Situation Report #4: Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu, March 2015

### Summary Report (period covered: March 16 to March 17)
**Prepared by:** Humanity Road / Animals in Disaster  **Follow:** @Humanityroad / @Disasteranimals / @jAIDDog

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14 March - Category 5 Cyclone Pam has caused widespread, severe damage and loss of life through the country of Vanuatu particularly in the Central and Southern regions, which experienced a direct hit. A State of Emergency has been declared for Shefa Province. This is likely to be extended to Tafea and other Provinces as information comes in. The storm made landfall in Vanuatu around 12:30am on 14 March. There are early reports of power outages, communication networks down, and many damaged homes and buildings. (Source: NDMO Sitrep 1 - Mar 14). Vanuatu includes over 80 smaller islands.

Below are highlights for the past 48 hours and significant updates. [Download Full Sitrep #4 here](#).

### Needs:

17 March:
- 3:00am **Tanna Island - population 28,799, Location** -19.5, 169.333333, is in desperate need of food, drinking water, and medical care. Air Taxi Vanuatu ([contact info](#)) flew World Vision and NGOs to Tanna Mar 16 and reports urgent children injured and only one doctor for 30,000 people. Air Taxi offering to carry 6-7 people and/or supplies ([source](#)) ([source](#)).

16 March:
- Erromango Island is probably suffering the same impacts as Tanna and is probably in need of drinking water, food, shelter, and medical care ([source](#)).
- Banks Islands and Sola in Torba Province are in need of relief supplies. Extensive damage to crops in Sola will create food security issues in two weeks. ([source](#)) ([source](#)).
- All schools have been damaged or destroyed. School supplies, temporary schools, and rebuilding materials and plans are needed. ([source](#))
- Diesel fuel is needed for chainsaws and generators. ([source](#))
- Something to cook with is needed because the wood is too wet to make fires. ([source](#))
- Power is needed to turn on the water pumps or mosquitoes will become a problem. ([source](#))
- via UNOCHA - There is a need for: logistics experts; light reconnaissance planes/helicopters; pilots; fuel to deliver supplies and conduct assessments; sea shipping to transport food, water, and rebuilding materials; management and supplies for evacuation centres; WASH services and supplies in evacuation centres and possibly rural areas; medical supplies; temporary morgue for Port Vila Central hospital; alternative cold-chain arrangement; emergency food relief; protection for women and children at evacuation centres; education supplies. ([source](#))

[Support@humanityroad.org](mailto:Support@humanityroad.org)
Via UNOCHA Sitrep 1 - Although Port Vila's water supply is back online in at least some areas there are concerns for non-reticulated areas as well as the safety of drinking water. The provision of WASH services in the more than 25 evacuation areas is urgent, as is the assessment of WASH needs in rural areas in all affected provinces. (source)

Assessment of Epi Island #Vanuatu pop:5,000+. No communication since Thurs 12th. Family missing. (Source)

Social Media Overview

As of March 17 8:00am There has been an increase in social media activity surrounding rapid response teams, assessment teams and delivery of aid. Aerial and ground photographs and videos are beginning to emerge. General twitter traffic is from aid response partners and still very little citizen reporting General information about the severe damage to hospitals and lack of doctors is also emerging.

Facebook Highlights:
- Vanuatu Cyclone Pam 2015
  16 Mar: people are beginning to get information about Tanna Island and are sharing status information and working to coordinate information with NGOs to provide relief. Families are also looking for information on other islands.
- Vanuatu Cyclone Pam 2015 Find My Family - this was created for people to post information about missing loved ones.
- Humans of Vanuatu - information and pictures from a local in Port Vila.
- Pacific Island Living - this page has shared information and news including news from resorts and tourist areas reporting their status.

Twitter Highlights from Last 48Hours:
- Vanuatu Society for People with Disability Center was reported as destroyed during #CyclonePAM. Fortunately, all staff are safe (Source)
- Requests for transportation are emerging such as from @TanbokProject and @350
- Royal Australian Air Force base at Amberley in Australia is fielding some military aid transports such as UK DFID from RAF Brize Norton (source)
- French military aircraft arrived yesterday with assessment team & material (Source)
- French Embassy reports that French aircraft flew in #electricity, #water, #construction & #telecom technicians & freight. (Source)
- WHO is sending health and emergency response experts with supplies and UNICEF are also working with the Ministry of Health to conduct an immunization campaign in response to a measles outbreak that began before the cyclone (Source)
- Many aid agencies are responding and discussing their response including @350, @ADRAIntl, @ConvoyofHope, @DFID_UK, @Federation, @NZRedCross, @OxfamAustralia, @RedCrossAU, @SamaritansPurse, @savechildrenaus, @UnicefAsiaPac, @unicefaustralia, @unicefnz, @UNICEFPacific, @unicefsupply, @UNOCHA_ROP, @VSAvolunteer, @WHO,
Underserved Location Highlights

Tafea Province
Today’s report includes highlights on two locations within Tafea Province that have urgent unmet needs;

- **Tanna Island** (also Tana) - Location -19.5, 169.333333 - Population 29,047
  17 March:
  3:00am Tanna is in desperate need of food, drinking water, and medical care. Air Taxi Vanuatu (contact info) flew World Vision and NGOs to Tanna Mar 16 and reports urgent children injured and only one doctor for 30,000 people. Air Taxi offering to carry 6-7 people and/or supplies (source) (source).

  16 March:
  8:00pm Digicel working on restoring cellar communications on Tanna (source)
  7:30pm Care Australia - initial report from our staff now on Tanna that damage 'significantly worse than Port Vila'. Shelter & water critical needs. (source)

  15 March: A pilot who flew to Tanna and was able to make an initial assessment reported that all corrugated iron structures were destroyed, the concrete structures had lost roofs, and all the trees had been ripped out. There is no drinking water, and there were two reported deaths though this is unconfirmed. (source)

- **Erromango Island** - Location -18.813889, 169.122778 - Population 1,959,
  16 March:
  1:00am via Humanity Road - Erromango seriously damaged, relief supplies needed (source)
  15 March: 8:00pm Erromango Island, Tafea Province - Erromango has also suffered the same damages as Tanna.
  13 March: Via Meteorologist -Photo of Eyewall over Erromango. Tremendous wind/surge damage expected. (source)

Disaster Response Significant Updates in past 48 hours (most recent first)

17 March:
- A French Army flight from Noumea brought a dozen utility workers, who will be assisting in the mammoth task of rebuilding the local power grid. (source)

- Unconfirmed report that the municipal water tank in Ohlen burst and the ensuing flood sent...
three homes washing down the hillside. (source)

16 March:
- 10:00pm: via Air Taxis Vanuatu - they flew World Vision and NGOs to Tanna to do an initial assessment. Whitegrass and Tanna Lodge sustained some damage, but are not too bad. Evergreen has a lot of damage and John Nicholls thinks it will be a total rebuild. There are thousands of people needing help urgently, there is only one doctor for 30,000 people. When they were driving past into the villages with the NGOs, people were coming out with injured kids crying for assistance. Medical expertise is urgently needed. AIR TAXI is flying down there again tomorrow, bringing CNN and dropping them off. This means we have spare seats going back to Vila and would be able to bring 6-7 injured people to Port Vila. They will also have some cargo space for supplies. There is no water or food on Tanna and supplies are urgently needed. (source)

- The Vanuatu Society for People with Disability Center was destroyed. Fortunately, all staff are safe. (source)

- UNOCHA Report No 2 published - Aerial assessments have been carried out by military aircraft from New Caledonia, Australia and New Zealand. There are 24 confirmed fatalities, 11 from Tafea, 8 from Efate and 5 from Tanna. 3,300 people are sheltering in 37 evacuation centres in Torba and Penama Provinces, and the main island of Efate. Commercial aircraft have resumed flights to Port Vila despite damage to the airport. Shefa remains the only province declared in a state of emergency; Shefa, Tafea, Malampa and Penama are emerging as the worst impacted areas The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team arrived in Port Vila today, with three personnel to support humanitarian coordination. Access to water and electricity is rapidly being restored in Port Vila. Makeshift hospital wards will be set up in the hospital carpark using UNICEF tents. An Australian medical team is on the ground, and a New Zealand team is arriving 17 March. (source)

- World Animal Protection has deployed a disaster response team and will immediately begin helping animals. They anticipate Port Vila pets will need vet care, shelter and emergency feed. In more rural areas, they expect to work with local vets and agriculture officials. (source)

- A Vanuatu Cyclone Pam relief website has been set up that includes a missing persons page.

- WHO and UNICEF are working with the Ministry of Health to conduct an immunization campaign in response to a measles outbreak that began before the cyclone. WHO is sending health and emergency response experts with supplies to Vanuatu to assist in the response. WHO is also communicating with the governments of Australia and New Zealand, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other organizations, to ensure Vanuatu gets the right resources to meet their health needs. (source)
- The Army from New Caledonia will be deploying to Tanna Island. (source)

- via Air Vanuatu - Port Vila airport has reopened with limited facilities. Planned flights for Monday 16 March include flights between Vila and Sydney and Vila and Brisbane. Vanuatu domestic flights are, however, still suspended. (source)

- 8:00pm: via Lands Minister Ralph Regenvanu - Teouma Bridge and Creek Ai bridge are both gone so there is no way to get to Teouma or north Efate from Port Vila. The first aerial recon was over Shefa yesterday and over Tafea today. Aerial recon for other provinces will be done tomorrow. Digicel and TVL are out there repairing their towers so we can communicate with other islands. The eye of Cyclone Pam went over Shepherds, Efate, Erromango and Tanna. (source)

- 11:30am via Red Cross - food security is going to be a huge issue. Banana crops have been destroyed along with coconut trees, vegetable and root crops, boats and fishing gear, and livestock. (source)

- At least one grocery store has opened in Port Vila (source), and power is slowly being restored. (source)

- 7:00am via Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team - Through Crowdsourcing effort of the OpenStreetMap community, the pre-disaster basemap of the affected areas (extent of 650km from north to south) is digitized rapidly from aerial imagery. Data Exports are available here. The highways and residential area outbound have been added. House footprint are actually added. An effort is also made to geolocate the communication towers and identify fields for eventual helicopter landing.

- 3:00am Via NetHope - Communications - NetHope is currently working with the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster on assessing the information and communication technology (ICT) needs of the response community and working with its private sector partners to identify ways to meet those needs. NetHope can be contacted via emergency@nethope.org

- Via UNOCHA Sitrep #1 Mar 15 - There are five clusters: Health, WASH, Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Emergency Education. (source)

- Via NDMO Sitrep #3 Mar 15 - Coordination - The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) and five Provincial Emergency Operational Centres have now been activated.

- Via NDMO Sitrep #3 Mar 15 - Shelter/Evacuations - Six evacuation centres have been opened
in Torba and Penama with 431 evacuees to date. Twenty Eight (28) evacuation centres have been opened on Efate with 1589 evacuees to date. Displacement is expected to rapidly increase given the widespread, severe damage to shelter and crops.

- Via NDMO Sitrep #3 Mar 15 - Logistics/Aviation - Via NDMO Sitrep #3 published Mar 15 - The Port Vila Airport terminal, towers and airfield are badly flooded and will not be able to accept civilian flights for about two weeks, at which time they will recommence day flights only. The airport can receive aircraft in support of emergency operations however they will need assistance with security, once these flights begin arriving.

- via UNOCHA - Shefa Province has been declared a state of emergency. There are 6 confirmed fatalities. About 90% of structures in Efate have been damaged or destroyed. More than 2,000 people are sheltering in over 25 evacuation centres in Efate, Torba, and Penama. Commercial flights in and out of Port Vila are still grounded, but military relief flights are landing. The Vanuatu Humanitarian Team is supporting the government-led response and is holding regular cluster meetings with in-country partners. A UNDAC team is arriving in Port Vila on 16 March, and OCHA’s Pacific Humanitarian Team is also deploying. WFP has deployed a logistics expert. Debris and damage to roads is hampering relief assessment and distribution. (source) - Download Full Sitrep #4 Here –

End of Report