



This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 16 to 17 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 18 March 2015.

Highlights

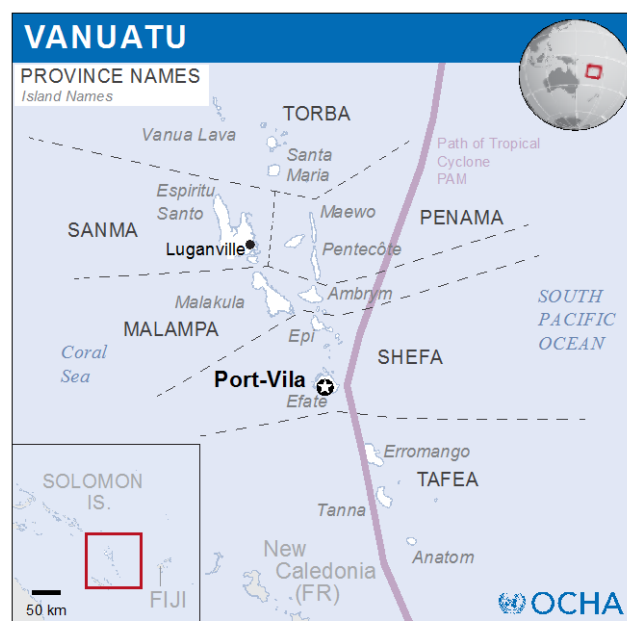
- Two teams, led by the Government, conducted assessment missions to two islands in the southern province of Tafea.
- Aerial assessments continued to find severe and widespread damage across the bigger islands of Tanna, Erromango and Efate.
- The re-establishment of telecommunications remains a priority, together with shelter, water and food.
- Following significant losses to crops, farmers require support with replanting. Livestock loss will also need to be compensated.
- More than 3,370 people are sheltering in some 48 evacuation centres in Efate.
- There is an urgent need for shelter kits, including tarpaulins, with only 1,400 kits in-country and an estimated 12,000 kits and 24,000 tarpaulins needed.

11
Confirmed fatalities

3,370
People in
evacuation centres

48
Evacuation centres

Source: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office



Map Sources: ESRI, Gov't of USA, UNCS, Gov Land Department, UNISYS
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Mar 2015.

Situation Overview

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam has weakened substantially and has been reclassified as an intense tropical cyclone as it moves southeast past New Zealand. It poses no further threat to Vanuatu or the South Pacific.

Two teams, led by the Government, conducted assessment missions to two islands in the southern province of Tafea. The teams were made up of personnel from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, IFRC and I/NGOs. Their primary goal was to measure the extent of damage caused by TC Pam and to inform response planning.

Military aircraft from Australia and France conducted reconnaissance flights over the most affected northern and southern islands. Aerial assessments found severe and widespread damage across the larger islands of Tanna, Erromango and Efate. Less damage was found on the smaller islands in Vanuatu's southern region, which include Anatom, Aniwa and Futuna. Unconfirmed observations indicate harbours and airports to be functional. Further aerial assessments will be conducted in the affected area in the coming days. Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) are working to re-establish telecommunication networks in five Provincial Disaster Management Centres. The re-establishment of telecommunications remains a priority together with shelter, water and food.

The death toll issued by the NDMO remains at 11 confirmed fatalities, which is expected to rise as assessments provide a clearer picture of loss of life and damage. While TC Pam affected most of the country, Shefa, Tafea and the eastern parts of Malampa and Penama are emerging as the worst impacted areas. Most of the affected provinces rely on ground water, much of which might be contaminated.

The number of evacuation shelters has increased to 48 on the main island of Efate, with 3,370 people currently sheltering. There is an urgent need for shelter kits, including tarpaulins, with only 1,400 kits in-country and an estimated 12,000 kits and 24,000 tarpaulins needed. IOM is providing additional capacity to Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and World Food Programme (WFP) is providing food aid and logistics support.

+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

Humanitarian Response

The Government is leading response efforts across all clusters supported by humanitarian partners.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- There is a need to support the management of evacuation centres and the people displaced.

Response:

- IOM is offering CCCM expertise to the NDMO on the management and coordination of assistance to people in evacuation centres.
- The Evacuation Centres Working Group is active and gathering information on people displaced, including numbers and the types of assistance required.
- The current surge capacity consists of a five-person team covering CCCM, health, shelter and non-food items.



Early Recovery

- The United Nations Development Programme is deploying a recovery advisor to support the Government with immediate and longer term recovery needs.



Education

Needs:

- The Education Cluster is targeting about 57,000 affected school aged children from early childhood through to secondary school.
- There is infrastructure, facilities and resources damage to the majority of schools in Efate, Torba and Penama.
- 28 schools are being used as evacuation centres.
- Education Cluster leadership and operation has yet to reach full capacity.

28

Schools being used as evacuation centres

Response:

- The Education team has assessed schools in Port Vila, particularly those used as evacuation centres.
- Save the Children is deploying a staff member from Australia to co-lead the Education Cluster with the Ministry of Education and Training. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is deploying a staff member to support Save the Children in co-leading.
- The Ministry of Education has requested school leaders to assess the damage and report schools that have suffered major damage.
- The technical assessment group will carry out a rapid assessment in Malakula and Ambrym in Malampa Province and islands in Panama Province.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of access and communication with affected schools in several provinces.



Food Security

Needs:

- Following significant losses to crops, farmers require support with replanting. Livestock loss will also need to be compensated.
- Initial estimates indicate substantial damage to crops, fruits, livestock and fishery infrastructure.
- Supermarkets and shops are running low on stock.

Response:

- While direct access to farmers is limited, key food security messages delivered via air drop flyers, FM & HF radio, pamphlets, mobile phone messages and local newspapers will be used to inform the need for immediate replanting.

- Preparations are underway for a national estimate of the type and quantity of food required for each island based on initial damage and population estimates.
- Experts are analyzing aerial pictures to determine damage to agricultural infrastructure.
- Standard food packages, which aim to cover critical nutrients and calories, are ready to be deployed to the field.
- Agriculture and Food Security Rapid Assessment Teams are flying into Tanna and Erromango islands to assess damage and loss of crops.
- Stocktaking of all available food, seeds and farming tools has been completed for Port Vila and Luganville.
- Stocktaking of all available high quality planting materials is currently being undertaken.
- Island maps for food distribution plans are being prepared.



Health and Nutrition

Needs:

- There are eleven confirmed fatalities and an unknown number of injuries.
- The main hospital in Port Vila has been badly damaged with patients transferred to a newer part of the building. There is an urgent need for medical supplies.

6

Teams have begun a measles vaccination campaign

Response

- UNICEF, WHO and Vanuatu Ministry of Health organized for six teams to be deployed to accessible parts of Port Vila to begin measles vaccinations campaigns.
- The Australian medical and urban search and rescue team and the ADF have been carrying out assessments of the main hospital. Another Australian medical team of 20 personnel is expected to arrive in Port Vila on 18 March to establish a temporary ward.
- An additional Australian Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team of 54 personnel, including an Emergency Management Australia liaison officer, has arrived in Port Vila to clean-up and repair the Port Vila Hospital Complex.
- Japan is dispatching a 23-person medical team and medical supplies.



Protection

Needs:

- Information about gender and protection needs are limited to people situated in evacuation centres in and around Port Vila. Needs still remain unclear in outer islands.
- Protection standards vary greatly between the different evacuation centres, but common themes are overcrowding, lack of privacy, lack of lighting and emergency power supply.
- Bathing facilities are lacking.
- There are no reports of unaccompanied children or other vulnerable groups that demand high-level care.. A small number of heavily pregnant women are located in the evacuation centres, as well as a small number of newborns and infants.
- Residual information is very limited. Further details are expected as service provision expands.

Response:

- OHCHR/UNHCR have one person on the ground supporting cluster coordination and information management.
- UNFPA has provided 500 adult rape kits and 200 child rape kits. Maternal and birth kits will arrive soon.
- Save the Children Vanuatu, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Vanuatu and Vanuatu Red Cross are sharing the responsibility of providing services to designated evacuation centres.
- Save the Children will distribute child kits and establish child-friendly spaces in evacuation centres under their supervision.
- UNICEF has one additional Child Protection specialist arriving from Suva, the Fiji capital, and another expert from Indonesia. UNICEF is trying to gather data on numbers and the location of children in order to request supplies for their school-in-a-box kits, early childhood development kits and other supplies.
- ADRA has a protection specialist arriving soon and UN Women has one gender expert on standby.



Shelter

Needs:

- Precise numbers remain difficult to determine. 2009 Census figures identified approximately 27,000 houses in the worst affected areas. Up to 50 per cent damage levels are being used for initial response planning purposes.
- 48 evacuation centres are in operation in Efate with approximately 3,370 people. It is understood that many people are returning – and are keen to return – to their homes during the day, which makes it difficult to track the number of people in evacuation centres.
- A number of informal evacuation centres have been established across Port Vila and outer areas.

3,370
People in evacuation centres

Response:

- Initial rapid assessments are being undertaken. Some in-country stocks for people sheltered in the evacuation centers have been identified, while the NDMO is currently developing a request for further stock assistance.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

- 95 per cent of people in evacuation centres in Efate have access to running water, while 20 per cent are practicing hand washing.
- UNICEF delivered 2,788 10-Litre containers of water, 1,500 purification tablets and 3,784 soaps, which are to be distributed in Tanna on 18 March.
- Vanuatu's main water system UNELCO is functioning at its optimal level. The water is safe to drink when extra chlorine is added. The Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (DGMWR) is verifying the water quality independently.
- The water supply network in Teoumaville town on Efate is not functioning.. UNICEF is arranging a generator with fuel to make it operational.
- Water trucking is ongoing with the support of the Vanuatu Mobile Force. A formalized schedule is not yet in place due to lack of access to tanks to support the delivery in strategic locations.
- WHO conducted a Hydrogen Sulfide test on rainwater harvesting, indicating that it is not safe to drink.
- The WASH cluster is engaging with additional partners including, OXFAM, Save the Children, Live and Learn. There is a strong government leadership with the Minister of Lands on board.
- Staff members to conduct the WASH Initial Rapid Assessment are on standby to be deployed in an inter-cluster assessment.
- NGOs have distributed WASH NFIs and are managing WASH needs in evacuation centres in accordance with agreed minimum standards.

95%
of people in evacuation centres have access to running water



Communications with Communities

Needs:

- Radio and telephone communication with outer islands is yet to be established, and therefore access to life-saving information, such as the availability of aid, contact with friends and family, and health and protection issues remain a concern.

Response:

- The NDMO has a communication plan in place which includes radio (pre-recorded messages with VBTC national radio), TV (advert prepared for airing on national TV when functional) and mobile phones (emergency text messages with updated information sent to all TVL and Digicel phone users).
- UNOCHA activated MicroMappers on 15 March to support the UN's rapid damage assessment efforts. The deployment is expected to last until 20 March and is tasked to identify pictures and videos that show disaster damage through social media. This network of volunteer "crisis-mappers" are searching for tweets about the storm, identifying pictures and videos of damage and flooding and passing this information through UNOCHA for responders on the ground.
- The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) has undertaken a rapid communications infrastructure needs assessment and has made an initial assessment that the medium wave transmitter is likely to take some time to start to recommence operating. It is recommended that mobile medium wave transmitters are deployed to Port

Vila in the interim, and ABC are likely to seek support for this. However, a more thorough infrastructure assessment will be undertaken in the coming days.

- ICRC has launched a website: <http://familylinks.icrc.org/Vanuatu> focusing on Restoring Family Links. The Australian Red Cross is the contact for requests coming from diaspora communities abroad.



Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- Telecoms Sans Frontieres (TSF) responders are working to re-establish telecommunication networks in the five Provincial Disaster Management Centres.
- NetHope is working with the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) on assessing the information and communication technology (ICT) needs of the response community.
- WFP has deployed two Emergency Telecommunications specialists who arrived today to assist the Government to coordinate the re-establishment of communications.



Logistics

Response:

- WFP with assistance from UNICEF is to establish two storage hubs, one in Port Vila and another in Tanna. This will also include WFP staff to establish and run these hubs.
- A total of eight Australian Defence Force planes have delivered emergency relief supplies and personnel to Vanuatu. Both the Australian Defence Force and New Zealand Defence Force plan to have flights into Port Vila on 18 March.
- Port Vila Airport has reopened for commercial airlines.
- The Port in Port Vila is operational. The cargo ship, Pacific Islander, is arriving on 18 March with general supplies.
- There has been a number of offers of logistical assistance and once needs are established these may be utilised to assist the distribution of relief items.
- The Logistics Cluster has established a way to record and track current and expected stocks which will help to establish what is needed once assessment are complete. Agencies are asked to send pipeline and distribution information to vanuatu.stock@gmail.com.
- Five aircrafts are supporting operations as part of the France, Australia and New Zealand (FRANZ) alliance. A British military plane is also en route to Vanuatu with supplies.

Gaps:

- There is a need to augment storage in Port Vila and in Tanna, particularly as the amount of relief items to arrive is likely to increase.
- The main artery to Te Ouma, the main vegetable growing area in Efate has been cut off.
- There are long waiting lines for fuel.
- As a number of social media sites are requesting donation of goods to send to Vanuatu, a policy is needed to either prevent or manage the arrival of unsolicited goods from abroad.
- Supply ships will need to have the capacity to self-unload.

Funding

The Government of New Zealand has confirmed a package of NZ\$2.5 million (\$1.8 million) to countries affected by TC Pam. Vanuatu assistance includes military flights delivering relief supplies and personnel to Vanuatu, relief supplies, funds for in-country and New Zealand NGOs and deployment of personnel.

The Australian Government is providing an initial package of life-saving support in response to a request from the Government, including AU\$5 million (\$3.9 million) to be delivered through Australian NGOs, the Red Cross and UN partners. USAID will make available US\$100,000 to the French Red Cross to support WASH activities.

The UK has made available up to £2 million (\$3 million) for humanitarian response. Up to £1 million is for UN organizations and international aid agencies already working in the region. An additional £1 million will be made available by the activation of the UK's Rapid Response Facility. The European Union (EU) will provide initial humanitarian assistance of €1 million (\$1.12 million). The Government of Japan will provide emergency relief supplies to the value of 20 million yen (US\$168,000) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

UNDP Emergency Grants of up to US\$100,000 per country will be available. The Australian Red Cross has launched an appeal for donations to help Pacific communities impacted by TC Pam. The UN Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is also available to support life-saving activities. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is looking to provide an emergency grant assistance for the restoration of life-preserving services to communities affected by Cyclone Pam. This grant assistance will be initiated through ADB's Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF).

The IFRC issued an Emergency Appeal, which seeks a total of some CHF 3.9 million (\$3.9 million) on a preliminary basis to enable the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) to deliver assistance and support to some 60,000 people (10,000 households). The operation focuses on the sectors of assessments and coordination, relief, shelter and settlements, water and sanitation, emergency health and restoring family links.

Information about financial contributions should be sent to: fts@un.org.

General Coordination

The Government of Vanuatu continues to lead response efforts. To consolidate the assessment planning process, the NDMO is now formalising an Assessment Working Group. The NDMO focal point for this process is the Acting Director Peter Korisa. The NDMO has requested OCHA to provide assistance in coordinating the assessment effort and the Deputy Head of OCHA ROP, Vincent Omuga, is co-leading this process.

The NDMO has requested all groups and teams travelling to provinces to do assessment work, to also bring along relief assistance with them. In addition to the UNDAC/Vanuatu Humanitarian Team assessments, the Vanuatu Red Cross is planning to conduct assessments in the northern areas of Efate island.

UNOCHA has set up a Humanitarian Response Page to be the central repository of documents generated in support of coordination efforts: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/vanuatu/vanuatu-tropical-cyclone-pam-mar-2015-13-march-2015-update>. All Clusters, Working Groups and Agencies are asked to share regularly the following information: Cluster meeting information, meeting minutes, maps and assessment analysis. All information about in-kind contributions should be sent to: logik@un.org Humanitarian organizations coming into Vanuatu must provide a detailed manifest on their planned activities and relief distributions to the National Disaster Management Office before they enter the country. This should include the following:

- Terms of References (organization name, planned activities, role, mandate)
- Contact information and number of personnel (email, phone)
- Arrival date and time
- Duration of stay
- Destination(s)
- Contact person coordinating relief supplies
- Type, quantity, weight, size of relief items
- Transportation of assistance (cargo, air, etc.)

Organizations need to make sure to quantify information where possible and specify the type of assistance they aim to provide. Failure to provide this information may lead to a delay or rejection of assistance offers. All information should be sent to: jwaters@vanuatu.gov.vu and ndmo.logistics@gmail.com.

Fiji has sent an eight-member team to Vanuatu to support assessments to help guide Fiji's relief efforts. The UK is sending two personnel from DFID to be based in Suva and Brisbane to liaise with UN agencies and NGOs.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, has designated Ms. Osnat Lubrani - Resident Coordinator for Fiji with multi-country coverage of Vanuatu - as the Humanitarian Coordinator for Vanuatu for a period of three months. In her role as Humanitarian Coordinator, Ms. Lubrani will lead the international humanitarian response to the impact of TC Pam.

Background on the crisis

Severe Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam struck Vanuatu (population 234,000), affecting the capital of Port Vila, as an extremely destructive category 5 cyclone on the evening of 13 March at around 11 p.m. local time. The cyclone's eye passed close to Efate Island, where the capital is located, and winds are estimated to have reached 250kmph with gusts peaking at around 320kmph.

For further information, please contact:

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org/rop or <http://reliefweb.int/disaster/tc-2015-000020-vut>
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