



NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	TC Hola & Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	10
Date	23 April 2018
Reporting period	19/04/2018 - 23/04/2018
Provinces affected	Malampa, Sanma, Penama
Attachment(s)	
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

The Ambae Volcano activity still remained in level 3 and there is a likelihood that the activity will remain at this level for some time. The VMGD is closely monitoring the activities.

On ground reports confirmed that the volcano ash fall activity has decreased since last week and are now receiving more rainfall. Areas that are less affected are beginning to see green vegetation's.

This morning, 23rd April 2018 due to heavy rainfall a flash flood occurred in Lombaha area in North Ambae. The Penama Provincial office is working together with the Joint Police personnel on ground to evacuate the people from the area to Torgil Training Center and Vureas High School. The displaced population from Lombaha area is yet to confirm.

TC Hola immediate relief distributions have been completed.

General Coordination

A Government delegation led by the Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change with the Directors from DLA, NDMO, VMGD and the Deputy Police Commissioner travelled to Ambae on Wednesday 18th April 2018 to meet with the Penama Provincial Government to get a final decision on the off-island sites and discuss the COM's decision to ensure that activities planned in both operation centers are in line with the COM's datelines.

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) organized a fly over of Ambae to observe the impact of the ongoing volcanic activities. The team comprised of VMGD and GNS Science - New Zealand scientists and NDMO officials. The flight was organized by the kind donation of the New Zealand government. Observations on this flight indicated that the ash output from the Ambae Volcano has subsided substantially in recent days. The conditions noted at the volcano were consistent with the

expectations of the scientists. It could also be seen that there was substantial environmental damage from the ash fall to the North West and South east areas of Ambae within a 5 km radius of the volcano. The North east and South West areas appeared less affected however ash fall had been received in these areas in the days prior to the visit. The on-island relocation sites Capacity assessment reports per cluster were completed and send to the NDMO office today for further analysis and compilation.

Registrations for the Ambae population continue and are currently prioritizing on Evacuation Centers and Host families then to affected communities. The registration team includes four Civil Registry officers. They have already completed the registration of Evacuation centers and host families in East Ambae Area Council and should print out the first load of ID Cards today 23rd April 2018. The team will continue the registration to North tomorrow 24th April 2018 but will still revisit the sites that have visited to register those that they may have missed.

This morning, 23rd April 2018, a Government taskforce led by the Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change, Director of Lands and Local Authority, Police Commission, A/Deputy Commissioner and the VMF commander travelled to Logana, Ambae to be part of the Penama Chiefs forum. The forum will last for four days 23rd to 26th April 2018 and will take place in Maewo and Pentecost. The objective of the forum is for the taskforce and the Ambae Chiefs to discuss the permanent off-island relocation sites with chiefs and land owners of Maewo and Pentecost. This discussion is very important as it will allow the Capacity Assessment team to know the sites and be able to assess them as soon as possible.

Penama Provincial Coordination

To address issues between Sanma and the people of Ambae during the recent Ambae operations, on Thursday 19th of April 2018, the Ambae people & Chiefs conducted a reconciliation ceremony with the Tabwemasana Council of Chiefs to clear off the misconceptions between the two Councils and Administration and their people. The ceremony has marked a way forward for both Sanma and Penama province.

Further Information

VMGD Volcano Update: www.vmgd.gov.vu

NDMO: <https://ndmo.gov.vu>

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Next Sitrep: Wednesday 25th April 2018