



# 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 #:	05
Date:	21 December 2024
Provinces Affected:	SHEFA
Reporting Period:	20 December (1600Hrs) to 21 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



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- Nearby villages near Efate and off-shore islands experienced landslides

### IMMEDIATE NEED:

- Restoration of 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 clearing for road accessibility
- 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. 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)
- NEOC Logistics Team is organising movement of NFIs with Partners and receiving & managing Request For Assistance (RFA), and support with transportation for Assessment teams, assist with aerial flight surveillance, assist with local surge capacity, identify stock in country, and incoming stock.

#### JOINT POLICE OPERATION CENTRE (JPOC)

- 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.
- Continues to maintain daily curfew restrictions from 6pm to 6am
- Road accessibility from Town Hall to Child Care School has been sealed off due to high risk of landslide
- Medical Facility at Cooks Barracks continues to assist with medical assistance and if required serious medical attention are referred to Vila Central Hospital

#### UNELCO Update

Update as at Friday 20th December 2024 - 6:30 PM Electricity

- Power supply has been restored since yesterday, with both high voltage (HV) and low voltage (LV) lines operational. However, some LV connections are still experiencing issues.
- Areas where power is being supplied include Freshwater, Ohlen, Namburu, Malapoa, Bladinere, Iririki, Eratap, Narpow Point, Whitesand, Rentapau, and the main CBD. However, the area between ANZ Bank and The Shops is excluded due to significant damage.





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However, the area between ANZ Bank and The Shops is excluded due to significant damage.

- Customers within these areas who still lack power may have individual installation issues, and are encouraged to inform UNELCO, specifying their neighborhood and stating that neighbors have power but they don't.
- Power restoration efforts included Beverly Hills, Vila Champaign, Teoumaville, Teouma Valley, Joint Court (some areas now have power), Ri Cardeux at HXM, and possibly Plateaux des Élluk..
- **Abattoir:** There is a significant problem with their transformer, and the responsible party is unreachable.
- **Airport Terminal:** The terminal's transformer is damaged and leaking. UNELCO found two suitable replacements in stock, and they will be checked and installed if operational.
- **Bukura to Tutuk (Mele):** Work will begin if a subcontractor is available. Due to severe damage, some areas may remain without power.
- **Mainland Ifira Point, Dream Cove, Ifira Island:** Access is the primary issue, as the road is obstructed. Additionally, the line passes under the road, and both the transformer and switch are damaged, complicating reconnections.
- Most major hotels without significant damage, such as Holiday Inn, Warwick, Ramada, and The Melanesian, now have power and water restored.
- UNELCO is working today (Saturday), but the entire team will rest on Sunday.

#### Water

- The primary challenge is extensive leaks in areas already receiving water, causing tanks to deplete quickly despite sufficient supply to refill them.
- Many areas now have water supply, but leaks continue to drain the tanks.
- UNELCO's facilities, including the lab, are secure.
- Community maps indicating areas with electricity and water should soon be made available.
- The UNELCO office in town is closed due to building damage, making it unsafe for staff to work.

#### Health Cluster

- Nutrition sub-cluster under Health activated on December 21, 2024.
- Due to urgent health needs, it is important that electricity and WASH facilities are reinstated in all health care facilities in Port Vila and Efate in order for health services to be restored.
- The need for midwives (5) to support VCH has been submitted to EMTCC cell within NHEOC.
- As of December 20, 2024, NCD is set up to provide full outpatient service so that VCH Emergency department focuses on health services for earthquake victims.
- 12 Nurses from provinces are tasked to provide surge support to VCH. Plans to mobilise are in progress via EMTCC
- VCH will require approximately VUV 3,500,000 to support current operations within the SOE for earthquake response.
- Morgue Capacity: 9 + Cooler container currently being installed.
- Information on opened health facilities disseminated via SMS and Facebook, including health key messages



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## Logistics Cluster

Warehouse Management - Movement of NFI from flights C-130 and C-17 into the warehouse, total stock counts (refer to below Table).

Date of Entry	Donor	Cluster	Description	Location	Stock on hand
19/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Family Hygiene Kit	Customs Warehouse	244
19/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Mother & Infant Kit	Customs Warehouse	200
19/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Taurpaulins	Customs Warehouse	70
19/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Shelter Tool Kits	Customs Warehouse	200
19/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Water Purification Tablet	Customs Warehouse	3
20/12/2024	Australia	Shelter	Hygiene Kit	Customs Warehouse	288
20/12/2024	Australia	Shelter	Shelter Tool kits	Customs Warehouse	288
20/12/2024	Australia	Shelter	Tarps (single)	Customs Warehouse	567
21/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Mother Infant Kit	Customs Warehouse	1860
21/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Family Hygiene Kit	Customs Warehouse	200
21/12/2024	New Zealand	Shelter	Tarpaulins	Customs Warehouse	240
21/12/2024	Australia	Shelter	Mobile Storage Unit (MSU)	NDMO Permits	35
					1
					<b>4196</b>

## 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.
- Possible increase in fleet management to be supported with efforts from JICA.
- Fuel supply to support the efforts of the WASH Cluster for water tracking exercise and or Water Distribution. Total number of fuels 8 drums, used 6 drums (1262 liters), refueling 45 of vehicles, currently remaining 2 drums. Average 28Liter / Vehicle.
- Fuel Request increased, requested by other Government partner agencies.
- Restrictions on inbound movement of passengers travelling to Efate for sea vessels have been sent to all ship owners.
- Request submitted for daily movement and positions for control.
- Requests for Assistance Management, a total of 22 requests received and approved. Number of RFA actions to be updated tomorrow.
- RFA request covers the following Energy, Transportation and Logistics, Networking and Telecommunications for restoration and Finance.





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### Shelter Cluster

- Number of people reached with shelter items to date: 288.
- 41 HH received assistance in Black Sands area in the form of tarpaulins (43) and kitchen sets (41).
- Shelter Cluster partners are continuing targeted rapid damage assessment assessments. Distributions continue.
- Shelter Cluster is coordinating with DECM (Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management Cluster). Coordination with WASH and Gender and Protection, as well as the Vanuatu Cash working Group, is key to achieve an effective response.
- Response Activities Planned:
  - Essential household items to support the resumption of domestic life
  - Improvement of home/shelter/enclosure
  - Settlement improvement
- Ongoing assessments by the Disaster Evacuation Centre Management Cluster (DEMC) indicate critical needs for electricity, clean water, food assistance, hygiene and sanitation and shelter among the displaced population.
- Shelter Cluster is coordinating with DECM Coordination with WASH and Gender and Protection, as well as the Vanuatu Cash working Group, is key to achieve an effective response.

### 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, SLO, Biosecurity, MALFFB,
- 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, Teouma, Ex-Leon, Independence Park
- Provide Wifi access to Key agencies – VMF Control Center, PMO Complex, PMO White tent, VCH Admin, ICL NOC, Meteo NOC, Electoral Office.
- 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 – site visit to get accurate information
- Support Agriculture cluster – MALFFB Independence Park

**Response Activities Planned:** Repair fibre damage at Tagabe



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## Food Security & Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)

### Response Activities Completed:

- Nutrition Balanced food ration statement will be approved and shared on Monday by nutrition sub-cluster
- FSAC will only support people within the authorized evacuation centers.
- Dry ration responsibility that will be confirmed by LOC at NDMO tomorrow
- Verification of detainees within the correctional facilities at Independence Park and Stade area to allow for FSAC support.
- Farmer assessment must be planned and implemented by departments under MALFFB to support early to long term recovery.
- Food stock assessment on commercial farmers around Efate to support in purchasing of local food to supplement dry rations planned for the next few days of SOE as well as up to three [3] months.
- 36 Solomon Islanders are stranded in Port Vila and need immediate food and water ration.
  - FSAC will procure some dry rations for them tomorrow (Sunday)
  - Water connection to them is severely affected and it is recommended the WASH Cluster visit, assess their water needs and provide water to them urgently.

## Education Cluster

- The detailed rapid assessment focuses on the Efate schools. The targeted number of schools are: 90 ECCE, 59 Primary schools (including primary schools with years 7 & 8, 40 Secondary schools and 12 PSET
- Day 1 assessment covers the following schools, 18 ECCE, 21 primary schools, 13 secondary schools & 1 PSET Schools
- Summary of the assessment. Out of 53 schools that have been assessed, 24 schools have been categorized under orange and red. Beneath are the summaries.
- Out of the 18 assessed ECCE, 8 of the ECCE are categorized under orange and red – meaning they are damaged and safe to use or major damage and not safe to use.
- Out of the 21 assessed primary schools, 9 are categorized under orange and red – meaning they are damaged and safe to use or major damage and not safe to use.
- Out of the 13 secondary assessed schools, 7 are categorized under orange and red – meaning they are damaged and safe to use or major damage and not safe to use.

## Displacement Evacuation Center Management (DECM) Cluster

- **1698 persons displaced** across 11 evacuation centres / open air sites and 31 host households.
- **Areas assessed:** Mele, Melemaat, Mele Waisisi, Pango, Eratap village, Teouma Bush, Erakor village, Erangorango, Tagabe.
- **Host households:** Have large numbers sleeping in private residential yards with no shelter.
- **Needs:**
  - Water: Only rainwater and well accessible now.
  - Food (for large host households and evac centres).
  - Shelter: Tarps and tents needed for displaced households.
  - Hygiene and sanitation (limited toilets, bush toilets being used).





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- 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
- Response Activities Completed:
  - Community-based assessments of evacuation centres and host households.
  - Assessments of evacuation centres that could activate.
- Response Activities Planned:
  - Data collected to be transferred to DECM Cluster database and sent out for detailed referrals.
  - Community-based assessments will continue tomorrow.
- Gaps & Constraints:
  - DECM Cluster will need to coordinate with the infrastructure engineering assessment team to assess evacuation centres that could activate.

### Gender & Protection Cluster

#### Response Activities Completed:

##### Child protection in emergency

- VFF's Just Play Program through UNICEF has supported and initiated a community planning with briefing for 7 females who have been trained for play-based activities with children in 5 municipal wards.
- Just Play Program's with support from UNICEF is supporting intervention with 18 recreational kits.
- Save the Children to set up a child friendly space at Kokoreko, Manples where evacuees from Black Sands are currently staying.
- World Vision to distribute hygiene kits to communities in Teouma.

##### GBViE:

- Assessments carried out at Rangorango and Manples as of 21st December 2024.
- ADRA to set up UNFPA tents at the VCH for antenatal check-ups for pregnant women and at Mele clinic for women, children and others requiring health assistance and support.

##### Disability Inclusion:

- Assessments carried out at Rangorango and Manples today for persons with disability and their devices.

##### Response Activities Planned:

- VFF's Just Play Program planned to facilitate play based activities with children. in progress.
- Youth and Sports scheduled to commence at 2 with MHPSS activities.
- Pastoral care to Correction detainees on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 December 2024.



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### VANUATU METEOROLOGY & GEO-HAZARDS DEPARTMENT (VMGD)

Rapid assessment findings as at 19th December 2024

- Tanoliu Village:
  - Water source polluted due to possible landslide debris (High risk of flash flooding with upcoming severe weather).
  - Mini township occupied lands for gardening and people on Tanoliu now rely on imported foods. Shortage on foods during such disasters
  - Most houses and roads are in good condition except Ulei Secondary School with cracks on classrooms and staff houses.
- Mangaliliu Village:
  - Water source polluted due to possible landslide debris (High risk of flash flooding with upcoming severe weather). Same thing for communities between Havanah and Lelepa landing.
  - Road downhill (concrete) to Mangaliliu village has major damage.
  - Some families that moved uphill are still living at the market house (entrance to Mangaliliu village).
  - Reports of rolling stone damaging a house at Lelepa Island with uncertainty of any casualties.
  - Strange submarine activity observed by villagers between Lelepa Island and Hat Island upwelling of milky substance. Need to conduct a proper assessment.
- Recommendations:
  - An Intervention on Emae and South Epi volcano/seismic monitoring stations: The VMGD Director request for a charter to take technicians to the two islands to fix the stations will be great for our monitoring updates. Since a SWARM event (small earthquakes) around the north of
- Magaliliu Village. The team will continue monitoring and will update accordingly. Another event that was picked up by the KMB (Tonga station) today was volcano earthquakes, currently only KMB is recording the events so its hard to determine whether its the East Epi volcano or Kuwae/surrounding submarine volcanoes.
- Severe weather for heavy rainfall expected late Monday 23 rd to Wednesday 25th December which may trigger cascading hazards such as, riverine flooding, rainfall induced landslides, erosion and potential infrastructure damage.

### INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

#### AUSTRALIA

- Search and Rescue
  - DART teams continued door-to-door damage assessments of Port Vila and beyond. Engineers are working through the tasking list of damaged buildings requiring assessment provided by NDMO/Infrastructure Cluster.
  - 579 damage assessments completed and logged detailed in a Damage Assessment Dashboard. Focus on the Freshwater community, which has a significant number of damaged structures, exposed wires and likely water contamination.
  - DART RPAS (drones) used to assess Wong building and river at Mele farm.
- AusMAT Emergency Medical Team continuing assisting at VCH, assisting in Emergency Department and Operating theatre. Additional AusMAT team will arrive on 23 December.
- Two ADF flights arrived bringing humanitarian supplies for NDMO, Vanuatu Red Cross, and other NGOs, in addition to a WFP Mobile Storage Unit.





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- Australian Federal Police continued support to JPOC and incoming Pacific Police Support Group officers from Australia, Fiji and PNG.

#### NEW ZEALAND

- Geotechnical Engineer accompanied NDMO/VMF on helicopter reconnaissance flight of the interior of Efate Island. NDMO and NZ Engineers are co-producing a report.
- NZMAT worked closely with other donors to coordinate at VCH and MOH.
- Search and Rescue teams doing building assessments including cordoning off landslide area at Lapatasi Wharf
- Flights brought in relief supplies, including hygiene kits, two engineers, medics and three Red Cross Staff
- Five staff (medical, defence and police) departed. Flights are now being paused.

#### FRANCE

- 2 Casa planes are making daily flights from New Caledonia, bringing in humanitarian supplies including 2 portable water treatment units and 300 hygiene kits
- 30 military officers have now been deployed, including liaison and transport personnel, and 8 operators for water purification units.
- 1 Puma helicopter (in Vanuatu) and 1 Falcon 200 plane (in New Caledonia) are available to support aerial assessments. Puma helicopters can also provide mobility support.
- Two Fardier vehicles (in Vanuatu) and two NH90 helicopters (in New Caledonia) are available to provide mobility support.
- Additional supplies arriving in the coming days include jerry cans, shelter kits, cooking kits, tarpaulins, solar lamps, pioneer kits, food & structural reinforcement supplies.

#### 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

