngeleparua	Vermali Area Council member
9. Eric John S65241		ALACK	UDC member
10. Ben Tangat		Brisbane Ruvo	UDC member
11. JEPY Kaha		TOPUNA	UDC member
12. SAIKON JOHN		Malvasia	UDC Chairman
13. NANA YAN		Ruato	UDC Chairman
14. Michel Sokolie		Mafolau	UDC Chairman
15. John Takobua		Alack	UDC Chairman / Vice Chairman Vermali
16. Kalo Jacob		Bonkova	Vermali Area Council member
17. JORAM BUR		Burumba	UDC member / Area Council member
18. JOHN MASSING		BONKOVU	UDC member / Area Council member
19. Gideon Jones 7739730		Nebika	UDC member / Area Council member
20. Bill Morris 5411130		Mavebia	UDC member / Area Council member
21. Joseph Meit		Burumba	UDC member / Area Secretary
22. Willie Surluo		Burumba	Member Area Secretary
23. John Wallie		Melaka Agricultural Station	Councilor, MAF, Agriculture
24. Bob Graham		Lamabua	VDC Chairman Agriculture field assistance Area Secretary

(Above: Sign-in Sheet from Vermaul AC, Vermali AC & VDC meeting regarding VCAP on October 01, 2015)