Situation Report: Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu, March 2015

Situation Report #6 – (period covered: March 17 to March 18)
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Situation Overview

Background

18 March - Day 4: 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 is in place for Shefa Province, Vanuatu, and is likely to be extended to Tanna, Tafea, Malampa and Penama Provinces as previously inaccessible and incommunicado areas are reached and assessed. The storm made landfall in Vanuatu around 12:30am on 14 March. Communications networks have gone down, and there is massive property damage in many areas. Water has been restored to up to 80% of Port Vila but in other areas, waterborne diseases such as diarrhea are a major risk. Hospitals & supplies incurred serious damage; 2 UNICEF tents have been set up; supplies have arrived and more en route. (Source: NDMO Sitrep 3 - Mar 16)

Over the past 5 days, Humanity Road volunteers have sifted through nearly 300k Twitter and Facebook messages. Responders from across the globe are on-site and providing critically needed relief, but Pam’s devastation was widespread, and many nearly-obliterated communities desperately need basic relief. Vanuatu includes over 80 smaller islands, many of which are devastated and have so far been unreachable and/or may be underserved by responders.

Below are highlights for the past 48 hours. For more information visit http://humanityroad.org/tcpam.

Urgent Needs:
- Medevac still needed: Via AUnews - video as of Mar 18 - Interview of family of 9 yr old girl needing MedEvac since Saturday Mar 14 - still at Tanna hospital. No aid workers interviewed in this video clip - unable to see any evidence of aid. Local resident in good spirits asks news reporter to bring rice from Australia when they return. (source) (new)

Significant Updates
19 March:
- Via Reliefweb - official disaster response agency reports (source)
- 8:00am via Humanity Road effective today, to streamline information we are going to now only publish highlights. These are being made available on our standard situation report page. We will continue focus on social media monitoring and reassess daily, focusing on identifying any
areas of potential underserved needs.

- 7:40am Via NetHope - NetHope is deploying a team to Vanuatu, a coordinator and 3 technicians to assist the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster with providing connectivity to humanitarian response organizations on the ground. NetHope is also working on sending satellite equipment to Vanuatu to help with restoration of emergency communication in the affected islands.

- 19 Mar: A team of 25 from the New Caledonia Civil Protection/Disaster Management Office w/First aid capability are going to Tanna and Erramango this morning, particularly to clear away debris on roads to allow relief and medical supplies to get to those people who have been cut off up to now.

18 March:
- Air Vanuatu planning to offer domestic flights beginning Wednesday, 18 March. These include Vila-Tanna, Vila-Santo, Vila-Noumea. Flight between Vanuatu and Australia and New Zealand are operating. (source) (new)

- The Australian National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre is deploying a 60 bed field hospital along with 20 medics from Northern Territory and Victoria. (source) (source) (new)

- 7:00pm UNOSAT began using Twitter to share maps of satellite imagery showing damage. Follow @UNOSAT for additional information (source) (new)

- 7:00pm UNOSAT LIVE Map: Satellite image analysis http://bit.ly/1wZ6TW1 (source)

- Via AUNews - video as of Mar 18 - Interview of family of 9 yr old girl needing MedEvac since Saturday Mar 14 still at Tanna hospital. No aid workers interviewed in this video clip - unable to see any evidence of aid. Local resident in good spirits asks news reporter to bring rice from Australia when they return. (source) (new)

- There is a need for medications and an urgent need for blood at Central Hospital in Port Vila. (source) (new)

- 1:30pm: via Oxfam - Tanna hospital needs sanitation facilities urgently. (source) (new)

- Lenakel hospital -19.533948, 169.289778 needs Airlift for critically wounded, ORS, Medicines, Water, equipment including maternity. Video

Social Media General Highlights

As of March 19 8:00am Analysis of Social Media:
- For the past 48 hours (16-18 Mar) we have aggregated 109,152 tweets from selected locations and after filtering for noise and relevance performed manual review. Tweet volumes for this selected search are running between 100-900 tweets per minute.

- Socialmention indicates that ‘Vanuatu’ is mentioned every 23 seconds (source)
- Official sources are increasingly now sharing in Twitter - reliable sourced information about damage (UNOSAT satellite imagery) as well as official reports from UNOCHA and other aid agencies. We are seeing some but very little mis-information within this data.

- There is an absence of information of aid response in many outlying islands. Much of the content in social media in the past 48 hours is about the continued lack of food, shelter, water and extreme damages. There are tweets about doctors and medical aid on the way to southern islands. We are finding no information emerging about medical evacuations or search and rescue or recovery but there are tweets about the need for it. We found only one actionable urgent need for medevac. General information about the severe damage to hospitals and lack of doctors continues to appear in the twitter streams.

- Family members outside the country of Vanuatu are still anxious to connect to loved ones. General twitter traffic is from aid response partners, and there is still very little citizen reporting. Facebook pages are emerging as local hubs of information for local communities impacted. International and in-country people are using these pages to search for loved ones. And ask about status, condition. We have not seen enough official reports and updates urging these communities to ‘like’ and get updates from the aid agencies on FaceBook. See fastest growing FaceBook pages in Vanuatu (source)

- Our reports - how do we do it? Using a mix of live monitoring and aggregation data mining. And by using a tool called Scanigo, tweets are aggregated noise is filtered out allowing us to focus on those tweets with high potential to be actionable. Even FaceBook links are found in this manner as the social web shares information quickly during disaster.

**Facebook Highlights last 24 hours:**

**Vanuatu Cyclone Pam 2015**
19 Mar: A team of 25 from the New Caledonia Civil Protection/Disaster Management Office w/First aid capability are going to Tanna and Erramango this morning, particularly to clear away debris on roads to allow relief and medical supplies to get to those people who have been cut off up to now

19 Mar: (For tourists to Vanuatu) posts encouraging tourists to divert your travel and go to Espiritu Santo. Air Vanuatu.

**Vanuatu Cyclone Pam 2015 Find My Family** - a site created for people to post information about missing loved ones.

The Mele Cascades has lost most of its locally built structures but should be up and operating soon however Pele's infrastructure was wiped out but a fingers-count of homes and church...Please encourage your friends not to cancel their holidays as these will be much need funds and jobs for the rebuilding of this country...

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19 Mar: Just found out Tara Beach (resort on west coast of Efate island) has minimal damage. Buildings are ok. Just sand washed up in the carpark. That's just info I heard. Not much damage at all at the resort.

19 Mar: However a quick update (on the island/town? of Lepeia). For those interested the school is very damaged with one wall down and school supplies wrecked. The teachers house is completely destroyed. Their drinking water is salty and contaminated and all their food crops have been flattened.

- 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.

19 Mar: Discussions about water sources - "I'm hearing reports of people drinking seawater. They seem to ignore that our islands are largely porous limestone. The rain leeches down into the stone and exits at the shore. It is not only common, it's actually very safe to dig into the beach and tap these springs for drinking water. I know, because I have one such spring outside my house. Please people, try not to propagate this kind of ignorant alarmism".

Twitter Highlights from Last 24 Hours:

18 March:
- A resident of Port Vila visited villages in north Efate. He said the scene looks like something out of Mad Max. People are cut off because the trees, boulders and glass are blocking the roads. He spent the day visiting Tanilou, Siviri, Emua, Paonangisu and Takara and reported that these villages are in desperate need of food and water (source) (new)

- 8:00am Aniwa Island - we have reviewed 250k tweets and have almost no information about Aniwa Island - we are seeing tweets from family tracing loved ones reportedly on Aniwa.
- Register or search missing persons @ICRC (Source)
- Video of inside Lenekal Tanna Hospital needing Airlift for critically wounded, ORS, Medicines, Water, equipment including maternity. via CNN
- Oxfam International Assessment teams reach Tanna and Erromango islands in Vanuatu (Source)
- Telecoms sans Frontières will be assessing communications (Source)
- ICT responders on ground; share contact info with @WFP to facilitate coordination: (Source)
- Tikopia lost 90% of food crops & fruit trees, water contaminated. (Source)
### Underserved Highlights by Location

#### Shefa Province:

- **Siviri, Efate Island** (coordinates -17.533300,168.317001) (new)
  - 18 Mar: The village was visited by a person from Port Vila. He reported they are in desperate need of food and water. ([source](#)) Photo from village. ([source](#)) Photo of destroyed home. ([source](#))
  - 16 Mar: Photo from Siviri ([source](#))

- **Takara, Efate Island** (coordinates -15.316700,167.182999) (new)
  - 16 Mar: Photo of road blocked by trees leading to Taraka. ([source](#))

- **Erakor, Efate Island** (coordinates -17.783001,168.300003) (new)

- **Tanilou, Efate Island** (new)
  - 18 Mar: The village was visited by a person from Port Vila. He reported they are in desperate need of food and water. ([source](#))

- **Paonangisu, Efate Island** (coordinates -17.533300,168.399994) (new)
  - 18 Mar: The village was visited by a person from Port Vila. He reported they are in desperate need of food and water. ([source](#))

- **Emua, Efate Island** (coordinates -17.549999,168.367004) (new)
  - 18 Mar: The village was visited by a person from Port Vila. He reported they are in desperate need of food and water. ([source](#))

- **Tongoa Island, in Shepherd Islands** (coordinates for airport -16.891100,168.550995)
  - 18 Mar, 7:30am - People on Tongoa island signaling for help by holding up mirrors. ([source](#)) (new)
  - 17 Mar: In Tongoa - a small island that has about 3,000 people - 95% of homes are estimated to have been destroyed (unconfirmed). ([source](#))

- **Moso Island, in Shepherd Islands** (coordinates: -17.533300,168.250000)
  - 18 Mar: Report regarding villagers drinking saltwater needs to be verified. There is an ongoing Facebook argument by locals that says islands in Vanuatu are largely porous limestone. The rain leeches down into the stone and exits at the shore. It is not only common but also very safe to dig into the beach and tap these springs for drinking

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water. (source) It is also possible, however, that the water supply has been contaminated.

- 17 Mar: Villagers in the community of Taseriki have received no help and many houses are flattened. There are no shops, people grow their own food, and their crops have been destroyed. Children are going hungry, and they are having to scavenge for food. People are drinking salt water. (source)

- **Taunono Village** (coordinates: -16.376684,167.562500), population about 200.
  - 17 Mar: via UNICEF visit to Village Chief Narua Joe Kwane - All houses are damaged or destroyed. Everyone is sleeping outside. They have received no food or water and are scavenging for coconuts. All the fruit trees are gone. They owned a small Nakamal (a traditional gathering area) where local men used to come to drink cava. It was their main source of income but now it's all gone. (source)

- **Nguna Island** (coordinates: -17.433300,168.350006), 13 villages, population 1,300.
  - No contact, no communications. It is likely houses were destroyed, and likely that there are needs. (source)

- **Emau (Emao) Island** (coordinates -17.483299,168.483002)
  - 17 March: Anyone looking for information for EMAU --- I have been able to reach one person in Mangarongo Village. As far as she knew, they are all alive! There is phenomenal damage -- loss of houses, food, clean water. All of Marou Village has moved up to Mangarongo School. People in Mangarongo are sleeping in the church. Not sure about the rest of the island, but as far as she knew, everyone is alive.

- **Tongariki, Makira, Emae, Epi Islands**
  - Aerial surveys showing they were seriously damaged. In some villages, not a single building is standing. (source)

- **Paonangisu Village, Efate Island** (coordinates 17°31'40"S 168°24'8"E)
  - 18 March: Paonangisu and Takara will run out of food in less than two weeks. Bring in people who can provide Internet services because communications here are suffering without reception or a signal (source)

**Tafea Province**

- **Tanna Island** (also Tana) - -19.5, 169.333333 - Population 29,047
  - 17 March:
    - Satellite imagery map of Tanna Island from UNITAR/UNOSAT - This map illustrates satellite-detected areas of potentially damaged zones on the West Coast of Tanna Island in Vanuatu. Using imagery collected by the Pleiades satellite on 15 March 2015, UNOSAT identified zones with potential damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam.
UNOSAT estimates that a total of approximately 2,000 damaged buildings are located in these zones, 75% are likely residential; 10% are likely commercial buildings and 15% are mainly public buildings. We can observe in many areas there are heavy concentrations of damage. This is a preliminary analysis and has not yet been validated in the field. (source) (new)

- 9:55pm via DFAT Vanuatu (excerpts)
- Dillons Bay Airport (184610S 1691005E) T0010z, road leading to airport is blocked by broken trees and debris but is clearable, 1 x white building with red roof at the end of the runway, no damage observed. Hut near white building is damaged, water tank observed was intact, runway clear, airport terminal clear.
- Village of Unpongkor (184859S 1690054E) 70% destroyed
- Village of Happy Land (185358S 1690338E), 80% destroyed
- Village of Unoro (185619S 1691026E) 80% destroyed
- Village of Yasauwi (185817S 1691415E) 80% destroyed
- Ipota Airport (185123S 1691705E) 70% of adjacent buildings destroyed, runway is clear, 20 x pax observed, roads on ridge line are blocked, remainder of roads clear
- Village of Ifo (185452S 1692009E) 50% destroyed, some repairs appear in progress.
- Village in position (185021S 1691452E), 90% destroyed.
- Village of Potnarvin (184452S 1691231E) 80% destroyed
- Village in position (183950S 1690924E) 100% destroyed, 10 x pax observed, no approach roads observed.
- Village in position (183758S 1690506E) 50% destroyed
- 8:00pm via Oxfam Vanuatu - there is a possibility that a ferry will be leaving Port Vila for Tanna on 18 March with supplies. (source)
- 4:00pm - via Oxfam Australia - Assessment teams were sent to Tanna & Erromango islands and are due back to Port Vila within 24 hours to report back on what survivors need. Some of the medical personnel in assessment teams sent to Tanna & Erromango islands will stay until more help arrives. (source) (source)
- 3:00am via ABC News - Photo of Tanna airport source
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16 March:
- 8:00pm Digicel working on restoring cellular 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** (coordinates: -18.813889, 169.122778), Population 1,959
  - 16 Mar, 1:00am via Humanity Road - Erromango seriously damaged, relief supplies needed (source)

- **Aniwa Island, Tafea Chain** (-19.234444, 169.600556) - population 341
  - 17 Mar: in Tafea chain with villages Imale, Isavaï, Ikaokao, Namsafoura, In the north part of there is the Aniwa Airport (IATA: AWD, ICAO: NVVB) that is connected to Dillon's Bay, Futuna, Ipota, Tanna. Air Vanuatu is the only airline connecting the local airport. Aniwa Ocean View Bungalows is the only tourist resort in the island and it is located in the south. Their FaceBook page is not updated since 2013 but here you can find the contact addresses of the owners. The island is also home to B&B tel +678 561 6506 http://www.aniwaoceanview.com , aniwaoceanviewbungalows@gmail.com

Malampa Province:

- **Ambrym Island** (coordinates -16.250000,168.116669)
  - 18 Mar, 7:30am: Aerial assessments of Ambrym island reported large white ‘Hs’ marked out on the ground by people signaling for help. (source)  (new)
  - 18 Mar: Via update from someone who made it all the way past Willet to Megamone last night (17 March) after dark. A lot of devastation in north Ambrym. The existing school is completely demolished except for sleeping quarters. Most of the homes, teachers homes included, are flattened, trees down everywhere. He is now making his way back on foot to Ranvetlam. He will check more carefully as he goes back. Taking some folks with him back to Ranon. Their gardens (food supplies) have for the most part been ruined. They have some water. (source)
  - 17 Mar: Reported to have widespread damage in the southeast part of the island. (source)

- **Paama Island** (coordinates -16.466700,168.216995)
  - Island reported to have been badly hit. (source)

End of Report
For more information visit http://humanityroad.org/tcpam.