



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

National Disaster Management Office

Phone: +678 22699/ +678 33366 VoIP: 5353 Email: ndmo@vanuatu.gov.vu

Private Mail Bag 9107, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Web: www.ndmo.gov.vu



NEOC SITUATION REPORT

Disaster Type:	Earthquake
Situation Report #:	03
Date:	19 December 2024
Provinces Affected:	SHEFA
Reporting Period:	18 December (1600Hrs) to 19 December (1600Hrs), 2024

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

7.3 Magnitude

1251 HRS Occurrence time

80,000 Estimated Affected Population

Earthquake Location:

Latitude: **17.7** Degree South,

Longitude: **167.8** Degree East

(**34 Km** West of Efate and **150Km** West of Erromango)

Confirm source: Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD)

- A State of Emergency is declared throughout the worst affected areas of Vanuatu on the 17th of December 2024. This declaration of State of Emergency is for a period of 7 days from the date on which the order is made.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT:

- Most of the damage in Port Vila, Efate.
 - Main downtown Port Vila, Efate closed to the public.
 - 10 confirmed deaths by Vila Central Hospital (VCH) and the number is expected to increase.
- Over 200 injured treated at the main hospital (VCH) and numbers expected to increase
- Many buildings sustain major structural damage:
 - Over 10 building in Port Vila town damaged including - Billabong Building, (US Embassy building, New Zealand High Commission building, UK Embassy) Wong store building, Vila Central Hospital (VCH)
 - Search and rescue in damaged buildings is still ongoing.
 - Damage to Tagabe bridge, Teouma bridge and Blacksand bridge. Tagabe bridge has a high risk of collapse if heavy flow of water is experienced due to rainfall.
 - Damage to power lines and public water supply in the urban area.
 - Two major water reserves in Ohlen area which supplies water to Port Vila are totally destroyed and will need reconstruction, assessment of water network is ongoing
 - Mobile phone communication functional with intermittent disruptions.
 - Ports of Entry – Port Vila main wharf (Lapetasi) is closed due to major landslide
 - Nearby villages near Efate and off-shore islands experienced landslides



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IMMEDIATE NEED:

- Medical supplies and repairs to damage medical structures
- Mobile Emergency Medical Teams
- Search and Rescue Teams and heavy machinery for cleaning landslides and collapse buildings
- Safe drinking water and Jerry Cans.

SECTOR UPDATES

NEOC

- NEOC coordinates with Shefa Provincial Government Council through Area Administrators to conduct Community Assessment and Area Council Assessment.
- Coordination with Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (MIPU), Joint Police Operation Center (JPOC), Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP), and Municipal on assessment of collapse buildings and enforce restrictions with support from surge capacity from French Engineers and Australian Defense Force.

WASH Cluster

- Wash Cluster Operations Center was activated as of yesterday, 18th December 2024 (1300HRS)
- Rapid Assessment conducted at Mele Area up to Korman Area, to identify water accessibility through the UNELCO concession areas.

Assessment highlights:

- Tagabe Area to Freshwota water has been restored
- Downtown area, Number 2, Number 3 Area to Pango water has been restored
- Number 2 Lagoon to Beverly Hills water supply has been restored
- Supplied 2 water bladders (6000L capacity) to Vila Central Hospital
- Supplied 2 Water Tanks (10000L capacity) to Aviation Limited.
- Supported water tracking sourced from Teouma area, extracted from underground to supply water to Port Vila Central Hospital, prioritizing the maternity ward and operation theatre yesterday, 18th December.
- UNELCO confirmation today, full restoration of water supply to Vila Central Hospital.
- Water trucking from Teouma for distribution of water filled Jerry Cans to Ifira Island providing water assistance to 300 households.

Logistics Cluster

- 1 Helicopter Puma assessed the international airport runway yesterday and continues to provide aerial surveillance to assess the landslides.
- Logistics assisted the Australian Defense Force and NZ Defence Force to move their heavy duty equipment to Vanuatu Mobile Force barracks.
- Provided tents for the Vanuatu Mobile Force camp and Wong to support the operations
- Supplied fuel for Joint Police Operations Center, Vanuatu Maritime Shipping Authority and Customs Department & Inland to support the operations
- Provided backup generator to Civil Aviation Authority to support electricity at the airport



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- Bauerfield airport fuel supply facility 100% operational. Fuel reserve sufficient to cover domestic, international and humanitarian flights

Health Cluster

- Health Cluster through Global Respond HELPR-1 has completed assessments in 21 communities in Epi, Tongoa, Tongariki, Buninga, Emae, Makira and Mataso.
 - Overall, no major damage to infrastructure, no reported casualties from community members.
 - Risk of water contamination and water borne disease at Matangi and Kurumambe in Tongoa.
 - Landslides have destroyed main gardens on Mataso island with risk of food shortages in the coming weeks.
- Eight (8) affected health facilities, in and around Port Vila, suffered minor damages, but are functional. These facilities are now operational and open for outpatients.
- WASH is an issue in health facilities in Port Vila due to shortage of water.
- Starlink internet services deployed in VCH, Health Emergency Operations room, and WHO to improve communication and strengthen recovery coordination.

Emergency & Telecommunication Cluster (ETC)

- Power outage at Prima DC caused internet disruption in Efate due to damaged backup batteries causing connectivity disconnection to submarine cable.
- Battery fall led to acid leakage and small fire causing unsafe building conditions.
- Repairs need PPE, new batteries, and hazardous waste management expertise.
- Proximity to Prima River poses a serious water contamination risk, requiring urgent environmental assessment.
- Radio Vanuatu - FM100 fully functional

Education Cluster

- Education and Training (MoET), in collaboration with partners, is actively preparing the school infrastructure assessment plan.
- Additionally, education materials are prepositioned and ready for release, including 12 tents and materials to support approximately 2,000 primary school children and 1,000 preschool children.
- Schools are currently closed for the holidays. Structural assessments are required before the resumption of classes to ensure safety.
- The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), in collaboration with partners, is actively preparing the school infrastructure assessment plan.
- Response plan is being developed to address immediate and long-term education needs.

Displacement Evacuation Center Management (DECM) Cluster

- 947 persons displaced from Blacksands Zones 2 to 5. Displaced persons are hosted in Manples, Britano, Kaweriki and 4 Kona in host households and churches.
- Immediate Needs:
 - Water: Only rainwater and well accessible now.
 - Food (for large host households and evac centres).
 - Shelter: Tarps and tents needed for displaced households.



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- Hygiene and sanitation (limited toilets, bush toilets being used).
- Gender and protection: Majority of persons displaced are vulnerable groups including women, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers, children, elderly and people with disabilities. Need solar lights for night time security due to large populations residing within host household yards.
- Health: need health checks in this area and EMT – some minor injuries, diabetics without medication and
- Community-based assessments completed in Manples, Kaweriki, Britano, 4 Kona and Melemaat.
- Planned Community assessments in Mele Waisisi (for detailed counting of displaced), Eratap AC, Erakor AC, Pango AC, Freswota, Ohlen, Anamburu, No. 2 Lagoon and other areas not yet assessed
- DECM Cluster will need to assess the need to open evac centre sites for a large number of displaced populations or alternative shelter solutions (tarps / tents for household-based shelter).

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

AUSTRALIA

- 61 member DART/USAR team personnel with equipment and 4 canines arrived today to help with search and rescue efforts
- 6 member AUSMAT with medical supplies to assist medical team
- Australia Assists deployed 2 advisers to provide surge support to NDMO

NEW ZEALAND

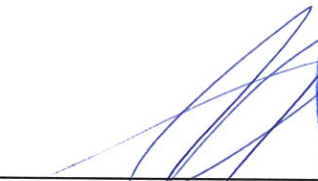
- Assisted in aerial assessment with NDMO and supplied Satellite Imagery and also deployed surge medical officials to assist in search and rescue operations.

FRANCE

- Assisted with aerial assessment and personnel with specialty for medical, satellite imagery and civil engineering.

CHINA

- Arranged in-country engineers to conduct assessments on buildings that have been severely damaged by the Earthquakes.


Mr. Jimmy Naura
Acting Director – National Disaster Management Office

