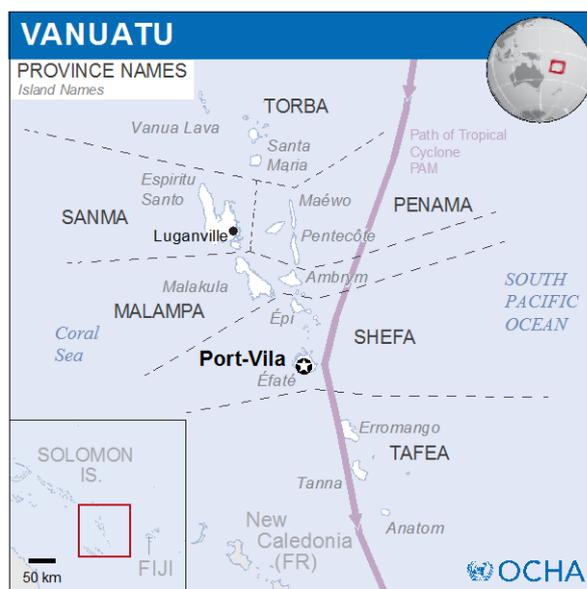




This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 20 to 21 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 22 March 2015.

Highlights

- Vanuatu's President has declared a State of Emergency across all six provinces of Vanuatu.
- Shelter, food, health and water, sanitation and health (WASH) remain key needs.
- Half of Vanuatu's population, spread over 22 islands, has been affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam.
- 166,000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance for the next three months.
- Estimates indicate that around 80 per cent of all evacuation centres could be closed if aid, especially emergency shelter and food, is distributed in communities of origin.
- Tropical Cyclone Pam has severely compromised the livelihoods of at least 80 per cent of Vanuatu's rural population.
- In the highly affected Shepherd Islands, Mataso has been identified as having the most urgent needs.
- About 57,000 affected school-age children are receiving relief assistance.
- Rates of malnutrition are likely to increase.



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	3,852 People in evacuation centres in Efate	36 Evacuation Centres in Efate	57,000 Children targeted for education assistance	65,000 In need of temporary shelter
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Source: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

Situation Overview

Initial assessment reports confirm destruction ranging from 20 to 90 per cent of houses, schools, clinics, churches and crops on all 22 affected islands. Based on preliminary information from a rapid needs assessment, the lack of shelter materials is a key factor hampering the return of displaced people to places of origin. While assessments are ongoing on evacuation centres in Efate, limited information is available on the displacement situation on other islands. The total number of displaced people is expected to grow.

Overall, the adverse impact of Cyclone Pam on the agriculture sector has severely compromised livelihoods of at least 80 per cent of Vanuatu's rural population. Around 99 per cent of households on the outer islands depend on their crop produce to meet their food needs. With most of the household food stocks badly damaged or lost, farmers are expected to remain without locally produced food from about the end of March until at least mid-June 2015 when the first harvest from replanted food crops may be available, provided replanting commences immediately. International food aid is urgently required to avoid food shortages. Agricultural assistance, in the form of vegetable seeds, planting material, farming equipment, as well as fishing gear and boats, is also of essence to facilitate fast crop replanting and resumption of fishery activities. Losses of animals due to the cyclone will also need to be compensated.

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) together with representatives from the Vanuatu Country Team (VCT) conducted one of the last of a series of Initial Rapid Needs Assessment on the Shepherd Islands on 20 March 2015. Mataso (one of the Shepherd Islands) has been identified as having the most urgent needs as it was hit particularly hard. There are no shelters or tree cover on the island and people are gathering under the few tarps

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

left with them. Infants are falling sick because of overexposure to the sun.

All islands have in common that people have no access to proper water, have health issues like diarrhoea, eye infections and small injuries from debris, which are starting to become infected. Food stocks are limited as vegetable gardens have been wiped out - a concern for food security and as a source of livelihoods. Several of the health centres and schools have been severely damaged.

The aim of the initial rapid assessment is to obtain a baseline overview of the situation on the ground in order to reach a common understanding of the scale and severity of the response to Cyclone Pam and target the response accordingly. A secondary component of the mission included the distribution of the water, treatment of injuries (by a nurse) and medical evacuation of an injured person. A full overview of the findings from the Initial Rapid Needs Assessments is available at humanitarianresponse.info.

Humanitarian agencies, in support of the Government, are working towards one plan that is based on identified needs in affected communities. Relief supplies have been prioritized to reach worst-affected areas first and then be distributed to other affected areas. All the affected islands in Tafea Province and the outer islands of Shefa Province are high priority areas.

The Humanitarian Coordinator visited the Dumbea evacuation centre in Port Vila to understand Tropical Cyclone Pam's impact on families in the affected area and was briefed by the UN assessment team that returned from the islands of Nguna, Pele and Emao. In the three of the most remote northern islands of Efate, water is a serious problem with the contamination of water sources posing a grave health threat, particularly to children. Food stocks are limited as vegetable gardens have been wiped out – a concern for food security and as a source of livelihoods – and several of the health centres and schools have been severely damaged.

Relief distributions:

- On 21 March two helicopters (one jointly funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the UK's Department for International Development; the other one privately chartered by the Government of Vanuatu) travelled to six islands in the Shepherd Islands (Mataso, Buninga, Makira, Emae, Tongariki and Tongoa) for relief distributions. Onboard were representatives from the NDMO and Shefa Provincial Government along with medical teams. The NDMO and Shefa Provincial Government representatives linked up with the area council and community disaster council structures to prepare for the relief distribution process.
- On 21 March the MV Serafenua ship departed Port Vila for Mataso, Buninga, Makira, Emae and Tongoa with 20 metric tons of immediate food relief (two weeks' worth of food) as well as supplies to meet shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene needs. The team onboard comprised members of the Vanuatu Mobile Force, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and NGO personnel that will facilitate a smooth distribution of the relief items.
- Another ship, a super yacht called Dragon Fly was engaged by the NDMO to service Tongariki (Shepherd Islands). It left Port Vila on 21 March with five metric tonnes of food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies. Dragon Fly will be based within the Shepherd Islands and will support all six of the islands with its onboard water processing unit, which generates 10,000 litres of clean drinking water a day. It also has a medical team on board. They will coordinate with the NDMO and Shefa Province staff, who arrived on 21 March via helicopter.
- The NDMO engaged a MV Urata to travel to the Outer Islands of Shefa Province, north of Efate – Nguna, Pele, Emau, Moso and Lelepa. It is carrying 20 metric tons of food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies.
- On 21 March a 20-tonne shipment of food was en route to Tanna. A water purification plant was also delivered (over three flights) to complement the 10 generators that arrived on 20 March. The water purification plant produces 20,000 litres of clean water a day.

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

Humanitarian Response

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



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- There are ongoing assessments of evacuation centres around Port Vila and surrounding areas, which identified 36 evacuation centres housing 3,852 people.
- While assessments are ongoing, the number of people displaced on other islands is expected to rise.
- Key needs in evacuation centres are currently kitchen sets next to continued needs of water, food and water, sanitation and health (WASH), with shelter materials required to support families to return home.
- It remains unknown how many people without shelter are being hosted by families within communities.

47.1

Metric tons of food have been delivered to 28 evacuation centres in Efate

Response:

- Estimates indicate that around 80 per cent of all evacuation centres could be closed if aid, especially emergency shelter and food, is distributed in communities of origin.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) has procured 650 hygiene kits for people in evacuation centres and 300 tool kits to support those already building shelter at their place of origin. Regional offices are also assessing viable options for shipping emergency shelter and hygiene kits from Cebu to Vanuatu.
- 47.1 metric tons of food has been distributed in 28 evacuation centres in Efate so far.
- The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) strategy, which captures crucial data on displaced families, their profile, vulnerabilities and most urgent needs, has been recognized by various UN and non-governmental agencies. Displacement tracking took place in 25 evacuation centres so far.
- The Camp Management and Camp Coordination (CCCM) Cluster liaised with the Ministry of Health, Health cluster and Nutrition focal point, Food Security and WASH Cluster to formulate DTM questions appropriate to local contexts.
- IOM met with NDMO officials and discussed the closure of evacuation centres, a priority for the Government of Vanuatu.
- IOM is co-chairing the Evacuation Centres Working Group, psychosocial/health support and provision of emergency shelter kits at place of origin to further support the humanitarian response.
- The CCCM Cluster is increasing its support to facilitate the linkage between the management of evacuation centres and durable solutions through activities to support the Government in evacuation centre coordination.

Gaps:

- Based on preliminary information from a rapid needs assessment, the lack of shelter materials is a key factor hampering the return of IDPs to places of origin. In this regard, the Shelter Cluster will advocate for the distribution of shelter and non-food items (NFIs) at the community level in places of origin.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Coordination mechanisms are yet to be established.
- There are currently no reports of widespread distress amongst affected populations. However, some areas in the south have reported visible distress amongst women and children.
- Data on displacements and evacuation centres on other affected islands is lacking.



Education

Needs:

- Assessments confirmed that the majority of the schools in Shefa and Tafea Provinces have been destroyed.
- 34 out of the remaining schools are being used as evacuation centres in Shefa, Torba and Penama provinces, which prevents children from going to school.
- The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates 500 schools are affected, including Early Childhood Care and Education, primary and secondary schools.
- Facilities and resources are damaged in the majority of schools in Shefa, Tafea, Torba and Penama.
- In Ambrym Island (Malampa Province), boarding schools have been closed because of poor sanitation.

57,000

Children are targeted for education assistance

Response:

- Two batches of "Education in Emergency" supplies have been sent to Vanuatu. They include tents (temporary learning spaces), school in a box, Early Child Development kits, recreation kits, students back packs.
- Education Cluster is targeting 57,000 affected school-age children with assistance. However, numbers will be confirmed once assessments are complete.

- UNICEF, together with the Ministries of Education and Justice, will organize a workshop to develop psycho-social materials for children and caregivers. The proposed dates are 30 March-3 April with an additional “Training on Trainers” workshop on 13-15 April.

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:

- The Government of Vanuatu has requested food assistance for the total number of 166,000 affected people.
- Food assistance operations are expected to last for the next three months.
- Food has been identified as a priority need in all affected provinces.
- The impact on the agricultural sector is severe with livelihoods compromised and the majority of the country’s population affected.

166,000

People are in need of food distributions

Response:

- Initial food packages (lasting for 15 days) will include 5 kg of rice, one can of meat, one additional can of fish for people in the hardest hit areas and two packets of noodles. Shipments to priority islands are commencing on 21-22 March for distributions in the days thereafter.
- The initial packages of food, as well as seeds, are being shipped on 21 March to Tongoa, Tongariki, Mataso, Makira, Emae and Buninga (to 809 households). Six Agricultural Officers will accompany these shipments to provide planting advice and to perform detailed crop and livestock impact assessments.
- Organizations have continued importing tools to address shortfalls in locally available stocks.
- Rapid animal needs assessment have commenced, starting with priority areas in Shefa Province.
- Agencies are identifying farmers that can supply breeding stock (small livestock), especially chickens, and assessing fisheries damage.

Gaps:

- Information on Cyclone Pam’s impact on fishery, and whether fishing gear is available locally on the islands, is lacking.
- Availability of crop planting material is not yet clear.
- Sourcing “feed for livestock” is challenging since it has to be done without impacting human food security.



Health and Nutrition

Needs:

- About 21,000 children aged under five, 8,500 pregnant and lactating women are estimated to be in need of nutrition assistance.
- Rates of malnutrition, which increases the risk of death when children are sick, are likely to increase.
- 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.

21,000

Children are estimated to be in need of nutrition assistance

Response:

- A mass vaccination program for measles with Vitamin A supplementation is underway with a plan to vaccinate 10,500 children aged between six months to five years. To date, 4,000 children have been vaccinated. Following this, the priority is to expand to Santo, Tanna and the Shepherd Islands
- An Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) is assisting the Ministry of Health with capacity and medical evacuations. On 20 March there were 12 evacuations to Vila Central Hospital (VCH) in Port Vila (six by boat, six by helicopter). Many people had infected wounds.

- A suspected case of measles at an evacuation centre was investigated and was clinically determined not to be measles. There have been several cases of chicken pox.
- A Public Health sub-cluster plan to distribute bed nets, initially to Shefa and Tanna Provinces, has been developed.
- To re-establish and strengthen capacity at the VCH, laboratory test kits have been made available for dengue and malaria. Additional dengue, malaria, leptospirosis and rotavirus kits are scheduled to arrive in the coming days.
- The Health Cluster will explore additional options to engage the community in disease prevention through community groups, churches and Council of Chiefs.
- A psychological assessment service will be established at VCH on 23 March. Options are being explored to extend care to the outlying islands.
- High energy biscuits are being transported from Dubai.

Gaps:

- Six additional midwives and 16 additional nurses are required at the Vila Central Hospital.
- Limited information on the nutrition situation and specific vulnerabilities available especially for the outer islands.
- Paonangisu Health Centre on North Efate requires tarpaulins to ensure facilities are watertight.
- Laboratory personnel for VCH and two pharmacists for Central Medical Stores are required.



Protection

Needs:

- Women and children experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder after the cyclone are in need of psychosocial support. Vanuatu has an extremely limited number of qualified social workers (concentrated at the Vanuatu Women's Centre in Port Vila).
- The Vanuatu Women's Centre reports that women experiencing violence are reluctant to report incidents, despite their need to access support services.
- While several evacuation centres now benefit from having child-friendly spaces, support to communities outside of evacuation centres is needed as well.

Response:

- Psychosocial support counsellors arriving to work with Save the Children will coordinate activities with the Vanuatu Women's Centre.
- Vanuatu Disability is following up on its clients (in excess of 300 people) regularly and is conducting outreach to evacuation centres in Efate to identify persons with a disability.
- The surge of specialist gender and protection personnel to support the cluster and its members continues.
- Members of the Gender and Protection Cluster will be monitoring relief distributions in the Shepherd Islands and Tanna in coming days. Presence at the distributions will provide an opportunity to identify protection issues, which have so far not been routinely captured in assessments.

Gaps:

- Outreach to women for provision of psychosocial support and to facilitate access to services following incidents of violence.



Shelter

Needs:

- Around 65,000 people are in need of temporary emergency shelter. This number could rise subject to review of assessment data from Port Vila.

Response:

- An immediate distribution plan has been developed for in-country stocks of relief supplies.
- Emergency shelter material distribution commenced on Efate on 20 March.
- Additional relief supplies for the Shepherd Islands and Efate Island were loaded on sailing vessels on 21 March and are due to arrive on 22 March.

65,000

People are in need of temporary shelter

Gaps:

- There is a shortage of emergency shelter kits and NFIs in Vanuatu.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- 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.
- In the process of a consolidated situational analysis report developed by OCHA and the NDMO following Government-led initial joint rapid assessments, water, sanitation and hygiene needs emerged as priorities.

60%

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

Response:

- In Tafea Province, World Vision International, Red Cross and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) are working with the Tafea Provincial Disaster Committee to assess and repair the water supply of Lenakel Hospital, the only hospital on Tanna Island. Red Cross is providing water treatment for 30,000 litres per day (4,000 people) and the Australian Defence Force is providing water treatment for 200,000 litres per day (260 people). The French Military is providing water trucking in Isangel. Red Cross provided 100 households with hygiene kits in Isangel in conjunction with the Tafea Provincial Disaster Committee.
- In Shefa Province, ADRA distributed 130 water purification units to schools and churches in the larger villages around east, west and north Tanna. Oxfam supported the the Lycee School Evacuation Centre with 50 hygiene kits. The Vanuatu Mobile Force is providing ongoing water trucking in peri-urban areas of Port Vila. Teoumaville water supply recorded the presence of E.coli, bacteria which can cause serious infections. Community members have been alerted and asked to boil the drinking water.

Gaps:

- Current water stocks throughout Vanuatu are limited.

**Logistics****Response:**

- The Public Works Department Shefa Division, with private sector contractors, have completed 50 per cent of roads clearance and debris removal in Port Vila and the surrounding peri-urban settlements.
- On receipt of the Rapid Assessments from each province, a database will collate and analyse the needs for emergency repairs and follow up on rehabilitation work with costings wherever possible.
- A 200 metric tonne boat arranged by the Government of Vanuatu has left with relief supplies to the Shepherd Islands on 21 March. It is also anticipated that a 40 metric tonne boat will travel to the Outer Islands of Efate the same day.
- Six mobile storage units have arrived in Port Vila on 21 March. These will be established as storage hubs by the World Food Programme in cooperation with UNICEF at Port Vila Airport and Tanna. They will be used as a common storage space for the Government and humanitarian agencies.
- A urban search and rescue team has been deployed to assist Vila Central Hospital and Vila Central School. This was followed by two assessment teams measuring damage on health and education facilities around Efate.

Gaps:

- There is a need to augment storage in Port Vila and in Tanna, particularly as the amount of relief items expected to arrive is likely to increase.

Funding

Following the activation of United Kingdom's Rapid Response Facility (RRF) on Saturday 14 March, five trusted partners will now receive funding as part of UK's response to the crisis.

Almost £1 million (US\$1.5 million) will be shared between MapAction, Care International UK, World Vision, Oxfam International and Save the Children UK.

It is expected UK funding via the RRF will:

- provide up to 25,000 people with shelter support including dignified temporary shelter and assistance to rebuild their houses using measures to build-back-safer and withstand future cyclones;
- provide up to 20,000 people with increased access to essential items including hygiene and kitchen kits; enable up to 20,000 individuals to get access to WASH activities - clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion materials and messaging in order to better manage public health risks; and
- protect up to 1000 children living in evacuation centres from all forms of violence and exploitation, and ensure they have access to age and culturally appropriate information.

The Federal Foreign Office of Germany is providing around 240,000 Euros (US\$260,000) in emergency measures for the affected islands in the region. These measures will be implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, which is already represented in the region by a climate protection programme. The money will primarily be used to shore up the food supply.

The Government of India has released an immediate cash assistance of US\$ 250,000 to the Government of Vanuatu to help them in the relief and rehabilitation efforts. Keeping in view the friendly bilateral relations and also the humanitarian situation, in the wake of the cyclone, the Government of India stands ready to extend any further assistance required by the people of Vanuatu in this hour of need.

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

Information about in-kind contributions should be sent to: logik@un.org.

General Coordination

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is supporting the Government in needs assessments and general coordination. The Humanitarian Affairs Officers are providing support to the NDMO on donor relations and appeals, assessments and reporting, information management, and public information. A six-person UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team is supporting the Government-led assessments, and OCHA staff from the Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and OCHA Philippines are also in Port Vila supporting the response. OCHA staff continue to support the Humanitarian Coordinator in carrying out her duties and responsibilities. On 21 March, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) convened a meeting with cluster partners to discuss how best to support the Flash appeal process. With the support of OCHA ROP staff and IOM, the HC also visited two evacuation centres in Port Vila. The HC met the Director General in the Prime Minister's office on 21 March and the New Zealand High Commission. Key outcome of these meetings included a consensus on a common approach by humanitarian agencies in support of the Government-led response.

The Government of Vanuatu continues to coordinate the response to the impact caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam, with the support of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT). Humanitarian partners including the UN, international and national NGOs, governments, donors, civil society and other partners are also supporting the Government-led response.

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.

Impact of TC Pam on other Pacific Island countries

Tuvalu

Details of the impact on the outer islands of Tuvalu remain unclear. Funafuti, the most populous island of about 4,500 people was comparatively unscathed by the cyclone.

The Government of Tuvalu is still awaiting details from a rapid assessment team that left Funafuti for the central islands (Nui, Vaitupu and Nukufetau) on 15 March. Lack of power and communication on Nui has hampered field reporting. Initial reports suggest Nui, and to a lesser extent other islands, have been substantially impacted by heavy seas and storm surges that inundated houses, undermined building foundations, flooded Pulaka (swamp taro, the main staple food) pits, damaged crops and killed livestock. Damaged and sea-water inundated water tanks have taken a heavy toll on water reserves on the worst impacted islands.

On March 19, UNICEF airlifted a tranche of health and WASH supplies, including water purification tablets, vitamin A capsules, medicines, and medical supplies, from Fiji to Tuvalu. A second charter flight scheduled for 21 March will deliver the rest of the medical supplies, as well as shelter items.

Kiribati

Four-metre high waves were experienced in Kiribati on 13 March, causing extensive damage to the Dai Nippon Causeway. On the southern islands of Tamana and Arorae, 20 houses along the shore on Arorae were destroyed, and families are now housed in schools. Some have started rebuilding their houses further inland. No figures yet from Tamana on how many houses affected. Onotoa Island reported that the causeway was damaged preventing vehicles from crossing to the islet, but no information is available on the extent of the damage and how many people are affected. An assessment team departed on 21 March for affected areas.

A small amount of UNICEF emergency supplies is available from pre-positioned stocks in Tarawa, and an additional consignment is expected to arrive on 24th March. A UNICEF child protection officer was deployed to Tarawa for two weeks.

Solomon Islands

Tropical Cyclone Pam brought widespread heavy rain to most provinces in Solomon Islands. Temotu province experienced hurricane force winds as the tropical cyclone intensified and moved out of the Solomon Island territory. Some vulnerable families have been displaced and food gardens destroyed. Accessibility to and from communities has been difficult or impossible due to flooding, fallen trees and very rough seas.

Although Anuta Island in Temotu was the most affected, it is not heavily populated and the Government has indicated it has the situation under control. Supplies shipped from the capital Honiara take three days by boat to arrive in Anuta Island. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services assessment team will head to Temotu on Friday 20 March.

The cyclone may have affected as many as 30,000 people in Temotu and Malaita provinces, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies estimates. To date, authorities have confirmed no casualties as a result of the storm. A recently completed Government and NGO rapid assessment suggests food security, access of safe drinking water, and unsanitary conditions as areas of concern in cyclone-affected areas. Logistical constraints are also a challenge to response in the Solomon Islands, as reaching some remote islands requires two to three days of travel. UNICEF has reported plans to provide WASH and other supplies, including collapsible water containers, soap, and water purification tablets, to the Solomon Islands. The UN agency expects to deliver essential items to heavily affected outlying islands via boat; any remaining stocks will then be pre-positioned at the Temotu provincial hospital.

Background on the crisis

Vanuatu is an island nation of more than 80 islands with a projected population of 270,000. 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.

*2015 national statistics office projected population

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