



29 March 2015 - Two weeks after Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu, food has reached all 22 cyclone-affected islands for more than 160,000 people. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is supporting the government-led relief effort by organizing distributions, logistics services, and providing extra food to supplement government food packages where necessary.

Government food packages include a two-week supply of rice, canned fish and meat, and noodles. WFP is supplementing this with 200 metric tonnes of locally-purchased rice and 40 metric tons of biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals which have been airlifted to nine priority islands in Vanuatu where families have limited access to clean water to cook food.

The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and its partners are providing connectivity at seven sites across Vanuatu for use by the government and humanitarian community.

Flash appeal

A UN Flash Appeal, launched in Port Vila on 24 March, seeks US\$29.9 million to cover the needs of 166,000 cyclone-affected people for three months. WFP requires up to US\$6 million for food assistance activities and US\$2.3 million for logistics and telecommunications services.

In a press release issued on 24 March Osnat Lubrani, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for the archipelagic nation said "We stand with the Government of Vanuatu and urgently seek the support of the international community at a time of immense need."

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) spokesperson, Christophe Boulierac has said that UNICEF is on the ground providing treatment for diarrhoea, care of new-borns and nutrient supplements while also protecting children from violence, exploitation, and abuse.

Full extent of damage unknown

The Category 5 tropical cyclone descended upon Vanuatu, Tuvalu and a number of other Pacific islands 11 days ago battering them with 250kmph winds and 320kmph gusts which caused widespread damage to agriculture, infrastructure, and impacting services such as electricity and communications. Initial assessments of the storm's immediate aftermath in Vanuatu counted 17 people dead and some 65,000 people homeless as well as 166,000 people in urgent need of life-saving assistance.

It will be some time before the full scale of damages and needs on Vanuatu's more than 80 islands will be known due to a lack of functional communications and limited access.

WFP is grateful for contributions received from the Government of Australia, as well as logistical support in the form of cargo aircraft made available by the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Food reaches all islands affected by Cyclone Pam

Sunday, 29 March 2015 00:00

Vanuatu: Tropical Cyclone Pam - Humanitarian Snapshot (as of 20 March 2015)



KEY FIGURES



166,000 people affected on 22 islands



3,995 people in evacuation centres in Efate



39 centres evacuation centres in Efate



16 fatalities confirmed fatalities

Source: Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office

BACKGROUND

Severe Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam struck Vanuatu (population 234,000), affecting the capital of Port Vila, as an extremely destructive category 5 cyclone on the evening of 13 March at around 11p.m. local time.

FOOD SECURITY

Source: WFP

162,000 Food is planned to be distributed to **162,000** people by 26 March. A food package per household, lasting 15 days, will include 25 kilo kilograms of rice, 5 cans of meat (an additional 5 cans of fish in hardest hit areas) and 10 packets of noodles.

SHELTER

Source: Shelter Cluster

65,000 Around **65,000** people are in need of temporary emergency shelter. Distribution of **shelter kits and tarpaulins** are continuing to affected areas.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Source: Health Cluster

14 **14 International Medical Teams (IMTs)** have been registered and approved in-principle to date, in the next 24 hours, teams are deploying to Tanna and Ambrym.

Safe food and drinking water is an urgent need to prevent food and water borne diseases.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

60% The WASH sector estimates **60 per cent** of the population of Shefa and Tafea has been affected and have no access to safe drinking water.

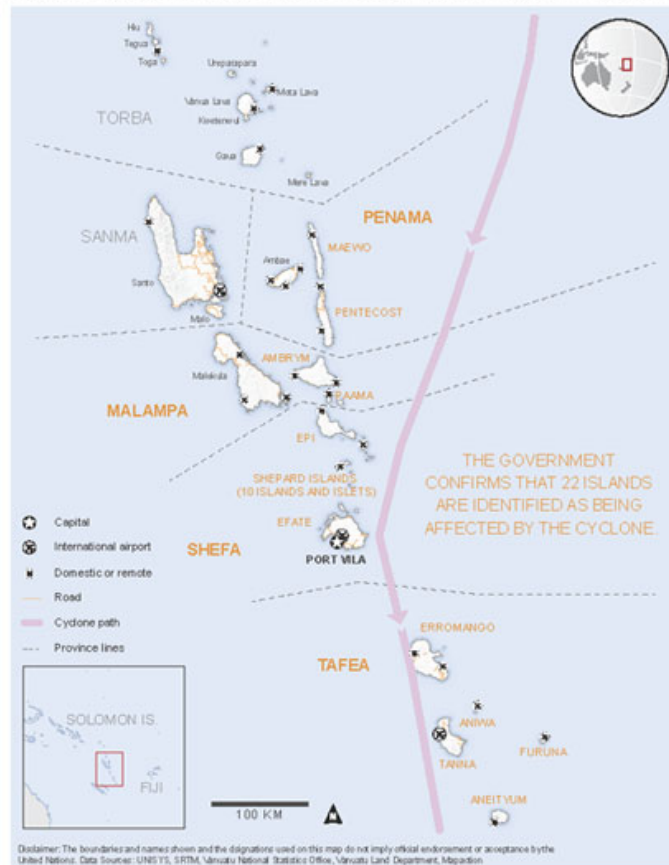
LOGISTICS

2 The World Food Programme (WFP), with assistance from UNICEF, is to establish **two storage hubs, one in Port Vila and another in Tanna**, and additional WFP staff will be hired to establish and run these hubs.

Creation date: 21 March 2015 Feedback: ochapacific@un.org
www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int
www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/vanuatu



Preliminary results of Government-led joint rapid assessments that had been conducted in most islands as of 20 March highlighted **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** as some of the most pressing needs.



EDUCATION

34 The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has confirmed **damage to 34 schools** on the affected islands in Vanuatu.

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS (ETC)

Source: ETC Cluster

Due to extensive damage to the power grid, all response efforts in Vanuatu continue to rely on **solar chargers and generators** for power.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMMUNITIES (CWC)

Source: Digicel

70% Digicel's network has been restored to more than **70 per cent population coverage**. Digicel is providing US\$250,000 in free credit for customers to get in touch with families as services are being restored.

PROTECTION

Source: Protection Cluster

NDMO/Vanuatu has prioritized shelter, water and food assistance for the initial emergency response. The aim is to ensure **protection monitoring for all distributions** and to use distributions as an opportunity to monitor protection issues.