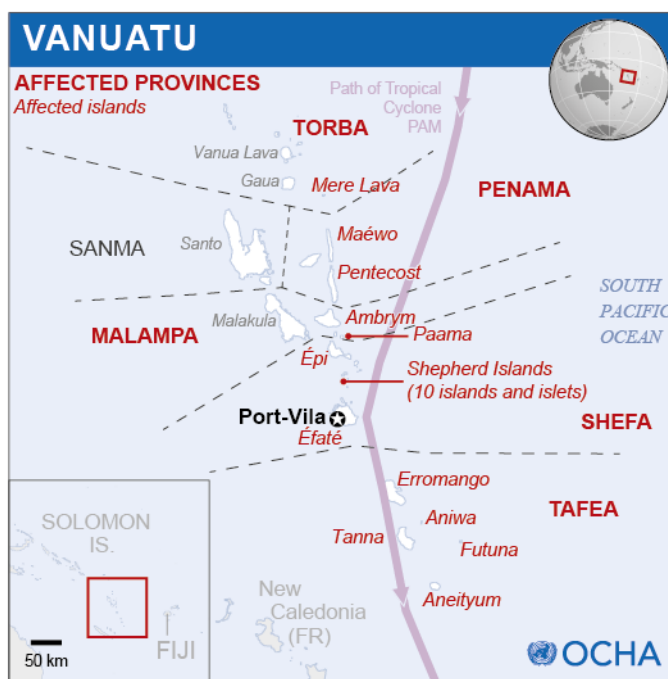




This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 26 to 27 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 30 March 2015.

Highlights

- Medical supplies to restock health posts and the transportation of food, water, shelter, hygiene and school kits remain priorities.
- Government-led food distributions, reaching 92,000 people, are almost completed on Efate Island.
- Fifteen foreign medical teams are currently covering eight islands in Shefa, Tafea and Penama provinces.
- Hygiene kits, soaps and purification tablets were distributed to about 3,350 people on Tanna Island.
- Storage capacity in Port Vila, Tanna Island and Epi Island needs to be augmented, as the amount of relief items to arrive is likely to increase in the coming weeks.
- As of 27 March, US\$19 million has been received for response efforts in Vanuatu. Of this total, \$6.4 million was contributed to the Flash Appeal for Tropical Cyclone Pam.



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.

166,000 People affected on 22 islands	8,700 Children vaccinated against measles	92,000 People receiving food assistance in Efate	15,000 Homes destroyed or damaged	75,000 People in need of emergency shelter	110,000 People in need of clean drinking water
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Source: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

Situation Overview

With more than 22 islands affected across Vanuatu's vast archipelago, the delivery of relief supplies in response to Tropical Cyclone Pam is challenging. Given the logistical constraints of this emergency, ensuring that the logistics pipeline is maintained and strengthened over the coming weeks is critical in ensuring that life-saving assistance reaches people in need. The shipment, logistics pipeline and distribution of stocks are a priority. Governments continue to support the cyclone response with military air and sea assets as well as personnel. The Australian Defence Force, New Zealand Defence Force, the French Military and other military actors continue to play an important role in the response.

The Government, together with humanitarian organizations, has finalized an initial distribution plan, mapping targeted populations by district and listing the quantities and type of food, water, sanitation and health (WASH) and shelter materials required in each province for the next 15 to 20 days.

The NDMO is in contact with the chairs of all provincial disaster committees through satellite telephones and is receiving updates from the field. Sectoral assessment teams are planning to further assess the damage and advise response activities.

Medical supplies to restock health posts and the transportation of food, water, shelter, hygiene and school kits

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

remain priorities.

On 27 March, Australian Military C-130s were utilized to deliver equipment including vehicles and relief supplies to Tanna Island (Tafea Province). Another Australian Defence Force (ADF) Blackhawk helicopter brought a Japanese medical Team back from Pentecost Island to Port Vila. Twenty ADF engineers departed to Tanna Island and assisted with the delivery of 200-300 litres of water. French and Australian military assets (aircrafts, naval vessels, land forces) are also supporting relief item distributions, water supply repairs, road clearances and the movement of medical teams across the affected islands. Fijian Military Forces will support the Health Cluster with a 12-person medical team and 30-person engineering team to help repair the school infrastructure on Efate Island.

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Patrol Boat departed for Emae Island for the distribution of relief supplies, including donated tents, timber and forestry plants. On its return, it will transport about 70 people from the currently inhabitable island of Mataso (Shefa Province) for temporary relocation to Port Vila.

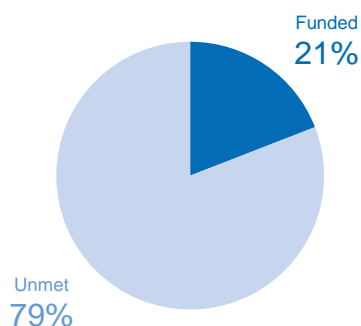
Funding

As of 27 March, OCHA's [Financial Tracking Service](#) (FTS) recorded \$19 million in financial contributions from donors. Of this total, \$6.4 million was contributed to the Flash Appeal for Tropical Cyclone Pam. So far, Australia, the European Commission, Germany, the United States, Estonia and Denmark have contributed to the Flash appeal as well as private individuals and organizations.

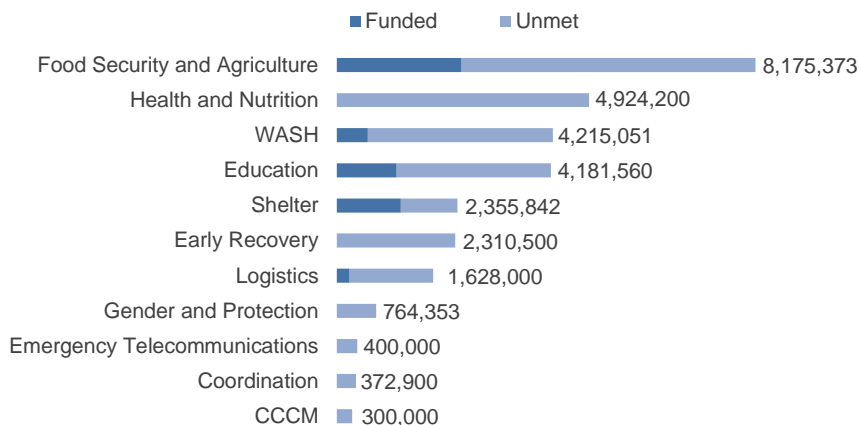
For updated funding figures, please visit the [Tropical Cyclone Pam](#) page on FTS.

Vanuatu Tropical Cyclone Pam Appeal 2015

US\$29.9 million requested



Funding by sector (in million US\$)



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of financial contributions by e-mailing fts@un.org and in-kind contributions by e-mailing logik@un.org.

Humanitarian Response

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



Food Security

Needs:

- Seed imports and farming tools are needed to address the shortfall of locally available stocks, specifically cucumber, beans and squash.
- Long-term food assistance is urgently needed for all affected people.

92,000
people receiving food assistance in Efate

Response:

- Approximately 31 metric tonnes (MT) of High-Energy Biscuits (HEB) was dispatched to Tanna Island and 3.5 MT to the Shepherd Islands, which will be distributed to 3,500 people.
- The distribution of approximately 0.5 MT of HEB will be completed on Aniwa Island, while the distribution of approximately 2.3 MT of HEB will commence on Erromango Island on 27 March.

- Government-led food distributions have almost completed on Efate Island, reaching approximately 92,000 people.
- Food distributions are ongoing in the provinces of Malampa (Paama), Shefa (Epi and Lanem) to 8,000 people.
- An evaluation of the availability of surplus fresh produce from less impacted islands has been undertaken. This includes Fiji taro, island taro, cassava, kumula, yams and fish. Transport and logistics options for these are being investigated.
- An assessment of affected people's food security status in areas that were not in the direct path of Tropical Cyclone Pam, such as Malekula Island, commenced on 27 March.
- The availability and distribution of crop planting materials is being assessed.

Gaps:

- National food stocks are estimated to be sufficient for the first-wave of food distribution only, covering a two-week period. The Government, with support from WFP and the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, are looking at procurement options to cater for the second wave of food distributions.
- The transportation of food and seeds within, and across, the 22 affected islands is a logistical challenge.
- Limited storage space is available for fresh produce (e.g. fish).
- Volunteers for the supervision of the distribution food supplies and seed packing are needed, particularly on 30 March around the capital Port Vila on Efate Island.
- The transport of food items from Australia to Port Vila is becoming an increasing challenge due to a backlog of urgent humanitarian equipment and supplies in Brisbane. The Government and humanitarian agencies are looking at options to address it.



Health and Nutrition

Needs:

- Adequate nutrition is required for more than 160,000 people, especially nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women and children under five years.
- Approximately 25,000 children aged six months to five years require vaccinations in the initial one to two months.

8,700
children vaccinated
against measles

Response:

- Sixteen early warning sentinel disease surveillance sites were established out of 24 planned.
- Public health text messaging commenced on 27 March to complement ongoing public health messaging through radio and print across all provinces.
- From 26 to 27 March, 250 children aged six months to five years received measles vaccinations, along with deworming treatments, vitamin A and soaps. A total of 8,700 children have been vaccinated since Cyclone Pam struck.
- Fifteen foreign medical teams (FMT) are currently covering eight islands in Shefa, Tafea and Penama provinces. At this stage, there is no indication for expansion to other areas.
- Two medical evacuations took place from the outer islands of Efate to Vila Central Hospital (Port Vila). As of 27 March, a total of 48 medical evacuations have taken place.

Gaps:

- Increased demands on health services remain in the affected areas. The Health Cluster urges FMTs and medical actors to extend their presences to continue supporting the Ministry of Health until needs decrease.
- Damaged and non-operational health facilities have limited the number of available health centres, dispensaries and aid posts to provide medical services.



Education

Response:

- On 27 March, 'Education in Emergencies' (EiE) support has commenced on Efate Island:
 - In Manua school, Save the Children set up a temporary learning space by providing one tent, one recreation kit, one teacher kit and 20 tarpaulins. The Education Cluster is in the process of rehabilitating the water system for the community, which connects up to the schools.
 - Provincial Education Officers and Zone Curriculum Advisors have visited schools to support and provide guidance to Head Teachers (principals) to plan for the school reopening on 30 March and ensure education continuity.

- The Education Cluster has updated the education needs assessment form and identified staff from the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, Save the Children and Leave & Learn to participate in the multi-sector in-depth assessment planned for the week of 30 March.
- The Education Cluster and Child Protection Working Group are exploring standard approaches and opportunities to provide psycho-social support to affected teachers and students.

Gaps:

- Further supplies of tarpaulins and tents are needed to set up temporary learning spaces.



Gender and Protection / Internally Displaced Persons Working Group

Needs:

- Whilst people in evacuation centres have returned home, there is a need to ensure that host families and host communities are supported whilst recovery efforts are ongoing.
- The NDMO has arranged temporary evacuations of vulnerable groups to Port Vila from Mataso Island, where conditions remain very difficult due to lack of shelter and limited food and water supply

Response:

- The Gender and Protection Cluster now has three additional working groups operating under its umbrella (making a total of four): the Gender/Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Working Group; the Disability Working Group; the Child Protection Working Group (all led by the Ministry of Justice) and the existing NDMO-led Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Working Group.
- Three key tools/products are under development by cluster members:
 - A guide to (currently operational) services aiming at women, children and people with disability
 - Key messages around child protection for communities affected by TC Pam.
 - Guidance for humanitarian actors on inclusion of people with disability in their emergency response activities. The IDP Working Group will work with the Protection Cluster to ensure that sex and age disaggregated data and information on vulnerable groups, including displacement patterns is collected in upcoming multi-sectoral in-depth assessments.
- IOM provided training to 12 people on the Displacement Tracking Matrix methodology including Government staff, NGOs and representatives from the Rainbow Disability Organization.
- The NDMO has arranged the temporary evacuation of vulnerable groups from Mataso Island, who will be supported by community networks in Port Vila. NDMO and IOM conducted registration and pre-departure health checks on 26 March, including measles immunization for children under five years.
- IOM is liaising with Vila Central Hospital to assist patients being medically evacuated from other affected islands to safely return to their homes after discharge.

Gaps:

- The scale of the response operation has meant that many core cluster members have been drawn into other activities by their organizations, so the pool of experienced subject-matter experts available for the assessment process, expected to start next week, has diminished. Additional team members have been identified to increase numbers, and training will have to be provided to ensure a standard approach and understanding of gender and protection issues.
- There are still gaps on displacement patterns and data of IDPs living with host families and host communities
- Strategies to support host families need to be developed



Shelter

Needs:

- Current estimates suggest that approximately 15,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged.
- The majority of people affected by Cyclone Pam live in rural areas and have not been displaced from their places of origin.

15,000

homes destroyed or damaged

Response:

- There is a significant population in and around urban and peri-urban areas of Port Vila, which are being targeted with shelter and non-food items, including kitchen sets, tarpaulins and tools. Figures on distributions to date are still to be provided.

- Distributions of shelter kits and tarpaulins are ongoing in the Government of Vanuatu determined 'Priority Area 1' (Shefa Province and Shepherd Islands) and 'Priority Area 2' (Tafea Province).

Gaps:

- In-country stocks of shelter supplies including tool kits, tarpaulins, and kitchen sets are critically low.
- There have been difficulties in reporting on shelter item distributions on remote islands due to limited communications available.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Without clean drinking water and access to good sanitation, people are at risk to diarrhoea outbreaks.

110,000
people in need of
clean drinking water

Response

- The Dragonfly and the Salvation Army have distributed water to three communities in northern Tanna to approximately 1,500 people.
- Through various partners on Tanna Island, hygiene kits, soaps and purification tablets were distributed to about 3,350 people.
- World Vision and ADRA have setup a NOMAD water filtration unit with the capacity to produce water in northern Efate for approximately 3,000 people.
- Red Cross water purification units are providing ongoing support to Mele, Efate and northern Tanna islands. The Red Cross also distributed hygiene kits to about 665 people in North Efate.
- 'Youth with a Mission' has distributed household water filters to 500 people in East Efate.
- OXFAM continues to support water trucking in peri-urban areas in Teoumaville and Erakor.

Gaps

- The shortage of fuel for distributions in Tanna remains a challenge.
- Repairs to Lenakel Hospital water system are required to prevent unnecessary water wastage.
- The distribution of clean drinking water, produced by water treatment units, to affected people remains a challenge.



Logistics

Needs:

- Local, skilled staff members are required for the coordination of Mobile Storage Units on Tanna Island.

Response:

- The plan for a central warehousing solution at the port of Port Vila has been agreed on with the harbor master and will be proposed to the Efira Company on 28 March to provide additional storage space.
- The Dragonfly yacht distributed water tanks to northern Tanna Island.
- An assessment was conducted on Mataso Island to identify the most vulnerable people in need of evacuation.
- The remaining teams from the Shepherd Island food distributions returned to Port Villa on 26 March.

Sea transport:

- On 27 March, a patrol boat from the Solomon Islands was loaded with shelter items, agriculture cuttings and High-Energy Biscuits (HEBs) for the Shepherd Islands. HEBs will be provided to six islands in the Shepherd Islands group by the Solomon Island Patrol boat and New Zealand military assets.
- A Tonga Island patrol boat arrived on 27 March and is expected to depart on 28 March for distributions of agriculture cuttings and food on Tongoa Island.
- Food for Mere Lava Island (Torba Province) is planned to be shipped on 29 March on the MV Sheerwater.
- The HMAS Tobruk will return to Port Vila on 30 March and is expected to be tasked to go to Noumea to pick up cargo for UNICEF.
- Coordination maps are being sent to Epi and Tanna Islands by military assets.
- Food was transported onwards to South Epi and South East Ambrym islands.

Air transport:

- DFAT is arranging a C-17 flight from Brisbane to Port Vila on 28 March to transport relief supplies for their partners (Caritas, World Vision, Save the Children, Oxfam and Red Cross).

Gaps:

- Storage capacity in Port Vila, Tanna and Epi should be augmented, as the amount of relief items to arrive is likely to increase in the coming weeks.



Emergency Telecommunications

Needs:

- Vanuatu's communication infrastructure was severely damaged by Cyclone Pam. Reestablishment of services across the country is essential to allow the Government and relief organizations to respond to expressed needs.
- Secure means of power supply is needed for all aspects of the response operation. The operation is, to a large extent, relying on solar chargers and portable generators.

Response:

- Basic mobile communication (GSM) services are largely restored and limited mobile data connectivity is becoming available on Efate, Santo and Tanna islands. Local communications service providers are focusing their efforts on restoring internet connectivity.
- The ETC will deploy internet connectivity for FM radio transmitters on the islands of Epi (Shefa Province) and Espiritu Santo (Sanma Province) to allow the Government to contact remote areas.
- The ETC has received four satellite terminals from the British Telecom (BT) and three from the Government of Luxembourg that will enable fast and reliable internet connectivity for use by the Government and humanitarians until local commercial services are restored.
- A four-member BT team has arrived in Brisbane and will land in Vanuatu tomorrow to install the satellite equipment.

Gaps:

- With Cyclone Pam damaging up to 80 per cent of the electricity grid across Vanuatu, power continues to be a key challenge.



Communications with Communities

Needs:

- Communication with the outer islands is still constrained. Satellite phones with provincial disaster committees are available in all provinces except Torba Province.

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 this is functional
 - Mobile phones: emergency text messages with updated information will be sent to all TVL and Digicel phone users.
- The Vanuatu Women's Centre is working together with the Vanuatu Broadcasting Commission to speak on behalf of affected women and children and support their access to help where gender-based violence is occurring.
- The communication of key food security messages (via FM and HF radio, pamphlet, mobile telephone and newspaper) has begun. The Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) media capacity building group will assist with information dissemination.

General Coordination

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is coordinating the response with support from various agencies, governments and major partners. The NDMO is expanding its coordination structures and systems to

provide support to the Government and responding relief agencies. The United Nations has set up a [Humanitarian Response Page](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/vanuatu) (www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/vanuatu) as the central repository of documents generated in support of the coordination effort related to Tropical Cyclone Pam. The NDMO's Emergency Operation Centre is conducting response planning/monitoring activities, supported by the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT) and humanitarian partners, and is providing daily 24-hour radio broadcasts throughout the country.

Currently, a number of private vessels and aircraft are coming into Vanuatu loaded with relief supplies. Biosecurity Vanuatu will carry out normal quarantine clearances, but during this period the Government will not charge for clearance and inspection of relief vessels. However, physical evidence that the vessel or the aircraft has landed in Vanuatu to supply relief and a statement of full disclosure of the cargo and its intended destination must be provided. On arrival, the captain of the aircraft or vessel must advise the airport and the sea port authorities. This is followed by an inspection by the biosecurity officer, who will board the craft for clearance. For further information, please contact Sylverio Bule on +678 562 4447 or bsylverio@vanuatu.gov.vu.

Humanitarian organizations coming into Vanuatu must provide a detailed manifest about their planned activities and relief distributions to the National Disaster Management Office before they enter the country. This should include the following:

- Terms of reference (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.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continues to support the Government in general coordination and response planning. Humanitarian Affairs Officers are providing support to the NDMO on donor relations, reporting, information management, and public information. This includes the Who What Where (3W) database, contact lists and meeting schedules. To gain a better overview of humanitarian actors' response activities, OCHA continued distribution tracking to map existing stockpiles, pipelines and gaps in relief supplies. Tools such as the information needs assessment, situation reports and maps are made available to support better relief planning and action. OCHA also drafted and is now monitoring the Flash Appeal. A six-person UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team supported the Government-led assessments and is supporting relief operations, and OCHA staff from the Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP), the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and OCHA Philippines are also in Port Vila supporting the response.

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, Mobile: +679 999 1664 (Suva)

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

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

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

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