

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On December 17, 2024, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck 30 kilometers west of Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila, leading to widespread destruction and urgent humanitarian challenges. Occurring at a depth of 57 kilometers, the earthquake triggered landslides and caused extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and vital services. The situation deteriorated further due to subsequent aftershocks, measuring 5.5, 4.7, and 4.9 in magnitude, according to the United States Geological Services (USGS) and the Pacific Humanitarian Team's initial report. The Ministry of Health has confirmed 14 fatalities (eight males, five females, one unknown) and 265 injured. According to the initial reports from the Vanuatu National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) 80,000 people were affected by the Earthquake, leaving approximately 1,092 people currently temporarily displaced.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES



- 2.8K** Individuals affected by Damaged Houses (as of 06 January, 2025)
- 2.4K** Individuals (483 HH) received Emergency Shelter Assistance i.e. 499 tarpulins, 139 shelter tool kits and 159 kitchen sets.
- Shelter Cluster is continuing Assessments and Distribution across 8 most affected Council Areas.
 - Shelter Cluster is coordinating with the Disaster Emergency Committee Management (DECM) to ensure required shelter assistance is provided at displacement sites.
 - The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has deployed a Shelter Cluster coordinator to support the national shelter cluster lead.
 - For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/ShelterClusterDashboard> <https://bit.ly/ShelterClusterWebsite>



- 1** PHAS Charter flight with 35 Personnel from 15 agencies. Cargo included humanitarian relief supplies and equipment.
- 1** Logistics officer deployed from WFP and embedded within NDMO for logistical support for storage and distribution of relief items arriving from Donor countries.
- 2** Mobile Storage Unit (MSU), one was set up along side NEOC NDMO.

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION (ETC)

- 5** Starlink High Kits supplied by WFP and mobilized to key locations: National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), Shefa Provincial Health Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and National Vaccine Cold Chain Centre. (as of 06 January, 2025)
- 2** ETC Specialists deployed by WFP to support the Government in regaining connectivity through Starlink.



- 249** First Aid Kits dispatched to Ministry of Health (MoH).
- 195** Dignity Kits and **210** Menstrual Hygiene Kits distributed.
- 11** Teams deployed to evacuation centres (MHPSS, general outpatient care and SRH services) reaching **2.5K** people.
- 6** Emergency Medical Teams (EMT): VANMAT, AUSMAT, NZMAT, JDR, PACMAT and Indonesia. **4** Midwives mobilized to VCH, and Vanuatu Family Health Centre.
- 6** High Performance tents provided to MoH and **2** tents deployed: Vila Central Hospital (VCH), Maternity Unity and Mele Health Centre.
- 8** Health Facilities Assessments completed.
- 3** Starlink Kits distributed to VCH, National Health EOC and as of 03 January, one to NCD Hub.



- 3.7L** Water provided to communities in West Efate.
- 1.3K** Household surveyed to access food, livelihoods and nutrition support.
- 7** Days worth of food ration provided by National FSAC.
- WFP provided Kobo Toolbox training to staff of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) for assessments, also providing tablets.
 - UNICEF leading a Nutrition Rapid Assessment in evacuation centres and affected communities.
 - WVI provided monthly food vouchers to tuberculosis patients.
 - As of 30 December, FSAC members distributed (**3.9MT**) Rice, (**3.5K**) Packs of Noodles, (**15.0K**) Packs of Canned Fish and (**3.5K**) Packs of Biscuits



- 45** Schools identified after Detailed School Assessment as in need of renovation and reconstruction.
- Key activities currently in progress include: **Key activities currently in progress include: Prepositioning Materials and Temporary Structures for Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS).**
 - Psychosocial Support (PSS) Campaign** with MoET.

HIGHLIGHTS



80K
Affected Population



→1.1K
Temporarily Displaced



14
Fatalities



265
Injured



- 20K** Targetted and **7000** people reached with clean water and WASH.
- 1.5K** Hygiene Kits and buckets distributed to impacted population.
- 1.5L** Water Bladders have been moved from Suva to Vanuatu.
- 30** Water tanks (**20 x 6000L** and **10 x 5000L**), 13 of these have been distributed.
- 10** Water bladders to be used on Water Trucks (**2 x 6000L**, **2 x 5000L** and **6 x 1500L**).
- UNICEF, alongside the Department of Water Resources (DoWR), has installed a water filter for dental and dialysis unit at VCH.
 - UNICEF provided **1000 collapsible 10L** water containers to World Vision. For ADRA- **500** sanitary pads, buckets and hygiene kits.



- 647** Children (out of which **287** girls) supported with play- based psychosocial support through static and child friendly spaces.
- UNICEF rolled out psychosocial support outreach activities across affected communities including evacuation centres play-based activities with children.
 - UNICEF has further supported with release of tents, recreational kits guidance, and training for setting up of safe spaces for children and their caregivers.
 - UNWOMEN supported CARE with Rapid Gender Analysis Survey and working NDMO and WFP to provide tents to their beneficiaries under Market4Change Programme that have been impacted.
 - UNFPA distributed dignity kits (**250**) and Menstrual hygiene and management Kits (**236**) in partnership with ADRA to people in evacuation centers and temporary shelters.



- 600 (MT)** Worth of supplies including Food, Medicaiton, Batteries, Solar Lights and chargers. Solar energy solutions are expected to be distributed to selected communities.
- 14** Solar kits to affected households in Mamao community in Teouma.
- 6** Supply boxes of HIV and TB commodities to Ministry of Health.
- ER Cluster lead** currently embedded within Recovery Operation Centre (ROC) coordinating and supporting Early Recovery efforts.



- 1.1K** Individuals Temporarily Displaced, across **4** Evacuation Centre and **6** Host Households (as of 07 January, 2025)
- The National DECM Cluster is supporting distributions in ECs and Host HH from the FSAC, WASH Cluster, Protection and Shelter Cluster.



- 12** Member Team deployed under OCHA/ UNDAC.
- 1 x Humanitarian Affair Officer (HAO)** & **1 x Information Management Officer (IM)** embedded in NDMO as well as with the Recovery Operation Centre (ROC) respectively.
 - The UNDAC Environment Assessment Team completed drone assessments of areas identified by the Department of Environment (DoE). Other assessments included that of the dump site for debris cleared from the Port Vila CBD, drone assessments of wharf structures, and the hillside landslide adjacent to the wharf.

VANUATU - Earthquake

