

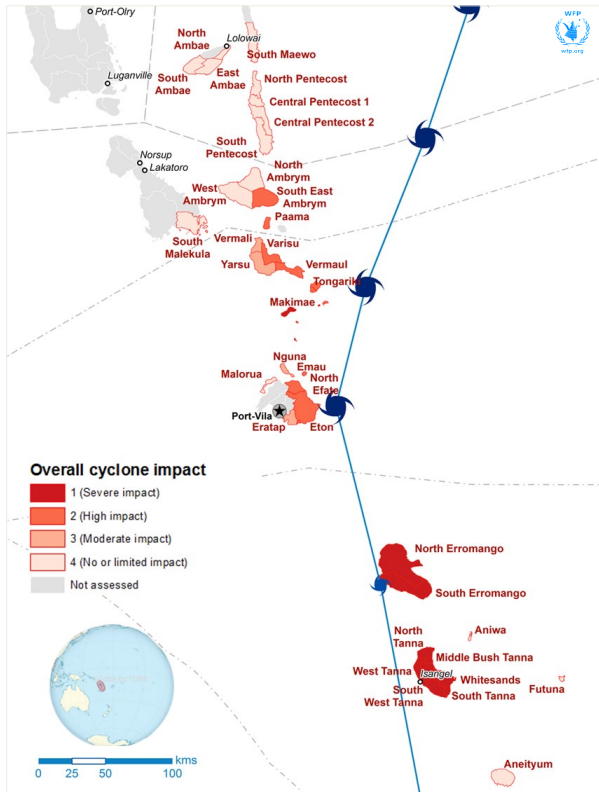


WFP/Victoria Cavanagh



World Food Programme

Country: Vanuatu



Highlights

- More than a month after Tropical Cyclone Pam hit, the second wave of WFP and Government emergency food distributions is well underway, reaching the 23 affected islands. To date, WFP and cooperating partners have distributed over 200mt of commodities such as rice, canned fish, and noodles, to approximately 33,000 people on 13 WFP-supported islands.
- WFP staff visited the Efate offshore islands and the Tanna Islands to observe and monitor the distributions. The visits strengthened cooperation between Governments, NGO partners and the local authorities, while also helping gather information from beneficiaries. The visits garnered key lessons learned for upcoming distributions.

Situation Update

- Progress on the Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) continues with feedback from the Government. In keeping with the Government's Strategic Action Plan, the HAP timeline will be reduced from 6 months to 3 months in order to transition from emergency to the recovery phase. The Government is expected to endorse the HAP by April 30th.

In numbers



Approximately **70,000 targeted people** (58% of which are women and children) receive food under the EMOP.

Approximately **1,500mt** of food in total has been procured for the IR-EMOP and EMOP.

Funding Update:

EMOP: USD3.8 million confirmed; (73% of the required USD5.2 million)

SO: USD731,500 confirmed; (32% of the required USD2.28 million)

WFP Response



Food Assistance

- This week, WFP and cooperating partners (ADRA, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children and World Vision) completed food distributions to approximately 9,000 people affected in the Efate offshore islands (Lelepa, Moso, Pele, Nguna and Emau), Shepherd Islands (Tongoa, Emae, Buninga, Tongariki, Makira, and Mataso) and Aneityum.
- Food distributions in Tanna, one of the most severely affected islands in the south, are ongoing to assist approximately 24,000 beneficiaries to date.
- This week WFP conducted food distribution monitoring in the Efate offshore and Tanna Islands. The main findings were: 1) Food distributions were smooth and well organized due to WFP's close coordination with the Provincial/Community Disaster Committees, area councils, and cooperating partners; 2) A number of beneficiaries reported damage to traditional gardens by Tropical Cyclone Pam, conceding it will take months to repair them for harvest; and 3) Due to insufficient food supply, some beneficiaries have resorted to reduced their meals from three to two times per

day.

- Preparatory work for EMOP food distribution was completed in all 16 WFP-supported islands, including updating beneficiary data and finalizing distribution plans. To ensure that the plans were culturally appropriate to each community, the work was closely coordinated with local government officials, communities and NGO partners.



Logistics

- 460mt of food was delivered to 26 extended delivery points during the second wave of distribution.
- This week, 328mt of mixed commodities arrived in Port Vila through regional procurement.

Clusters



Food Security Cluster

- Parallel to the EMOP, the second wave of Government emergency food distributions have been completed in Mere Lava, assisting around 580 beneficiaries. The Government food distribution is ongoing in rural Efate for an estimated 7,300 people.
- Fishing gear has been provided to households on the Shepherd Islands (Tongoa, Emae, Tongariki, Mataso, Makira and Buninga). Additional gear will be provided to households on Aneityum, Aniwa, Futuna, and Tanna next week.
- Seed packages have been distributed to households on the Efate offshore islands and the Shepherd Islands, and distribution is planned for Epi and Efate rural this week.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to rely on the Solomon Islands' police patrol boats when other military assets will cease to be available starting May 1st. The national police patrol boats have a storage capacity of 5mt.
- On Tanna, the common mobile storage unit of the Provincial Disaster Committees is filled up to 30 percent with Ministry of Education tents, NDMO tents and tarps, and shelter boxes from CARE. The remaining space is available for common storage.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- ETC continues to provide critical support to operations in Vanuatu, particularly on Tanna Island, one of the most severely affected areas. To date, ETC has donated the following items to the Government: 10 iridium satellite phones, 10 pre-paid iridium SIM cards, 10 flexible solar panels, and 5 generators. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has also donated 10 solar panels. It is expected that an additional 3

generators will be donated to the Government.

- Due to funding shortage, operations have been scaled down and plans are in place for the demobilization of British Telecom satellite equipment in Ambae (due to be completed on May 1st) and Malekula (due to be completed the third week of May). Unless ETC's budget is confirmed, there is a risk of further operational delays resulting in additional expenses in the long term.
- Two satellite dishes remain on Tanna Island in order to continue the provision of voice and data connectivity to the Government and other aid agencies. This is vital for the efficient and timely management of operations. Currently, there are 234 registered users (Government, NGOs, and UN agencies) on WIDER, an ETC tool which distributes and manages internet connectivity on the island. Users have attested to the invaluable access the service has given them.

Other/Miscellaneous

- There are 20 WFP staff presently deployed in Vanuatu.

Resourcing Update

- A USD29.9 million United Nations Flash Appeal was launched on 24 March. Based on the Flash Appeal, the CERF proposal allocated WFP USD1.2 million towards food operation, USD480,000 to the Logistics Cluster, and USD150,000 to the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster.

Contacts

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