A. HIGHLIGHTS

- Volcanic Ash fall is concentrated on Tinakula Island, however, spread over nearby Islands because of the influence of the wind direction.
- Uncertainty on the usage of rain water and bore catchment for household purposes.
- Signs of complication are now initially reported from some of the villages, this includes, diarrhoea, red eye, skin rush, vomit, and cough.
- An Initial Situation Overview (ISO) report has been completed and will be distributed. Outcomes focus on water, health, livelihood, education and protection.
- Water bottles are planned to be shipped to affected communities.
- A Geologist are deployed to Temotu to monitor the activity.
- SIG Met aviation warning is lifted.
- N-DOC Health committee are activated and currently supporting the response.
- The estimated population which are expected to be affected is 11,500, however, this can be varied in the coming days as verification continues. Reef Islands and the Polynesian outliers are most the most vulnerable.
- 40 Tons of food supply was deployed to Tikopia, Duff and Anuta due to the ongoing food security issues due to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Donna early this year.

A. SITUATION OVERVIEW
Tinakula volcano erupted at 10.47am on Saturday 21st of October according to Wellington Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre, New Zealand. Initial activity was recorded by the Melanesia Volcano Network, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department at 6.20am with ash and gas reaching heights of 35,000 feet (10.7 kilometers) above sea level. Tinakula’s eruption is classed as Category Three, which means a minor eruption. Tinakula Island is uninhabited so there is no immediate threat to people on the island however risk relates to the trade winds carrying ash further to nearby islands.

B. PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Water accessibility for Drinking, Cooking is the priority concern as water quantity will be scare due to volcanic ash contamination and fear due to lack of information
- Diarrhoea and Red Eye are evident in some of the villages in Reef Islands
- Impact of volcanic ash Food security, health, WASH is technical.
- 19 Schools and 9 health facilities are located in the exposed areas.

C. ACTION TAKEN SO FAR

Provincial Level

- Provincial Disaster Committee has met yesterday (25/10/17) and a team was set up to verify the initial reports coming from the potential affected areas.
- Police in Lata has visited Nupani with minimal findings
- A team consist of Police, health and agriculture is deployed to Reef Islands, report yet to be circulated.
- Agriculture team will be deployed to re-assess along with a food relief consignment to respond to the Food security issue in Duff, Tikopia and Anuta due to the deteriorating state of food availability due to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Donna.

National Level

- National Emergency Operation Centre is activated on standy to support the Provincial operation
- The Melanesian Volcanic Network is being activated to support monitor and provide information to the NDMO
- Development of public awareness material and distributed media outlets and identified focal points in the affected areas
- N-DOC Health committee is activated and currently support the response through provision of technical advices in regards to health impact of the Volcanic ash
- Procurement and shipment of bottled water for volcanic ash affected villages
- A relief supply is being deployed to Anuta, Tikopia and Duff Islands to alleviate the current food shortage in the 3 Islands affected by the Tropical Cyclone Donna early this year. The consignment is approximately 40 tons of Rice.

D. RECOMMENDATION

- Volcanic Technical Assessment to be conducted
- Establish volcanic monitoring to enhance early warning
- Deliver awareness to the affected communities by all means
- Water testing to ascertain the risk of water contamination
- Enhance disease surveillance to the affected communities to verify reported cases of diarrhoea and other infections

A. PHOTOS/MAPS

*Figure 1. Poto evidence of Volcanic Ash on vegetation.*

*Figure 2: Photo taken from the southern side of Tinakula Island.*
Maps of Likely affected Villages, Schools and Health Facilities:

Reef Islands
Map prepared by NEOC Information Management 2017
Sources: NDMO, MECOM Geo-spatial, Census 2009
This Map is compiled for use purposely to determine areas exposed to ash fall.

Map Legend:
- Exposed Health Facilities
- Exposed Education Facility
- Major Villages
- Exposed Villages

Exposed Wards:
- Graciosa Bay
- Lua Station
- Neo
- Nevanena
- North East Santa Cruz

PROJECTED 2017 POPULATION = 6727