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WFP
World Food Programme
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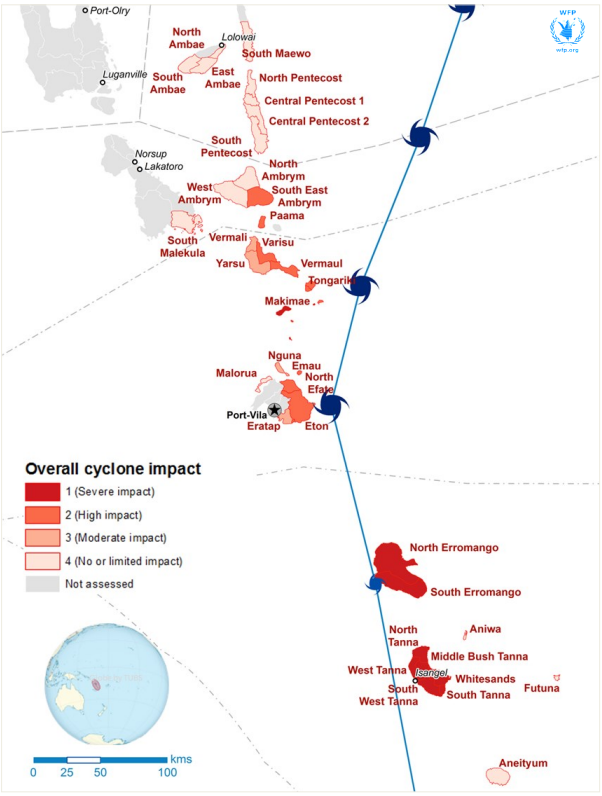
Country:
Vanuatu



In numbers

More than **165,000** people (58% women and children) have received food and relief items.

Approximately **800mt** of food has been procured for the next wave of food distributions.

Food distributions were completed in **21 islands** out of the affected 23.

Funding Update:

EMOP: USD1.76 million (48 percent) resourced against the required 3.52 million.
SO: USD731,500 (32 percent) resourced against the required 2.28 million.

Highlights

- The first wave of Government-led food distributions was completed in 21 out of 23 islands, reaching some 165,000 people. By referring to Makira and Mataso as two separate islands (they were considered as one initially), the number of affected islands is now considered to be 23.
- Food distributions are still underway in the islands of Pentecost and Maewo, due for completion by the end of the week.
- Almost 800mt of food has been procured for the second round of distributions, including rice, noodles, tinned fish and biscuits. This includes food from the Government of Vanuatu, WFP, the German Government, the Red Cross movement, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Care International.
- All military assets will have completed their mission in Vanuatu by 15 April and are scheduled to leave the country then.

Situation Update

- More than one month after Cyclone Pam struck the archipelago of Vanuatu, the humanitarian response is in urgent need of funding to continue basic relief efforts such as food, safe drinking water and shelter. A USD30 million United Nations Flash Appeal launched on 24 March for the response, is currently USD13.6 million or 46 percent funded.
- Regular fresh water supply in North Tanna and the Shepherd Islands remains problematic. Government and humanitarian partners are exploring mid-term solutions until water systems can be repaired.
- The Government-led Second Phase Harmonised Assessment was finalised on 8 April, where Government agencies and partners assessed the level of damage, humanitarian needs and response across the 23 affected islands. A comprehensive report will be issued on 16 April and which will inform humanitarian response and early recovery planning.

WFP Response

- Following the conclusion of WFP's immediate-response emergency operation (IR-EMOP), the first wave of food distributions under the EMOP is due to start this week, in the priority islands of Shefa, Tafea and Malampa provinces.
- Field-level agreements with ADRA, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse and Save the Children have been finalised. NGO partners will support the Government in the implementation of the response.
- WFP has conducted scoping missions in the islands of Ambrym, Paama, Epi and Tongoa to confirm final delivery points and to assess the scope of distributions.

Food Assistance

- WFP is preparing to begin the second-round food distributions (first round under the WFP emergency operation), aiming to assist some 57,300 beneficiaries. Rations will vary in size depending on priority areas, and will generally include rice, tinned fish and noodles.
- Through field-level agreements, WFP will work with implementing partners to encourage households receiving commodities, to prioritise consumption by children, women and people living with disability.
- WFP-procured rice (187 mt), canned fish (70mt) and noodles (25mt), arrived in Port Vila on 14 April, to be provided under the EMOP.

Logistics

- The Government and partners are working across all sectors in Tanna, but response is hampered by logistical challenges. The island is far away from Efate where the capital Port Vila is located, thus requiring extended time for the transport of relief supplies. Shortfall of trucking capacity in Tanna will be partially relieved by the arrival of two WFP-rented trucks, expected on 15 April.
- 70mt of food was dispatched on 6 April, completing the first round of Government-led food assistance in Tanna. Furthermore, rice, tinned fish and noodles are being dispatched to the island for distribution under WFP's EMOP.
- WFP has two Mobile Storage Units in Tanna, one serving the Logistics Cluster and providing common storage, and the other, at the wharf, solely for WFP food. Food is currently being stockpiled before the second round of distributions commence.

Clusters

Food Security and Agriculture Cluster

- Fresh planting materials to grow kumula, manioc and island cabbage have been distributed to 10,000 people in Efate and the Shepherd Islands. Kumula cuttings have also been dispatched to Tanna for distribution.
- Reliable baseline data on number of households at the Area Council and village level remains limited. Detailed population counts for the islands of Tanna and Efate continue.
- Accurate information on delivery points for distributions and the population caseload continues to be a challenge.

Logistics Cluster

- The Government, with assistance from the Logistics cluster, is exploring solutions to address continuing transport gaps before the second and third round of food distributions begin.
- Planned delivery of fuel for the Provincial Disaster Committees (PDCs) of Epi, Emae, Tongoa, Tanna Islands is expected to take place later this week.
- The Government of Vanuatu has received in-kind donations from the Government of Indonesia, including fortified biscuits, a range of ready-to-eat meals and NFIs. The Government, with assistance from the Logistics Cluster, is looking into ways to deliver these relief items to the affected islands.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- Satellite equipment from ETC member emergency.lu has been successfully installed on Tanna island to provide high-speed internet connectivity to the humanitarian community operating there. Over a 100 users have already registered to access these internet services. Additionally, ETC partner, Ericsson Response continues to provide support in Tanna and has connected the local power company, UNELCO, to the ETC network.
- The ETC is starting to demobilise in Port Vila as users in the capital are now able to access services from local providers, and is preparing to ship back two satellite equipment kits to emergency.lu and one satellite kit to British Telecom (BT) which are no longer required.
- The ETC Coordinator travelled to Tanna recently to inspect all the locations where equipment has been installed to ensure that continued connectivity and support are available to the Government and the humanitarian community.

Other/Miscellaneous

- There are currently 25 WFP staff deployed in Vanuatu.

Resourcing Update

- To date, the EMOP has received confirmed contributions of USD1.76 million (48 percent) out of a total requirement of USD3.52 million, from the Government of Japan, the private sector, and UNCERF. The Special Operation has received confirmed contributions of USD731,500 (32 percent) out of a total requirement of USD2.28 million, from the Government of Japan and UNCERF. The Government of Australia has also donated USD467,000 to WFP's initial response under the IR-EMOP.

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