



WFP (Vanuatu)
SPECIAL OPERATION SO (200830)

Country:	Regional Project RBB
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Logistics and Telecommunications augmentation in response to Cyclone Pam.
Total cost (US\$):	2,278,355
Duration:	2 months

Executive Summary

Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu, hitting the capital of Port Vila, as an extremely destructive category 5 cyclone on the evening of 13 March 2015. Early damage assessments for the island of Efate suggest an estimated 90 percent of structures are either damaged or destroyed with more than 2000 people sheltering in 25 evacuation centres. A state of emergency has been declared in Shefa Province and likely to be declared in Tafea and other provinces. The cyclone has caused severe disruption of the country's logistics infrastructure and communications network.

On 17 March 2015, the Government of Vanuatu accepted WFP's offer of assistance to reinforce the logistics coordination in the emergency response and augment the storage capacity for relief items in the country.

Subsequently the government of Vanuatu has informed the humanitarian community that WFP will support and coordinate logistics under the National Disaster Response Plan. WFP is launching this Special Operation to support the government's relief efforts and to augment the logistics and telecommunications capacity of the wider humanitarian community that is responding to Tropical Cyclone Pam.

Project Background

1. Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu, hitting the capital of Port Vila, as an extremely destructive category 5 cyclone on the evening of 13 March 2015. Winds are estimated to have reached 250kmph with gusts peaking at around 320kmph, causing serious damage to infrastructure and leaving debris strewn across the capital.
2. Vanuatu has a population of 234,000 people scattered over a number of islands, adding to the complexity of the emergency. Up to 70 percent of the housing infrastructure have been damaged by the storm based on initial assessments
3. Shefa Province was declared in a state of emergency on 14 March 2015, with other areas such as Tafea province to be determined following aerial assessments and feedback from local authorities.

4. Early damage assessments for the island of Efate suggest an estimated 90 percent of structures are either damaged or destroyed with more than 2000 people sheltering in 25 evacuation centres.
5. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is coordinating the response with the support of personnel from the international humanitarian community via the local coordination architecture for humanitarian partners, the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT).
6. The Government of Vanuatu (GoV) through its NDMO requested the FRANZ partners (France, Australia and New Zealand) to provide technical support in different areas, including logistics.
7. Furthermore on 17 March 2015, the NDMO accepted WFP's offer of assistance to reinforce the logistics coordination and augment the storage capacity in the country.
8. Since 2012, the Pacific region has a unique coordination structure with open-ended Cluster arrangement at the regional level in support of National Disaster response mechanisms. WFP leads the Logistics Cluster for the Pacific and supports technically the Food Security Cluster (led by FAO). The World Food Programme and the network of Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Partners will support the Government response by providing and facilitating coordination and dialogue between those parties providing IT response and support for this emergency.

Project Justification

9. The NDMO and the VHT partners have limited logistics staff capacity in country. In order to address the request from the Government of Vanuatu as well as to prepare for perceived needs of the wider humanitarian community, immediate logistics augmentation, coordination and support is required. WFP urgently needs to augment its logistics staff in country in order to address this need, and together with the NDMO and the wider humanitarian community, to respond to the disaster in an efficient manner.
10. There is limited storage capacity in the country to accommodate incoming emergency relief supplies. In order to ensure that these supplies reach the most vulnerable people affected by the crisis in a timely and efficient manner, a cargo reception facility at the airport and additional storage space in the country is required.
11. Accessing the numerous islands to carry out assessments is challenging, the NDMO and the humanitarian community is facing difficulties in reaching remote communities.
12. The surge of humanitarian personnel will require augmented data and voice connectivity as the NDMO structure is already stretching the available communication infrastructure to its limits.

13. Initial assessments have found that there is severe damage to most of the telecommunications and ancillary equipment such as satellite, radio and electrical systems. The data communications and HF radio networks that serve as the core of the emergency telecommunications infrastructure in the affected areas are now non-operational and there is an urgent need to re-establish connectivity for coordination purposes.
14. The availability of reliable and independent data and voice communications services is recognized as a priority for a successful humanitarian response. Due to the situation, the availability of emergency telecommunications services is critical for the success of any humanitarian activity in the affected areas.
15. The geographic area affected by the cyclone includes multiple islands which increases the potential for logistics bottlenecks in operations. This is further exacerbated by the difficulties in collecting information on the condition of transport infrastructure. Communications problems are also limiting the ability to assess the logistics needs required to support the humanitarian response. Emergency assessments of affected areas have started but with the majority of networks throughout the country currently down, the ability to get reports and information from the southern islands is severely affected.

Project Objective(s)

16. WFP will provide targeted technical support to the NDMO and the VHT partners through the provision of logistics advisory services, deploy and set-up operational support equipment and augment the capacity of emergency telecommunication networks.
 - a. Logistics Cluster Coordination and Information Management:
Logistics cluster cells will be established together with the NDMO including a WFP Logistics Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Officer to reinforce the NDMO.
 - b. Strategic Airlifts for the deployment and set up of operational support equipment:
 - i. In order to facilitate immediate deployment of the support equipment for the startup of the operations and other humanitarian relief items, this Special Operation makes provision for one strategic airlift from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot Network to the Port Vila, Vanuatu.
 - ii. Establishment of a cargo reception facility in Port Vila;
 - iii. Establishment of storage and distribution facilities in outer islands in Tafea province.
 - c. Deployment of an WFP Aviation helicopter for the first month of the operation:
 - i. To facilitate assessment missions to remote locations
 - ii. To enable access for the restoration of communication services and the urgent movement of light cargo such as emergency

telecommunications equipment and other life-saving humanitarian cargo to remote areas.

- d. Provide basic voice and data communication services to the humanitarian community
- i. The overall coordination of emergency telecommunications services will be ensured through the deployment of a dedicated Coordinator who will be responsible for (a) the overall coordination of IT activities with partner organizations, (b) coordination and liaison with the Government and specifically the NDMO to support their interaction with the humanitarian community on all IT related matters, and (c) the provision of information management services to support all IT-related activities;
 - ii. The World Food Programme and its Emergency Telecom Cluster Partners will conduct comprehensive ICT assessment of all sites, deploy the necessary equipment to re-establish services, obtain common licenses (as required) and develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures in conjunction with and in support of the Government of Vanuatu for the current emergency and for future disaster preparedness;
 - iii. All equipment will be deployed with appropriate technical expertise for establishing the communication network.

Project Implementation

17. To support the GoV with the coordination of the logistics response, WFP will provide expert personnel to reinforce the NDMO and assist with the coordination of the response and minimize duplication of efforts. The proposed response is planned for two months.
18. WFP will support the NDMO and the VHT with Logistics Information management, making a web sharing platform and mailing list available to responders. Regular situation reports will be submitted to the NDMO capturing the scope of the international logistics response. The Logistics Cluster will coordinate the logistics operation based on priorities set by the NDMO and the humanitarian community. The Logistics cluster will provide information management and GIS/mapping services, and a dedicated Vanuatu Operation page will be activated on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate vital information products to the humanitarian community.
19. WFP will deploy and manage an assessment helicopter, with a seating capacity of up to 6 passengers based in Port Vila. This helicopter will be available for use by the NDMO and the humanitarian community to reach remote communities in the affected islands including the movement of light humanitarian cargo.
20. WFP will establish a cargo reception facility at Port Vila Airport, including Mobile storage units and logistics personnel to support the reception and dispatch of incoming cargo.

21. WFP will provide equipment to establish 2 storage and distribution facilities in outer islands in Tafea province;
22. WFP will provide experienced logistics personnel to support government-led operations in Port Vila and Tafea province.
23. Provision of telecommunications equipment to facilitate communication between the islands until such time as pre-cyclone systems are reinstated;
24. Establishment of satellite communication data services in support of the GoV and the VHT to facilitate the coordination of the response. All equipment will be deployed with appropriate technical expertise and support for establishing the network.

Project Management

25. This Special Operation will be managed by the Regional Bureau for Asia (RBB). The Project Manager is the WFP Regional Logistics Officer, while the Allotment Manager is the WFP Regional Director with the Allotment Administrator being the WFP Regional Finance Officer.
26. Sub funded projects will be created for the different components of this SO, the ETC Coordinator will manage the ETC component of the SO.

Project Cost and Benefits

27. Total Cost for this special operation is US\$2,278,355
28. This Special Operation intends to prevent and alleviate gaps and bottlenecks in the humanitarian logistics response and facilitate an uninterrupted supply of life-saving and life-sustaining goods and services to those affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam. It will enable the humanitarian community to move relief items into the affected area in a more reliable and predictable way, while preventing overlaps in the response.
29. The ETC component of the special operation will provide the following benefits
 - Increased staff safety and operations reliability by reestablishing the communication network
 - Rehabilitation of data networks
 - Provision of common data connectivity services in common operational areas
 - Provision of Emergency Telecommunications Coordination support
 - Number of UN agencies and NGO staff trained in radio communications

Monitoring & Evaluation

30. The key performance indicators will be:

- Cargo reception facility established. Target: 1
- Number of storage and distribution facilities established in outer islands in Tafea province. Target: 2
- Number of logistics experts deployed in support of the government-led operations. Target: 5
- Number of agencies and organizations using Logistics Coordination services. Target 10
- Number of common operational areas provided access to voice and data communications services. Target: 3

31. Operational reports will be provided on a regular basis

32. The humanitarian situation will be monitored and assessed on a regular basis in order to capture any necessary changes in a budget revision in due time should this be deemed necessary.

Risk Analysis and Contingency Planning

33. Demands for storage exceed current forecasts

This risk will be mitigated through:

- Continued assessment of availability of adequate commercial storage facilities; and
- Availability of prepositioned equipment in Subang to meet the needs of the humanitarian community.

34. Customs / transit delays for the IT equipment arrival that might delay planned IT work

- In regard to the importation and licensing of telecommunications equipment, discussions on clearance and licensing of required approvals will be initiated at the very onset of the response

35. Lack of funding

This risk will be mitigated through:

- Actively provide inputs in ongoing appeals and donor outreach materials.

Exit Strategy

36. Damaged equipment will have been replaced and local capacity developed to the extent possible through the ICT Working Group without the need for a dedicated Coordinator and technical staff to remain in the country.

37. A sustainable cost sharing mechanism will be established for data and security communications required beyond the duration of this SO. Equipment, if required, can be donated by the Emergency Telecom Cluster and Partners to the GoV to ensure future capacity for response and preparedness;

38. If post-emergency response coordination is still needed, the ICT and Logistics coordination activities will be mainstreamed into regular working group meetings comprising of existing agencies and NGO's to continue facilitating communication between humanitarian partners.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation 200830 covering the period from 18 March 2015 to 30 May 2015 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 2,278,355 is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

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Jim Harvey
Chief of Staff

Annex : Vanuatu Logistics Planning Map

