

MEDIA RELEASE

SVSG conducts NSSE Skill Training in Fusi Safata

Apia, Samoa – 22 June 2025 --- The Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) successfully concluded the NSSE (Nofotane Samoa Social Enterprise) skill training at Fusi Safata last week, as part of its ongoing project to economically empower Nofotane women and vulnerable community members across Samoa.

The training was made possible through funding from the European Union, under the NSSE Project 2024–2026, implemented by SVSG to promote sustainable income-generating activities and build self-reliance among marginalized groups. A total of 40 participants, 39 women and 1 male of Fusi Safata attended to learn hands-on skills in elei printing, weaving of mats and accessories, and traditional Samoan handicrafts.

The initiative is part of SVSG’s broader vision to strengthen social inclusion and economic resilience, especially for Nofotane women—those who marry into a family and often lack land or voice in village decisions. Through skills-based training, these women are empowered to contribute to their households and communities, building confidence and independence.

The NSSE training also involved collaboration with partners such as the Samoa Family Health Association and the Samoa Spinal Network, whose technical support contributes to the holistic well-being of participants through health awareness, disability inclusion, and social services.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang acknowledged the significance of the program:

"It's inspiring to see how lives change when people gain practical skills and confidence. The beautiful items made in Fusi Safata are more than just crafts — they show strength, resilience, and a way for families to earn a living. This is what the Nofotane movement is all about: restoring dignity and creating opportunities."

The NSSE training in Fusi Safata is one of many planned across Samoa under the EU-funded project, continuing SVSG’s mission to protect, support, and empower vulnerable members of society through sustainable development initiatives.

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Ensuring that victims of crime and those in need are well supported to be safe and in control to restore their lives

2016: With and for Girls Award – Star Foundation of London

2017: Innovation & Excellence Team Award – Samoa Public Service

2018: Finalist, International Children's Peace Prize 2018 – Kids Right Foundation of Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018: Human Rights Champion in Samoa – UNESCO

2019: Innovation for Sustainable Development Award – Commonwealth Secretary-General

2020: Nominated Person(s) of the Year – Samoa Observer

2021: Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights Promotion & Protection – Samoa Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI

2023: Healthy Islands Best Proposal Award – World Health Organization