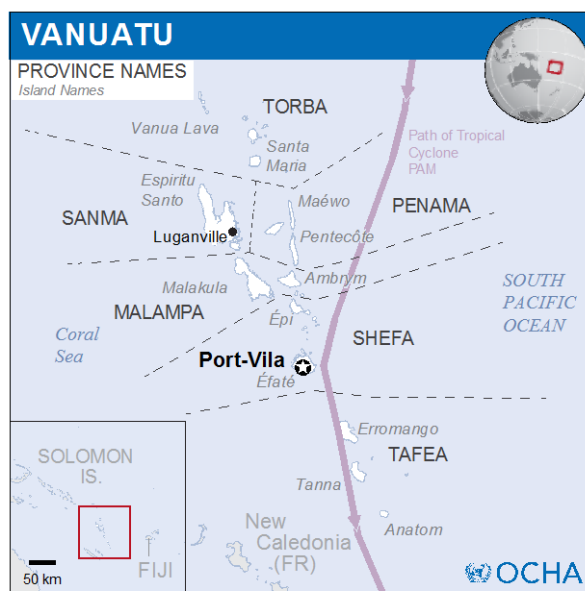




This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 19 to 20 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 21 March 2015.

Highlights

- Around 166,000 people, more than half of Vanuatu's population, have been affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam on 22 islands.
- Food stocks and water reserves are being exhausted and will not last more than a couple of weeks across the affected islands.
- The Government-led joint Initial Rapid Needs Assessments concluded on 20 March.
- Access to affected communities is still hindered in Emae Island and in the eastern part of Pentecote Island.
- An estimated 50-90 per cent of local dwellings have been damaged by gale-force winds.
- Fuel stocks are running low across the affected islands in Vanuatu while electricity is mostly unavailable and generators are essential.
- Around 65,000 people are in need of temporary emergency shelter.
- Schools postponed classes for two weeks with a start date of 30 March. There is an immediate need for temporary safe learning spaces for 50,000 to 70,000 children.



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.

16 Confirmed fatalities	166,000 People affected on 22 islands	3,995 People in 39 evacuation centres	65,000 People in need of temporary shelter	11,800 Households targeted for food distributions	500 Schools estimated to be damaged
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Source: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office

Situation Overview

The Government-led joint Initial Rapid Needs Assessments concluded on 20 March confirmed the most urgent needs as water, food, shelter and health across the 22 affected islands in Vanuatu. A significant number of affected people, particularly in isolated and hard-to-reach areas also lack power and communication. The total number of completed assessments covers 15 islands and several island groups with 16 assessment missions carried out. The teams were made up of personnel from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT), the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and I/NGOs. In accordance with the areas cyclone Pam passed through, the eastern areas of the affected islands generally have higher numbers of people in need. The 22 islands affected are: Maewo and Pentecost (Penama Province); Ambrym and Paama (Malampa Province); Epi, Tongoa (Sheperd Islands (SH)), Emae (SH), Buninga (SH), Tongariki (SH), Shepherd islets (SH), Ifira, Nguna, Pele, Emao, Mosso, Lelepa (Shefa Province); Erromango, Tanna, Aniwa, Aneityum, Futuna, Efate (Tafea Province).

Based on findings from the initial rapid assessments, access within the islands is still uneven and despite a number of local airports and seaports being functional, some inner roads are still impassable. Roads are being cleared but chainsaws and fuel is needed to expedite the process. Access to affected communities is still hindered in Emae Island and in the eastern part of Pentecote Island.

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

In most areas, there is significant damage to housing. Gale-force winds have damaged 50-90 per cent of the local dwellings. Crowding in remaining buildings is a main concern.

Food stocks in areas where they have not been damaged or destroyed are being exhausted and will not last more than a couple of weeks in the affected islands. Most grocery shops have been affected. For the population living in the most affected islands, access to clean drinking water is a key concern as most of the rainwater storage tanks were damaged by the cyclone. Other ground water sources have been contaminated with debris. In most areas, water reserves are being exhausted and will not last more than a few days.

The assessment found extensive damage to food crops (especially root crops and fruit plantations) across the 22 affected islands. Coconut and banana plantations have been particularly devastated, which will have significant longer-term impact. Some 99 percent of people on the outer islands are dependent on their own food consumption. People are expected to lose their main source of income from crops such as copra. Loss of livestock, including pigs, poultry, cattle will significantly impact rural livelihoods and food security. Many fishing boats have been damaged, particularly in Shefa and Tafea Provinces. In islands, such as Erromango, where they were safe, people are able to continue fishing. Over 80 per cent of the population in Vanuatu is engaged in agriculture, which consists in both subsistence farming (root and tubers, garden crops, fruits) and cash crops. Fuel stocks are running low on the affected islands while electricity is mostly unavailable and generators are essential.

Extensive damage to health infrastructure and facilities has been reported. However, there have been no reports of outbreaks of communicable diseases so far. The main concern is the delivery of medical supplies and the lack of clean water across the 22 affected islands. Schools remain closed. A number of school buildings have been damaged and 34 schools that were not damaged are being used as temporary shelter for people who lost their houses.

Needs are expected to increase as further assessments to remote communities continue.

The Fiji Meteorological Service has issued a warning for a possibility of a [tropical depression](#) forming (near Samoa and Wallis Island and over French Polynesia) during the next three days. However, the potential for the formation of a tropical cyclone is low.

Humanitarian Response

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



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- There are 39 evacuation centres still open, housing 3,995 people in and around Port Vila.
- Key needs remain shelter, food and water, with shelter materials required to support families to return home.
- Families who were staying in two Port Vila schools that were being used as evacuation centres have moved to another evacuation centre to enable children to return to classes. Facilities are limited at this centre.
- It remains unknown how many people without shelter are being hosted by families within communities.

39

Evacuation centres are still open

Response:

- Families staying in schools that are temporary evacuation centres will be provided with support to return home so that classes can recommence.
- Partners are working together to ensure that the closure of evacuation centres is well-planned and that families are supported once they leave.
- Partners are advocating against families having to move from one evacuation centre to another, and aim to include shelter kit distribution in their home communities in the lead- up to evacuation centre closures to enable people to rebuild their houses.
- Evacuation Centres Management Group has been formalized and met on 20 March. Its role includes coordinating responsibilities, distribution of relief, planning, monitoring and evaluation activities
- IOM has conducted training for enumerators (provided by partner agencies) on displacement data collection and deployed assessment teams to all evacuation centres.
- The Ministry of Health and the Health Cluster have recommended that health issues in Evacuation centres are referred to existing health services.



Education

Needs:

- Schools have postponed classes for two weeks with a start date of 30 March.
- The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has confirmed damage to 34 schools on the affected islands in Vanuatu.
- Around 80-100 per cent of the school infrastructure in Tanna Island is estimated to be damaged, although not all schools could not be reached by foot as debris is still blocking access to many areas on the island.
- Education cluster is estimating 500 schools are affected (including early childhood care and education, primary and secondary), and will be targeting 57,000 school-age children with learning supplies and tents.
- UNICEF reports an immediate need for temporary safe learning spaces for 50,000 to 70,000 children, but requires urgent finance, logistics and transportation support.
- Around 50 per cent of schools are built with traditional materials and rely on rainwater harvesting systems which have been destroyed. Temporary learning spaces must provide for longer term use until traditional structures can be rebuilt, including appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

500

Schools are estimated to be affected

Response:

- Schools have been postponed for two weeks with a start date of 30 March. An estimated total of 34 schools are being used as evacuation centres in Efate, Torba and Penama Islands. Some schools require repairs to ensure students' safety.
- UNICEF will ship two batches of education supplies this week. This will include school-in-a-box kits, backpacks, recreational kits, early childhood development kits, tents and tarpaulins.
- The Education Cluster is targeting about 57,000 affected school-aged children from early childhood to secondary school. Infrastructure, facilities and resources are damaged in a majority of schools in Efate, Tafea, Torba and Penama. The Education Cluster leadership and operation has yet to reach full capacity, and the UNICEF Pacific Chief of Education has been deployed to Vanuatu to support Save the Children as the cluster co-lead with the Ministry of Education.
- Assessments of all schools in Port Vila in particular those used as evacuation centres have been conducted. A Rapid Assessment of Tanna confirmed that most of the schools were seriously damaged or destroyed and the few classrooms that remained standing are being used as evacuation centres by people who lost their homes.

Gaps:

- Communication and access within and between islands remains the greatest challenge. The rapid assessment teams together with teachers hiked all over Tanna to inspect school damage as all the roads are impassable.



Food Security

Needs:

- Food has been identified as a priority need in all affected provinces.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that the total number of the affected population of 166,000 people will need food assistance for the next three months.
- The impact on the agricultural sector is severe with livelihoods compromised and the majority of the country's population affected.

162,000

People are targeted for food distributions

Response:

- The Vanuatu Government purchased 94.5 million VT (US\$870,000) worth of locally available emergency rations.
- Food is planned to be distributed to 162,000 people by 26 March. A Food Package per household for 15 days will include 25 kilograms of rice, five cans of meat (and an additional five cans of fish in hardest hit areas) and 10 packets of noodles.
- Locally procured seeds and planting materials will be distributed to affected households along with the food distribution.
- To provide information on food aid and distribution, 20,000 leaflets were printed and distributed to affected areas.
- Plans are in place to import seeds and tools to address a shortfall in locally available stocks.
- Farmers that can supply breeding stock (small livestock) especially chickens are being identified.
- The official Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Food Distribution Guideline is being finalized.

- Financial means to procure 800 metric tonnes of rice has been sourced in Santo.
- Financial means (approximately US\$920,000) and in-kind of tools and seeds is to be distributed (according to Food Security and Agriculture Cluster standards and guidelines).

Gaps:

- Information on the situation of impact on fishery and locally available fishing gears on the islands.
- Information on Shepherd Islands is incomplete.
- Availability of planting material is not yet clear.



Health and Nutrition

Needs:

- Safe food and drinking water is an urgent need to prevent food and water borne diseases.
- 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. Needs also include mental health care to address impact on social and emotional health. Damaged health facilities need to be repaired.
- Reports continue to be received from some rural areas about extreme water shortages and contamination of traditional water sources; the Ministry of Health (MoH) is seeking donations of additional water purification tablets
- MoH is seeking parties with capacity and expertise to assist in outer islands vaccination campaigns.

Response:

- Health care services:
 - 14 International Medical Teams (IMTs) have been registered and approved in-principle to date; in the next 24 hours, teams are deploying to Tanna and Ambrym
 - Two medical evacuations from Tanna took place on 19 March, with another evacuation received by French personnel at the airport and transported to Vila Central Hospital.
 - The company, Humedica's disaster medical response team is in Tanna Island under the direction of the health cluster and has treated over 70 patients for minor ailments. They have been asked to travel around the island on 21 March to make contact with other communities.
 - The Vila Central Hospital (VCH) is continuing to receive cyclone-related trauma (injury) cases from provinces; due to lack of retrieval capacity, cyclone-related patients from Mataso Island have begun to self-refer to VCH using their own transport
 - A Health Logistics Sub-Cluster has been established to strengthen communication and coordination with the NDMO Logistics Cluster.
 - The MoH's Central Medical Store is having reasonable success in distributing medical supplies to hospitals and clinics with the logistical support of partner agencies
- Disease control and outbreak response:
 - A cluster of infections in one Port Vila evacuation centre is being investigated as suspected measles
- Communication and Prevention:
 - Prevention: ongoing MoH daily radio announcements about the risks of diarrhoeal disease and viral outbreaks
- Mental Health:
 - VCH is in the process of establishing a psychological assessment service
- Nutrition
 - A joint public statement has been issued by MoH, UNICEF and WHO regarding the importance of encouraging mothers to continue breastfeeding infants rather than use formula; wet nursing can be arranged in Port Vila
- The NGO, Medical Santo delivered a full load of medications to the Northern Provincial hospital on 20 March. The hospital's stock of supplies is running low.
- Australian Medical Assistance Teams were tasked by MoH to help coordinate medical assistance across the affected islands. They are setting up a 40-bed hospital ward, a pharmacy, and x-ray services to supplement the existing hospital services which are under significant strain.
- Six teams comprising MoH nurses were deployed to communities around Port Vila to provide vaccination against measles, polio and tetanus. These teams also conducted rapid assessments, distributed bed nets and provided health education to the affected communities. Around 2,836 children under five have been reached so far. The target in Port Villa was to reach 10,500 children between 6 to 59 months. Upon learning of

suspected measles cases in Tanna, UNICEF partnered with Rescunet to start administering vaccines on 20 March for children aged between 6 to 59 months in Tanna.

- UNICEF EPI/MCH clinic in Port Vila, the largest facility, opened on 19 March and began providing health services, including immunization. UNICEF is not only preparing and dispatching the measles outreach teams but is also funding and arranging their logistics. UNICEF continues to assess accessible health facilities on a daily basis to determine damage to the cold chain equipment/rooms and provide on-site repairs/training.

Gaps:

- Health care services:
 - Full assessments of rural areas have not yet been completed
 - There are ongoing communication problems in rural areas where mobile phone coverage is still down (note that Digicel has now restored services in Epi)
 - MoH is currently determining needs for donation of medical commodities (drugs, dressings and other supplies)
- Disease control and outbreak response: MoH has assessed needs for assistance with malaria control



Protection

Needs:

- NDMO/Vanuatu has prioritized shelter, water and food assistance for the initial emergency response. The aim is to ensure protection monitoring for all distributions and to use distributions as an opportunity to monitor protection issues.
- Reports were received overnight that the occupants of a Port Vila evacuation centre (a school) were obliged to relocate to a public hall because the school authorities were determined to reopen on Monday.
- Children will remain out of school till possibly the end of the month, because of the considerable damage to most schools and the use of many others as evacuation centres.
- Reports of discrimination against potential blood donors on the basis of their having a disability were received, and will be followed up by Gender and Protection Cluster members.

Response:

- The Gender and Protection Cluster continues to advocate for the inclusion in any distribution plans of certain minimum interventions around privacy and protection of women in evacuation centres (sheeting for privacy around latrines; solar lighting for night time use of WASH facilities). The Gender and Protection Cluster is assessing availability of personnel for protection monitoring during assessments.
- Interventions with authorities by both the Gender and Protection Cluster and IOM were constructive. It is hoped that any future closure of evacuation centres will be tied to the availability of durable solutions and involve consultation with the affected community. Monitoring of evacuation centres will continue.
- Gender and Protection Cluster members were part of the team conducting assessments in Aniwa, Futuna and Aneityum in Tafea Province
- NGO, Won Smol Bag, is reporting an influx of women and children attending their clinic for health assessments.
- IOM is now supporting the coordination of the Evacuation Centre Working Group and providing technical advice. Among issues identified for the group to consider in relation to ECs were: Exit strategy - Under what conditions will centres eventually be closed? The need to establish a link between activities conducted and promotion of durable solutions for people returning to their usual places of residence.
- Vanuatu Women's Centre reported that it has resumed operation. They can receive referrals of women/girls who have experienced sexual and other forms of gender-based violence. They can arrange access to a refuge if needed and they have a 24-hour emergency hotline.

Gaps:

- Very few of the rapid assessment reports returning from various provinces in recent days provided data pertaining to gender and protection. Planning at this stage until further monitoring and/or assessment is possible must be based on the expectation that the conditions prevailing for vulnerable populations in and around Port Vila are no better, and likely more severe, for badly affected island locations. Limited relevant information by assessment teams supports this assumption.
- The duration of distributions is not yet known, nor how many will run simultaneously, which makes planning human resources for monitoring a challenge.



Shelter

Needs:

- Around 65,000 people are in need of temporary emergency shelter.
- There is a need to develop an exit plan for families in evacuation centres.

Response:

- An immediate distribution plan has been developed for in-country stocks.
- Distribution of shelter kits and tarpaulins are continuing to affected areas.
- Shelter working group partners are providing support to the evacuation centres for people to be able to return to their homes.
- Stocks of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits are being mapped to match the needs identified in assessments.
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has offered technical advice and provided inventories on the confirmed location of public/commercial buildings with asbestos and the percentage in residential premises.

65,000

People are in need of temporary shelter



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Preliminary results of Government-led joint rapid assessments that had been conducted in most islands as of 20 March highlighted water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as some of the most pressing needs.
- Rainwater harvesting tanks and catchment roofs have been destroyed and available water has been contaminated. Ground water sources have been contaminated with sea water and mud. Water systems that rely on electricity are not functioning due to lack of power. Water systems have been affected due to fallen trees and landslides. Latrines have been damaged. Infrastructure has been damaged due to winds and fallen trees and structure foundations have been affected by floods.
- While awaiting verified information and analysis, the WASH sector estimates 60 per cent of the population of Shefa and Tafea has been affected and have no access to safe drinking water. Based on individual reports, access to water has emerged as the biggest need. This is confirmed by Shefa provincial government initial observations.

60%

of the population in Shefa and Tafea is believed to have no access to drinking water

Response:

- All available WASH stocks in country are *en route* to affected people by air and sea.
- 10 generators supplied by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) were sent to Tanna Provincial Government to support the immediate use of borehole systems that were reliant on UNELCO power.
- Beverley Hills and Bellevue water supply systems in Port Vila are in working order.
- Vanuatu Mobile Force continues water trucking on an as needed basis in peri-urban areas of Port Vila.
- Red Cross, UNICEF, Trade Tools (local hardware store) and MFAT arranged shipping of a 10,000 L water tank and 2000 x 10L containers to the Shepherd Islands.
- UNICEF purchased 35 poly tanks of varying size from 1500L to 10,000L to facilitate water trucking by ADRA.
- Shefa Province held its first WASH coordination meeting with NGOs, detailing the needs from the various area councils.
- The Australian Defence Force continues to provide water treatment in Tanna.
- CARE International is supporting the WASH response.

Gaps:

- Logistics planning to coordinate ongoing shipping of water supplies.
- Connection between provincial activities and national WASH cluster.



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:

- ABC International Development broadcasted the Tropical Cyclone Pam Appeal Day in Australia. The ABC aired specific programming across its platforms about the crisis and the relief effort with a view to generate support for the Red Cross and other charities working in the region. Radio Australia broadcasted ABC local radio into the Pacific, along with other up-to-date information, and other programs provided key information. ABC News presenters are recording a message for the day to encourage audiences to support the fundraising effort.
- Digicel's network has been restored to more than 70 per cent population coverage, which is critical in allowing communities, families and friends to connect, as well as providing vital communications to assist NGOs and emergency services in their relief efforts.
- Digicel is currently in Tanna and is expecting to have the network up and running by 21 March. Phone battery charging stations are being deployed across the islands so that customers can power their phones. Digicel is providing US\$250,000 in free credit for customers to get in touch with families as services are being restored.



Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

Needs:

- Satellite equipment is needed to provide a temporary FM radio solution for government and humanitarians until local providers can repair infrastructure and restore services.
- Outside of Port Vila, voice communication and internet connectivity are limited to the satellite phones and portable satellite terminals distributed in the initial response. Capacity needs to be increased to meet the needs of the growing response operation.
- Solar charging equipment and portable generators are needed to recharge satellite phones, laptops and other essential communications equipment.

Response:

- A number of ETC partners, including emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, NetHope and their partner BT, World Food Programme (WFP), and Telecoms Sans Frontieres, are supporting the operation. In addition to 2x satellite terminals from emergency.lu, NetHope partner BT has committed 4x terminals to support the response.
- 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.



Logistics

Response:

- Five containers are ready for shipment from Fiji, with important items to support health, WASH, education and child protection interventions, with a planned arrival on 26 March.
- The World Food Programme (WFP), with assistance from UNICEF, is to establish two storage hubs, one in Port Vila and another in Tanna, and additional WFP staff will be hired to establish and run these hubs.
- Prepositioned supplies available in Port Vila have been mobilized for the hospital, as well as for immediate water supply needs. 48 cartons of health supplies, including basic emergency health kits, Oral Rehydration Salt sachets, zinc tablets, Vitamin A tablets and de-worming tablets have arrived by air to Port Vila. 15,000 water purification tablets were given to Save the Children for use in evacuation centres. 17m3 of storage space were made available to Oxfam for hygiene kits.
- Relief supplies are prepositioned for the Vanuatu Ferry for Tanna is scheduled for arrival on 20 March.

- Logistic supplies include:
 - Australia: 2 x C17 aircraft, 1 x C130 aircraft, 1 x Bell Helicopter, 2 x Orion Aircraft, 2 x Blackhawks, HMAS Tobruk (naval vessel) containing MRH-90 helicopter, 100 Australian Defence Force (ADF) engineers to assist with reconstruction (arrive on 23 March), two landing crafts which will be utilized to distribute in the southern islands
 - New Zealand: 1 x B350 aircraft, HMNZS Canterbury (naval vessel) containing supplies for food and shelter clusters arrive on 25 March
 - France: 2 x CASA aircraft operating between Noumea and Tunea.
 - United Kingdom: 1 x C17 aircraft which arrived via Amberlie in Queensland on 15 March, authorized for 40 hours. Aircraft is on standby in Amberlie at present.
 - 4 x military personnel accompanied a Japanese Medical Assistance Team comprising of 13 personnel. They arrived on a commercial flight and not a military air asset.
- CARE Australia shipped a boatload of food and water packages to Port Vila on 18 March.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has funded a special 747 Boeing airlift from Dubai of 80 metric tons of aid from WFP, Save the Children, World Vision, ADRA and Lutheran World Relief, under the leadership of the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD).
- The Australian Defence Force has so far delivered 11 loads of emergency relief supplies and personnel in support of the ongoing humanitarian response, including on behalf of NGOs, the UN and the US Government.
- In addition to aerial support, the ADF has sent HMAS Tobruk overnight with 335 personnel and additional aid supplies. Troops and equipment from the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment and a Navy MRH90 Taipan helicopter are on-board.
- The ADF is also preparing to deploy two Army S-70 Blackhawk helicopters along with crew and support personnel to assist inter-island movement.
- An Australian Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team is assisting the Vanuatu Government to assess damage to major infrastructure in Port Vila.
- Agencies are asked to send pipeline and distribution information to vanuatu.stock@gmail.com.
- All offers of assistance are to be sent to ndmo.logistics@gmail.com for assessment by the Emergency Operations Centre logistics team.

Gaps:

- The Bauerfield International airport runway in Port Vila is 110m shorter due to degradation. A complete aerial assessment is still pending to determine access to landings and impact of cyclone on transport routes, which will determine constraints on logistics support operations. 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.

Funding

Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, instructed Dubai's International Humanitarian City and aid agencies to support the response operations and the team has mobilized relief supplies. In addition to a special airlift, the UAE has made US\$1.2 million available for emergency relief efforts in countries affected by TC Pam, including Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

Estonia has allocated 50,000 EUR (US\$ 54,000) to UNICEF to assist children and families affected by the cyclone.

The Korean Government announced on 13 March that it would give a total of US\$500,000 in financial support to Vanuatu.

Canada has announced another donation of \$140,000 to the IFRC to support its emergency relief efforts. This contribution is in addition to the \$20,000 already provided to the IFRC on 14 March.

Christian World Service (CWS) launched an appeal to support psycho-social/pastoral support through local churches. CWS is working closely with the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches in New Zealand, ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) members and Vanuatu churches.

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

General Coordination

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 United Nations, international and national NGOs, governments, donors, civil society and other partners are also supporting the Government-led response.

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.

The Government met with humanitarian agencies in the morning and evening of 20 March to develop specific plans for distributing relief items that meet needs in four priority areas:

- Food and Agriculture
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Shelter
- Health

Humanitarian agencies are all working towards one plan that is based on identified needs in affected communities. The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Joe Natuman, stated that relief supplies would be prioritized to reach worst-affected areas first and then be distributed to other affected areas.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community has deployed a post-disaster management specialist from Suva, the capital of Fiji, to Port Vila, who will be based with Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office to assist with the government's coordination of their national response.

The Pacific Humanitarian Team is meeting regularly in Suva, and is bringing together regional clusters and donors to support the national response. The next PHT meeting will be held on Saturday 21 March.

The France, Australia and New Zealand (FRANZ) alliance continues to work together to prioritise needs. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has established a Joint Task Force (JTF) to coordinate Australia's support.

Australian disaster experts (from DFAT, ADF, AUSMAT, USAR and EMA) are working with the Vanuatu Government to continue to assess and respond to the immediate needs.

The Salvation Army in Australia is sending a team of four disaster specialists to work with World Vision on its initial response using AU\$1 million dollars in donated funds.

Caritas Oceania agencies, including Caritas Australia and Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, are helping to lead a joint response in Vanuatu with the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Port Vila has established a Disaster Response Committee to assess damage and plan a coordinated response. Shelter is a major priority and a number of churches are being used as evacuation centres.

The Humanitarian Coordinator offered support for donor coordination for both immediate humanitarian needs and future recovery needs once identified through the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is supporting the government in needs assessments and general coordination. The Head of the OCHA Office for the Pacific and three Humanitarian Affairs Officers are providing support to the National Disaster Management Office on donor relations and appeals, assessments and reporting, information management, and public information. A six-person United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team is supporting the Government-led assessments, and OCHA staff from the Regional Office for the Pacific, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and OCHA Philippines are also in Port Vila supporting the response. OCHA staff will continue to support the Humanitarian Coordinator in carrying out her duties and responsibilities and provide technical assistance in general coordination, information management and reporting.

Impact of TC Pam on other Pacific Island countries

Tuvalu

A range of coordination and specialist expertise has arrived in the capital, Funafuti, to supplement the response and assessment activities of the under-staffed Tuvalu National Disaster Management Office. A humanitarian coordinator from the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific, two Australian Civilian Corps advisors and three Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) specialists (two WASH and one agriculture) arrived on 19 March. A World Bank team is assessing infrastructure and agriculture damage and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has deployed to support coordination and early recovery. A New Zealand Red Cross delegate has been seconded to Tuvalu Red Cross to support response activities.

With additional support, more detailed assessment information can be obtained, including accurate data on people displaced and affected. SPC specialists will be working to identify the location and functionality of desalination units across the island nation to provide clean drinking water. The World Health Organization (WHO) is concerned by reports of dysentery and is deploying an environmental health expert next week.

The main challenge has been flying relief supplies on small weight-limited plane services to Tuvalu and alternative solutions are needed to transport more supplies. UNICEF medical supplies have arrived in the country, however Red Cross supplies are delayed. A boat-load of stock from Samoa Red Cross arrived on 19 March, with another boat on the way. UNICEF will also provide schools supplies and student backpacks for children on the affected islands.

Australia has released AU\$1 million (US\$777 million) in funding to allow more relief supplies and personnel to be made available. High tides are currently being experienced in low-lying Tuvalu and are forecast to peak at around 1.95m on 20 March.

Kiribati

The Government of Kiribati has requested assistance from donor countries to reconstruct the damaged main Dai Nippon Causeway that links two of the most populated areas of Tarawa atoll, Betio and Bairiki. WHO is seeking funds to support the relocation of the main hospital to higher ground following flooding as a result TC Pam and king tides in February.

Some residents of the 20 destroyed houses along the shore of Tamana and Arorae islands have begun rebuilding further inland. One specialist from UNICEF is deploying to the capital, South Tarawa, for three weeks and will support assessments. There are currently two New Zealand Red Cross delegates in Kiribati providing health training and support. The Government is conducting aerial assessments to identify needs. UNICEF has advised that a small number of pre-positioned emergency supplies be made available in the capital.

Solomon Islands

A patrol boat has been dispatched to deliver relief supplies for 20 families and carry out assessments in Anuta, one of the worst affected islands in Temotu Province. A second boat will be deployed next week with non-food items for 600 families and will cover all eight affected islands in Temotu and Malaita Province. Initial assessments by UNICEF indicate limited damage to infrastructure and the government has made no requests for additional support. A Ministry of Health and Medical Services assessment team will travel to Temotu on 20 March. The main challenge is the many days it takes for boats to reach remote islands and there is a need to pre-position stocks as part of preparedness activities.

Background on the crisis

Vanuatu is an island nation of more than 80 islands with an estimated population of 267,000. Severe Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam struck Vanuatu on the evening of 13 March, affecting the capital of Port Vila, 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.

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)

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