



## NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	23
Date	08:30 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018
Reporting period	06/09/2018 - 21/09/2018
Provinces affected	Penama, Sanma
Attachment(s)	N/A
NEOC Status	Operational

### Situation Overview

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- Council of Ministers (COMs) decision 149/2018 extended the State of Emergency on the island of Ambae until the 26th November 2018.
- The COMs decision have also approved the Maewo Chiefs Plan (Plan A) to **adopt Ambae Evacuated families into the Maewo tribes**, on a case by case, family, community basis through customary adoption and integration for the families to be resettled in Maewo.
- The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo Hazards Department (VMGD) maintained the Ambae Volcano activity at level 3. There is no evidence that the activity level will decrease in the short term.
- In preparation for the upcoming cyclone season, the Vanuatu Red Cross is currently assessing existing safe buildings around Maewo. The buildings include community halls, nakamals, churches and school buildings. They will be coordinating with the Shelter cluster to work on buildings that may need repair.
- Food distribution around Maewo has been on-going since last week for both evacuees and host communities and the South Maewo community that was affected by landslide. Some NFI relief supplies from Vanuatu Red Cross that include tarpaulins, garden tools, tool-kits and kitchen kits were also distributed to the families affected by the landslide.
- The Santo food supplies have been shipped and arrived in Luganville and will be distributed to the Ambae displaced communities around Santo.
- The Food cluster in Maewo is working with both Host Communities and Ambae Evacuees to clear and cultivate the Ulu relocation site 2 as a food basket for the Ambae evacuees.
- Clusters are currently working with VMGD and NDMO to put together key messages for the Ambae displaced communities around Maewo and Santo. The key messages aim to clarify the current government long-term plans, government assistance and the volcano activity.
- A delegation of Commissioners (Police Commissioner, PSC Chairman, TSC Chairman) led by the NDMO Director have travelled to Santo and Maewo today (20<sup>th</sup> September 2018) to visit their officers that were deployed on-ground to support the Ambae response.

## General Coordination

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- The onsite emergency operations center (EOC) in Kerembei is the primary coordination hub for evacuations to Maewo. Daily coordination meetings are held each morning.
- The Sanma Provincial EOC in Santo has been operational and is coordinating the response for the Ambae Vulnerable group and those that voluntarily moved to Santo.

## Displacement Figures

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- Registration of Ambaeans who have voluntarily moved to Santo has been completed. As at 08<sup>th</sup> September 2018, a total of 6,348 individuals and 1,712 households were registered in Santo.
- The Maewo registration team has noted that there has been a continuous flow of internal and external movements, where families move within the island, off the island and into the island from Santo and Port Vila.

## Further Information

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**VMGD Volcano Update:** [www.vmgd.gov.vu](http://www.vmgd.gov.vu)  
**NDMO:** <https://ndmo.gov.vu>  
**Prepared by:** NDMO Information Management Unit  
**Approved by:** Officer In Charge, National Disaster Management Office  
**Next Sitrep:** TBD