

Subject:	Tropical Cyclone Harold
Situation Report	#9
Date:	21 April 2020

1. Highlights

a. Vanuatu

- Directors of NDMO and of MFA provided a briefing to the Extended PHT on 20 April. Immediate priorities are Communication/ETC, Shelter, Food Security and WASH. The biggest challenge are COVID-19 restrictions. In-country, there are enough ships available to bring items to most affected areas and to carry out distributions. However, the importing of relief items is taking longer due to applicable COVID-19 protocols. Any personnel wanting to enter Vanuatu, needs to go into 14-day quarantine. The biggest challenge for relaxing restrictions is the lack of capacity to do sufficient testing. As for the coordination, the Director of NDMO explained that the National Disaster Committee defines the policy directions, and the NDMO is the implementing body carrying out relief activities. The MFA, on the other hand, is the gateway for international assistance coming into the country.
- Rehabilitation efforts are continuing throughout the most affected areas. In Luganville, the second biggest town in Vanuatu, water access has been restored in some areas, electricity has been partially restored (some 60%), and telecommunications reestablished.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Cluster is due to release its Response Plan, although this has been delayed due to change in Government.
- A new Government was formed on 20 April, with a number of changes to ministerial portfolios.

b. Fiji

- NDMO published first damage assessment data: in total 575 houses were destroyed and 1,919 houses damaged. The damage on agriculture is approximately FJD28m, with the Eastern Division hardest hit (FJD11,5m). The Education damage totals FJD7,8m. Overall, the hardest hit division was the Eastern Division, followed by Central and Western Divisions. The slightest impact had the Northern Division.
- The Government is continuing with the distribution of relief items in the Central, Eastern and Western divisions.
- As of 21 April, 1,310 people are sheltering in 105 evacuation centres in the Eastern and Central divisions. The eastern division has the highest number of people in evacuation centres with 1,116 evacuees in 92 evacuation centres. All evacuation centres in Northern and Western Divisions are now closed.

2. Damage

a. Vanuatu

- Based on latest UNITAR satellite imagery, it is estimated that 68 per cent of buildings on Pentecost island, Penama Province have been damaged, while on Malo island, Sanma province an estimated 45 per cent of buildings have been damaged.
- Around 200 primary and secondary schools have been severely damaged.
- Mobile towers and broadcast transmissions towers have been destroyed, as well as seven weather stations

- 81 health facilities have been identified to only have limited functionality due to damage sustained following TC Harold.
- b. Fiji
- NDMO announced results from initial damage assessments during a donor meeting on 21 April:

	Houses destroyed	Houses damaged	Agricultural damage (FJD)	Educational damage (FJD)
Western Division	228	996	3,960.000	915.148
Northern Division	02	05	6,861.325	7.100
Central Division	102	460	5,502.582	1,086.950
Eastern Division	243	458	11,445.583	5,750.330
TOTAL	575	1,919	27,769.490	7,759.528

c. Tonga

- Nine schools and one early childhood education centre have been damaged by TC Harold.
- On Tongatapu Island, tourist resorts along the Western and Eastern Districts of Tongatapu, and residences along the coastline of Tongatapu have sustained damage.
- Crops including coconut trees, plantain, bananas and cassava, have been destroyed.
- In 'Eua buildings along the coastline of 'Ohonua town as well as the domestic wharf have been severely damaged.

3. Needs

a. Vanuatu

Education

- Needs are likely to include, tents for temporary learning spaces, School in a box kits, ECD Kits, infrastructure repairs and rebuilding, and school garden replanting. These needs will be verified through assessments.
- Schools used as evacuation centres may require additional support, particularly in the context of COVID-19, including life-saving messages and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), as well as the need to sanitize and disinfect schools once they have ceased being used as evacuation centres.
- All schools are currently closed in TC Harold-affected provinces. MoET developing a plan on how schools will manage physical distancing and prepare WASH facilities in schools.

ETC

- Telecommunications have been restored in approximately 75 per cent of affected areas.

Food Security and Agriculture

- Most stocks and food crops have been damaged, raising the possibility of an increase in food insecurity, with women particularly vulnerable to potential food shortages.

Protection

- Significant number of cases of domestic and sexual violence have been reported. There is an immediate need to reduce overcrowding in evacuation shelters, which puts women in particular risk of GBV, and to ensure that vulnerable people can safely access services (i.e. by providing suitable lighting in evacuation centres, latrines, water points etc.) Specific locations have also been identified as needing immediate awareness raising and services in prevention and response to GBV.
- Affected population have limited access to support services for child protection, GBV etc.

- There is a need for psychosocial support for children and other vulnerable groups in the most affected communities
- Need for logistics assistance for people with disabilities to be able to access to services and information in accessible formats.

Shelter

- While damage data has yet to be formally released and may change as analysis develops and information becomes available, current estimates based on Provincial Emergency Operations Centre assessments indicate that 17,347 houses have been damaged or destroyed across four provinces: Sanma, Malampa, Penama and Shefa. Sanma and Penama are the two most severely affected provinces.
- There is a gap of shelter relief items for some 7,400 households.
- Given the extent of the damage and the slow speed of the response, cluster agencies and donors will soon need to consider supporting early recovery programming including more comprehensive community assistance packages, education and training on Build Back Safer and traditional resilient building techniques.

WASH

- Communities on many islands rely on rain water harvesting systems which has been damaged by TC Harold.

b. Tonga

Food Security

- The national food cluster continues to promote the need to increase national production by increasing the number of households that are directly involved in production. 1,800 acres (730ha) of land in Tongatapu and Eua have been targeted communal gardens (toutu'u).
- Land preparation is still required, as well as vegetative planting material such as taro, cassava, sweet potato, yam, giant taro, plantain, banana, kava, vanilla, breadfruit. Seeds are required to encourage growth of short term vegetables such as cabbages, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, carrots.
- More home garden production is required in urban areas such as the capital, Nuku'alofa.
- Coconut trees and other trees knocked down during TC Harold need to be cleared, especially in farm areas.

4. Response

a. Vanuatu

Education

- UNICEF, in collaboration with MoET logistics team, has shipped tents, school-in-a-box, ECD kits and hygiene kits to Santo and Pentecost. UNICEF is providing capacity building support to set up of tents.

ETC

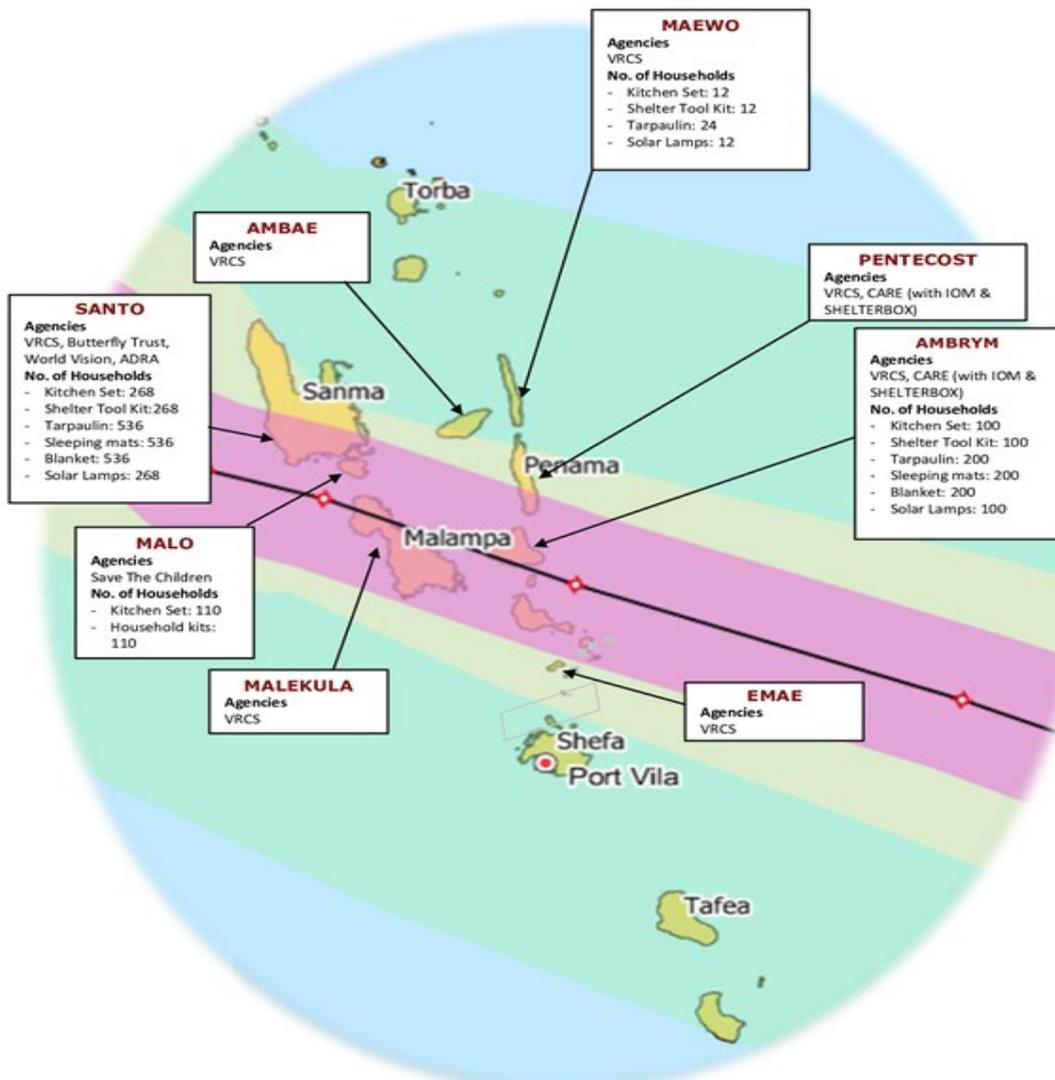
- ETC is collaborating with national authorities and Intelsat to investigate and deploy a technical solution for the provision of connectivity via satellite to affected communities in south Pentecost, West Coast Santo and north-east Malekula.
- ETC is still on standby to receive the assessment report containing technical details of requirements for broadcast equipment as input to a technical restoration plan for broadcast services.

Protection

- 16 protection cluster partner staff have been deployed across four provinces.

- UN Women is procuring solar lights to increase safety for women, children and people in disabilities in evacuation centres and WASH facilities
- Vanuatu Women's Centre has launched a gender based violence hotline and counselors across the affected provinces to provide support in gender based violence response. Programming is being scaled up to respond to the identified issues.
- UNFPA and ADRA are distributing dignity kits to the most affected communities.
- UNICEF is supporting MoJCS Child Protection Officers from national level, Shefa and Sanma provinces, and MoYSD Youth Officers from national level, and Sanma and Shefa, provinces who were part of the assessment teams.

Shelter



Map above shows areas where the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster agencies are currently distributing shelter material and NFIs (Agency distribution data from SCV 3Ws & Mapping data sourced from OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC, GDACS)

- To date, 9,950 households have, or are due to, receive emergency shelter relief items.
- CARE is targeting 2,350 HH in partnership with IOM. CARE is working with SHELTERBOX to mobilise 2,000 HH kits and Solar Lamps. CARE has committed to providing immediate assistance on Pentecost, and pending results of the Rapid Assessment will also consider Ambrym.
- Save the Children has been providing and will continue to provide for the communities in East malo.
- Butterfly Trust, ADRA and World Vision have resources and are in distribution and planning phases.

WASH

- In Sanma province, UNICEF has distributed jerry cans to Araki, Tutuba, Aore, Bokisa, and Mavea Island communities.
- Two 10,000 Litre Poly Tanks deployed to Araki and Tutuba Island for Water Trucking.
- In Penama Province, hygiene promotion activities in Central and South Pentecost, led by the Red Cross, are ongoing.

b. Fiji

Education

- All schools are currently closed due to COVID-19 up to 12 June 2020.

Protection

- Remote capacity building on GBV and CP for Helpline Responders (TC Harold response/recovery and COVID-19) has been conducted.
- A resource package for GBV has been jointly developed with inputs from UNICEF, UNFPA and UNW.
- UNFPA has distributed dignity kits, including messaging and IEC material for the most vulnerable women.
- UNICEF is supporting the provision of child protection resources (colouring books, story books, etc.) to MWCPA CSU, and MOH pediatric partners.
- UNICEF is providing technical support to MWCPA to conduct psychosocial support to children and families, including children with disabilities in Kadavu (20 villages) and Lau (7 villages, 4 smaller islands)
- UNICEF has provided recreational kits for child friendly spaces (CFS) in Kadavu (20 villages) and Lau (7 villages, 4 smaller islands) benefiting 1,000 children.

WASH

- UNICEF, Fiji Red Cross, PCDF, ADRA and LDS Charisty have provided WASH essential supplies including WASH Kits to Fiji Government which are being distributed by environmental health officers and Fiji Red Cross volunteers to communities. To date, 669 kits have been distributed benefiting more than 3,000 people. Distributions are also targeting quarantine area such as in Nabua and Soasoa, Labasa
- ADRA, PCDF, Ministry of Health, LDS Charity and Habitat for Humanity are conducting hygiene awareness activities in Kadavu and Lau group of islands as part of both TC Harold and COVID-19 responses.

c. Tonga

Protection

- Child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support is being provided in six schools in Tongatapu Island.
- Child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support is being provided to 45 families who have been severely affected by TC Harold.
- Homebased psychosocial counselling is being conducted.

d. Solomon Islands

Protection

- UNICEF is offering technical support to MHMS/MYCFA including psychosocial support for children and caregivers.

5. Gaps

a. Vanuatu

ETC

- Due to extensive damage to telecommunications towers, which still need to be repaired, there are areas that still have no power or communication services. Broadcast radio and television services are still disrupted due to extensive damage to radio and television transmission towers and equipment. Radio Vanuatu is a critical source for information from the authorities pertaining to the current relief efforts.
- Due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, ETC is unable to deploy to Vanuatu for this response effort, and ETC and ETC partners are responding remotely from Fiji, Italy (Rome), UAE (Dubai) and Australia.

Protection

- A lack of gender equality was identified in different villages during the assessment, raising immediate concerns about women's safety, participation and access to relief supplies and response. Mitigating this risk should be factored into response across all sectors.
- There are an information gap in how to access referral pathways and services across justice, health and police.

b. Fiji

Education

- Well coordinated mechanism for clusters to mobilize and provide information data and support.
- Information management support to MEHA.

Protection

- There is a lack of data on women and children in evacuation centers and other vulnerable groups that need assistance.

c. Solomon Islands

Education

- Standard data assessment tool, and collection/analysis plan to get timely information.
- Well coordinated mechanism for clusters to mobilize and provide information data and support, including support to NDMO for coordination of clusters and multi-sector response.

d. Tonga

Food Security

- Government will fund the preparation of 700 acres of land out of target of 1,800 acres.
- Government will provide much of the required vegetative material but there is a need for additional vegetative material as well as seeds and tools.

6. Funding and Donor Activities

- DREF has been approved for Vanuatu Red Cross (VRCS), totaling CHF 657,590 to support 25,250 affected people (5,050 families) for six months in Sanma, Penama and Shefa (Emae).
- The Chinese Embassy in Fiji has donated USD 100,000 for relief efforts.
- Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) has launched a donor appeal to assist with in-country logistics and coordination of distribution using private sector assets.
- VBRC is coordinating local procurement to ensure NGOs and donor agencies have an accurate overview of in-country resources.