



Cyclone Pam Humanitarian Situation Report 9



23-24 March 2015

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Highlights

- “Children – especially those in the hardest-to-reach islands - are in serious danger right now,” says Karen Allen, UNICEF Pacific Representative. “Access to safe water remains absolutely critical – with almost all islands in Vanuatu suffering from acute water shortages – while there is a significant risk of disease because of flooding, poor sanitation and limited medical care.”
- UN Interagency Flash Appeal launched on 24th March in Port Vila, Vanuatu, for a total amount of US\$29.9.
- UNICEF appeals for US\$4.8 million to provide children and their families in Vanuatu and other affected countries with access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, life savings health interventions, and education and protection.
- School scheduled to reopen this week. UNICEF is dispatching temporary learning spaces, education supplies, including Early Childhood Education and Recreation kits
- UNICEF Logistics team and WFP have installed a temporary storage facility at Vanuatu airport, for all incoming humanitarian assistance supplies for all UN agencies and NGOs in Vanuatu.
- UNICEF WASH and other supplies are on their way to Temotu province, the most affected areas in the Solomon Islands.
- Relief supplies have arrived in the Pacific Island Country of Tuvalu

Appeal:

UNICEF needs US\$ 4,800,000

Vanuatu:

166,000 people on 22 islands affected, including 82,000 children

57,000 children targeted by Education Cluster

Exit strategy agreed for people in evacuation centres to return home

50,000 to 70,000 children need temporary safe learning spaces

7,417 children aged under 5 have been reached by immunization teams

Solomon Islands:

Communities in Temotu Province most affected

Overview

Honourable Prime Minister of Vanuatu Joe Natuman and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Vanuatu Ms. Osnat Lubrani launched a humanitarian response Flash Appeal in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Pam's devastating impact on the country. The Flash Appeal seeks \$29.9 million to cover the needs of 166,000 people over the next three months, including the provision of life-saving water, food, shelter, health care, protection for vulnerable groups and assistance to return children to school. The appeal amount reflects both the scale of the need, and the significant logistical and procurement challenges linked to providing an effective large-scale humanitarian response to remote islands communities.

UNICEF currently has only around fifteen per cent of the money it needs to get life-saving aid to thousands of children and their families. UNICEF announced a new US\$4.8 million humanitarian appeal, as part of the wider United Nations Appeal for Vanuatu launched 24th March.

The Government has finalised an initial distribution plan, mapping targeted populations by district, and listing the quantities and type of food, WASH and shelter materials required in each district for the next 15 to 20 days.

The Government advised the closure of evacuation centers. Further support to the affected population will be facilitated through IDP WG (formerly called the Evacuation Centers WG). Also, the police have advised UN and NGO partners to cease distribution of relief at night due to security concerns. A lack of shelter materials hampers the return of displaced people to their homes. Some schools also require repairs to ensure students' safety. UNICEF is establishing temporary learning spaces and delivering school supplies.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is coordinating the response with support from various agencies, Governments and major partners. The National Disaster Management Office is expanding its coordination structures and systems to provide support to the Government and responding relief agencies. The United Nations has set up a Humanitarian Response Page as the central repository of documents generated in support of the coordination effort related to Tropical Cyclone Pam.

The government-led joint initial rapid assessments continue, broadening the reach to include islands in all affected Provinces. Further assessments are planned for the Shepherd Islands and Outer Islands north of Efate. The information collected will inform further response decisions. Islands assessed are Tanna, Erromango, Anatom, Futuna, Epi, and Emae.

NDMO distribution planning documents have mapped targeted populations by district, and the quantities and type of materials required in each district over the coming 15-20 days for food, WASH and shelter.

NDMO is in contact with the Chairs of all provincial disaster committees through satellite telephone, and is receiving updates from the field. Rapid assessment teams have been deployed. The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is functional, with 24-hour radio broadcasts relayed throughout the country, and monitoring supported by the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT) members.

UNICEF's response



Education

The Education Cluster working group is drafting a cluster strategy plan. Emerging data indicates that at least 80 per cent of schools (an estimated 500) have been affected to some degree.

The Education Cluster is targeting about 57,000 affected school-aged children from early childhood to secondary school level. Infrastructure, facilities and resources have been damaged in a majority of schools in Efate, Tafea, Torba and Penama. The UNICEF Pacific Chief of Education has been deployed to Vanuatu to support Save the Children as cluster co-lead with the Ministry of Education.

Assessments of all schools in Port Vila – in particular those used as evacuation centres – have been conducted. A Rapid Assessment of Tanna island confirmed that most of the schools were seriously damaged or destroyed and the few classrooms that remained standing are being used as evacuation centres by people who lost their homes. A number of deaths in Tanna are reported to be the result of collapsed classrooms. UNICEF has supported Tanna Provincial Disaster Committee to conduct an initial assessment of all schools.

School is due to restart gradually by 30 March. Some 34 schools have been used as evacuation centres in Efate, Torba and Penama provinces. Families staying in schools will be supported to return home so enable classes to resume. However, some schools require urgent repairs to ensure students' safety. Teachers' housing was also destroyed by the cyclone.

The first set of UNICEF Education supplies have arrived in Tongoa in the Shepherd Islands. They include seven tents to provide Temporary Safe Learning Spaces, backpacks, School-in-a-Box and Early Childhood Development kits. These supplies will allow 570 children to resume school.

Further Education in Emergencies supplies are prepared for distribution, and will enable about 10,000 children to attend school. Shipments of school supplies, including UNICEF Early Childhood Education and Recreation kits, temporary learning spaces and shelter materials will leave on 25 March for Tafea province and the Shepherd Islands. Materials for teachers to use to give psycho-social support to affected children will also be produced.

Communication and access within and between islands remains the greatest challenge.



Health and nutrition

Six teams of nurses from the Ministry of Health (MoH) were deployed to communities around Port Vila to provide vaccination against measles, polio and tetanus. These teams also conducted rapid assessments, distributed bed nets and provided health education to the affected communities. Some 7,417 children aged under 5 have been reached in 7 days. The target in Port Villa is to reach 10,000 children aged between 6 and 59 months. Upon learning of suspected measles cases, UNICEF immediately partnered with Rescunet to start administering vaccines over 2 weeks from 20 March for children aged 6 to 59 months in Tanna. To ensure continuity of this essential campaign, additional vaccines were delivered in Port Vila on 23 March, with the assistance of the New Zealand Government C130 craft.

UNICEF continues to assess accessible health facilities every day to identify damage to the cold chain equipment and rooms, and to provide on-site repairs and training. A UNICEF cold chain specialist has repaired and reinstalled damaged solar equipment in Efate Island, to ensure that stored vaccines remain usable. The specialist is working in Shefa and north Efate, and preparing for deployment to outer islands.

The Director of Public Health continues discuss relevant public health concerns on the radio. In the next 48 hours, a communication plan will be developed by a health communications group staffed by UNICEF, WHO and MoH.

Pre-cyclone support from UNICEF means that the national referral hospital is equipped to treat children for severe wasting. Supplies and pediatric staff trained in management of severe wasting are in place. UNICEF is liaising with WFP and participating in the Nutrition Cluster to monitor the status and reassess the needs of children and pregnant and lactating women as the full extent of the emergency unfolds.

UNICEF has signed agreements with Save the Children and World Vision to support health and Infant and Young Child Feeding services in Tanna and Santo Islands, in accordance with MoH priorities. A planned

agreement with Save the Children will see nurse aid posts being equipped in the worst-affected areas, ensuring that children have access to oral rehydration salts, Vitamin A and other life-saving supplies.

The Joint Statement for Appropriate Infant Feeding in Emergencies, signed by UNICEF, WHO and MoH, has been distributed. A communications plan was developed by a health communications group, staffed by UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Health. Planning is in process to mobilize zonal nurses to deliver essential infant and young child feeding counselling as a component of maternal and child health outreach services and immunization campaigns.

Key infant and young child feeding messages have been translated and are being broadcast via radio. Vitamin A and deworming are delivered in conjunction with the current immunization campaign. A nutrition leaflet with key messages is now included in food distributions, coordinated by the food security cluster.



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

In the process of a comprehensive situational analysis report being developed by OCHA/NDMO, WASH needs (emergency supplies of safe drinking water, rehabilitation of drinking water supplies, protecting hygiene and reconstructing sanitation facilities) have emerged as critical. From available assessment reports, almost all islands are suffering from acute water shortages. Rainwater harvesting tanks and catchment roofs have been destroyed, and available water has been contaminated. Ground water sources have been contaminated with sea water and mud. Water systems that rely on electricity are down to the lack of power. Gravity systems have been affected due to fallen trees and landslides. Latrines have been damaged. Superstructures have been compromised due to winds and fallen trees while substructures have been affected by the floods. The WASH sector assumes that 60 per cent of the population of Shefa and Tafea has been affected and have no access to drinking water.

Water supply systems are in working order in Port Vila, Beverley Hills and Bellevue Vanuatu Mobile Force continues water trucking on an “as needed” basis in peri-urban areas of Vila. UNICEF purchased 35 poly tanks varying in size from 1,500L to 10,000L to facilitate water trucking to affected areas in and around Port Vila to be facilitated by ADRA.

All available WASH stocks in country are *EN ROUTE* to affected people by air and sea. Water is considered absolutely critical and no restriction will be placed on relief action aimed at securing and distributing safe water.

The Red Cross, UNICEF, Trade Tools (a local hardware store) and MFAT arranged the shipping of a 10,000 L water tank and 2,000 x 10L containers to the Shepherd islands. DGMWR conducted technical assessments with Shefa Province to immediately repair large piped water systems (serving more than 500 people each).

The Dragonfly yacht has arrived in Shepherd islands and begun production of 10,000 litres of water per day. Save the Children has begun to repairs on small gravity fed system around Efate Island. IOM sent 650 hygiene kits to Tongoa. Red Cross have deployed the Nomad water treatment unit in North Tanna island and in Mele, Efate. OXFAM water trucking in the peri-urban areas of Port Vila has increased with distribution to 3200 people in Etas and Teouma areas. UNICEF supplied tanks to strategic locations throughout Port Vila to be filled on an ongoing basis.

UNICEF has provided the provincial Government in Tanna Island with WASH supplies for 2,000 families, which will benefit more than 5,000 children. UNICEF have distributed 2500 jerry cans to Shepherd Islands and 20,000 litres of water and hygiene kits to Epi Island. 40% of the first round blanket required hygiene kits have been distributed to the affected islands. Additional supplies are ready for dispatch from Fiji, and orders for more have been placed.

A key constraint is logistical planning to coordinate ongoing shipment of water supplies, and a lack of connectivity between provincial activities and the national wash cluster impair coordination.



Child protection

UNICEF is a member of the Gender and Protection Cluster. A UNICEF Child Protection Officer joined the assessment team for Ambae and Maevo islands, as well as Aniwa, Futuna, and Aneityum Islands in Tafea Province.

The UNICEF Vanuatu Child Protection Officer is onboard an NDMO ship, monitoring delivery of supplies to affected communities in Shepherd Islands. Additional technical support through the deployment of a Specialist from UNICEF Indonesia arrived Monday 23 March; Supplies including 60 recreational kits for Child Protection have arrived by sea from Fiji. UNICEF is also in discussion with Save the Children on establishing safe spaces for children.

Communications for communities

Communication with the outer islands is still constrained. Satellite phones with Provincial Disaster Committees are available in all provinces except Torba.

The NDMO has a communication plan in place, which includes:

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

Vanuatu Women's Centre is speaking on Vanuatu Broadcasting Commission to provide a voice for women and children, and support to access help where violence is occurring. They will remind listeners about the importance of listening to the needs of the most vulnerable, in particular women and children.

The communication of key food security messages (via FM and HF radio, pamphlet, mobile telephone and newspaper) has begun. The Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) media capacity building group can assist with information dissemination.

Supply and Logistics

A Complete aerial assessment to determine access to landings and the impact of cyclone on transport routes is still pending. This will determine constraints on logistics support operations.

A UNICEF Logistics team has, together with WFP, begun install a temporary storage facility at Vanuatu airport. This will be used to store all incoming humanitarian assistance supplies for all UN agencies and NGOs in Vanuatu. WFP erected two storage units with UNICEF support at the airport. The facilities will ensure that supplies entering the country can be quickly deployed to the estimated 82,000 children in need. A UNICEF Logistics Officer will travel with WFP to erect and operate the units in Tanna.

Prepositioned supplies available in Port Vila have been mobilised for the hospital, and for immediate water supply needs. Forty-eight cartons of health supplies, including basic emergency health kits, Oral Rehydration Salt sachets, zinc tablets, Vitamin A tablets and de-worming tablets arrived by air in Port Vila on 18 March. The basic health kits will be distributed to affected islands. Some 15,000 water purification tablets were given to Save the Children for use in evacuation centres, and 17m³ of storage space were made available to Oxfam for hygiene kits.

Five containers of WASH, health and Education supplies arrived in Port Vila from Fiji on 24 March. The supplies will be stored at the new warehouse facility. UNICEF has distributed five Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) and supplies of ORS to International Medical Corps. Other basic IEHK kits will be distributed to health facilities in Ambrym Island, and cover a population of 5,000.

Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati

TUVALU

The general election in Tuvalu has been postponed until 21 March, and the state of emergency has been extended to 27 March.

Details of the impact on outer islands remain sketchy, as adverse weather and unreliable communication hampered early information gathering and relief efforts. Now, improving weather conditions mean that relief shipments are able to depart, and a Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) and some relief supplies are due to arrive in Nanumaga on 25 March. The RAT will then perform assessments on the other two northern islands.

Early reports suggested that the impact was severe on some islands (particularly Nui and Nanumaga), largely due to the storm surge. According to NZ MFAT, Nanumaga Island initially reported that up to 60 families had arrived at evacuation centres and a further 27 families had fled to other houses at the height of the cyclone.

However, most households have returned home, with only 10 families residing near the coast still displaced. Forty per cent of the population of Nui (270 families) are displaced and living in evacuation centres or with other families. Ninety families are known to have been displaced, and there are 901 school-aged children on the affected islands. Funafuti, the most populous island of about 4,500 people, was comparatively unscathed by the cyclone.

Subsequent reports from the central islands of Nui, Vaitupu and Nukufetau indicate that life is normalising, with power returning, low prevalence of communicable diseases, sufficient water supplies and current food and fuel stocks adequate to meet immediate needs. Medium- and long-term recovery measures will become increasingly important as relief supplies reach the islands. Agricultural recovery will be particularly important because of the almost total loss of crops and extensive loss of livestock.

UNICEF health and WASH supplies were delivered to Funafuti on 19 March. A New Zealand C130 charter flight arrived on 22 March carrying the remaining medical and shelter supplies, including an additional 2,000 ORS packs to supplement the 2,000 UNICEF had already supplied. The Ministry of Education Youth and Sports is working closely with UNICEF to conduct a detailed assessment on the impact of the cyclone on schools. UNICEF will provide school supplies and student backpacks for children on the affected islands.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services assessment team left by sea for Temotu province on Friday 20 March, carrying relief supplies, including UNICEF WASH supplies. The voyage from the capital Honiara takes three days to reach this province.

Tropical Cyclone Pam brought widespread heavy rain to most provinces in Solomon Islands. Temotu province experienced hurricane force winds as the cyclone intensified and moved out of the Solomon Island territory. Some vulnerable families have been displaced and food gardens destroyed. Accessibility to communities has been difficult or impossible due to flooding, fallen trees and very rough seas.

Although Anuta Island in Temotu was the worst affected, it is not heavily populated and the government has indicated the situation is under control.

KIRIBATI

A Government team begun assessments on 23 March, and UNICEF staff will join the team.

A small amount of UNICEF emergency supplies are available from pre-positioned stocks in Tarawa, and an additional consignment is expected to arrive on 24 March. A UNICEF child protection officer has been deployed to Tarawa for two weeks.

Four metre high waves were experienced in Kiribati on 13 March, causing extensive damage to the Dai Nippon Causeway. Twenty houses along the shore of the southern island of Arorae were destroyed, and the families are now housed in schools. Some have started rebuilding their houses further inland. On the southern island of Tamana, an estimated 68 houses on the shore were destroyed, while fresh water wells were filled with seawater.

The affected families are relocating inland to rebuild and are staying with other families. Onotoa Island reported that the causeway was damaged, preventing vehicles from crossing to the islet. A team is travelling to the island to survey the impact of the cyclone, and an assessment team departed on 19 March for the affected areas.

In Tarawa, the causeway connecting Betio and Bairiki re-opened, for limited loads of not more than 2 tons. Road conditions are very bad throughout the atoll. Tabonkabwauea Bairiki seawall on the Oceanside has been badly damaged, causing power outage. Tebikenkora Eita Village seawalls are badly damaged and seawater is running into all 10 houses in this community.

The Betio national hospital and maternity ward was damaged and patients had to be temporarily re-located. Repairs have been undertaken and patients were moved back to wards on Monday 16 March. Fortunately, no disease outbreaks have been reported. Schools are open but many children, especially adolescents in secondary schools, cannot reach school on time due to of the disruption to transport. Town councils are providing trucks to transport school children. The disaster management committee is monitoring progress and assisting communities to build or strengthen sea walls with local contractors.