



**Photo Caption:** UNICEF tents and medical supplies © UNICEF Pacific. Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu © UNICEF/Pacific/2015/Sevenier

## Cyclone Pam Humanitarian Situation Report 7

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### Highlights

- Initial assessment reports confirm widespread destruction – ranging from 20 to 90 per cent of houses, schools, clinics, churches and crops.
- WASH needs most urgent for outer islands
- At least 80 per cent of schools have been affected. UNICEF will soon be sending the first supplies to Tongoa to support Temporary Safe Learning Spaces, allowing 570 primary school children to resume school.
- UNICEF-supported measles, polio and tetanus immunisation teams have reached a total of 4,105 children under 5 in greater Port Vila, over the first 3 days of the campaign.
- Five containers shipped from Fiji to Port Vila with supplies for Health, WASH, Education and Child Protection emergency response.
- UNICEF WASH and other supplies are on their way to Temotu province, the most affected areas in the Solomon Islands.
- Additional technical and coordination support has arrived in Funafuti, Tuvalu, together with emergency relief.

### Vanuatu:

**171,000 people** estimated by WFP to be affected (Source: WFP 18 March), including **82,000** children

**57,000** children targeted by Education Cluster

**34** schools in use as evacuation centres

**4,105** children under 5 have been reached by immunisation teams

### Solomon Islands:

Communities in **5** Provinces in Solomon Islands need assistance

### UNICEF Needs\*

**USD 3,000,000**

\*subject to revision after assessments completed & official appeal launched

## Overview

The results of aerial assessments in Tafea, Shefa and Malampa Province have been made available. The Australian Defense Force compiled and issued a national damage assessment in support of coordination, which should be available on 20 March.

The Government reiterated that Water, Health, Food & Shelter are the key priorities at the moment. The Government is to finalise emergency response operational plan and framework of distribution today.

Water is considered absolutely critical, as almost all islands suffer from acute water shortages.

At the moment in Efate, Torba and Penama 34 schools are being used as evacuation centers, which prevents children to continue going to school. Some schools also require repairs to ensure students' safety. UNICEF is establishing temporary learning spaces and delivering school supplies.

Measles cases were identified around Port Vila prior to TPC. As during an emergency, outbreaks tend to spread very easily, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to immunize the most vulnerable children. Six teams comprising of nurses were deployed to communities around Port Vila to provide vaccination against measles, polio and tetanus.

Government-led joint rapid assessment teams were deployed, including UNICEF staff in WASH, Child Protection and Education, to Tafea, Penama, Malampa and Shefa Provinces. Each mission comprises an official from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), a provincial official and a member of the armed forces. It is expected that more detailed information on affected communities will now become available.

## 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 continued on 18 and 19 March, broadening the reach to include islands in Tafea, Penama, Malampa and Shefa 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 is in contact with chairmen from all provincials' disaster committees through satellite phones and have started 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.

School has been postponed and is due to restart on 30 March. An estimated 34 schools are being used as evacuation centres in Efate, Torba and Penama. Some schools require repairs to ensure students' safety.

UNICEF will ship two batches of education supplies this week. This will include school-in-a-box kits, backpacks, recreational kits, early childhood development kits, tents and tarpaulins. UNICEF will soon be sending the first supplies to Tongoa to support the initiation of Temporary Safe Learning Spaces, allowing 570 primary school children to resume their education.

The Education Cluster is targeting about 57,000 affected school-aged children from early childhood to secondary school. Infrastructure, facilities and resources have been damaged in a majority of schools in Efate, Tafea, Torba and Penama. The Education Cluster leadership and operation has yet to reach full capacity, and 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 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.

Communication and access within and between islands remains the greatest challenge. Rapid assessment teams, together with teachers, hiked all over Tanna to inspect school damage, as all the roads are impassable. The first rapid assessment team to arrive on the island reported that the immediate needs are food and water. Further assessments are underway for the islands of Malekula, Ambrym and Penama.



## 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. Around 4,105 children aged under 5 have been reached so far. The target in Port Vila is to reach 10,500 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. New vaccines are due for delivery from Suva.

The UNICEF EPI/MCH clinic in Port Vila, the largest facility, opened on 19 March and began providing health services, including immunization. UNICEF is preparing and dispatching measles outreach teams and is involved in micro planning, arranging logistics, preparing vaccines, and briefing, debriefing and funding the teams. 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. Director of Public Health continues to go on the radio daily to discuss the salient public health concerns. In the next 48 hours, a communication plan will be developed by a health communications group (staffed by UNICEF, WHO and MoH). One journalist accompanied the immunization teams.

UNICEF is providing technical expertise in emergency nutrition. A core coordination team of UNICEF, WHO and MoH nutritionists is working closely to map capacity among humanitarian partners and existing community and health structures for nutrition interventions, focusing on support to infant and young child feeding. Coordination has been initiated with the Food Security Cluster to ensure that the nutritional needs of young children and pregnant and lactating women are being prioritized in the planning of food distribution.

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. The teams of outreach workers conducting the measles campaign have also been briefed on infant feeding in emergencies, to facilitate referral of children who are sick and mother-infant pairs having difficulties breastfeeding. Currently, no children have been admitted for treatment. Capacity for out-patient treatment of severe wasting can be installed in the national referral hospital as soon as ready-to-use therapeutic foods arrive. Screening for severe wasting is currently limited to the children attending the hospital; health staff have been encouraged to reinforce

screening at the facility level to ensure that children who present at the hospital are referred for appropriate treatment.

A Joint Statement for Appropriate Infant Feeding in Emergencies, signed by UNICEF, WHO and MoH, has been distributed. A communications plan is also being developed by a health communications group, staffed by UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Health.

Key infant and young child feeding messages have been translated and are being broadcast via radio. Information, Education and Counseling materials are being identified for printing and dissemination. Opportunities for adding complementary nutrition interventions to the current outreach activities are being explored with the health cluster. Vitamin A and deworming will be delivered in conjunction with the current immunization campaign.



### **Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**

In the process of a comprehensive situational analysis report being developed by OCHA/NDMO, WASH needs have emerged as critical. From available assessment reports, almost all islands seem to suffer from acute water shortages. Rainwater harvesting tanks and catchment roofs have been destroyed, and water available 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.

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 WASH sector assumes that 60 per cent of the population of Shefa and Tafea has been affected and have no access to drinking water.

10 generators supplied by New Zealand were sent to Tanna Island Provincial Government to support the immediate use of borehole systems that were reliant on UNELCO power. Australian Defence Force continues to provide water treatment in Tanna.

In Port Vila, Beverley Hills and Bellevue water supply systems are in working order. 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 1500L to 10,000L to facilitate water trucking to affected areas in and around Port Vila to be facilitated by ADRA.

Redcross, UNICEF, Trade Tools (local hardware store) and MFAT arranged shipping of a 10,000 L water tank and 2000 x 10L containers to the Sheperds Group of islands. DGMWR conducted technical assessments with Shefa Province to immediately repair large piped water systems (serving more than 500 people each).

UNICEF has provided WASH supplies for 2,000 families to the provincial government of Tanna, to benefit more than 5,000 children. Additional supplies are ready for dispatch from Fiji, and orders for more have been placed.

Key constraints are Logistics planning to coordinate ongoing shipping of water supplies. Lack of connectivity between provincial activities and national wash cluster impair coordination. There are no analysed assessment reports available to guide plans and identify needs. Communication and logistical challenges, and limited supplies in-country are some of the difficulties being faced by the WASH sector.



## 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 and a Child Protection Specialist from UNICEF Indonesia is due to arrive on 23 March. A UNICEF-led rapid assessment team has reached Aniwa, Futuna, and Aneityum Islands in Tafea Province. The assessment report is complete and has been shared with NDMO and VHT.

There is a need to strengthen the management of evacuation centres and displaced people. Approximately 3,000 people remain in Efate, while an unconfirmed number of shelters exist in neighbouring islands. Many people are returning to their homes during the day, which makes it difficult to track the number using evacuation centres. Four cases of gender-based violence have been reported to the national hospital in Port Vila. The blood bank at the hospital is low and there has been a call for donors.

The Efate evacuation centres are managed mainly by Save the Children, while others are under the responsibility of Red Cross and ADRA. Evacuees go home during the day to clean up and repair their homes, and return to the centres in the evening for food and shelter.

## Communications for communities

There is still no radio or telephone communication with the outer islands. Digicel and TVL are working together to re-establish communications. Digicel is due to have a full network online by end of the week. 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.

UNICEF Pacific's partnership with Oceania Football Confederation's Just Play programme will provide support to play activities in safe learning and recreation spaces.

## Supply and Logistics

Five containers are being shipped from Fiji to Port Vila with supplies for health, WASH, education and child protection emergency response, with a planned arrival date of 26th March.

The Bauerfield International airport runway has been reduced by 110m due to degradation. 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. There is a need to augment storage in Port Vila and in Tanna, particularly as the amount of relief items due to arrive is likely to increase. WFP, with assistance from UNICEF, is establishing two storage hubs, one in Port Vila and another in Tanna, which will be run by additional WFP staff will be hired.

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 have arrived by air in Port Vila. 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 17m<sup>3</sup> of storage space were made available to Oxfam for hygiene kits.

Relief supplies, including UNICEF WASH supplies, are prepositioned for the Vanuatu Ferry for Tanna, which is scheduled to arrive on 20 March.

## Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, and Kiribati

### TUVALU

Five days into Tuvalu's declaration of a State of Emergency, details of the impact on outer islands remain sketchy, although more detailed reporting is expected from the rapid assessment team on its return from the central island group. Funafuti, the most populous island of about 4,500 people, was comparatively unscathed by the cyclone.

The Government of Tuvalu (GoT) is still awaiting details from a rapid assessment team that left Funafuti for the central islands (Nui, Vaitupu and Nukufetau) on Sunday evening. Lack of power and communication on Nui has hampered field reporting. Initial reports suggest Nui, and to a lesser extent other Islands, have been substantially impacted by heavy seas and a storm surge that inundated houses, undermined building foundations, flooded Pulaka pits (the main source of food), damaged crops and killed livestock. Damaged and seawater-inundated water tanks have taken a heavy toll on water reserves on the worst impacted islands. With an estimated 40 per cent of toilets on Nui unusable, there is an acute need for sanitation facilities and hygiene supplies. An estimated 30 per cent of buildings on Nui have been damaged or destroyed, and approximately 40 per cent of the population (71 families) has been displaced and are living in shelter buildings and other families. Food security is also a concern on Nui, with crops and livestock significantly affected and an estimated two week's food in stock. Food security is also a major concern for Nukufetau, where the majority of crops have been affected.

Reports suggest that the impact has been 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 during the height of the cyclone. However, most households have returned home, with only 10 families residing near the coast still displaced. The Government of Tuvalu believes that most islands have adequate supplies of food and water to meet immediate needs.

UNICEF health and WASH supplies were delivered to Funafuti on 19 March. A charter flight scheduled for 21 March will carry the remaining medical and shelter supplies. UNICEF will provide school supplies and student backpacks for children on the affected islands.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports are to conduct a detailed assessment of the impact of the cyclone on schools, displaced children and teachers.

### SOLOMON ISLANDS

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. It is worth noting that supplies shipped to the island take three days by boat from the capital Honiara. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services assessment team will leave for Temotu on Friday 20 March.

### KIRIBATI

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. Tabonkabwaua 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.

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.

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