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. The first set of Education supplies have arrived in Tongoa in the Shepherd Islands, including 7 tents to provide Temporary Safe Learning Spaces, backpacks, school-in-a-box and early childhood kits. These supplies will allow 570 children to resume school.

- UNICEF-supported measles, polio and tetanus immunization teams have reached a total of 5,163 children under 5 in greater Port Vila

- UNICEF WASH and other supplies are on their way to Temotu province, the most affected areas in the Solomon Islands.

- A UNICEF Logistics team is working with WFP, to install a temporary storage facility at Vanuatu airport, for the storage of all incoming humanitarian assistance supplies for all UN agencies and NGOs in Vanuatu.

Vanuatu: 166,000 people on 22 islands estimated by OCHA to be affected (Source: OCHA 20 March), including 82,000 children

57,000 children targeted by Education Cluster

34 schools in use as evacuation centres

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

5,163 children aged under 5 have been reached by immunization 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

Some 3,995 people remain in 39 evacuation centres in and around Port Vila. Shelter, food and water are still critical needs. An estimated 13,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed across the country, and shelter materials are needed to enable families to return home. Water is considered absolutely critical, as almost all islands suffer from acute water shortages.

The Government has declared a State of Emergency for Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, Tafea and Shefa provinces. Aerial assessments have established that food, water and shelter are the most critical needs in the Shepherd Islands, especially in Mataso, which has no shelters or tree cover.

The Government reiterated that Water, Health, Food & Shelter are the key priorities at the moment. The Government has finalised an initial distribution plan, and NDMO has requested that all the supplies should be registered in their distribution plan prior to shipment to islands.

In Efate, Torba and Penama 34 schools are currently being used as evacuation centres, which prevents children from going to school. Some schools also require repairs to ensure students’ safety. UNICEF is establishing temporary learning spaces and delivering school supplies.

There is significant risk that infectious diseases will spread due to flooding, poor sanitary conditions and limited medical care. Measles cases were identified around Port Vila prior to TPC. Outbreaks tend to spread very easily during emergencies, so UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to immunize the most vulnerable children. Six teams comprising of nurses are working in communities around Port Vila to provide vaccination against measles, polio and tetanus.

UNICEF WASH, Child Protection and Education staff are part of the Government-led joint rapid assessment teams deployed 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 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.

Government of Vanuatu has agreed that a Flash appeal can be launched. The appeal would be a joint Government/UN partners appeal to cover 3 months of support with focus on Water, Health, Food, and Shelter. Education, early recovery and protection will be included as part of the response.
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 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 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 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 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.

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 kits. These supplies will allow 570 children to resume school. Future shipments will include supplies for Early Childhood Development.

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. 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. Some 5,163 children aged under 5 have been reached so far. The target in Port Villa 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. UNICEF is in discussions with Save the Children and World Vision on the provision of immunization services in Tanna and Santos, in line with the MoH priority. UNICEF is also coordinating with New Zealand to deliver measles vaccines.

UNICEF continues to deliver routine vaccines to the UNICEF EPI/MCH clinic in Port Vila (the largest health facility), which opened on 19 March and began providing immunization and other health services. 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. A UNICEF cold chain specialist has repaired and reinstalled damaged solar equipment in Efate, to ensure that stored vaccines remain usable.
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 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 relay 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 Sheperds Group of 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 Sheperds 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. 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 Maewo islands and a Child Protection Specialist from UNICEF Indonesia will 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.

The UNICEF Vanuatu Child Protection Officer is onboard the NDMO ship, monitoring delivery of supplies to affected communities in Shepherd Islands. He will stay there for the next 3-4 days. Additional technical support through the deployment of a Specialist from UNICEF Indonesia arrives Monday 23 March; Supplies including 60 recreational kits for Child Protection are expected to arrive by sea from Fiji on 23 March.

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. 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**

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. A UNICEF Logistics team has, together with WFP, begun installing 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. One UNICEF Logs 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 17m² of storage space were made available to Oxfam for hygiene kits.

Five containers are en route from Fiji to Port Vila with supplies for health, WASH, education and child protection emergency response, with a planned arrival date of 26th March. UNICEF has distributed five Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) and supplies of ORS to International Medical Corps. The 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**

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. The 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 or with other families. Food security is 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 at the height of the cyclone. However, most households have returned home, with only 10 families residing near the coast still displaced. The GoT believes that most islands have adequate supplies of food and water to meet immediate needs. Tuvalu Hospital has requested supplies of hand soap to meet the sanitation needs of the outer islands.
UNICEF health and WASH supplies were delivered to Funafuti on 19 March. A charter flight arrived on 22 March carrying the remaining medical and shelter supplies, including 2000 ORS packs. UNICEF will provide school supplies and student backpacks for children on the affected islands. Although the boats are scheduled to leave on Monday 23rd March, the Captains of the different ships have not given the green signal to start voyages to the different islands due to bad weather. The weather forecast with strong winds and intermittent rains continues for another 4-5 days.

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. Tabonkabwae 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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