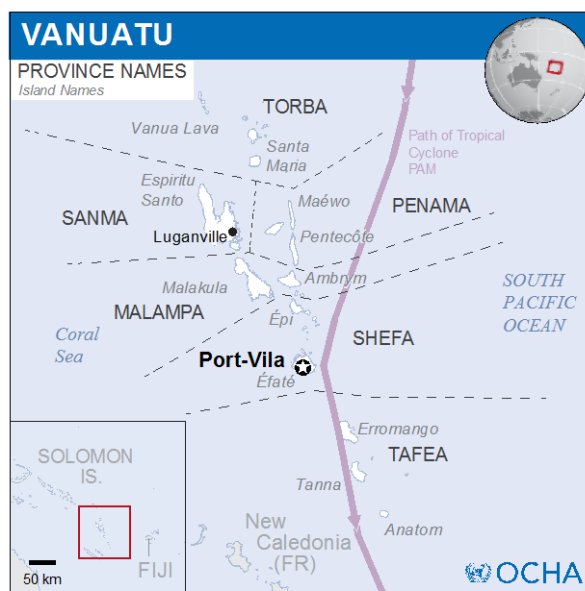




This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 21 to 22 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 23 March 2015.

## Highlights

- Approximately 14,000 homes have been reported to be destroyed or damaged throughout the provinces of Penama, Malampa, Shefa and Tafea.
- While food and water supplies have been reaching people on the 22 affected islands, more is still required.
- Initial food packages have been dispatched to Erromango, Tanna, Aniwa, Futuna and Epi islands, serving approximately 7,400 households.
- A yacht arrived in the Shepherd Islands and has started producing 10,000 litres of safe drinking water per day with its on board water processing unit.
- Around 4,000 children were vaccinated against measles and received Vitamin A supplementation.
- As of 22 March, UN OCHA's [Financial Tracking Service](#) recorded a total of US\$10 million in financial contributions from donors.



Map Sources: ESRI, Govt. of USA, UNCS, Govt 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.

<b>11*</b> Confirmed fatalities	<b>166,000</b> People affected on 22 islands	<b>3,392</b> People in evacuation centres in Efate	<b>30</b> Evacuation Centres in Efate	<b>14,000</b> Homes destroyed in four provinces	<b>65,000</b> In need of temporary shelter
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Source: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

## Situation Overview

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) together with representatives from the Vanuatu Country Team (VCT) and the United Nations Disaster and Coordination (UNDAC) team conducted the last of a series of Joint Initial Rapid Needs Assessment on Lelepa and Moso islands in the Shepherd Islands group on 22 March. Damage was moderate on both islands and there were no casualties, missing or severely injured persons.

The crisis has affected around 166,600 people across five provinces (Shefa, Tafea, Penama, Malampa and Torba) who are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Initial assessment reports confirm destruction ranging from 20 to 90 per cent of houses, schools, clinics, churches and crops on all 22 affected islands. Based on preliminary information from the rapid needs assessments, the lack of shelter materials is a key factor hampering the return of displaced people to rebuild their homes. Common amongst all islands is that people have limited access to safe water, are suffering from health issues such as diarrhoea, eye infections and have injuries which are starting to become infected. Food stocks are limited with vegetable gardens having been wiped out which has become a concern for food security. People in the affected islands have also been deprived of their livelihoods as most of them depend on small-scale agriculture. Relief supplies have been prioritized to reach the worst-affected areas first and then be distributed to other affected areas. All the affected islands in Tafea Province and the outer islands of Shefa Province are high priority areas. Several of the health centres and schools have been severely damaged. A full overview of the findings from the Initial Rapid Needs Assessments is available at [humanitarianresponse.info](http://humanitarianresponse.info).

Military support to the relief operations is planned for the islands of Erromango, Anatom, Futuna and Aniwa. The

**+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report**

Australian Navy ship HMAS Tobruk, which will carry relief goods to Tanna and neighbouring islands, arrived in Port Vila on 22 March.

In addition to this, two Blackhawk Helicopters provided by the Australian Defence Force are now operational and available from 23 March onwards. New Zealand, French and Australian Liaison Officers are attending coordination meetings on a regular basis. Fifty Fijian military personnel, including 35 soldiers and 15 medical personnel, will be arriving in Port Vila on 23 March. Chinese military personnel are also arriving in Port Vila with equipment and relief supplies.

A Flash Appeal is being drafted by humanitarian partners to support the Government of Vanuatu's response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. Planning is initially based on a 3-month timeframe.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop visited Vanuatu to meet with Vanuatu's Prime Minister Joe Natuman and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Sato Kilman and discuss Australian support to the ongoing response. She also visited Australia's medical team operating in the Port Vila hospital.

A Tropical Depression that developed south-east of Lakeba Island near Fiji, far to the east of Vanuatu, is expected to strengthen gradually as it moves south-east with its centre passing close to Tongatapu (the main island in Tonga) on 22 March. It may reach marginal Tropical Cyclone intensity in the process but will most likely be past Tonga by then. Tonga will possibly experience strong gusty winds and occasional heavy rain. However, no significant damage is expected. The eastern and south-eastern parts of Fiji are also expected to see heavy rains.

\*On 22 March, the Government of Vanuatu, Office of the Prime Minister, revised the number of casualties to 11 people.

## Humanitarian Response

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



### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

#### Needs:

- Current figures put the number of displaced persons in the 30 evacuation centres in and around Port Vila as 3,392 people.
- It is not yet known how many displaced people are with host families, but according to rapid assessments and reports, particularly in outlying islands, figures on displaced people are likely to be much higher.
- Key needs in evacuation centres are food, water, sanitation and health (WASH) and kitchen sets. Shelter materials are also required to support families to return to their homes.
- Contingency planning is needed for the return of people who cannot start rebuilding their homes (e.g. tenants).

**3,392**  
people in evacuation  
centres

#### Response:

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has rolled out the first round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which has mapped those in all current evacuation centres in and around Port Vila.
- The Evacuation Centre Working Group has agreed on an exit strategy to prioritize provision of emergency shelter support in areas of origin to allow those still in evacuation centres to return home and to ensure affected communities also receive support.
- Municipal authorities are identifying possible transitional sites for those who are unable to return to their place of origin despite provision of emergency shelter kits.
- IOM is providing ongoing public health monitoring of evacuation centres and supporting the establishment of Ministry of Health's event-based surveillance system.
- The CCCM Cluster is increasing its support to facilitate the linkage between the management of evacuation centres and durable solutions through activities to support the Government in evacuation centre coordination.

#### Gaps:

- Based on preliminary information from rapid needs assessment, the lack of shelter materials is a key factor hampering the return of IDPs to places of origin. In this regard, the Shelter Cluster is seeking to support the distribution of shelter and non-food items (NFIs) at the community level in places of origin.
- Data on displacements with host families and evacuation centres on other affected islands is lacking. There is a need to expand displacement monitoring to all affected areas to assist with strategic planning for early recovery.

- There is a need to continue to monitor and mitigate public health risks within evacuation centres as well as other displacement settings such as host families and host communities that are also affected.
- Whilst no individual protection incidents have been reported to the CCCM Cluster, Evacuation Centre Working Group or Protection Cluster, there is a need to improve protection monitoring in displacement settings.



## Food Security

### Needs:

- Food urgently needs to be distributed to 162,000 people in Tafea, Shefa, Malampa, and Penama provinces. While numbers still need to be updated, approximately 40,000 people have already received emergency food assistance.
- The Government of Vanuatu purchased 94.5 million VT (US\$870,000) worth of locally available emergency rations, which needs to be distributed (according to Food Security and Agriculture standards and guidelines).

**162,000**  
people in need of food  
distributions

### Response:

- Initial food packages (lasting for 15 days) have been dispatched to Erromango, Tanna, Aniwa, Futuna and Epi islands, serving approximately 7,400 households.
- The initial packages of food will include 5 kg of rice, one can of meat, one additional can of fish for people in the hardest hit areas and two packets of noodles.
- The municipality area councils completed the registration of affected households for food distributions in Port Vila. The registration is underway in rural Efate Island.
- Organizations have been importing seeds and tools to address the shortfall of locally available stocks, specifically cucumber, beans and squash.
- A rapid animal needs assessment as well as an assessment of fisheries damage has commenced and is starting in the priority areas of Shefa Province.

### Gaps:

- Financial gaps exist for the food procurement and transport for distributions post the initial delivery, which would last for 2.5 months (estimated to cost about US\$3.7 million).
- Information on Cyclone Pam's impact on fishery, and whether fishing gear is available locally on the islands, is lacking.
- Availability of crop planting material is limited.



## Health and Nutrition

### Needs:

- Reports from the Shepherd Islands suggest that above-ground crops are running out. Communities will start consuming their below-ground crops next week, stocks of which are expected to run out in 2-3 weeks.
- 3,392 people in 30 evacuation centres in and around Port Vila are exposed to public health and environmental health risks.
- There remains an urgent need for health care services including emergency care, maternal and child health care, nutrition and disease control and outbreak response including surveillance, vaccination, case management and vector control throughout the affected areas.
- Needs also include mental health care to address impact on social and emotional health as well as communication of key health issues (with the public and agencies) for disease prevention.
- Damaged health facilities need to be repaired.
- Vila Central Hospital in Port Vila is requesting six additional midwives, 16 additional nurses and laboratory personnel
- Paonangisu Health Centre in northern Efate requires tarpaulins to ensure facilities are watertight.
- Two pharmacists are needed for the Ministry of Health's Central Medical Store.

**10,500**  
children planned to be  
vaccinated against  
measles

### Response:

- On 22 March, one medical evacuation of a pregnant woman from Tongoa Island (Shepherd Islands) took place. The day before, two evacuations from Baiap (South Ambrym Island) took place, where one appendicitis case of a pregnant woman and one diabetic case was treated.

- A mass vaccination program for measles with Vitamin A supplementation is underway with a plan to vaccinate 10,500 children aged between six months to five years. To date, 4,000 children have been vaccinated. Upon completion of this, the priority is to expand to Santo, Tanna and the Shepherd Islands
- Two World Health Organization (WHO) epidemiologists were sent to Tanna Island to assess the damage on health facilities and service delivery capacity and to establish two Early Warning and Alert Response Network sites for disease surveillance activities.
- Key public health messages in local languages are broadcast daily over the radio.
- 'Information and education communications' materials are to be developed, while SMS messaging capacity needs to be discussed with national telecommunications carriers.
- A psychological assessment service will be established at Vila Central Hospital (VCH) in Port Vila on 30 March. Options are being explored to extend care to the outer islands.
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) led and WHO supported the development of a public health sub-cluster plan to distribute bed nets, initially to Shefa and Tanna Provinces.
- Test kits are now available for dengue and malaria at VCH. Additional kits that can also test for Leptospirosis and Rotavirus are arriving soon.
- RescueNet teams were sent to Tanna. Two United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) surge team members arrived in Port Vila with essential medical supplies to support antenatal care in the Vila Central Hospital in Port Vila.

## Protection

### Needs:

- The Government has indicated that the distribution of tarpaulins and shelter kits to people in evacuation centres in Port Vila needs to start immediately.
- Despite the likelihood that provision of shelter material will enable the majority of occupants to return to their homes, it is almost certain that there will be a small residual caseload who are unable to return to their own properties or stay with extended families. It is foreseen that a transitional evacuation centre would be needed for this group. However, many details (not least the size of the remaining caseload) have yet to be elaborated.

### Response:

- The Gender and Protection Cluster consulted with the Evacuation Centre Working group leads (NDMO and IOM) and later met with authorities on 22 March to flag the need for a backup option for the potential residual caseload of evacuation centre occupants. As the size of the residual caseload is not known, possible options of varying sizes are to be identified by local authorities. At the Evacuation Centre Working Group (CCCM cluster), expressions were sought for willingness to potentially assume management and service provision to a transitional evacuation centre at extremely short notice.

### Gaps:

- The profile of occupants of a transitional evacuation centre would differ significantly from the existing evacuation centres. The transitional evacuation centre would bring together a number of potentially unrelated families/individuals, more distant from their original communities than was the case before. A much higher standard of protection measures, such as secure sleeping arrangements, privacy around WASH facilities or lighting would be necessary, both because of the mixed nature of the occupancy as well as the fact that finding a durable solution for this group might take more time.
- There is a need for clear communication to the public and particularly communities that are affected by relief distributions to manage expectations.
- The final plans for responding to people in the potential transitional evacuation centre have yet to be finalized.

## Shelter

### Needs:

- It is estimated that approximately 14,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged throughout the provinces of Penama, Malampa, Shefa and Tafea, affecting 70,000 people.

### Response:

- Additional relief supplies for approximately 3,000 households (15,000 people) were loaded on sailing vessels on 21 March and have arrived on 22 March. The distribution of these supplies has commenced in rural areas of Efate Island and will soon commence on the Shepherd Islands.

**14,000**  
houses estimated to  
be destroyed or  
damaged

- The distribution of shelter relief supplies to displaced urban communities in Port Vila has commenced as well.

#### Gaps:

- Logistics, specifically the movement of stock to remote island locations, is a challenge.
- There is a shortage of in-country shelter stocks.



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Needs:

- Water, sanitation and hygiene needs have been identified as priorities by a consolidated situational analysis report developed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the NDMO following Government-led initial joint rapid assessments. Without clean drinking water and access to sanitation, people are at risk of contracting diarrhoeas.

**10,000**  
litres of clean water  
being produced on  
Shepherd Islands

#### Response:

- A Dragonfly yacht arrived in the Shepherd Islands and has started producing 10,000 litres of clean water per day.
- Save the Children has commenced repairs on a small gravity water supply systems on Efate Island.
- IOM sent 650 hygiene kits to Tongoa Island (Shepherd Islands).
- The Vanuatu Red Cross has deployed the Nomad water treatment unit in North Tanna and Mele (west Efate Island).
- OXFAM's water trucking in the peri-urban areas of Port Vila has increased with distribution to 3,200 people in Etas and Teouma villages. UNICEF delivered tanks to strategic locations throughout Port Vila to be filled on an ongoing basis.



### Logistics

#### Needs:

- There is a need to clarify fuel supply availability and capacity at the affected islands, particularly in relation to aviation fuel.
- The procedure for customs clearance needs to be shared more broadly with partners.
- A system of monitoring arrival information of commercial air charters needs to be established to avoid congestion at the Port Vila airport.

#### Response:

- Approximately 100 metric tonne (MT) food, two mobile storage units and logistics items were loaded on 22 March onto the MV Toraken ship for relief distributions in Tanna. It is expected to arrive on 23 March.
- Relief supplies are planned to leave by boat on 23 March to Erromango, Anatom, Futuna and Aniwa islands.
- The Dragonfly super yacht is providing emergency medical support and water to the Shepherd island group, stationed at Tongariki for seven days. The yacht has capacity to clear roads from debris and obstructions. The crew will be provided chainsaws to perform road clearance.
- The cluster is prepositioning stocks to load on the Vanuatu ferry, which is planned to depart on 23 March to the provinces north of Shefa.
- The MV Serafuriuna is anticipated to return tonight from relief distributions in the Shepherd Islands. It is scheduled to travel to the Tafae outer islands, with the cargo to be loaded on 23 March.
- Three Mobile Storage Units (MSU) have arrived in Port Vila on 22 March (bringing the total to six). Two MSU's are being erected today at the Port Vila airport by the World Food Programme (WFP). Two MSU's will be transported to Tanna to be erected at Tanna airport. They will be operated in cooperation with UNICEF to be used as a common storage space for the Government and humanitarian agencies.
- There is sufficient transport capacity available, provided through commercial and military options.

#### Gaps:

- Storage capacity in Port Vila and in Tanna need to be augmented, as the amount of relief items expected to arrive is likely to increase.



## Emergency Telecommunications

### Needs:

- As a temporary solution, satellite equipment is needed to enable FM radio communications from the government to remote island areas. This solution will be used until local providers can repair infrastructure and restore services.
- Voice communication and internet connectivity in areas outside of Port Vila are currently limited to portable satellite terminals. More robust equipment is required to meet the communications needs of the increasing response community.
- The power grid was severely damaged by Cyclone Pam and is expected to be offline for a number of weeks. Solar power equipment and portable generators are needed to recharge essential communications equipment.

### Response:

- ETC partner Ericsson Response has deployed 3x 'WIDER' kits - equipment used to manage and distribute shared internet services for the response community. An Ericsson Response technical expert arrived in Port Vila to install equipment and support users on the ground.
- As the focal point for the humanitarian community, the ETC is coordinating all ICT efforts through official government channels to ensure an efficient response, avoid duplication and ensure resources are targeted to where they are most needed.

### Gaps:

- Due to extensive damage to the power grid, all response efforts in Vanuatu continue to rely on solar chargers and generators for power.

## Funding

As of 22 March, UN OCHA's [Financial Tracking Service](#) recorded a total of US\$10 million in financial contributions from donors. The list below is compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations.

Donor	Funding (USD)	Percentage of Grand Total	Outstanding pledges (USD)
Australia	3,900,000	38.9%	0
United Kingdom	2,465,331	24.6%	2,311,248
New Zealand	1,800,000	18.0%	0
European Commission	1,122,334	11.2%	0
Italy	336,700	3.4%	0
Japan	167,870	1.7%	0
Canada	128,102	1.3%	0
United States	100,000	1.0%	0
China	0	0.0%	4,900,000
Korea, Republic of	0	0.0%	500,000
<b>Grand Total (USD):</b>	<b>10,020,337</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,711,248</b>

Information about financial contributions should be sent to: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org).

Information about in-kind contributions should be sent to: [logik@un.org](mailto:logik@un.org).

## General Coordination

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The Government of Vanuatu continues to coordinate the response to the impact caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam, with the support of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT). Humanitarian partners including the UN, international and national NGOs, governments, donors, civil society and other partners are also supporting the Government-led response. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is supporting the Government in needs assessments and general coordination. Humanitarian Affairs Officers are providing support to the NDMO on donor relations and appeals, assessments and reporting, information management, and public information. A six-person UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team is supporting the Government-led assessments, and OCHA staff from the Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and OCHA Philippines are also in Port Vila supporting the response. OCHA staff continue to support the Humanitarian Coordinator in carrying out her duties and responsibilities.

A Flash Appeal is being drafted by humanitarian partners to support the Government of Vanuatu's response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. Planning is initially based on a 3-month timeframe.

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](mailto:jwaters@vanuatu.gov.vu) and [ndmo.logistics@gmail.com](mailto:ndmo.logistics@gmail.com).

## Impact of TC Pam on other Pacific Island countries

### Tuvalu

Information is being received from the assessments conducted to date, particularly from Nukufetau and Nui islands, but more quantitative data is needed and will become available as in-depth cluster assessments are conducted. The water supply on Nukufetau and Nui islands has been damaged. Buildings have also been affected by the flooding.

Cases of diarrhoea have been reported on both islands. Nui has reported cases of skin infection in children under 12 and two trauma cases, while cases of respiratory illness have been reported on Nukufetau. People are also in need of psychosocial support. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has asked for health professionals to support the central hospital to allow Tuvaluan medical staff to go affected islands and backstop clinics. There has been an additional request for medicines, mainly intravenous fluids and Oral Rehydration Salts, in addition to the 1.3 tonnes of medical supplies New Zealand has already sent.

The Fiji National University (FNU) Department of Medicine has offered to support medical needs in Tuvalu. Australia plans to support FNU medical staff to travel to affected islands on 24 and 26 March.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reports that 50 people are living in a school on Nui. IFRC shelter materials on board a Samoa patrol boat had been sent to the islands from the capital, Funafuti. An emergency management delegate is supporting Tuvalu Red Cross with assessments and planning of distributions. Assessments will ascertain whether affected people can rebuild or if more shelter materials are required. Three Secretariat of the Pacific Community staff will assess damage to water supplies and fisheries, food production and soils.

The New Zealand Government will be supplying tools, generators and recovery equipment via a NZ Defence Force C130 flight that arrived on 22 March. In response to a Government request for environmental health specialists and epidemiologists, WHO and SPC plan to send one SPC epidemiologist to Tuvalu and two to Vanuatu. WHO will investigate its capacity to supply intravenous fluids.

A UN Development Programme (UNDP) recovery specialist is liaising with the assessment team in Tuvalu. The specialist met with Government officials to offer support in fisheries, livelihoods, food crops and debris management, small community infrastructure and recycling.

### Kiribati

A Government assessment team is planned to commence assessments on 22 March. A Kiribati Red Cross assessment team is on Tamana. Due to bad weather, assessment data is not expected to be received for some days. Water, sanitation and hygiene specialists are expected to join assessments from 23 March.

The response has been hampered by disruptions to communications and damage to infrastructure, which has impeded access. There are also challenges in reaching the affected islands, which are in the north. Kiribati only has one ferry. Communication about affected communities' needs has been limited and the country may require more support than it has received to date. Coordination and logistics mechanisms would be of benefit.

Red Cross is planning water and sanitation activities, and may provide technical shelter support to the Government if required. One hundred and seven houses have been reported to be destroyed on one island. NFIs are being transported to Kiribati by boat. UNICEF supplies should arrive in Kiribati on 24 March.

### Solomon Islands

The Government of Solomon Islands has not requested external assistance, and is managing the response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. Solomon Islands Red Cross teams will travel for Temotu and Malaita to support the response with assessments.

#### Background on the crisis

Vanuatu is an island nation of more than 80 islands with a projected population of 270,000 people. Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam struck Vanuatu on the evening of 13 March, affecting all six provinces, as an extremely destructive category 5 cyclone 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.

\*2015 national statistics office projected population

#### For further information, please contact:

**Sune Gudnitz**, Head of Office, OCHA ROP, [gudnitz@un.org](mailto:gudnitz@un.org), Mobile: +679 999 1664 (Suva)

**Sebastian Rhodes Stampa**, UNDAC Team Leader, [rhodesstampa@un.org](mailto:rhodesstampa@un.org), Mobile +66 89204 2721 (Port Vila)

**Jennifer Bose**, Humanitarian Reports Officer, OCHA ROAP, [bosej@un.org](mailto:bosej@un.org), Mobile: +66 92261 8502 (Port Vila)

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