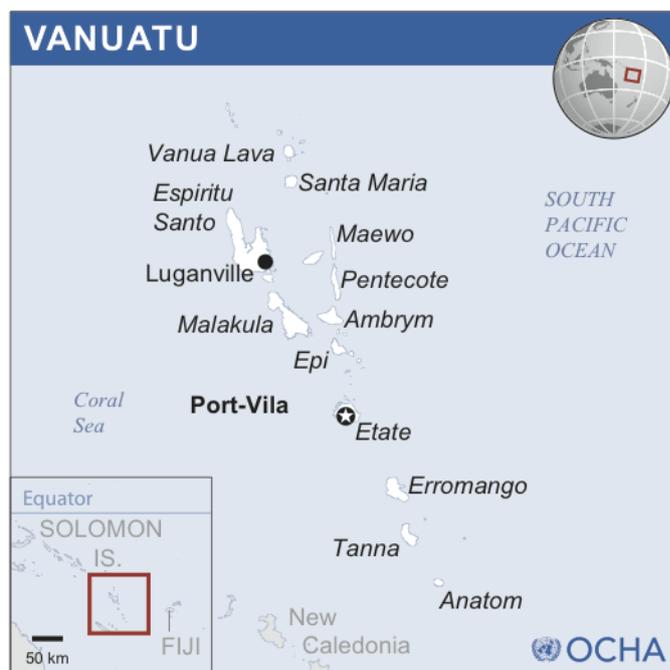




This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 15 to 16 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 17 March 2015.

Highlights

- Aerial assessments have been carried out by military aircraft from New Caledonia, Australia and New Zealand.
- Despite reports of severe and widespread damage, Shefa remains the only province declared to be in a state of emergency at this stage.
- The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has confirmed 11 fatalities in Tafea and Shefa Province, including five from Tanna Island.
- 3,300 people are sheltering in 37 evacuation centres in Torba and Penama Provinces, and the main island of Efate.
- Radio and telephone communication with outer islands is yet to be established.
- Commercial aircraft have resumed flights to Port Vila despite damage to the airport.
- The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team arrived in Port Vila today, with three personnel from OCHA's Regional Office for the Pacific, to support the coordination of incoming humanitarian assistance.



Map Sources: Europa Technologies, Gov't. of USA, UNCS.
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 21 Feb 2012.

11

Confirmed fatalities

3,300

People displaced

37

Evacuation centres

Source: Vanuatu NDMO

Situation Overview

Tropical Cyclone Pam is slowly weakening as it travels towards New Zealand and poses no further threat to Vanuatu or the South Pacific. Aerial assessments were conducted today by military aircraft from New Caledonia, Australia and New Zealand finding severe and widespread damage. Shefa, Tafea, Malampa and Penama are emerging as the worst impacted areas, although Shefa remains the only province declared an emergency.

The National Disaster Management Office has confirmed 11 fatalities in Tafea and Shefa Province, including 5 in Tanna Island. There are 3,300 people sheltering in 37 evacuation centres (ECs) in Torba (pop. 9,400) and Penama (pop. 31,000) Provinces, and the main island of Efate (pop. 65,000). However, the Protection Cluster, which was a part of EC assessment teams, found figures to be inaccurate due to inconsistent registration processes across ECs. Basic emergency rations are being provided to evacuees, including water, rice, tinned fish or meat, coffee, tea, sugar, Milo, biscuits and other items.

On 15 March, Vanuatu's President appealed for international support to the nation's "unprecedented damages". The Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT) are continuing to support the Government-led response and have agreed on four key priorities: evacuation centres, assessments, relief distribution and shelter. Evacuation centre management is key need, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has activated surge support in Camp Coordination and Camp Management.

Radio and telephone communication with outer islands is yet to be reestablished, with response efforts focusing on Port Vila and accessible areas of Efate. Damage to infrastructure is limiting access to affected populations and hampering movement, however commercial flights have resumed to Port Vila. Access to water and electricity is

[+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report](#)

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Coordination Saves Lives

rapidly being restored in Port Vila, with an estimated 80 per cent of power lines damaged or down. A curfew is in place from 7.00pm each evening.

The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team arrived in Port Vila today, with three personnel from OCHA's Regional Office for the Pacific, to support the coordination of incoming humanitarian assistance. NetHope is currently working with the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) on assessing the information and communication technology (ICT) needs of the response community. A coordinator and technical specialist has been deployed to conduct assessments with partners and coordinate the inter-agency ICT response. Five Telecoms Sans Frontières (TSF) responders are enroute to support UNDAC and the NDMO to provide basic satellite communications services to humanitarians. The World Food Programme (WFP) is sending 16 generators to support power requirements.

The weather in Vanuatu is clear and calm. TC Nathan is located off the north-east coast of Queensland, Australia, and is currently a category 2 system. The system is forecast to strengthen to category 3, although it will not affect Vanuatu. Later in the week, heavy swells are likely to impact Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, and atolls of Tokelau and the northern Cook Islands.

Humanitarian Response

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



Logistics

Response:

- Five aircraft are being deployed as part of the France, Australia and New Zealand (FRANZ) alliance.
- A CASA aircraft will arrive from French Polynesia on 17 March, with a frigate based in Nouméa, Le Vendémiaire, to be deployed soon.
- New Zealand and Australian Defence Force flights arrived in Port Vila today with further supplies.
- The airport is open to commercial airlines, with arrivals of Fiji Airways and Air Vanuatu flights in Port Vila today.

Gaps & Constraints:

- As a number of social media sites are requesting the donation of goods to send to Vanuatu, a policy is needed to either prevent or manage the arrival of unsolicited goods from abroad.
- The main artery to Te Ouma, the main vegetable growing area, is cut off.
- There are fuel shortages being experienced in Port Vila.



Shelter

Needs:

- There are 3,300 people in 37 ECs across Torba, Penama and Efate. There are 2,865 evacuees in 28 ECs in Efate alone. Exact numbers need to be confirmed through further assessments.
- Shelter and non-food item supplies are critically low.

Response:

- NDMO is managing assistance to people in ECs, and has compiled a list of commercial options to transport people to ECs.
- An EC Working Group has been established to ensure that the safety, protection and needs of the evacuees are identified and prioritised with other operational planning. Members include the Gender and Protection Cluster, Vanuatu Red Cross, WASH and Logistics specialists. The working group sent out a number of teams last night to verify the location of centres and to gather critical data on evacuees and facilities.
- IOM is offering Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) support in coordination with NDMO in assessing needs and coordinating assistance to persons in ECs. CCCM surge capacity has been deployed to provide technical support in displacement tracking and monitoring of needs, as well support in coordination and management of ECs.
- Habitat for Humanity is launching an appeal to fund emergency shelter assistance and longer-term housing solutions.
- New Zealand Red Cross has sent 1,200 tarpaulins, 900 water containers and 240 first aid kits to be distributed by VRCS. Another shipment of tarpaulins, water containers and first aid kits will be sent from Auckland.
- CARE will start to distribute hygiene kits tailored to the needs of women and men in Port Vila ECs on 17 March.
- World Vision has pre-positioned relief goods in Port Vila, Santo Island, and Tanna Island, including tarpaulins, tools for repairs, water containers, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, baby kits, and kitchen sets.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Water supply has been restored to 80 percent of Port Vila, with work still ongoing to restore water supply to Malapoa, Bladiniere and Elluk.
- WASH needs is required, including the provision of water purification tablets, soap and toilets.
- The Vanuatu WASH cluster is taking part in initial rapid assessments



Health & Nutrition

Needs:

- There are 11 confirmed fatalities, but no morgue capacity at the hospital.
- Three main areas of the hospital require rebuilding – Central Medical Store, Children's ward and kitchen.
- The hospital has had 55 cyclone-related injuries, three of whom were admitted.
- Early assessments indicate that the hospital is functioning, despite extensive damage, although medical supplies and makeshift wards are needed.
- Reproductive health services are currently functioning in Port Vila but there are concerns for long term and outer island caseloads based on estimated women of reproductive age (56,147 with total fertility rate at 48 per cent).

11
Fatalities

Response:

- There are plans to set-up makeshift wards in the hospital carpark using UNICEF tents.
- Australian medical team on the ground and a NZ team to arrive on 17 March.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has public health specialists, including two nutritionists, in Port Vila.
- UNFPA has US\$50,000 available to support sexual and reproductive health, and is shipping 400 dignity Kits. Pre-positioned reproductive health (RH) kits are ready for shipment to Vanuatu from Fiji.
- Two UNFPA staff members (one nurse) are in Port Vila and additional staff are available for deployment.
- UNICEF has shipped containers to support the management of deceased persons.



Food Security

Needs:

- Emergency food aid for an estimated 19,000 households, based on the path of the cyclone.
- Initial agriculture damage estimates, from Port Vila, and aerial surveys of Tanna, Ambrym, Emae and Epi islands indicate significant losses to crops and livestock.
- Banana crops throughout the country has been destroyed.
- Island cabbage plants and other leafy vegetables have been destroyed.
- Fruit trees have been stripped (including citrus, naos, nakatambol and avocado).
- Extensive loss of planting materials and farming tools.
- Small livestock, including chickens and pigs have been killed, and pens and shelters destroyed.
- Livestock suffering a critical shortage of feeds (coconuts, grasses and shrubs).
- Fisheries infrastructure, including canoes, small boats, fishing gear have been destroyed.

19,000
households estimated
to require food aid
based on cyclone path

Response:

- The Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) is fully operational under the leadership of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, with support from FAO and GIZ-SPC and an active membership of several NGOs. A full meeting of the cluster was held today in Port Vila.
- The key areas of FSAC intervention are to ensure that the affected communities have timely and appropriate access to emergency food supplies.
- To restore and enhance the affected population's productive capacity for crops, livestock, trees and fisheries through provision of resources and services
- To restore and enhance agricultural economic livelihoods for the affected people and communities
- A FSAC task force has been established to oversee the assessments and damage reporting and will be able to provide national steering on mapping, imagery and statistics.
- Cluster partners, Tearfund and World Animal Protection, are deploying to Vanuatu.
- Regional seeds and tools suppliers' stocks, pricing and lead-times data are being gathered and consolidated and provided to the Vanuatu FSAC.



Education

- UNICEF reports that 28 schools in Efate and six in Torba and Penama are being used as evacuation centres. There is an estimated 70,000 school-aged children, from early childhood through secondary school, affected.
- There is a need to set up temporary learning spaces as the majority of schools are expected to be affected – a high priority for both resumed learning but also to help with psycho-social healing and child protection.
- UNICEF has school supplies pre-positioned and is sending more from Suva, including tents, school-in-a-box kits and early childhood kits.
- Save the Children is deploying an education cluster coordinator.

70,000

School-age children affected



Protection

- One of the key existing protection issues identified in Vanuatu is sexual and gender-based violence. Recent violence against women prevalence data shows 60 per cent of women experience physical and sexual violence committed by an intimate partner in their lifetime and 48 per cent of women and girls aged 15 and above experience physical and/or sexual violence committed by a non-partner. A further 30 per cent of girls below the age of 15 years, experience sexual abuse, with more than one in four women (28 per cent) reporting that their first sexual experience was forced.
- Given that these statistics are for “normal” situations, it can be expected that the stresses and tensions generated by a severe cyclone, along with extensive damage and loss to personal property and livelihoods would lead to an increase in existing trends.
- Conditions in evacuation centres vary enormously, with overcrowding, privacy and security an issue. Most of the assessed ECs did not have locks on doors or secure windows.
- Lighting and any form of emergency power was lacking in most of the centres. In such a situation, the risk of sexual abuse of women and girls is high.
- While it was encouraging to see that a small number of ECs had established ad hoc committees, it was notable that virtually none of these committees included the representation of women.
- Most ECs lack features to make them more accessible to people living with disability.
- In a small sample of ECs there was evidence of tensions between residents based on their place of origin.
- UNICEF is estimating that 60,000 children have been affected by the cyclone.

Response:

- There has been a division of responsibility for ECs among a number of NGOs, and a meeting on 17 March should identify where gaps remain. Once each centre comes under the management of a specific organization it is expected that information regarding the number and profile of people will increase significantly, and coordination to monitor and respond to protection issues will be greatly enhanced.
- The Gender and Protection Cluster, supported by the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster, stands ready to contribute to a multi-cluster, multi-agency initial rapid assessment, and technical assessments as needed.
- UNICEF is dispatching 60 recreation kits to support child friendly spaces and temporary learning spaces. This will bring to a total 69 recreation kits (nine already in Port Vila) to reach a total of 6,210 children (90 children per kit).
- UNICEF is deploying a Child Protection Specialist to Port Vila on 17 March, who will provide technical support and assistance to UNICEF child protection staff and partners, including government and NGOs. The specialist will scale up the child protection components of emergency response programmes, including assessment as needed.
- UNFPA has arranged the procurement of reproductive health (RH) kits to support the medical response to sexual assault, including 500 for adults and 200 for children.
- A New Zealand Police staff member and Australian Federal Police are on the ground, although Vanuatu Police have not requested assistance. A night time curfew is in place for Port Vila.



Early Recovery & Livelihoods

- NTR



Communicating with Communities (CwC)

Response:

- Coordinating with DFAT Crisis Response to avoid duplication, the media development arm of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) is seeking to undertake a communications infrastructure needs assessment and assessing the possibility of using temporary transmission equipment if needed.
- The ABC technical broadcast engineer is scheduled to arrive in Port Vila on Tuesday afternoon. In the meantime, ABC programme staff in Port Vila are working with staff at the National Broadcaster (VBTC), to prepare a communications strategy in partnership with the NDMO – to be rolled out once radio services are restored.
- Mobile Network Operator Digicel is rolling out charging facilities and is moving to reconnect remote islands. The Digicel network in Port Vila is almost fully restored and through working with the Government and local companies to get technical staff to the outer islands, teams will soon now move to connect the rest of Efate, Tanna, Santo and the other islands. The Digicel off-island fibre connectivity has been fully restored and bandwidth capacity over satellite has been increased by 500 percent, ensuring domestic towers have sufficient network capacity available.
- Public charging stations are being deployed across the islands so that customers can power their phones and Digicel is providing US\$250,000 in free credit so that customers can get in touch with their loved ones as services are restored.
- While Digicel's technical teams from Fiji and Papua New Guinea are currently working remotely, charter planes and helicopters are being prepared for flight today. In addition, Huawei, SES and other key vendors have donated technical resources and equipment to aid Digicel in its recovery efforts. Updates of network and service availability are being communicated as they happen on Digicel Vanuatu's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DigicelVanuatu>.

Funding

The Government of New Zealand has announced an initial contribution of NZ\$1 million (US\$754,000) to assist Pacific nations impacted by TC Pam. The amount includes NZ\$200,000 for specific requests for assistance in Vanuatu, Fiji, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands, and NZ\$400,000 for NGOs in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

The Australian Government is providing an initial package of life-saving support in response to a request from the Government, including AU\$5 million (\$3.9 million) to be delivered through Australian NGOs, the Red Cross and UN partners. USAID will make available US\$100,000 to the French Red Cross to support WASH activities.

The UK has made available up to £2 million (\$3 million) for humanitarian response. Up to £1 million is for UN organizations and international aid agencies already working in the region. An additional £1 million will be made available by the activation of the UK's Rapid Response Facility. The European Union (EU) will provide initial humanitarian assistance of €1 million (\$1.12 million). Japan will pledge support once needs assessments have been conducted. The Fiji Government will meet tomorrow to discuss assistance to Vanuatu. The Government of Japan will provide emergency relief supplies to the value of 20 million yen (US\$168,000) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

UNDP Emergency Grants of up to US\$100,000 per country will be available in coming days. The Australian Red Cross has launched an appeal for donations to help Pacific communities impacted by TC Pam. The UN Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is also available to support life-saving activities. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is looking to provide an emergency grant assistance for the restoration of life preserving services to communities affected by the Cyclone Pam. This grant assistance will be initiated through ADB's Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF).

General Coordination

The National Emergency Operations Centre remains operational. The Government is leading response efforts through the National Disaster Management Office and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team. All clusters have been requested to share information on activities, assessments, meetings and arriving international staff with the NDMO. The NDMO needs to establish and communicate focal points to manage cluster and international requests for assistance.

Eleven people arrived in Port Vila today to support the Government's coordination of international assistance through the UNDAC team, and three OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific personnel. The humanitarian community is mobilizing to support response efforts, however there continues to be a need to coordinate the management of

assistance to ensure actors do not overwhelm local capacity.

Convoy of Hope is sending a Disaster Services Response Team. ACT Alliance members, including Act for Peace, Uniting World and Caritas Australia, who work through local church partners, held a meeting in Sydney on 16 March to discuss a coordinated response. Two international CARE staff have arrived in Port Vila to support CARE's emergency response, and more humanitarian experts will follow in the coming days.

Act for Peace is proposing Immediate Response (including food and NFI distribution) and Early Recovery (including water restoration and food security) activities. Habitat for Humanity is sending staff to Vanuatu to assess the situation and coordinate with government agencies and partners. New Zealand Red Cross is sending three specialist in emergency shelter, communications and disaster management.

Background on the crisis

Severe Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam struck Vanuatu (population 234,000), hitting the capital of Port Vila, as an extremely destructive category 5 cyclone on the evening of 13 March 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. The cyclone brought extremely damaging winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges and flooding to much of the country. On 15 March, TC Pam moved across Tafea Province and entered the maritime area of New Caledonia, heading towards New Zealand to the south.

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org/rop or <http://reliefweb.int/disaster/tc-2015-000020-vut>
To be added to the Situation Report mailing list, please subscribe at <http://eepurl.com/FL8UP>

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