



NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	17
Date	29 May 2018
Reporting period	18/05/2018 - 29/05/2018
Provinces affected	Penama
Attachment(s)	
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

- A State of Emergency remains in place on Ambae Island until the 13 July.
- The Vanuatu Meteorology and GeoHazard Department maintains alert level 3 for the Ambae Volcano. According to on-ground observations, light ash-fall has been experienced again recently in the Northern part of Ambae, in other areas plants are starting to grow back.
- The Government, through the Council of Ministers and the Permanent Relocation Task Force is moving forward with planning for the voluntary assisted movement of people from Ambae to Maewo.
- Four permanent relocation sites with an estimated total land area of over 1000 hectares have been identified on Maewo. The Lands Department Survey teams have been tasked with surveying the new sites to confirm their capacity.
- On Ambae, approximately 2000 displaced people are still in evacuation centers or are living with host communities. Some people are reported to have returned back to their homes.
- The registration of voluntary movements done by Red Cross volunteers show that more than 800 people have already voluntarily moved off the island. The registration of voluntary movement has not covered the Western part of the island yet.
- The NDMO with the Gender and Protection Cluster including support from Save the Children and Care International and the Vanuatu Red Cross is quantifying the number of families that intend to move to Maewo with assistance from the government. It is anticipated that preliminary figures will be available in the next week.

General Coordination

- The Permanent Relocation Task Force met on 25th May 2018 to discuss further planned relocation to Maewo.
- The NDMO chaired an inter-cluster meeting on the 23rd of May. Outcomes include a review of:
 1. Key messages for affected communities
 2. A Guidance Note for Partner Agencies which is to provide clarity on the government plans for voluntary assisted movement to Maewo.

Operational Update

- MV Aganda left Port Vila on Friday 24th May with 2,198 bags of rice (25kg) and 1,500 cartons of tuna for communities in both West and East Ambae. These rations are now being distributed on Ambae.
- FSAC is also looking at options to source local food from nearby islands in the future to address the needs of people when they are moved to new relocation sites.
- Livestock Department on Ambae has been relocated to Santo along with the Government Livestock (animals) in their breeding sites.
- The WASH Cluster is deploying a team to Maewo later this week to continue preparations for the planned relocation.
- The Shelter Cluster have returned from a scoping mission to Ambae to review the current on ground situation and plan for relocation requirements.

Further Information

VMGD Volcano Update: www.vmgd.gov.vu
NDMO: <https://ndmo.gov.vu>
Prepared by: NDMO Information Management Unit
Next Sitrep: Wednesday 22nd May 2018