

WASH CLUSTER Situation Report



INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Sitrep 1

Date: 09/04/2018

Country: Vanuatu

Type of disaster: Volcanic Ash fall

Location: Ambae, Penama Province

HIGHLIGHTS

- 583 Evacuees relocated to 9 camps in East Ambae-
- WASH Emergency Response Team of 7 Officers deployed to Ambae and stationed at Saratamata
- 700 bottled water distributed in all Camps
- Water trucking has delivered 500lt of water to all camps
- MFAT WASH Kits and Hygiene Kits have arrived in East Ambae and stored at Lolowai

A. CONTEXT

The situation in Ambae remains severe as heavy volcanic ash fall still posing big threat to the communities of Ambae. Vegetation in the Southern part of the island is completely dried up due to heavy ash fall. All water sources (ground wells and tanks are contaminated. Turbidity in the water is very high therefore unsafe for drinking and cooking. Acidity is generally low.

In West Amabe, the most affected communities living inland have relocated down to nearby communities of Nduindui.

The most affected population of South Ambae have now been relocated to the Eastern part of the island and are being hosted in 9 communities.

At the time of the declaration of the "Disaster Zone" only West and South were affected. Now both North and East Ambae are affected by ash fall. This poses a big threat to the water sources thus making it more challenging for WASH Ground Team to stretch their capacity to response to daily needs of affected people needing safe drinking water.

B. AFFECTED POPULATION/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The table below provides a summary of total population and household of evacuees from South Ambae in host communities in East Communities.

Location	Population	Household
Sarabulu	43	5
Lolovoli	64	14
Vuinkatabola	36	5
Senta	60	14
Wailengi	23	5
Nanigama	27	6
Lovunbuke	73	20
Nararai	25	6
Vatumemea	81	20
Ambae Bulu	40	6
Vinodou	55	13
Total	529	121

The evacuees resides in community hall such as Nakamals and church buildings. The condition of these building is not so good considering ongoing heavy ash fall and rain fall. Some Nakamals have broken thatch roof and are being covered with tarpaulins to protect the evacuees from the rain and cold.



Currently whole island of Ambae is affected by Ash fall. East Ambae is no longer safe. Ash fall and heavy rain fall over the last few days has caused many landslides and trees have fallen blocking the road connecting East to North of the island. The provincial team together with the WASH Team have mobilized yesterday to clear the road only down to Loone in North Ambae. The rest of the communities is still inaccessible.

Below is the breakdown of affected population and household data

Area Council	Population	Household	Priority
West Ambae	3,750	830	High
North Ambae	3,600	800	High
South Ambae	2,120	530	High

Water extraction point for water trucking is at Saratamata water system. Water trucking has started and is ongoing as the need for drinking water is eminent. It is still too risky for communities to reconnect their gutters. Rain comes down with ash causing many water sources like open well turning brown in color.



Gutters disconnected from tanks due to ash fall



Water have turned brown in color

At this stage, WASH ERT is only responding to water needs of the affected population living in East and North Ambae. The team could not go to West Ambae due to lack of field allowance and operation budget from the government. The team is doing the best they can with the limited resources they have on the ground to respond. Finance is very slow to allocate emergency fund to support ground operation.

Nevertheless, the team has distributed so far 700 cartons of bottled water to IDPs in Woloriki, East and North Ambae. They have also filled up 170 10L collapsible Jerry Cans and distributed in 9 camps activated in East Ambae.



Distribution of bottled water at Woloriki IDPs Camp



Water distribution at Wailengi IDP camp

Water treatment and testing has also been conducted at the camps sites. Key area of focus is mostly testing PH, temperature, conductivity and turbidity.

PHYSICAL FIELD RECORDING FORM-WATER CHEMISTRY							
Sample Location	Date	Time (am/pm)	Temperature (C°)	pH	Conductivity (ms/cm)	Turbidity (ntu)	Water source
Locenter	3/04/18	12:06	29.1	6.70	86.5	1.93	Poly Tank
Locenter	3/04/18	12:15	30.1	9.4	83.9	4.55	Fero-cement well
Locenter	3/04/18	12:35	28.6	8.20	81.0	3.78	Borehole
Sarabulu	3/04/18	12:36	27.4	6.45	84.4	4.97	Poly Tank
Nanako	3/04/18	14:16	27.4	6.30	82.9	1.77	Poly Tank
Nanako	3/04/18	14:16	26.7	7.26	62.0	1.63	Fero-cement well
Nanako	3/04/18	14:16	26.1	8.06	54.7	3.67	Fero-cement well
Lemus	3/04/18	4:51	27.5	6.60	81.4	4.84	Poly Tank
Lemus	3/04/18	4:51	26.9	9.55	80.0	0.58	Fero-cement well
Vatumeamea	3/04/18	5:20	27.5	6.64	79.7	0.98	Poly Tank
Vatumeamea	3/04/18	5:20	26.3	7.32	79.5	4.35	Borehole
Lovundodou	4/04/18	10:23	30	6.05	89.3	0.71	Poly Tank
Lovundodou	4/04/18	10:35	30.9	7.6	37.6	2.64	Fero-cement well
Nanigama	4/04/18	11:35	31.24	6.21	91.5	5.28	Poly Tank 1

Nanigama	4/04/18	11:35	30.3	5.58	83.8	1.19	Poly Tank 2
Nanigama	4/04/18	11:35	28.0	7.98	83.7	0.87	Fero-cement well
Wailengi	4/04/18	12:30	33.3	8.9	83.5	0.77	Fero-cement well
Waluriki	4/04/18	16:27	29.6	8.43	84.8	0.75	Fero-cement well
Saraetamata	5/04/18	8:51	26.3	7.82	79.6	1.67	Borehole
Saratamata	5/06/18	10:54	27.1	7.92	80.9	0.48	Distribution Point
Lovinkatabola	5/06/18	15:55	28.3	9.63	82.7	1.10	Ground Well-Ferrocement
PPG, Saratamata	5/05/18	16:39	28.4	7.9	82.8	0.48	Water shipment from Vila
Vanuatu National Drinking Water Quality Standards			-	6.5-8.5	<2000	<5	

Summary of Results

- ✓ According to in-situ physical water test results, in terms of turbidity, only one of the water samples exceed 5 NTU which according to the Vanuatu National Drinking water quality standards for community water supply systems is not safe for human consumption. All other samples for turbidity meet the standards. PH levels range from 6 – 10 and most water samples are within Vanuatu National standards for drinking water. Conductivity levels for all water samples are within the standards (see table above)
- ✓ No bacteriological test has been conducted, however through assumption and risk assessment most RWCs is assumed to be contaminated.
- ✓ No chemical test has been conducted, however through past test records most RWCs is assumed to have low levels of fluoride, chloride and sulfate which are the main chemical leachates of volcanic ash.

- ✓ Portable water has been distributed to the evacuation centers and according to the physical test analysis for Saratamata water system, the water is assumed to be safe.
- ✓ It is very important to note however that water quality changes over time so with increased volcanic ash-fall it is anticipated that water quality will become worse.

Recommendation

- ✓ Biological and Chemical Water analysis is highly recommended
- ✓ Needs proper full Water Quality Test Kit, (Physical, Biological and Chemical)
- ✓ Water Treatment(Chlorine)



C. PROGRAMMING

WASH Response is being implemented as planned with respect to the declared disaster zones being West and South Ambae. The priority area of intervention are:

- Distribute bottled water to affected population in south and West Ambae
- Water trucking
- Test and treat water
- Establish temporary sanitation facilities
- Distribute hygiene kits
- Conduct water safety and hygiene promotion awareness

As stated above, all of these activities are now underway. WASH is very active and is working very closely with the Health Cluster to respond and address the needs of the affected population.

The government hasn't allocated much resources to support WASH ground Team. The team has no field allowance nor imprest to cover the cost of their operation. All documents have been submitted to finance but it's taking so long to get the fund ready.

To date no funds hasn't been allocated yet. WASH Team has so far distributed 150 donated



MFAT Hygiene Kits and 150 WASH Kits to 9 camps in East Ambae. It is also very challenging to bring water to communities when there is heavy ash fall as shown in the picture above. The team has also started to build 53 seat raiser for VIP toilets to be built in host communities.

D. PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

On the ground, WASH team is working very closely with the Health Cluster. No joint coordination hub has been set up due to lack of facility. However, both clusters continues to hold joint discussion and planning. The Department of Public health is leading the construction of 53 VIP Toilets and also hygiene promotion awareness in communities and camps.

Coordination at the Provincial EOC is generally poor. There is lack of planning and coordination meeting. Nevertheless, Area Administrators are assisting WASH Response by providing population and household data.



WASH Team in Ambae currently operates under the command and supervision of the "Branch Section Chief" Charlie Tari. The team meets daily for briefing and Debriefing. Operation report is scheduled to be issued twice a week.

E. DONOR UPDATE

WASH Cluster would like to acknowledge the support from MFAT for providing WASH Kits and Hygiene Kits.

Vanuatu Red Cross has also provided 170 collapsible 10L Jerry Cans

F. LOGISTICS / SECURITY

NDMO has been very supportive to the WASH Cluster by chartering a flight for WASH Team down to Ambae including the arranged shipment for MFAT Kits that were dispatched to Ambae.

WASH Ground Operation is very challenging. Water trucking is an expensive exercise and requires sufficient resources. Currently there is no fuel allocated for emergency response use. The team is experiencing a lot of financial constraints as mentioned above.

WASH ERT are lacking protective equipment for their safety when deployed to communities.

G. STAFFING

WASH Emergency Response Team (ERT) members:

Branch Section Chief: Charlie Tari (Supported by the "Incident Commander" Paolo Malatu)

Michael Maniel

Jayson Wai

John Mark Melve

Ratu Bani

Jonathan Bani (Penama Base officer)

The following officers are currently based in Saratamata. John Mark Melve will be deployed to West Ambae pending the finance to be sorted out.

Additional staff from Santo will be also joining West Team

Masden Gare

Naru

Elie Bule

There is need to engage more staff on the ground to have a dedicated team focusing on each Area Council to speed up the response.

I. RECOMMENDATION

The situation in Ambae is imminent and requires immediate attention to provide essential WASH services to the affected people to save lives. The following items are urgently needed.

Items	Quantity
Hygiene Kits	2,281
WASH kits	2,281
Soap for Hand Washing	2,281
20L water container for HH storage	2,281

G. CONTACT

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