



unicef   
for every child

# Pacific MCO Vanuatu

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 5

### Situation in Numbers

**30,000**

Households affected

Reporting Period: 21<sup>st</sup> March to 27th March 2023

## Highlights

- Early in March 2023, two cyclones struck Vanuatu, causing extensive damage and impacting almost half of the population.
- The provinces of Shefa and Tafea suffered the most severe consequences, and assessments of the destruction are still underway.
- UNICEF has formulated a response plan, allocating US\$5 million to furnish crucial assistance to affected children for both response and initial early recovery needs.
- On March 6th, the government announced a state of emergency lasting six months. On March 17th, a comprehensive budget of USD 49.7 million was presented to donors, encompassing urgent response and early recovery initiatives across all sectors.
- A Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is expected, with planning already in progress, and UNICEF has extended its offer of assistance in relevant technical domains.

## UNICEF Response

UNICEF currently has 15 staff members in Vanuatu supporting the Government of Vanuatu with coordination, assessments and response across multiple key sectors: WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education and Protection. Surge staff have been deployed from within the region to assist.

### WASH

- UNICEF is co-leading the National WASH Cluster with the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) to coordinate the WASH response of more than 10 CSO partners and multiple national and international government agencies.
- Collaboration agreements have been set up between UNICEF, Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS), ADRA and World Vision to support the response. Already more than 1,500 hygiene kits have been made available to these NGO partners and are being distributed in highly affected locations.
- UNICEF is supporting the Department of DoWR to undertake WASH assessments, quick fixes and water distributions to households in the two most affected provinces of TAFEA and SHEFA.
- WASH cluster has supported the finalization of the Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Plan in support of sector wide funding appeal in collaboration with DoWR and in consultation with NGO cluster partners.
- UNICEF is supporting the information management of the WASH cluster response and sourcing additional surge staff.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Nutrition orientation was conducted on 22nd March for a team (15 people) Vanuatu family health association (VFHA), NGO on nutrition interventions during emergency response and use of essential nutrition supplies available in Vanuatu and IEC/BCC materials. The team provide integrated outreach in Tafea on SRH, measles, Vitamin A, MUAC screening, IFA for pregnant/lactating mothers on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- Uploaded necessary supplies on Helpr 1 ship, to be used for outreach by VFHA in Tafea for integrated nutrition, immunization and RMNCAH services starting 27th March.
- Shefa provincial health received 2 tents, 3 tarpaulins for its MCH clinic which was damaged. MCH clinic have now resumed its service in UNICEF tents starting 20th March.
- Tents and Supplies loaded into HMAS Canberra have been received in Tafea province by 17th March and are being used for Emergency medical team visiting different sites of Tanna island and outer islands throughout this week of 20th March. Estimated number of beneficiaries by EMT service is 1500 people.
- Finalized nutrition job aids and shared with VFHA during the outreach on nutrition.

## EDUCATION

- UNICEF is coordinating with MoET and NDMO in having a harmonized data collection process for the 3Ws to avoid duplication or having multiple entries.
- UNICEF education staff in Vanuatu continues to distribute educational resources to affected schools in Shefa. Demands remain high for temporary learning spaces and UNICEF has already established 110 tents (estimated beneficiaries over 5,000 students) To support learning continuity, UNICEF has also distributed 41 school-in-a-box with estimated beneficiaries 1230 students, 12 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits (Est. Beneficiaries 240 children, and school bags for 1,565 students reaching 7 ECCE centres, 6 primary schools and 4 secondary schools in Shefa province.
- MoET has shared the list of the affected schools in Tafea province and UNICEF started to release in Tafea. UNICEF is now coordinating with the Education Cluster on the shipment and distribution of the school supplies for Tafea province. The provincial education staff will lead on the distribution on the ground. UNICEF and MOET have done a post-monitoring of distributed supplies to the affected school in Shefa province on Friday last week. The post monitoring will continue this week with the MOET team.

## CHILD PROTECTION

- SOP on Vanuatu CPIE Response in Emergencies: Supported the CPIE Sub Cluster to develop SOP on Vanuatu CPIE Response in Emergencies;
- Volunteer Briefing: Supported the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports and the Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management to carry out a half day briefing with 22 volunteers (including 6 females) on PSEA and key CPIE messages as well as integrated messages on health, WASH and education;
- MHPSS in education: supported the MoET through the education cluster to review the training guide/materials for the MHPSS trainings for school principals and teachers in preparation for a MoET-organised TOT on 29-31 March;
- Discussed and referred one child protection case for further follow up by Child Protection Officers;
- UNICEF CPIE Supplies: Released 46 recreational kits and 25 tarpaulins to the MoYDS to be distributed to Area Councils in Shefa Province to support CFS and PSS activities at fixed sites and mobile teams. Started the process of release of supplies for Tafea response;
- Key Messages and IEC Products: Developed and shared with the CPIE Sub Cluster key CPIE and integrated messages and developed draft IEC products for review by the Sub Cluster;
- Reviewed and provided input into key documents including gender and protection analysis, national recovery plan, research TOR, and SBC inception report.

## Situation

Three weeks after the cyclone hit by tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin the national rapid assessment findings have not been shared. The government of Vanuatu is seeking funding for its response and early recovery budget of 6 billion VUV (49.7M USD). These is still to be officially released. In the meantime the response is ongoing and is coordinated by the NDMO and clusters.

As of 20th March, 51 evacuation centres remain active hosting almost 2,000 people (476 households) in Shefa and Tafea, while over 800 people (129 households) are with host households. While 70% of households are now supplied with electricity, power restoration is still ongoing in parts of the country. Support to affected households through cash transfers is being planned by the Government of Vanuatu.

The UN has proposed support to the government across areas and UNICEF, as the agency with one of the largest in country presences, stands ready to continue providing support through government led clusters, counterpart ministries and CSO partners. UNDP is leading a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) process.

## Funding Overview:

UNICEF has developed an initial response plan that will support the national response plans of the Government of Vanuatu in the aftermath of Cyclones Judy and Kevin. This covers initial response and some early recovery needs (pending results of PDNA). This plan aims at directly supporting at least 50,000 children with the indirect support benefitting a total of about 100,000 children, which is approximately 30 per cent of the country's total population, for a total of US\$5 million.

## External Media

<https://pina.com.fj/2023/03/09/six-billion-vatu-vanuatu-twin-cyclone-disaster-cost/>  
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/pou-tiaki/131437332/food-health-concerns-in-the-aftermath-of-vanuatu-storms>  
<https://asiapacificreport.nz/2023/03/08/vanuatu-children-need-to-see-their-friends-educator-warns/>  
<https://twitter.com/UNICEFNZ/status/1631546800430792705?cxt=HHwWgoDSofbKtaQtAAAA>

### Media links:

Article: <https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/stories/providing-children-safe-space-learn>.

Photo Essay: <https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/stories/thousands-children-urgent-need-aftermath-two-devastating-cyclones-vanuatu>

### Social media:

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFPacific/status/1637566541104545792>  
<https://twitter.com/UNICEFPacific/status/1636487807081259010>  
<https://twitter.com/unicefpacific/status/1634308922793394176?s=46&t=CukI901bHnTR6POTsgeVNg>  
<https://twitter.com/unicef/status/163411716779131394?s=46&t=CukI901bHnTR6POTsgeVNg>

## Next SitRep

- 25<sup>th</sup> April -2023

Who to contact for further information: Roshni Basu  
Deputy Representative  
UNICEF Pacific Multi Country Office  
Tel: +6799925613  
Email: [rbasu@unicef.org](mailto:rbasu@unicef.org)

Eric Durpaire  
Chief Field Office - Vanuatu  
UNICEF Pacific Multi Country Office  
Tel: +6785545302  
Email: [edurpaire@unicef.org](mailto:edurpaire@unicef.org)

James Robertson  
a.i. Emergency Specialist  
UNICEF Pacific Multi Country Office  
Tel: +6797339746  
Email: [jrobertson@unicef.org](mailto:jrobertson@unicef.org)