



CYCLONE PAM Humanitarian Situation Report 2



Highlights Vanuatu

- A State of Emergency has been declared for Shefa Province, Vanuatu, and is likely to be extended to Tafea and other Provinces as damage and needs become known.
- Cyclone Pam has now moved across Tafea Province and entered the maritime area of New Caledonia, heading towards New Zealand to the south.
- Communications connectivity is very limited, making it hard to get reliable information. A major concern is damages to hospitals and health centres, including to their electricity and water supply.
- All children are out of school and schools are being used as evacuation centres: with confirmation of 28 in Efate where the capital, Port Vila is located and six in Torba and Penama. There are 2,020 evacuees to date, according to the National Disaster Management Office.
- Action has been taken to relocate the homeless and provide assistance to people living in evacuation centres.
- Airlifts from New Zealand and Australia have landed with emergency supplies that are being distributed. UNICEF is distributing pre-positioned emergency supplies and shipping in more supplies, including from Fiji, to Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands.

Situation in Numbers

Date: 15 March 2015

Vanuatu: At least 60,000 children could be at risk across the country

Hundreds of children also affected in Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati: 45% of population of Tuvalu affected.

Immediate needs estimated at USD 3 million for maternal and child health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation, protection and communication.

Situation overview and humanitarian needs: Vanuatu

On the evening and throughout the night of March 13, Tropical Cyclone Pam was a Category 5 storm ripping through Vanuatu, including the capital city of Port Vila. The storm caused significant damage, particularly in the central and southern parts of Vanuatu. Many homes and means of livelihood in the poor island nation of 264,700 people have been damaged or destroyed.

There are 28 schools being used as evacuation centers in Efate and six in Torba and Penama, with a total of 2,020 evacuees to date.

All humanitarian clusters have been activated and UNICEF is involved in child protection, education, health & nutrition, and WASH continue to respond to needs of affected communities. Some rapid assessments have taken place this weekend, with more structured assessments, including to remoter areas, scheduled to take place later this week.

Power is out in most places with only a few businesses having back-up generators. There appears to be greater than 80 percent damage to power lines, and power will not be fully restored for several weeks.

With the little information available, especially from Tafea Province, it is clear that substantial support for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) will be required. Although Port Vila's water supply has been restored in some areas, there are continued concerns for areas not linked to the water supply system as well as the safety of drinking water provided. Provision of WASH services in the 25 or more evacuation centres is urgent, as is the assessment of WASH needs in rural areas in all affected islands and areas.

Port Vila has 20 injuries reported and 6 fatalities confirmed, but no morgue capacity.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is coordinating the response with support from numerous agencies and bilateral arrangements between Government and major partners. The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) is functional with 24hr radio broadcasts (relayed throughout the country) and monitoring supported by the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT) members. Two UNICEF staff are working in the EOC. UN OCHA staff are expected to arrive soon to support NDMO, as well as continuing to coordinate the Pacific wide Humanitarian team from Fiji.

UNICEF is co-leading on WASH coordination with the Vanuatu Directorate of Geology Mines and Water Resources (DGMRW) and supporting on health and nutrition. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has public health specialists, including two nutritionists, in Port Vila. Save the Children have confirmed they will deploy an education cluster coordinator. The child protection cluster has reviewed the need for social workers, and has concerns to identify any children separated from families and prevent child and gender based violence.

Pending information from damage and needs assessment, clusters within the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team are working to define suitable estimates against which to plan and coordinate and meet needs. Professional disaster assessment staff is en route to Vanuatu to support Government.

Government priority

The Prime Minister of Vanuatu has signed a declaration of state of emergency for Shefa province (covering the capital city as well as the rest of the island of Efate), and is likely to expand this to Tafea and other affected provinces. The NDMO has prioritized logistics, roads and communications as a prerequisite to generating a clear picture of impact and needs. The Government underlines that life-saving action needs to be timely, but that the scenario is still unfolding. The Government emphasizes that data collection and Information Management are critical to structuring the response in a way that needs are met equitably and quickly.

Summary analysis of programme response

In Vanuatu, information to date is that there are 28 schools in Efate and six in Torba and Penama that are being used as evacuation centres. Given that the majority of schools in these provinces are badly affected there will be a need to set up temporary schools – a high priority for both resumed learning but also to help with psycho-social healing and child protection. UNICEF had some school supplies pre-positioned and is sending more. Tents, school-in-a-box kits and early childhood kits will need to be distributed rapidly.

The main hospital in Port Vila is operational but has suffered damage and has moved patients into a new outpatient area. It is overcrowded and requires a temporary shelter or clinic to be established, and privacy screens in nursing classrooms (where the patients have been moved temporarily). The hospital is short on medical staff, their kitchen is largely unusable, and they have standby vehicles but are short on fuel. A second refrigerated container may be hired for the overflow storage of cold-chain medicines, which is

crucial to keep potency of vaccines. Reliable supply of electricity and water and restoration of the morgue are very important.

The main water tanks on Radio Island are empty, and their power supply is damaged. There may be intermittent access to water but no guaranteed consistent supply for several weeks. Support to meet WASH needs is required, including the provision of water purification tablets, soap and toilets. The Vanuatu WASH cluster has produced an initial rapid assessment form that they are using.

The gender and child protection cluster has met and is beginning an assessment of evacuation centres in Port Vila. This is being led by Red Cross, SCF with support from other members of the cluster. UNICEF is providing recreation kits – three were nine pre-positioned in Vanuatu, which can cater to 720 children. Additional kits available from prepositioned stocks in Fiji will be shipped this week for further distribution to temporary learning centres, evacuation centres and other child friendly spaces.

Communications for development

In the aftermath of disasters like Cyclone Pam, it is essential to support widespread multi-media and interpersonal communication to inform affected families about essential measures to protect their health and safety. Immediate needs include production and distribution of communication materials, including print and other media.

The NDMO has a communication plan in place which includes:

- Radio: pre-recorded messages with VBTC national radio
- TV: advertisement for airing on national TV when it is restored and functional
- Mobile phones: emergency text messages with updated information will be sent to all TVL and Digicel phone users.

Supply and logistics

Bauerfield International airport is currently inoperable except for military planes from Australia and New Zealand that have been able to land and take off. Commercial airline traffic is suspended until further notice. A private pilot has located a usable airstrip for small planes on the heavily damaged island of Tanna. There are a number of ocean ships due to travel to Vanuatu from March 16. An urgent requirement is to set up a tented supply and logistics hub in Port Vila and Tanna.

WASH supplies are immediately available at Vanuatu warehouses for immediate use from VCRC, ADRA, World Vision and UNICEF. These include water containers, purification tablets, jerry cans and buckets, WASH kits and hygiene kits. Some of these supplies are being held at the provincial offices. Provincial water officers are in charge and have been trained in WASH cluster coordination. As current stocks can only cater for 50,000 to 10,000 people, a ten-fold increase of WASH supplies will be needed in the next two to three months.

Tuvalu, Solomon Islands Kiribati - Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

TUVALU

A state of emergency has been declared in Tuvalu, following tidal surges caused by Cyclone Pam. Communication with the outer islands continues to be a huge concern with power shortage and satellite phones running out of charge. Overall, there are no reported deaths in Tuvalu although the flooding has led to the relocation or evacuation of families: 45% of the population, according to the Prime Minister Sopoaga. Food security is an issue - pulaka pits (where crops grow) have been destroyed, and livestock killed. No assessment of schools or early childhood centres has been done, although some health facilities have been confirmed as destroyed in the northern islands. Schools and dispensaries are acting as evacuation centres. A damage assessment team will go to the worst affected areas on Monday 16 March to conduct a rapid assessment.

UNICEF and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) were collaborating on water, sanitation and hygiene assessments before the storm damage. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies (IFRC), in collaboration with Tuvalu Red Cross, will be airlifting WASH supplies on Tuesday 17 March. The flight will include 50 hygiene kits and 50 water containers. In collaboration with IFRC, UNICEF will provide additional supplies including soap, water containers and purification tablets.

Tuvalu is waiting for air drop assistance from Australia and New Zealand. Supplies being requested include water (empty water containers and water purifiers), canned food, tents, blankets, basic medical supplies and flashlights.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

An initial assessment of Temotu province is being conducted. The government of Solomon Islands have released SBD 3.5 million (about \$450,000 USD) in funds to respond to the situation in Temotu province. However, additional funding maybe required depending on the assessment report.

UNICEF will provide support in the following areas – child protection, education, health and WASH - and will continue to support Government to coordinate relevant clusters to respond to all affected children and families.

KIRIBATI

Four metre high waves and heavy rain were experienced in Kiribati on 11-13 March, causing extensive damages to the Dai Nippon Causeway, which resulted in its closure to all traffic. Hospital patients have been transferred to the gym on Bairiki. There have been no reports on the numbers affected or extent of damage so far, including on islands other than Tarawa. A small consignment of basic emergency supplies had been mobilised by UNICEF to complement existing contingency stocks and will reach Kiribati by 24 March.

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