



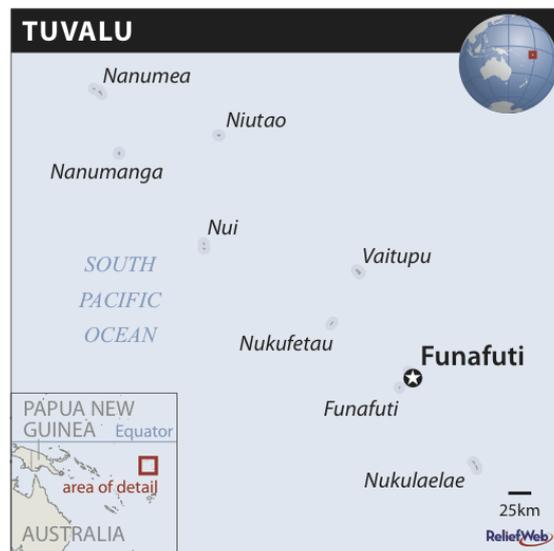
This report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with the Government of Tuvalu and humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA ROP and covers the period from 13 to 22 March 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 25 March 2015.

## Highlights

The highlights below are based on the current information from the Central islands (Nui, Nukufetau, Vaitupu and Funafuti).

Assessment of the northern island group is continuing.

- Ongoing adverse weather and unreliable communication with the outer islands has hampered information gathering and relief efforts.
- There are ongoing issues with power and internet across affected islands and inter-island communication remains a challenge.
- There are 90 known families displaced.
- In the most affected islands there has been an increased incidence of diarrhoea and minor skin infections in children under 12 years, but no significant outbreaks.
- Affected communities have described this as the one of the most traumatic natural disasters in recent memory.
- The state of emergency was extended by a further week and will end on 27 March.
- National elections are scheduled to be conducted on 26 March.
- The Capital Funafuti has escaped major damage from TC Pam.
- There is an unconfirmed report of a cyclone-related mortality (a fisherman who had been reported missing)



Map Sources: UNCS, Gov't of U.S.A.  
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 Jun 2010 – [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

### Nui

- 71 families (40 per cent of population) in Nui Island have been displaced and are living in 3 shelter buildings or with other families. 86 people (29 families) are living in 3 shelter buildings. 43 families are sharing with other households. Sanitation facilities at some shelters are not functional.
- 100 per cent of vegetable, banana, and pulaka (the main local source of carbohydrates) are affected and 80 per cent of poultry and pig enclosures have been destroyed. Loss to livestock is unknown. Fishing is restricted due to a lack of fuel and or boats.
- Storm surges caused the unearthing of multiple graves resulting in possible contamination of water supplies and exposure of bones and human remains.

### Nukufetau

- In Nukufetau, 76 people (13 per cent of population) are displaced and living in 2 evacuation centres. They include 39 women, 15 children, and 22 men.
- Large areas of the seawall is damaged in Nukufetau Island as a result of storms surges and wave action

5

evacuation centres in  
Nui and Nukufetau  
Islands

2.28million  
AUD

contributions received  
so far

250

water containers  
distributed

Source: Government of Tuvalu Rapid Assessment teams, DFAT, MFAT, Government of PNG

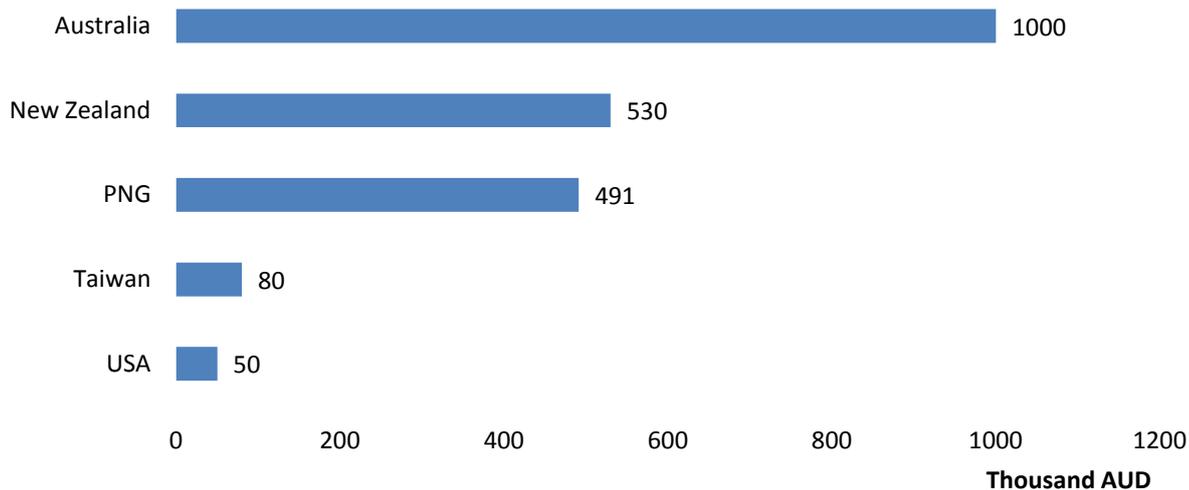
## Situation Overview

One week into Tuvalu's declaration of a State of Emergency, details of TC Pam's impacts on outer islands remain sketchy. Lack of power and communication on the outer islands has hampered information flow from the islands, however initial reports suggest that Nui, Nukufetau, Nanumaga and to a lesser extent other outer

islands, have been substantially impacted by heavy seas and storm surge. Funafuti, the most populous island (population 5000+) was relatively unscathed by TC Pam but has sustained damage to seawalls.

Initial Government assessments have led to requests for water, medicines, shelter and food. Despite logistical challenges initial responses from the Government of Tuvalu have included protein rich food, fuel, generators, medical supplies, kitchen kits and shelter kits. Further support being provided to the affected communities includes construction materials, medicines, shelter kits and tools to assist with the clean-up of storm debris. Assessment teams are yet to review the northern islands to assess needs.

## Funding



Total contributions to the flood response have been tracked by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The total amount of in-kind, cash and pledge donations to relief and recovery efforts is approximately AUD\$ 2.1 million

## Humanitarian Needs and Response

The Government is leading response efforts across all sectors supported by humanitarian and bilateral partners.



Shelter

### Needs:

- On Nui, 8 per cent of permanent buildings were destroyed, 8 percent damaged, with 60 per cent of permanent buildings flooded by storm surges.
- A total of 270 families (40 per cent of population on Nui) are displaced and either living in three evacuation centres or with other families.
- In Manutalake village (Nui) with 70 houses, 9 houses are completely destroyed while 10 are partially destroyed. The remaining 51 houses are flooded. 24 local kitchens have also been destroyed. Similarly in Alamon (Nui) with 116 houses, 3 houses are completely destroyed, one is partially destroyed and 47 are flooded. The rest are unaffected.
- In Nukufetau Island, 76 people have been displaced out of a total population of 583 people. There are two shelters currently being used by 39 women, 15 children, and 22 men. Damage of property has also been reported.
- They requested blankets, mats/mattresses, cooking utensils, soap, flashlights, stoves and water containers

**350**

estimated number of people in evacuation centres or living with relatives

**Response:**

- Tuvalu Red Cross (TRC) has dispatched 150 shelter kits to Nui and Nukufetau based on initial assessments
- Relief boats are currently en route to with additional supplies.
- UNICEF have supplied some medical supplies and a further 1.3 t of medical supplies are en route from New Zealand.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)****Needs:**

- Fuel for boiling water as flood waters inundated wood stocks
- Sanitation facilities in some evacuation centres are damaged
- Clean water and containers continue to be required in the evacuation centres
- Some water cisterns/tanks have been destroyed and require replacement
- Health concerns have been raised by the community regarding the contamination of water
- In the medium term, it is important that the water treatment and public health messaging is continued and rain water harvesting systems restored ahead of the coming dry season.

**1.5million**

Litres of clean water available in Nui

**Response:**

- GOT dispatched relief items including water purification tablets.
- WASH specialists have been dispatched together with the rapid assessment teams to carry out water quality tests.
- An imminent NZ Defence Force flight will bring in additional aid support including WASH items and medicines.
- A team of environmental health experts mobilised by Fiji National University and DFAT will be arriving in the week beginning 23 March to provide expert advice and appropriate messaging.

**Health & Nutrition****Needs:**

- On Nui Island, the hospital has been badly damaged given its proximity to the coast. Currently there is no electricity in the hospital.
- 17 cases of diarrhoea, 11 cases of skin infection in children under 12 and two trauma cases have been reported on Nui.
- 7 cases of diarrhoea and 5 cases of respiratory illness have been reported on Nukufetau
- There is a need to restock medical supplies in light of potential outbreak of water borne diseases.
- The assessment indicated urgent need for insecticides and insect repellent to minimise vector borne disease. A request for hand wash soap has been made by the Ministry of Health.
- There is urgent need for psychosocial support for members of the community affected by trauma. The role of the Church in supporting victims was explored.

**17**

Cases of diarrhoea in Nui island

**Response:**

- Basic medical supplies have been delivered to central island group while additional supplies are on board MV Komaivai bound for northern island groups. Southern most islands have not received any medical supplies to date.
- All island groups have limited supplies of medical fluids (saline, Hartmans, glucose) but GoT have received some resupplies from Suva which they will now look to disperse.
- New Zealand is sending 1.3 tonnes of medical supplies including IV fluids that have been urgently requested by Ministry of Health following the depletion of stocks on Funafuti.
- UNICEF will respond to the additional request for 2000 oral rehydration salts ORS packages on top of the 200 already sent as part of the emergency kits.
- Fiji National University and DFAT are in discussions to mobilise medical staff from FNU. The exact make up this team is yet to be determined but a need for a trauma psychologist has been identified.
- De-worming has been carried out on Nui.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- The government supplies can only meet immediate emergency needs until 24 March and supply thereafter is reliant upon NZ medical supplies (particularly fluids) arriving.

**Food Security & Livelihoods****Needs:**

- There have been requests for high protein food as on island stocks are low and gardens have been badly impacted and fishing compromised due to lack of fuel and or boats.
- Negotiations are underway to allow fishing within conservation areas and traditional no take areas.
- Salinity and pH of island soils has been compromised by sea water and debris inundation. This is likely to impact crop production in the short to medium term but will improve with ongoing seasonal rainfall which is anticipate to be above average in the short to medium term.

**90%**

crops damage in Nui and Nukufetau islands

**Response:**

- The Tuvalu Government has distributed protein rich tin foods and limited rice stocks to the islands.
- New Zealand government has contributed an additional 400,000 NZD to address food security and to support small boat transport on top of the initial 150,000 NZD in relief supplies.
- Taiwan and NZ government has confirmed food aid support.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Beyond the concerns around food and to a lesser extent water security on the outer islands, there is a need to consider restocking food supplies on Funafuti with the view to meeting local demand and growing demand from outer islands.

**Education****Needs:**

- In Nui the primary school is being used as an evacuation centre and learning programs have been suspended. The extent, however to which other schools have been affected is still unclear particularly in the northern island group.
- There have been reports that sanitation facilities at schools have been damaged or overwhelmed during the height of the evacuation period.

**1,000**

school going children affected

**Responses**

- The Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MEYS) is working closely with UNICEF to conduct a detailed assessment on the impact of the cyclone on schools.
- The School Supervisory Unit from MEYS will commence outer islands visits/assessments in the week beginning 23 March.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Boat schedules remain unclear due to adverse weather and limited telephone and email communication to the outer islands is hampering information flows. Radio continues to be the primary mode of communication to outer islands.

**Early recovery****Needs:**

- Ministry of Natural Resources (agriculture department) is looking to support the re-establishment of crops.
- Pulaka pits (traditional root crop production areas) have been flooded and badly impacted on Nui and elsewhere and will require reestablishment. The need for compost will be an ongoing challenge in the medium.

- The Tuvalu Government is proposing to send a public works team to construct temporary shelters and to help in the clean-up of flood debris.
- New Zealand Government is providing tools, generators and recovery equipment on an incoming NZ Defence Force C130 flight arriving 22 March.
- The fishing sector experienced losses due to damage of refrigeration facilities and there is likely need for support in replacing the damaged cooling facilities.
- World Bank is conducting a rapid 'loss and damage assessment' to estimate housing, agriculture and infrastructure losses (sea walls, roads, sanitation facilities). The estimated loss is currently at 4.5 million US dollars (7.5 per cent of GDP)

## General Coordination

- The National Disaster Committee (NDC) is meeting regularly (but not necessarily daily) to coordinate response efforts.
- TC Pam foreign relations Sub Committee (of the NDC) is meeting daily at 3:00 pm with on-ground partners who are actively helping coordinate the response and collate assessment information.
- An informal meeting of external partners (MFAT, DFAT, UN, IFRC, World Bank, SPC, RedCross) is meeting daily at 9:00am and are working efficiently together and with Government of Tuvalu focal points.
- There has been a move to establish two working groups modelled around the cluster system to provide for more focussed discussion around sector specific issues. These working groups have yet to meet.
- UNDP is ready to deploy a debris management advisor but is waiting on further assessment reporting before making a firm decision.
- World Bank is ready to finance recycling of hazardous waste (batteries and asbestos) up to USD 286,000 and asked the Government to explore this opportunity.
- There is ongoing need to manage staged deployments to Tuvalu to ensure that international support meets ongoing government response needs and that incoming support/human resourcing does not overwhelm local capacity and facilities.

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For more information, please visit [www.unocha.org/rop](http://www.unocha.org/rop) or <http://reliefweb.int> or <https://pht.humanitarianresponse.info/>