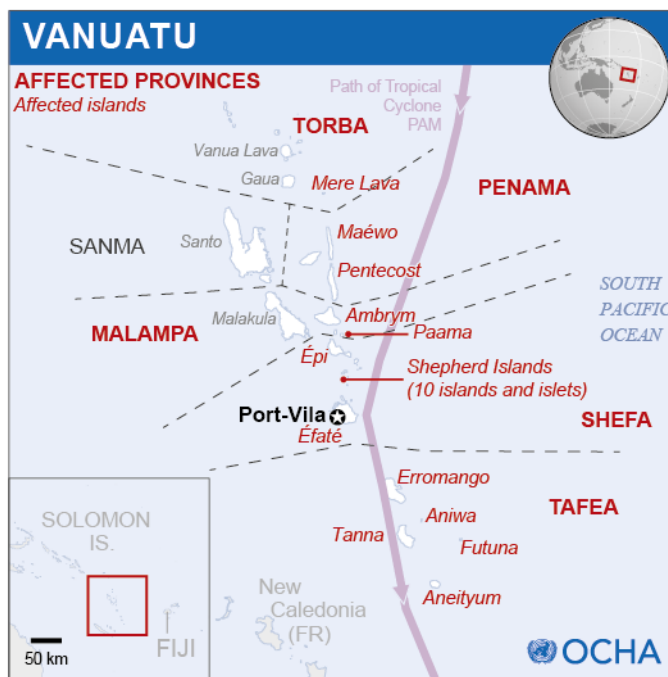




This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 23 to 24 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 25 March 2015.

Highlights

- The [Vanuatu Flash Appeal](#), launched on 24 March in Port Vila, seeks US\$29.9 million for humanitarian operations.
- About 65 per cent of the population in Shefa and Tafea provinces has no access to safe drinking water.
- Up to 96 per cent of crops were destroyed, leaving people with no alternative food stocks.
- Initial assessments indicate that over 30 health facilities will need rehabilitation.
- Fifty per cent of the water supply is operational on Efate Island.
- Initial emergency food assistance has been dispatched for approximately 180,000 people since the emergency began.
- Two full emergency health kits were sent to Tanna Island on 24 March; enough to provide 20,000 people with primary and secondary health assistance for three months.
- TVL and Digicel claim to have restored telecommunications to 80 per cent of Vanuatu.



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.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| 11 Confirmed fatalities | 166,000 People affected on 22 islands | 1,060 People in evacuation centres in Efate | 19 Evacuation Centres in Efate | 75,000 People in need of emergency shelter | 110,000 People in need of clean drinking water |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|

Source: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

Situation Overview

The Vanuatu Flash Appeal was launched on 24 March in Port Vila by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu and the Humanitarian Coordinator for Vanuatu, requesting funds for UN agencies and other actors responding to Tropical Cyclone Pam (TC Pam). Humanitarian agencies completed a preliminary costing for the needs and now seek \$29.9 million to ensure that life-saving aid is delivered in the coming months.

The scale of the response requires the concerted effort of all humanitarian actors, in partnership with the Government of Vanuatu, for at least three months.

The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster requires \$8.2 million for emergency life-saving food security assistance for 166,000 people, and emergency access to food supplies for the next three months until crops can be re-established. This includes access to stocks to re-establish market gardens.

The Water, Sanitation and Health Cluster requires \$4.2 million for the emergency supply of safe drinking water, and to rehabilitate water sources, promote hygiene and facilitate sanitation reconstruction.

The Health Cluster requires \$4.9 million to rehabilitate more than 30 health facilities, allowing resumption of health-service delivery. The funds will also be used for disease surveillance and outbreak control, and immunization against preventable diseases. The request also covers urgent nutrition support for infants and young children, as

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

well as the provision of treatment for severe acute malnutrition, micronutrients, and reproductive health, maternal and newborn care.

The Shelter Cluster requires \$2.4 million to provide emergency shelter and NFIs to affected households, reconstruct safer shelters and provide technical training for communities on safer construction practices.

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Working Group (Camp Coordination and Camp Management - CCCM) requests \$300,000. This will help ensure the collection, monitoring and evaluation of displacement tracking data, provide critical CCCM capacity-building for the Government and NGOs, and assist in the set up and management of transitional shelters for early recovery.

The Education Cluster requires \$4.2 million to set up temporary learning spaces for damaged and destroyed schools. Agencies will restore, repair and replace affected school buildings, WASH facilities, resources and learning materials, and provide teacher trainings in psychosocial support for students.

The Gender and Protection Cluster requires \$764,000 to help national NGO and Government actors address life-saving protection issues, and to scale-up protection activities and services targeting the most vulnerable people.

The Early Recovery Cluster seeks \$2.3 million to restore the livelihoods of young people, women and other vulnerable groups in urban informal settlements. It will also rebuild the local community infrastructure, clear debris to facilitate affected communities' access to services, restore normalcy, and establish community-level early warning systems to increase the resilience of communities and farmers against seasonal hazards.

The coordination of the emergency response requires \$373,000. This will help provide coordination support to the Government and humanitarian partners for an efficient and timely humanitarian response.

The Logistics Cluster requires \$1.9 million to provide logistics and storage services, including strategic airlifts, and to establish a cargo reception facility in Port Vila and storage and distribution facilities in the outer islands in Tafea Province.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster requires \$400,000 to deploy satellite systems for data backup, and to coordinate and facilitate the provision of telecommunication services to affected communities.

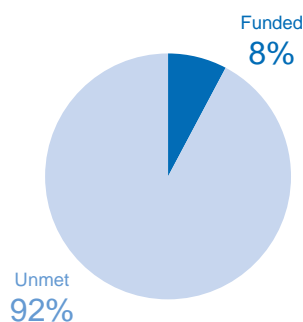
Funding

As of 24 March, OCHA's [Financial Tracking Service](#) (FTS) recorded \$16 million in financial contributions from donors. Of this total, \$2.3 million was contributed to the Flash Appeal. So far, five donors contributed to the appeal: the European Commission, Australia, Germany, the United States and Estonia.

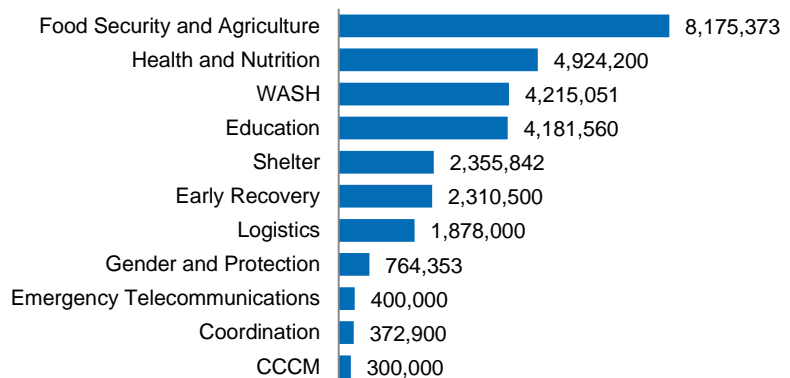
For updated funding figures, please visit the [Tropical Cyclone Pam](#) page on FTS.

Vanuatu Tropical Cyclone Pam Appeal 2015

US\$29.9 million requested



Funding required 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.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, the 3,392 people originally sheltered in the evacuation centres (ECs) in Port Vila identified emergency shelter and food as their top priorities.
- A significant number of people are being hosted by families and communities. Further assessment of data and needs is required to inform ongoing strategies to manage displacement.
- Following a recommendation from the NDMO, the Evacuation Centre Working Group will transition to a broader IDP Working Group. It will support coordination of information and assistance to IDPs outside of evacuation centres across all affected areas.

1,060
people in evacuation
centres

Response:

- Following direction from the Prime Minister, a joint effort was launched on 23 March to assist people remaining in ECs and to facilitate their voluntary return. This will allow schools to resume classes, and it will allow for aid-distribution at the community level through local governance structures. The efforts were coordinated by the EC Working Group and the CCCM Cluster.
- To support this effort, the Government initiated blanket food distribution through municipalities and area councils, ensuring that urgent food needs for IDPs and communities were addressed. With support of the Shelter Working Group, NGOs responsible for managing the centres (Save the Children, ADRA, Red Cross) used their existing registration information to distribute tarpaulins to households to meet interim emergency shelter needs. The EC Working Group and the Protection Cluster identified transitional sites with adequate facilities to house vulnerable people or families. Transport arrangements were also made to ensure adequate care for these people.
- The NDMO has supported voluntary returns by providing transport to help families return to their communities.
- In partnership with the NDMO, IOM visited all school-based ECs to check on progress and identify needs. At all locations, vulnerable groups were offered the option of transitional site accommodation, but no members of the groups felt a need to accept this offer.
- IOM reports that of the initial 43 EC sites, 19 remain open, housing some 1,060 people. These people are reportedly leaving voluntarily. The option of transitional accommodation and transport support will remain until all ECs are closed.
- IOM and NDMO will continue to monitor the return process. All ECs are expected to have closed by Friday 27 March, which will allow rehabilitation to begin with communities.

Gaps:

- Information and data on displacement need to be collected in all affected areas, including for those people living with host families and host communities.
- Tracking and management of displacement should extend to areas outside of Port Vila to help inform overall response plans.
- Strategies to support host families and host communities need to be developed and supported.



Education

Needs:

- An estimated 30,000 school-aged children and approximately 1,500 teachers have been directly affected. These figures were revised after the results analysis of the rapid needs assessments.
- There is an urgent need for Education in Emergencies (EiE) supplies, such as temporary learning spaces (tents), School in a Box and Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, and safe water, sanitation and health (WASH) facilities so that classes can resume. This would also allow children to access clean water and sanitation, psychosocial support and school feeding.
- Affected children need psychosocial support, which will be provided through Early Childhood Care and Education programmes and primary schools.

Response:

- Tents, School in a Box recreation kits, ECD kits and student backpacks have been distributed in the priority areas on the outer islands of Efate Island, enabling about 10,000 children to resume learning.
- Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision are analysing assessment data to coordinate their respective areas to cover and meet education needs.

Gaps:

- The logistical demands of transporting EiE supplies to affected schools across Vanuatu remains a significant challenge.
- A significant amount of funding is required to procure EiE supplies for all affected schools and children. This does not include education needs for the recovery phase.

**Food Security****Needs:**

- Food needs for 166,000 people are urgent in Tafea, Shefa, Malampa and Penama Provinces. As assessments are ongoing, food needs may be identified on islands that were not in the cyclone's direct path, particularly Ambae, Malekula, Santo and Malo. Based on that, the total number of people who need food assistance may rise.
- More seeds and tools are needed to address the shortfall of locally available stocks, specifically cucumber, beans and squash.

166,000
people in need of food
assistance

Response:

- Since the emergency began, initial food ratios to serve approximately 180,000 people have been dispatched. These emergency food packages 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, lasting approximately 15 days.
- Food packages to Tafea Province (Tanna and Erromango, Aniwa, Futuna) were shipped on 23 and 24 March.
- Food packages to the provinces of Penama (Pentecost, Maewo), Torba (Merelava), Malampa (Paama, Ambrym) and Shefa (Epi, Lanem) will be shipped on 24 and 25 March.
- Rice distributions are ongoing in Port Vila, peri-urban areas and rural areas on Efate Island.
- A rapid needs assessment for animals has commenced, and mobile vet clinics have been established in priority areas in Shefa Province (Shepherd Islands and outer islands of Efate).
- An assessment on fisheries damage is under way.

Gaps:

- The number of people who received food packages is currently unknown.
- Volunteers are needed for the distribution supervision of food supplies and seed packing, particularly on Efate Island and the outer islands of Efate.
- More in-depth assessments are needed for the long-term planning of food assistance.
- The impact on fisheries and fishing gear on the islands remains unknown.
- Availability of local crop-planting material is still limited.

**Health and Nutrition****Needs:**

- Public health messages need to be disseminated about WASH; infectious disease prevention and control (particularly diarrhoeal disease, malaria/vector-borne diseases and food safety); nutrition and food security; measles and measles vaccination.
- Health-care services are urgently needed. They include emergency care, maternal and child health care, nutrition and disease control, and outbreak response including surveillance, vaccination, case management and vector control throughout the 22 affected islands.

6,600
children vaccinated
against measles

Response:

- The Pacific and Vanuatu Humanitarian Team Health and Nutrition Clusters are reviewing available information and communication materials to support post-disaster communication. Public health messaging in evacuation centres is a priority.

- Six Foreign Medical Teams have been deployed to provide health-care services to Tanna, Efate, Pentecost, Ambrym and the Shepherd Islands (including Togariki, Tongoa and Epi).
- Ongoing evacuations of provincial patients to Vila Central Hospital (not necessarily cyclone related) continue. Eight have taken place since 23 March.
- Medicines and medical supplies are being restocked by the MoH Central Medical Store.
- Five international emergency health kits (IEHKs) and three international diarrhoeal disease kits arrived in-country on 23 March. Two full kits will be sent to Tanna Island on 24 and 25 March; enough to provide 20,000 people with primary and secondary assistance for three months.
- Ongoing mass measles vaccinations (6,600 vaccinations given), initially within Vila/Efate but focus shifting to Santo and Tanna
- Twenty-four sites selected nationally for disease surveillance are being established (to detect and respond to disease outbreaks), including eight previously operational sites (three within Port Vila).
- Bed-net distribution under way to target 28,948 people (5,889 households) at risk of malaria in the Port Vila area.
- Two additional press releases were released – one on IEHK arrival and one on the establishment of syndromic surveillance in Tanna.
- The Health Risk Communications Working Group was formed and is developing a plan for cross-agency coordination and delineation of responsibilities.
- The MoH has stressed the importance of breast feeding. No infant formula is to be distributed in supplies unless cleared through the MoH and nutrition focal points. Organizations receiving or distributing infant formula should notify the MoH.
- Ongoing repairs to health facilities.
- As the acute emergency phase of the disaster response continues to evolve, the MoH is planning for how normal services will be restored and improved.

Gaps:

- Organizing emergency medical evacuations in a timely manner is a challenge, as there is no dedicated access to aircraft for medical emergencies.
- Ongoing communication problems in rural areas (this is improving as mobile phone coverage is restored).
- As of 24 March, assessment teams are en route to Northern islands (Maewo and Pentecost), but access to Mere Lava is still unresolved.
- Visits have been made to villages in most remote rural areas/islands have now been visited. However, comprehensive assessments remain incomplete for most provincial communities. When air travel is arranged for remote areas, a full assessment should also be carried out.



Needs:

- As of 24 March, tarpaulins have been distributed in all ECs, and the majority of people living in them have opted to leave. All those leaving the centres had access to transport, whether private, provided by authorities or NGOs. So far, no one has chosen to relocate to the transitional centre made available by Caritas. A small number of people have yet to return home, but all have so far indicated that this is their intention. Partners managing the ECs will share final figures soon.
- The Vanuatu Women's Centre reports that women are struggling to access health care, largely due to lack of funds for transport.
- Reports of gender-based violence are emerging.
- Courts have not operated since the cyclone. This is concerning for women and children reporting domestic violence: Protection Orders cannot be issued and men facing charges are released in to the community while their cases are pending.

Response:

- The Evacuation Centre Working Group has been transformed into the IDP Sub-Cluster, which sits under the umbrella of the Gender and Protection Working Group. NDMO will lead the IDP Sub-Cluster.
- Vanuatu Family Health is providing free antennal care at its office. The Vanuatu Women's Centre can pay the bus or taxi fares of its clients' travelling to the centre.
- Women awaiting the judicial response to their report of abuse (due to courts being closed) can seek refuge and other services at the Vanuatu Women's Centre. The Ministry of Justice reports that courts will re-open next week.

- The Gender and Protection Cluster is compiling a reference of protection, women's and disability services that are operational after the cyclone. It will be updated as services resume over time.

Gaps:

- Training are needed to ensure that the displacement tracking system introduced by the EC Working Group can be maintained. It will begin this week, but will be needed at national, provincial and local levels.
- The Vanuatu Society for Disabled People's premises were destroyed. The society needs to find a new location that has the necessary accessibility features.



Shelter

Needs:

- About 75,000 people need emergency shelter.
- An estimated 15,000 homes may have been destroyed or damaged.

75,000
people in need of
emergency shelter

Response:

- Shelter supplies are being distributed for approximately 3,000 households (15,000 people) in the rural areas of Efate Island and in the Shepherd Islands.
- Emergency shelter materials are being distributed for IDPs in all 28 schools used as ECs in Port Vila, enabling adults and children to return to their homes and schools.

Gaps:

- Many households still need emergency shelter relief. This is due to insufficient pre-event in-country stocks, and the logistical constraints of materials being transported into Vanuatu and numerous affected islands.
- Some distribution centres are reporting household numbers to be higher than those used for initial baseline needs analysis. If correct, this will result in additional gaps on limited in-country stocks.
- Reporting on shelter item distributions on remote islands is difficult due to limited availability of communication.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- About 110,000 people need clean drinking water.
- WASH needs are priorities in all affected islands.

110,000
people in need of
clean drinking water

Response:

- Forty per cent of the required hygiene kits have been distributed to the affected islands.
- Fifty per cent of the water supply is now operational on Efate Island.
- Shefa Province conducted an assessment of the WASH conditions on Epi Island with the New Zealand Defense Force.
- ADRA distributed water filters to the Shepherds Islands
- ADRA provided Epule Village (Efate Island) with a water treatment unit, supported with water tanks from UNICEF and the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources.
- International Medical Corps is distributing hygiene kits and water-purification tablets, and conducting hygiene promotional activities.
- OXFAM and Promedical are continuing water trucking in peri-urban areas of Port Vila.
- Care International has conducted an engineering assessment of water supplies in Middle Bush and Whitesands.
- WHO is continuing simple water-quality testing around Efate Island.



Logistics

Needs:

- The fuel supply availability and capacity on affected islands needs to be clarified, particularly in relation to aviation fuel. The Logistics Cluster will contact Pacific Petroleum to clarify this.
- The procedure for customs clearance needs to be shared more broadly with partners.
- Confirmation is needed of the location of the two mobile storage units (MSUs) to be set up on Tanna Island.

Response:**Mobile Storage Unit (MSUs):**

- WFP, in cooperation with UNICEF, set up two MSUs on 23 March at the Port Vila airport. Both units are now operational to provide common storage space. The Logistics Cluster is accepting storage requests.
- Two MSUs arrived on Tanna Island on the MV Toraken ship on 23 March. They will be erected at the airport and the port or Provincial Disaster Management Office, and will be operational over the next few days to be used as a common storage space for the Government and humanitarian agencies.

Sea transport:

- To Tanna: Approximately 100 MT food and logistics items transported by the MV Toraken arrived in Tanna on 23 March.
- To Shepherds, Epi, Tongoa: Save the Children is chartering a 200 MT boat to go north (Shepherd Islands, Epi, Tongoa etc.). The boat is anticipated to go on 25 March.
- To Nguna and Pele: A boat travelling to Nguna and Pele with 600kg capacity is available free of charge. Goods must be ready to go on 24 March, as it is scheduled to leave early morning on 25 March.
- Serafenua to Tafea Outer Islands: This boat has returned. It is expected to go to the Tafea Outer Islands - Erromango, Aniwa, Futuna and Aneityum on 24 March.
- The HMS Canterbury to Epi: This ship will arrive on 24 March in Efate and will travel to Epi on 25 March with space available for cargo.
- The HMAS Tobruk: The boat is scheduled to return to Port Vila on or around 28 March. It can be tasked to go north or south dependent on the need. It has over 100MT capacity.

Air transport:

- ADF Blackhawk helicopters are deploying WHO medical supplies to Tanna on 24 March.
- 16 MT of food, due to be transported by a C130 helicopter on 24 March, had to be rescheduled due to an urgent medical evacuation, and is now scheduled for 25 March (additional flights will be scheduled to make up for the shortfall).

Fuel:

- Pacific Petroleum, the main fuel supplier in Vanuatu, has sufficient strategic fuel stocks (unleaded fuel, diesel and JetA1). A resupply tanker is expected to arrive on 4 April with all fuel products. There may not be enough drums for fuel supply to Tanna island. Tanna airfield has 80 drums of JetA1 (with handpump) and Santo airfield has underground JetA1 storage and a 19,000L truck for JetA1 supply.
- Sufficient transport capacity is available, provided through commercial and military options.

Gaps:

- Storage capacity in Port Vila and Tanna should be augmented beyond the existing two MSUs, as the amount of relief items expected to arrive is likely to increase in the coming weeks. Options are explored to temporarily use 40 foot containers in the port or Port Vila.
- A backlog of humanitarian relief supplies is stuck in Brisbane. The humanitarian community is trying to resolve this by identifying the cause and finding alternative transport solutions.

**Emergency Telecommunications****Needs:**

- The national communications infrastructure was severely damaged. Re-establishment of services across the country is essential to allow the Government and relief organizations to respond to humanitarian needs.
- Secure means of power supply is needed for the entire operation, which is currently relying on solar chargers and portable generators.

Response:

- The two communications companies in Vanuatu, TVL and Digicel, claim to have restored telecoms to 80 per cent of the area of Vanuatu.
- Internet connectivity was provided to the Government office on Tanna Island on 23 March by the ETC (with support from Ericsson Response, Télécoms Sans Frontières and WFP).
- Five Information Communications Technology (ICT) responders from Ericsson Response, Nethope WFP are inbound for Vanuatu to support the overall ICT coordination and service provision.
- The ETC will provide connectivity to the response community in common operational hubs in Port Vila and Tanna Island.
- ETC is supporting the Government by installing satellite equipment at two public sites for FM radio transmissions from Port Vila across the country, including remote areas.

Gaps:

- Limited power is the main challenge across the country.

General Coordination

Two Australian Defence Force Blackhawk helicopter assets, along with one French CASA aircraft, delivered 2.5 MT of medical supplies and tarpaulins to Tanna Island. The overall facilitation of requests for military assets has grown substantially. In a meeting with NDMO's Director General, it was decided that extra staff will be deployed to assist with the coordination of military movement. The UN Civil-Military Coordinator will oversee this.

Close liaison is continuing between the UN and FRANZ partners (French, Australian and New Zealand). Monitoring of other Government militaries coming into Vanuatu, such as Fiji and Papua New Guinea, is continuing.

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 post-cyclone period, the Government will not charge for clearance and inspection of relief vessels. However, physical evidence that the vessel or 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 the clearance. For further information, please contact Sylvério Bule on +678 562 4447 or bsylverio@vanuatu.gov.vu.

Humanitarian organizations entering Vanuatu must provide a detailed manifest on their planned activities and relief distributions to NDMO 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 (e-mail, 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 must 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. 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 (UNDAC) 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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