

Format for Information Note of IR-EMOP Project Document

TO: Calum Gardner, Chief, RMBB

DATE: 19 March 2015

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CC:

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IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION

VANUATU [EMOP 200831]

Food Assistance for victims of Cyclone Pam

PROJECT DOCUMENT

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

NATURE OF EMERGENCY:

1. On Friday 13th March Tropical Cyclone Pam made landfall on the islands of Vanuatu with sustained wind speeds of 270 km/h. Initial estimates of humanitarian impact suggest large devastation. Several other island nations, including Kiribati, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and Fiji have also been affected, though to a much lesser extent than Vanuatu.

Location:

2. Vanuatu, South Pacific. Capital city Port Vila, on the island of Efate, Shefa Province. Vanuatu is situated 2,000 km North East of Brisbane Australia.

Cause:

3. Tropical Cyclone Pam category 5 cyclone (sustained wind speeds of 270 km/h) the second strongest recorded cyclone to form in the Southern Pacific.

Effects:

4. The full scale of the destruction is still unknown, especially for the islands to the north and south of the capital Port Vila. Shefa, Tafea, Malampa and Penama provinces are emerging as the worst impacted.
5. The RB's 72-hour impact assessment categorized affected populations as follows:
 - **Priority 1 (Extremely high impact)**
Households along the eastern parts of Shefa province and Tafea directly on the path of Cyclone Pam. Resilience levels in these areas are lower with many people living in traditional housing and depending on subsistence farming. Most are assumed to have lost their house and livelihoods. At least 38,000 people resided in these areas prior to the cyclone.
 - **Priority 2 (High impact and low or moderate resilience)**
Households immediately in the vicinity of the typhoon track and hence highly impacted. Severe wind damage occurred in these areas, with potential effects on

subsistence livelihoods. At least 47,000 people resided in these areas prior to the cyclone.

- **Priority 3 (Moderate impact and low resilience or high impact with high resilience)**
Households located further west of the path of the cyclone, who escaped very high impact. These islands have probably experienced damage due to strong winds. It includes the capital city Port Vila. At least 86,000 people resided in these areas prior to the cyclone.

Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food aid:

6. Government estimates place the affected population at 162,650 – more or less corresponding with WFP’s 72-hour assessment quoted above. Locally, assessments are beginning but most to date have been fly-over assessments. Communications are still down with many of the remote islands. Hence, there is currently no reliable means of getting reliable information on actual needs.
7. WFP proposes in this IR-EMOP to adopt the Government’s number of 162,650. WFP’s own assessment work begins on 20 March and will ascertain a reduced number of people in need of food assistance beyond the initial 14 day period covered by this IR-EMOP.

WFP IR EMOP:

Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:

8. WFP’s target population would be predominantly rural, depending mainly on their own production to meet food needs. Approximately 2/3 of food consumed is from own production, mainly roots and tubers, fruits and vegetables and small livestock cultivated in the homestead. The food security cluster reports that root and tubers crops have been widely uprooted and others inundated; that cabbage and other leafy vegetable plants have been destroyed; that the vast majority of fruit trees have been stripped; that the banana crop throughout the country has been entirely destroyed; that small livestock, including chickens and pigs have been killed and pens and shelters destroyed; and that fisheries infrastructure, including boats, nets and gear have been destroyed.
9. Rural island markets were irregular before the cyclone and mainly involved exchange of kava, cooked foods and some crops. They provided a very small proportion of the food consumed by rural populations before the cyclone and WFP’s working assumption is that they will not function in the period of the IR-EMOP.
10. These two factors – the destruction of the main source of food and the inexistence of markets – leave rural populations in particular at high risk of severe food shortages in the weeks to come. The few on the ground assessments which have taken place in the past days have confirmed that the population is marauding the few available roots and tubers still left in the ground. Consensus is emerging that those few provisions may last between 7 and 10 days only and perhaps not for all. A life saving response is therefore required.
11. The fastest growing root or tuber will take three months to harvest and hence the medium-term needs, focused around that time frame, will probably require a follow up intervention by WFP, under an EMOP.
12. Urban populations, while slightly more resilient – are also heavily affected, relying predominantly on the purchase of imported items, which are subject to both disruption and price hikes in this initial post-crisis period.

13. On 18 March 2015, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu formally requested WFP to provide a food response to complement the Government's efforts.

Duration of assistance:

14. From 19 March to 2 April 2015 (14 days)

Number of beneficiaries and location:

15. 162,650 beneficiaries in the six most affected provinces of Efate, Penama, Malampa, Torba, Shefa and Tafea.

Food basket composition and ration levels:

16. The Government of Vanuatu is providing a package consisting of rice, canned fish/meat, noodles and biscuits to the affected population and have secured a large proportion of the commodities required to meet needs in the initial 14-day period. The Government is requesting WFP to fill gaps in the food basket between the overall requirement and available government food stocks. Specifically, to complete food packages to the affected population.
17. The Government food package varies according to the degree of impact/vulnerability. For the worst affected populations, the daily ration is 333g rice and 28g canned fish, 13g canned meat, 11g of instant noodles and a biscuit ration to be confirmed. The latter will depend on the packaging of available stocks.

Total WFP food aid requirements (mt):

18. A total of 270 metric tons: 200 metric tons of rice and 70 metric tons of high-energy biscuits.

Mode of implementation:

19. The operation will be limited to a general food distribution to the affected population. WFP has made provision to contract international NGOs to undertake distributions but is currently ascertaining what distribution modalities the government packages will be channelled through. In areas facing distribution bottlenecks and/or not covered by NGO presence, WFP staff might organise distributions directly with local authorities and village elders.
20. Coordination of the food assistance operation is being carried out through the food security cluster, which is chaired by the Government and supported by FAO and WFP. Planning support provided by WFP to the National Disaster Management Authority will ensure full coordination of WFP's response with the Government's own intervention, effective prioritisation and avoidance of overlap.
21. WFP is gearing up to charter or contract local maritime transport to shuttle food to remote island ports, where NGOs would receive it and forward it to distribution points. The WFP Special Operation provides for a limited number of storage hubs in case they are needed on islands with larger beneficiary concentrations. WFP's lead in the logistics cluster would facilitate the use of these transport and storage arrangements by other humanitarian responders.
22. The Special Operation would also provide for appropriate telecommunications infrastructure to support both WFP and partners responding in these remote locations.

PART 2: EMOP BUDGET

Cost Components			USD
Food Tool	MT	Rate/mt	
<i>Rice</i>	200	850	\$220,000
<i>High Energy Biscuits</i>	70	1200	\$84,000
			0
			0
			0
			0
Total Food Transfers	270		\$304,000
External Transport		\$2,592.59	\$770,000
LTSH		\$250.00	\$67,500
ODOC Food		\$317.49	\$85,320
<i>Describe ODOC costs here.</i>			
Total Food DOC			\$1,226,820
Cash and Voucher Tool		% of Trfs	
Total Cash and Vouchers Transfers			
C&V Related costs			0
<i>Describe C&V Related costs here.</i>			
Total C&V DOC			\$ 0
Capacity Development & Augmentation Tool			
<i>Describe CD&A costs here.</i>			
Total CD&A DOC			\$
Total Direct Operating Costs (DOC)			\$1,102,223
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			\$133,061
<i>Describe DSC costs here.</i>			
Total WFP direct project costs			\$1,226,820
Indirect Support Costs (ISC)		7%	\$95,192
TOTAL WFP COST			\$1,450,930

PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBB: [Calum Gardner], Date: 19/03/2015

- 2) EMOP is approved

Director of Emergencies, OME: Stefano Porretti, Date: 19/03/2015

Annex 1 – Budget Summary