
Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

RB – ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Logistics and Telecommunications augmentation in response to Cyclone Pam

Project Number	200830
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation

Project Approval Date	18 Mar 2015
Planned Start Date	18 Mar 2015
Actual Start Date	18 Mar 2015
Project End Date	30 Jun 2015
Financial Closure Date	03 Mar 2016

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,670,423
Direct Support Costs	441,076
Indirect Support Costs	147,805
Total Approved Budget	2,259,304

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

OPERATIONAL SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

RESULTS

Outputs

Outcomes

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

Lessons Learned

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

The Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) initially coordinated the emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam with the support of personnel from the international humanitarian community through the local coordination architecture for humanitarian partners and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT). The NDMO requested the FRANZ partners (France, Australia and New Zealand) to provide technical logistics support and relied on military assets to reach the most remote areas in the aftermath of the cyclone.

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 informed the humanitarian community that WFP would manage and coordinate logistics under the National Disaster Response Plan. WFP subsequently launched this Special Operation to support the relief efforts of the government and to augment the logistics and telecommunications capacity of the wider humanitarian community that responded to Tropical Cyclone Pam.

Under this Special Operation, and with assistance from the Logistics Cluster, WFP aimed 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 from the Food Security and Agriculture, Health, Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Clusters, providing support to those affected by the cyclone. The operation enabled the humanitarian community to move relief items into the affected areas in a more reliable and predictable way, while preventing overlaps in the response.

Under the emergency telecommunications component of the Special Operation, WFP as lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), aimed to increase staff safety and operations by reestablishing the communication network; rehabilitating data networks; providing common data connectivity services in common operational areas; providing emergency telecommunications coordination support; and training staff from the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in radio communications.

In line with the WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017), the overall goal of this Special Operation was to support the objective of saving lives and protecting livelihoods in an acute emergency (Strategic Objective 1).

RESULTS

In response to the government's request, WFP provided immediate targeted technical support to the NDMO and the VHT partners through logistics advisory services, deployment and set-up of operational support equipment and the capacity augmentation of emergency telecommunication networks.

WFP assisted the government in delivering 1,014 mt of food, including rice, noodles, tinned fish, tinned meat and high-energy biscuits (HEB) to reach 200,000 beneficiaries across 22 islands. As the government requested the international community to import food to the extent possible, rather than increase pressure on available domestic food stocks, WFP procured small quantities locally to avoid serious gaps in supply chain and looked to regional markets, such as Fiji, for its food purchases. In addition to food, relief items from the Shelter, Health, and WASH Clusters were also delivered to affected islands with the assistance of the Logistics Cluster, led by WFP and the government.

The government requested WFP, in its role as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, to manage the entire logistics operation for the two months of assistance, which resulted in the transportation of government food assistance to 90,000 beneficiaries. Throughout the operation the logistics network relied on deliveries by sea utilising existing local commercial transport capacity. A main logistics hub was established by WFP at Port Vila, which handled cargo from WFP and most of the other responding actors. Secondary hubs were established on Tanna Island for deliveries to southern islands and Luganville and on Espiritu Santo Island for deliveries to northern islands.

To meet logistics demands, especially after the immediate response, WFP worked with local transporters to establish two complementary systems for sea deliveries. The first aimed at setting a regular schedule for coastal deliveries to the affected islands using ferries, tugboats and barges. The second involved deliveries to affected islands in cases where urgent deliveries were required. However, given the vast archipelago of Vanuatu, military airlifts from Australia, New Zealand and France were used to reach the most remote islands and distribution points.

Close coordination and collaboration among WFP, the NDMO and NGO partners was critical to ensuring that food was distributed in a timely manner to populations affected by Cyclone Pam. The operation went beyond initial targets, successfully providing food to more people than originally planned.

Outputs

WFP supported the NDMO and the VHT by establishing a cargo reception facility at Port Vila Airport and another in the port, which included mobile storage units and logistics personnel for the reception and dispatch of incoming cargo. WFP provided the equipment to establish two facilities in Tanna (a reception facility at the airport and a distribution facility at Lenekel Wharf), which had the highest number of beneficiaries. WFP provided experienced logistics personnel to support government-led operations in Port Vila and Tafea province. The actual number of personnel was higher than the target, as a result of the additional activities undertaken as the Special Operation shifted its scope from supporting the government, to managing the entire logistics operation for the government and humanitarian community.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), under WFP's leadership, provided telecommunications equipment to facilitate communication between the islands until such time as pre-cyclone systems were reinstated. The ETC also established satellite communication data services in support of the government and the VHT to facilitate the coordination of the response. All equipment was deployed with appropriate technical expertise for establishing the communication network.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 1: Special Operations (Cluster)				
Cargo transported through coastal services	%	80	82	102.5%
Number of agencies using logistics coordination services	no.	10	8	80.0%
SO 1: Special Operations (ICT)				
Number of operational areas covered by data communications services	no.	3	3	100.0%
SO 1: Special Operations (Logistics)				
Number of cargo reception facilities established	no.	1	2	200.0%
Port Vila airport and Tanna airport				
Number of distribution facilities established	no.	2	3	150.0%
Port Vila, Tanna and Santo				
Number of logistics experts deployed in support of the govt-led operations	no.	5	8	160.0%

Outcomes

Under the Special Operation, and through support to the Logistics Cluster, WFP succeeded in closing the gaps and alleviating bottlenecks in the humanitarian logistics response for the uninterrupted supply of relief goods to the affected populations. The operation enabled the humanitarian community to swiftly move relief items into the affected areas in a more reliable and predictable way, while preventing overlaps in the response.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP aimed to address longer-term needs and augment the government's emergency response capacity. In order to address transportation challenges, WFP intended to purchase trucks locally and transport them to the bigger islands, where roads were impassable. However, since this was not possible because of funding constraints, WFP rented two trucks in Port Vila and transported them for internal use in Tanna. To ensure that the NDMO retained telecommunication capacity and basic infrastructure for future emergencies, all remaining equipment that had been installed during the emergency was handed over to the government.

WFP handed over to the NDMO: three mobile storage units, three generators (15kVA), one generator (45kVA), three sets each of indoor and outdoor lighting kits for the mobile storage units, basic warehousing materials, one three-ton forklift and assorted electrical and telecommunications equipment. The total value of all equipment handed over to the government was close to USD 220,000.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

WFP's primary partner in this response was the NDMO. Working in tandem with the NDMO gave WFP access to a central hub for logistics planning. Having staff placed within government offices also allowed WFP to understand and balance the needs of government and non-government partners involved in the response.

WFP also benefited from other partnerships, including collaborative civil-military relationships that enabled the use of air assets to transport food to remote islands quickly and effectively, and at low cost. WFP worked closely with UNICEF to manage central storage units in Port Vila, which were used for the reception, stocking and dispatch of relief supplies. Finally, WFP's work through the Logistics Cluster was deemed indispensable, as it provided coordination services that linked WFP and the NDMO to the broader network of humanitarian actors in country.

Lessons Learned

Following the conclusion of the operation, WFP is now pursuing a longer-term strategy for enhanced preparedness in the Pacific. An important lesson learned during the emergency operation in Vanuatu was related to the fact that WFP had no previous operational presence in the country. The most challenging obstacles faced by WFP were caused by a lack of operational familiarity with Pacific Island Countries and the complicated logistics related to maritime transport.

Since mid-2015, WFP has initiated an Asia Pacific Emergency Preparedness Programme, aimed to increase emergency preparedness and response capacity in the region, paying particular attention to the Pacific Island countries with a view to enhancing emergency logistics. This focus covers creating networks of transporters and partners, and planning and developing emergency distribution corridors for food and other shared logistical services.