



## **MAEWO COMMUNITY KEY MESSAGES – November 2-9 2018**

### **1. Evacuation Centres/preparedness for cyclone season**

- In support to NDMO, the Shelter Cluster team is finalising an evacuation centre survey to assess capacity of cyclone shelters to provide safe places to both Ambae and Maewo families.
- The Shelter team will soon undertake a Technical Assessment to start potential reinforcement works, the priority will be on schools and community halls.
- Where there is a lack of Evacuation centre capacities, NDMO with support of Maewo Chiefs will request community mobilisation to build community traditional safe houses.

### **2. Community based shelter assistance**

- The Shelter Cluster will identify and train Shelter Focal Points in each community. The Shelter Focal Point will be a community member with some construction skills and will be chosen by Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCC) and communities. The Shelter Focal Point will give shelter technical support and help to implement community-based activities.
- A Households Shelter Kit will be distributed by the Shelter Focal Points to households that need it the most and a Community Tool Kit will be provided for every 20 households.

### **3. Movement to second homes**

- The agreement being drawn up between Maewo Chiefs and Government will complement the agreement already made which entitles Ambae people to begin access to the designated sites for restoration of livelihoods and building of homes.
- As this process continues communities should determine how to divide plots with Government support. Once people move into second home sites, government is expected to commence implementing its recovery plan which includes the establishment of essential basic services and small-scale livelihoods projects.
- Kastom ceremonies have been performed by the Chiefs of Maewo over the following relocation sites: Naruru, Loloruku, Sunasom and Tanrogo, which are the available sites at the moment.

- Preparation works have already started on some second home sites and as soon as land surveys are completed, second home sites are cleared and traditional safe houses are built, households from Ambae can start to build second homes.

#### **4. Ambae volcanic activity continues to fluctuate**

- The Ambae volcanic activity continues to fluctuate and a team from VMGD will travel to Ambae next week to carry out a safety and situation assessment.

#### **5. EOC must be notified of any movements in/out of Ambae**

- Any Ambae evacuee intending to move out of Maewo or into Maewo must notify the EOC to ensure NDMO records are up-to-date.

#### **6. Cash For Work**

- Cash for Work is implemented and managed by Save the Children Australia (SCA).
- Is intended for both evacuees and host communities to ensure access to some cash for both the Ambae displaced population and host communities. It has commenced in communities in the north, and is to reach other communities soon.
- Is utilised mainly for land clearance for food gardens and second home sites.
- Community support and mobilisation is required in the building of community traditional safe houses and second homes – and this will not involve Cash for Work.

#### **7. Oxfam Cash Transfer Program**

- The Cash Transfer Program is an initiative of the New Zealand government through Oxfam Vanuatu and is a form of cash payment for both displaced Ambae people as well as their host families, to help them rebuild their lives.
- The cash assistance will begin on Santo. Maewo will be next before end of 2018.

#### **8. Food Basket**

- Food Basket is an initiative to ensure local diets are supplemented with greens and local food.
- Work undertaken by communities in the food basket is to be provided free of charge as food grown is for Ambae evacuees.
- The first harvest is currently being distributed to Ambae evacuees throughout Maewo

#### **9. Food Rations**

- The next food distribution is to occur in November 2018.
- Communities are encouraged to consume food supplies wisely to avoid shortage.
- Any issues are to be reported to NDMO.

#### **10. Information to communities**

- A Complaints and Feedback mechanism is being developed to ensure a two-way flow of information to communities which is inclusive, and allows for multiple channels to provide feedback. The mechanism will hopefully inform interventions in future events.
- A community engagement plan outlining key NDMO and cluster activities in communities will be distributed to each community.
- Weekly updates will be put up on community notice boards.

#### **11. Malaria**

- Health authorities have recorded a few cases of Malaria in Maewo. A team from the Dept. of Health is currently in Maewo to treat mosquito breeding sites.
- Communities are encouraged to take extra precautions at all times.