



## GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

### National Disaster Management Office

Phone: +678 22699/ +678 33366 VoIP: 5353 Email: [ndmo@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:ndmo@vanuatu.gov.vu)

Private Mail Bag 9107, Port Vila, Vanuatu

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## NEOC SITUATION REPORT

Disaster Type:	Earthquake
Situation Report #:	04
Date:	20 December 2024
Provinces Affected:	SHEFA
Reporting Period:	19 December (1600Hrs) to 20 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 12 confirmed deaths by Vila Central Hospital (VCH) and 8 survivors reported by JPOC
- Over 210 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:

- Safe shelter for evacuees
- Restoration of power and energy supplies to essential services (clinics, retail shops)
- Restoration of network and communication services
- 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.

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### SECTOR UPDATES

#### NEOC

- NEOC coordinates with Shefa Provincial Government Council through Area Administrators to conduct Community Assessment and Area Council Assessment. Assessment on-going.
- NEOC is compiling a list of Cluster meeting times. All Clusters are requested to inform NEOC IM of planned meetings.
- NEOC is compiling a list of surge capacity teams. All incoming response teams are to contact NEOC IM at [ndmo.im@gmail.com](mailto:ndmo.im@gmail.com)
- 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.

#### JOINT POLICE OPERATION CENTRE

- JPOC working in-partnership with Pro-Medical, Foreign Search and Rescue Partners and Private Business Companies in search and rescue efforts - operations ongoing.
- Billabong building was completely demolished and access road cleaning in progress.
- Search and Rescue team primary focus now on cleaning landslide debris on the main road at the Lapetasi Wharf.

#### PRIVATE SECTOR

##### BSP Bank

- Branches full operational in Freswota, Tanna and Santo
- Main Port Vila branch waiting engineering assessment
- All ATMs restored (maybe temporarily offline in areas without power)
- Relationship managers available to assist customers

##### BRED Bank

- 11 ATMs were operational as of 2pm yesterday.
- Main branch and Tagabe branch assessed as safe - working to restore minimal services
- Relationship managers available for urgent wage releases and cash deposits

##### ANZ Bank

- ATMs operational
- EFTPOS network currently down





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- Port Vila branch working to resume full service

#### National Bank of Vanuatu

- Head office sustain damages affecting branch network
- Working to restore additional services

### WASH Cluster

Location	Population	No. of households	Required Water Quantity (litres)
Mele (including Dispensary, Mele Village, Malariku)	6000	1200	60,000
Melemaat	2000	400	20,000
Teuma Ville Stage 1 & 2	2000	400	20,000

- Assessment completed at Mele, Melemaat, Teouma, Prima, Korman, Club Hippique and Erakor.
- Water is currently delivering emergency water to key areas.
- Jerry cans supplied at Ifira Island (200), Number of People reached (1000)

#### Response Activities Planned:

- Water trucking - The priority areas identified currently for water trucking are as follows: Mele, Melemaat, Teouma Ville, Tanvasako Area Council, and Etas.
- Water quality testing - To ensure a representative assessment of water quality across the entire supply system, samples will be collected from storage tanks, distribution points, and the borehole source. This comprehensive sampling approach aims to provide an accurate evaluation of the water quality post-earthquake.
- Samples will be collected from key distribution locations, including: Stella Mare, Club Hippique, Erakor Village, Dream Cove, Paradise Cove, Pompidou Office, Malapoa, Road to Mele, Ranche de la Colle, Airport Fire Station and Tagabe Pump Station.
- To assess water quality from storage facilities, samples will also be taken from the following reservoirs: Wharf Tank, Tribunal Tank (RBV), Perchoir Tank (Joint Court hilltop), Facio Tank, Ohlen
- Quick fixing - In Mele, a single water system is used. Damage to several assets was identified during site assessments and a quick fix is required. Pipes and fittings will need to be supplied.

Location	Damaged assets
Mele – Malariku	1 x 10,000 L – damaged
Dispensary	1 x 10,000 L – damaged 1 x 1,100 L – damaged
Mele Village	7 x 10,000 L – 2 x damaged
Melemaat	1 x 6,000 L – tank stand damaged

- ADRA will provide a response to the Tanvasako area for emergency water trucking.
- World Vision is mobilizing a team to Etas to provide water.
- Care International will support and distribute hygiene kits (provided by DoWR and UNICEF) to people in Evacuation Centres in collaboration with the DECM Cluster.



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## Logistics Cluster

### Warehouse Management

- Scouted 2 warehouses for storage space, both sites confirmed 1. Customs Department Warehouse (Tagabe Area) and 2. VMF Camp for storage.
- Flights (Domestic and International) Management:  
New Zealand Flight
  - Thursday 19 th December 2024, C-17 Aircraft
  - Time TBC, Saturday 21 st December 2024, Aircraft TBC.Australia
  - 13:00, Thursday 20 th December 2024, C130 Aircraft.
  - 17:00, Thursday 20 th December 2024, C17 Aircraft.
- Fleet Management - Total of 14 vehicle fleet supporting the operations of search and rescue, assessment and information gathering, expecting increase in fleet management with support from partners.
- Fuel supply to support the efforts of the WASH Cluster for water tracking
- Ongoing Requests for Assistance Management

## Health Cluster

- According to the VCH, there are 12 confirmed deaths related to the earthquake as of Friday, December 20. The search and rescue efforts are still ongoing, and the number of deaths is expected to rise. There are 210 injuries reported at VCH.
- Indirect or delayed impact
  - Expecting a rise of water related diseases due to lack of water and hygiene.
  - MOH and partners are monitoring the situation for potential outbreaks that can affect population health.
- SHEFA Health EOC activated.
- There have been no reported casualties outside of Efate Island.
- All urban, peri-urban and rural health facilities appear to be undamaged and operational.
- HELPR-1 completed casualty, facilities, and food availability assessments across South Epi and Shepherd Islands. Potential food security problem in Mataso.
- Surveillance sentinel sites have been activated in Port Vila and Efate.
- Surveillance added in VMF clinic.
- Monitoring possible rise in asthma and respiratory cases.
- Watery diarrhea cases have been going down before December 17, but are expected to increase due to water
  - shortages and contamination.
- No reported increase in syndromes as of 18th December 2024. Reports received from two sites (VCH and VMF
  - camp).
- Enhanced sentinel sites following the earthquake have been identified and will begin reporting in the coming days.
- Influenza like illness and watery diarrhoea have declined steadily for the past 4 EpiWeeks. However, with the current situation we will closely monitor reports for any changes.
- Syndrome's Situation following the earthquake will be updated in the coming days.





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- Scabies, Varicella (Chickenpox), Conjunctivitis, Ciguatera Fish poisoning and sexually transmitted infections (Hep B, Syphilis) were present before the earthquake and will be closely monitored to see the impact following the earthquake
- 16 Emergency Medical Teams in-country international medical personnels:
  - AUSMAT based at VCH 2 = Nurses; 2 = Medical Officers; 1 = Logistics; 1
  - AUS1 based at VMF 7 = Search and Rescue
  - NZMAT at VCH 3 = Coordination support

### Emergency & Telecommunication Cluster (ETC)

#### Needs:

- To restore telecommunication connectivity (Voice and data) to Port Vila populations.
- To restore Government Broadband Network connectivity to all government agencies to ensure continued operations of their services.

#### Response Activities Completed:

- **Government**
  - Restore connectivity of GBN to all government essential services for temporary office relocations
  - Allocation of office space within the premises of the Government Data Center to Department of Finance for procurement
  - Provide public Wi-Fi to Saralana Park area, Freshwota Park area
  - Send key SMS messages to public
- **NETC Cluster Members**
  - Support to Mobile Network Operators to restore mobile network coverage and services
  - Support the restoration of Bank ATM network through the Mobile Network Operators at various locations throughout Port Vila
  - Ongoing support to ICL for restoration of Cable Landing Station

### Food Security & Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)

#### Response Activities Completed:

- Conducted a ministerial briefing with the Minister on 19th Dec and with MALFFB staff members later around 3pm.
- Completed response plan budget report required by NDMO and DG's report required by PSC.
- Conducted FSAC Meeting #1 with partners on Friday 20th Dec around 2pm at the MALFFB Farea.

#### Urgent priorities

- Starlink & monitoring equipment urgently needed for VFD and FSAC EOC
- Nutrition Balanced food ration statement
- Departments to provide a list of staff wanting to return to Vanuatu
- Evacuation centre from logistics Cluster and DECM cluster
- Dry ration responsibility
- 1 x 200 liters of diesel for supporting WASH cluster at North Efate
- 1 x generator to support WASH cluster works at North Efate area.
- Road upgrade for Blacksands – Manples area to prepare for upcoming rainy weather this weekend
- Need to upgrade bridges at Tagabe and Blacksands.



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#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Data needed to properly plan for distributions to evacuation centers for displaced communities
- Proper record of all affected people who lost their jobs due to building collapse and not safe for entry.

#### Education Cluster

- Damage assessment was carried out in MOET Building, Curriculum Building, Shefa PEO Office, Examination and SBM Unit Office on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>/12/24
- Education Cluster activation on Thursday 19/12/24.
- Staff Meeting was contacted by the Minister and DG and to recall all staff to resume duties on Friday, 20/12/24.
- All Examination and SMB Unit staff were reallocated to the MOET Building to ensure that examination marking continues.
- Examination Results will be published by Wednesday, 15/01/25 as planned.
- Established School (ECCE; Primary: Secondary and Post Schooling and Training Institutions)
- Rapid and Details assessment will be carried out on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
- In preparation for the 2025 academic year, the MOET will use the Lenakel Secondary School IT learning platform to integrate with schools that are damaged.

#### Displacement Evacuation Center Management (DECM) Cluster

- 1154 persons displaced

##### Areas assessed:

- **Manples / Britano / Kaweriki:** Displaced communities of Blacksands Zone 2-5 and Prima Zone 1 are being hosted in Manples, Britano and Kaweriki
- Total number of displaced persons is 799 individuals.
- **4 Kona:** Displaced community of Blacksands Zone 2 have relocated to 4 Kona. 145 persons displaced to 2 separate locations (private houses) within 4 Kona area. These two locations are 4 Kona Police Clinton's residence (hosting 67 persons / 16 households) and Janet Ben private residence (hosting 78 persons / 19 households). People are staying within these private residential yards but sleeping outside without any shelter. CDCCC of Blacksands Zone 2 organised the hosting with private residences.
- **Melemaat:** 1 household - 3 displaced persons (house fully cracked, house unsafe for sleeping).
- **Mele Waisisi:** 10 households
- **Eratap and Erakor:** 207 total displaced people with a lot of damaged
- Sites that have been assessed but are not showing are Erangorango and Mangaliliu
- Willingness to host survey is ongoing for EVC sites to host families.

##### Needs:

- Immediate needs reported directly from displaced and host communities in Manples, Britano, Kaweriki, 4 Kona. Eratap and Erakor include:
- **Water:** Only accessible water available now is rainwater tanks and underground wells. No further sources of water are available.





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- **Food:** Host households are experiencing a heavy burden of feeding large numbers of displaced persons being hosted. Request assistance with food relief. Communities and churches are providing a small amount of food but this is not enough to meet food needs of displaced populations.
- **Shelter:** Tents or tarpaulins - these are required for displaced families to sleep outside in the host household yards, and in the case that they would return to their homes in Blacksands. Displaced families are aware that it will take time to return home however they need shelter while they repair.
- **Hygiene and Sanitation:** Issues with toilets being reported around sanitation. Bush toilets being used due to overuse of private host household toilets overcapacity. Poor health and hygiene being reported.
- **Gender and Protection:** Majority of persons displaced are vulnerable groups including women, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers, children, elderly and people with disabilities. No electricity yet connected in this area – need solar lights for night time security due to large populations residing within host household yards.
- **Health:** People with bone fractures reported who have visited hospital but need support and checks again + medication for pain management. Minor health issues also reported by those who helped to move vulnerable individuals are reporting back and chest injuries from labour. Diabetic issues have been reported within the displaced population. No health checks yet conducted in this area but are requested from the displaced population.

### Gender & Protection Cluster

- Share Key messages on GBViE through SMS & social media
- Conduct observation assessments with displaced persons particularly living in the open space areas and under tents, focusing on target areas including Tagabe, Bladinere, Rangorango, Teouma, Erakor Bridge as at 21st December 2024
- Vanuatu Women's Council Center provide counselling services through the duration of SOE and also accessible through free line 161
- Disability Sub Cluster
  - Share key messages for disability inclusion through SMS, FB & radio &
  - at evacuation sites
  - Community awareness with persons with disability in the different wards
  - Identify operational clinics by Health cluster
  - Identify shops open in the areas
  - Check with WASH for water trucking
  - Check with FSAC for food distributions to persons with disability
  - Facilitate assessments with persons with disability and their devices
- Child Protection
  - Media campaign for 10 days on children and parents by World Vision was held yesterday 20/12/2024
  - World Vision setup pastoral care in Correctional Centres for inmates
  - Just Play Program set up 6 teams for soccer games with children starting today
  - COMS instruction for VCC to instruct churches to standby for pastoral support



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## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

### AUSTRALIA

- DART search and rescue team have completed operations at Billabong and are now conducting structural assessments of buildings and the wharf landslide area to assess road clearance requirements.
- AusMAT emergency medical assessment team are treating patients at Vila Central Hospital and assisting the Ministry of Health to assess needs for future support.
- The Australian Defence Force are coordinating incoming flights, including 2 flights today carrying 8 L-pallets of humanitarian supplies for NDMO and Vanuatu Red Cross, essential personnel to assess the airport and fuel pipeline at the wharf, and additional structural engineers.
- Australian Federal Police are assisting VPF with policing and disaster victim identification. 5 additional officers will arrive on 20th December.

### NEW ZEALAND

- NZ flights details as of 19 December 2024
  - 7am P-8 Surveillance flight
  - 8am - 10am C130 with USAR kits + relief supplies + FPT - NZ 27015
  - 11am - 1pm from Noumea with USAR team + kits - NZ 27002
  - 3pm - 5pm 757 with departing Kiwis - NZ 7572

### FRANCE

- One PUMA helicopter to provide ISR & movement support
- 2 FARDIER vehicles to provide support movement in non reachable areas
- 1 Falcon 200 ISR plane to conduct on call ISR operations from New Caledonia
- Airport control tower and runway expertises
- Infrastructure expertise on the NDMO building
- 300 solar lamps schedule to arrive on December 21st
- 2 purification station with both an 4m3/hour safe drinking water production with 8 operators, schedule to arrive on December 21st
- 20 tons of rice schedule to arrive on December 23th
- 1500 Meal Ready to Eat schedule to arrive on December 22th
- 300 16m2 tents schedule to arrive on December 23th
- 300 hygiene kits to provide hygiene for 1000pers, schedule to arrive on December 21th
- 294 props of 2,4 meters to reinforce building, schedule to arrive on December 20th

### CHINA

- The Chinese Civil Engineering and Construction Corporation donated relief supplies to the NEOC to support local response efforts.





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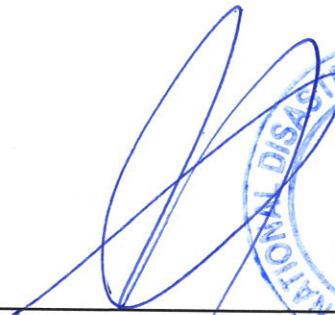
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#### PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN TEAM (PHT)

The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT), in collaboration with the Government of Vanuatu, is mobilizing comprehensive support to address the impacts of the recent earthquake. Key areas of response include:

- In response to the Government of Vanuatu's request, the PHT has assembled an offer of support through regional clusters, working closely with national clusters and sectors to ensure aligned and effective response efforts.
- OCHA personnel on the ground are actively supporting Information Management (IM) and are committed to strengthening government-led coordination and response initiatives.
- The UNDAC team has been activated to assist with disaster response coordination, while Environmental Emergency specialists are addressing critical environmental hazards posed by the earthquake.
- IM support is being provided through the digitization of assessments using the Kobo platform and the 5W reporting tool, enabling accurate tracking of who is doing what, where, when, and for whom.
- The Emergency Relief Coordinator has approved an initial allocation of up to \$1 million through the CERF rapid response mechanism to support immediate life-saving activities in Vanuatu



Mr. Jimmy Naura

Acting Director – National Disaster Management Office