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NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	18
Date	27 July 2018
Reporting period	23/07/2018 - 27/07/2018
Provinces affected	Penama
Attachment(s)	
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

- State of Emergency for the Ambae Volcano Operation has lapsed on 13th July 2018. There is likelihood to extent the State of Emergency.
- The Vanuatu Meteorology and GeoHazard Department has advised that the volcano activity level has increased from level 2 to level 3. There are no signs of the activity to decrease, but there is likelihood for flank eruptions and continuity of volcanic activity on the current level.
- According to on-ground observations, heavy and very wet ash-fall has been experienced in the Southern part of the island. The volcanic activity was seen to be worse than the activities earlier in 2018. Heavy ash-fall has caused darkness over the island around mid-day of July 25th 2018. Nearby islands like Maewo and Pentecost were also reported to be receiving heavy amount of ash-fall.
- All primary schools are closed.
- Prior to the latest ash-fall, approximately 400HH were indicated through registration to be evacuated to Maewo. Most of the people chose to stay in Ambae while others chose to be relocated to other islands including Santo, Pentecost, Efate, Ambrym and Malekula.
- Due to the latest heavy ash-fall, more than 100 Evacuees from the Southern Part of Ambae boarded MV Tauraken for Maewo on Thursday 26th July 2018. The group of evacuees changed their mind on their way to Maewo with advice from their authorities and has directed the ship back to Ambae.
- The Maewo Hosts communities are preparing to receive Ambae affected communities. (*see attached map for possible host communities*)

General Coordination

- The Penama PEOC along with other humanitarian partners, CARE, RED CROSS and clusters are working on evacuating affected communities to safer parts of the island. Over 200 people were evacuated.
- In its latest COMs decision dated 26/07/18, COM has decided that the evacuation be compulsory.
- The Maewo Onsite EOC is working closely with the Maewo Host communities in preparation to receive Ambae affected communities.

Operational Update

- WASH cluster has already prepositioned water tanks in Maewo in preparation to support evacuees that will move to Maewo
- Food and Security Cluster is working closely with nearby islands to source local food cuttings that the evacuees may be able to plant in Maewo once they settle in. The cuttings should provide them with enough food in the next three months. The cluster is also working closely with the NDMO to provide dry rations for Ambae evacuees who will be moving to Maewo.

Further Information

VMGD Volcano Update: www.vmgd.gov.vu
NDMO: <https://ndmo.gov.vu>
Prepared by: NDMO Information Management Unit
Next Sitrep: TBC