



KEY FACTS & FIGURES

Establishment of Pacific Shelter Cluster: 2012, Fiji: 2012, Solomon Islands: 2014, Vanuatu: 2014, Tonga, Samoa, Marshall Islands: in process

Recent activations: Feb 2016 TC Winston in Fiji, March 2015 TC Pam in Vanuatu. Recent national responses with regional support and number of people reached with emergency shelter:

Dec 2016	5,004
Makira EQ/tsunami in Solomon Islands	
May 2017	2,564
TC Donna in Vanuatu	
Sept 2017	9,184
Ambae Mass Evacuation in Vanuatu.	

# of national shelter clusters or shelter cluster-like mechanisms present	6
# of countries under PHT	14
# shelter cluster personnel PASSA trained	98
# shelter cluster personnel Shelter Kit trained	65
# shelter cluster personnel attended National Shelter Cluster Coordination Workshop	38
# shelter cluster personnel completed Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Training	11

OVERVIEW

The objective of the Pacific Shelter Cluster is to support a coherent and effective humanitarian shelter response following disaster events in Pacific island countries, underpinned by a sustained focus on preparedness initiatives. Much of this support is provided to national Governments who are responsible for humanitarian response in their countries.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the lead agency of the Pacific Shelter Cluster, in accordance with its global shelter mandate, within the [Pacific Humanitarian Team](#) (PHT) coordination framework.

The Pacific Shelter Cluster is a grouping of partners that have an operational interest in assisting affected populations in the recovery of their shelter after natural disasters, and currently includes national Governments, NGOs, INGOs, United Nations organisations, regional bodies, Red Cross, faith-based organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

- The Pacific region is highly disaster prone, and its populations are particularly vulnerable to natural hazards.
- The impacts of climate change affect livelihoods, coastal settlements, infrastructure, ecosystems and economic stability in the region. Rise in sea level poses an increasing threat to low-lying coastal areas.
- Specific shelter vulnerability factors include growing urbanization and the growth of informal settlements, which often result in substandard housing and infrastructure, compounded by social and economic marginalization.
- Since 1950 extreme events have affected approximately 9.2 million people in the Pacific region, causing 9,811 deaths and damage of around US\$3.2 billion (World Bank Report)

FOCAL POINTS

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KEY INFORMATION

- [Pacific Shelter Cluster](#)
- [Pacific Humanitarian Team](#)
- [Pacific Emergency Shelter and NFI Pre-positioned Stocks](#)

PREPAREDNESS

In 2017, national shelter clusters in the region worked on a range of preparedness initiatives at national and sub-national levels including development of terms of reference and standard operating procedures, dissemination of seasonal cyclone forecasts, alerts, and key messages, response capacity mapping (emergency stock and trained human resource), production of guidance notes such as [minimum emergency shelter and NFI relief package](#), promotion of common standards between agencies for key emergency shelter items, input into national disaster management and [humanitarian policy](#), facilitation of best practice and lessons learned workshops following responses, and participation in various working groups including build back safer, building supply chain, cash, assessment, green response, and preparedness.

At the regional level, the Pacific Shelter Cluster, as part of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT), fed in to the Country Preparedness Package (CPP) process for [Vanuatu](#), Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, and Cook Islands. The CPP is a joint initiative of Pacific National Governments and the PHT, intended to strengthen collaboration between national and international actors in disaster preparedness and response.

Capacity building opportunities have helped to further strengthen local capacity of national shelter clusters in 2017. The co-lead of Fiji Shelter Cluster, Habitat for Humanity Fiji, was supported to attend the global masters-level accredited short course in Humanitarian Shelter Coordination in Switzerland, and Solomon Islands Red Cross was endorsed by partners to co-lead the Solomon Islands Shelter Sub-Committee for Preparedness. During the Ambae mass evacuation response in Vanuatu, 48 shelter responders participated in a one-day workshop on emergency shelter.

RESPONSE

In 2017 there were three small-to-medium scale responses in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, which were managed by national authorities and led by the respective national shelter sector focal point. Regional support was requested for TC Donna, as well as the Ambae Mass Evacuation response in Vanuatu in September, after Monaro Volcano reached a moderate eruption state, triggering the declaration of a state of emergency and the mass evacuation of the entire population of Ambae to neighbouring islands. Vanuatu Shelter Cluster worked with provincial authorities and community organisations to assist almost 11,000 people with emergency shelter and non-food items during the evacuation and repatriation operations.

GAPS / CHALLENGES

- Long-term funding gap to support preparedness initiatives.
- Integration of the cluster system, or similar emergency shelter coordination mechanism into National Disaster Management policy across the Pacific is an ongoing process. Current lack of dedicated in-country resourcing within Governmental Shelter Cluster Lead Agencies, results in low priority given to shelter cluster activities particularly for preparedness.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Pacific Shelter Cluster congratulates **Habitat for Humanity Fiji**, recipient of the [2017 Sasakawa award for Disaster Reduction](#), awarded a certificate of merit for their post-Tropical Cyclone Winston Build Back Safer program in Fiji.



*Eruption of Monaro Volcano on Ambae, Vanuatu.
Photo: Dan McGarry, Vanuatu Daily Post*



Evacuees take refuge in a community building which has been adapted with shelter kits and locally available materials. Luganville, Santo, Vanuatu. Photo: Vanuatu Shelter Cluster