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National Disaster Management Office
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NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	TC Hola & Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	12
Date	29 April 2018
Reporting period	25/04/2018 - 29/04/2018
Provinces affected	Penama, Malampa, Sanma
Attachment(s)	
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

Ambae response overview:

- A state of emergency is currently in force in the whole of Ambae since 13 April until 13 July and the whole island is now declared a disaster zone. The governments priority therefore is to move families to safe locations
- Over 1400 people are currently in residing with host communities or in evacuation centers in east and west Ambae.
- Over 900 new students displaced from the north and south and over 50 teachers have been received by host communities.
- Planned recovery and rehabilitation plans in Ambae have been halted with an objective to transfer these into the new relocation sites.
- Preliminary reports indicate lack of tents / temporary learning space, latrines and safe clean water for teachers and students in Ambae on-island Evacuation Centers and schools.

Cluster Summary:

Food Security Cluster

Both sites in Saratamata and Naruku identified for relocation have good accessibility for food distribution however clearance is needed to make them fully usable.

Reports received from evacuation centers and host communities in east Ambae indicate that food distribution has reached all centers hosting communities from South Ambae. Planting materials (cuttings) distributed in the last two weeks have not been able to germinate due to heavy ash fall. This is however expected that if rains fall within the month and washes off the ash cover off the agricultural soil. There isn't any economic activity ongoing on assessed sites and the cluster recommends the government look at support options that include livelihood support.

Field reports also suggest that large areas of grazing areas have been covered with ash fall compromising not only the health of the pasture but also the health of livestock that feed on them. It is also reported that aquaculture has been heavily impacted by the heavy ash fall.

Health Cluster

Health assessment were conducted in Ambae's health facilities across its three health zones to assess their capacity to deliver health services to the host communities as well as those displaced and are either with host communities or in evacuation centers. Critical gaps identified include lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities as well as lack of dedicated health professionals (nurses) to cater for the additional over 1,400 people across the three zones surveyed. There are approximately 140 children under 5, 6 elderly people, 4 people living with disability and 3 have special medical conditions.

Education

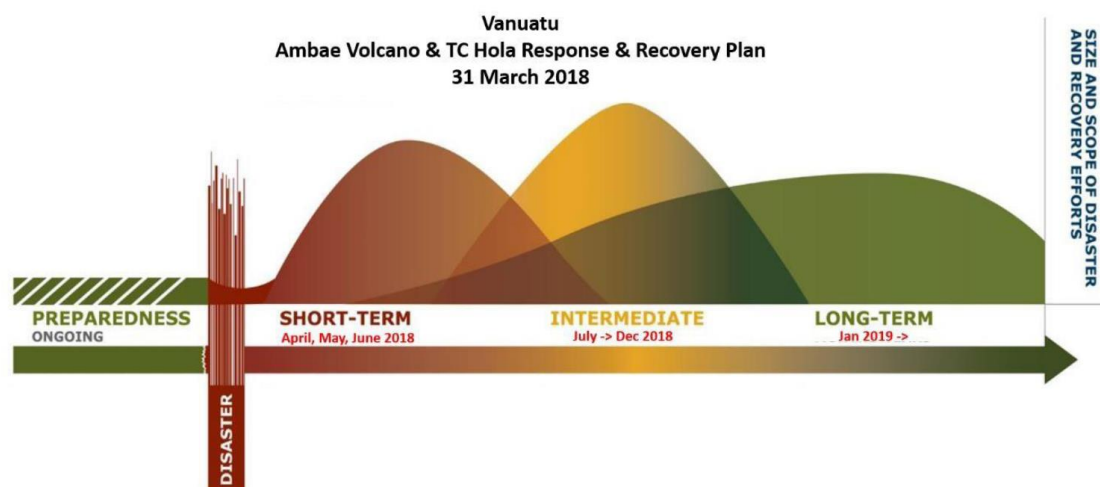
From assessments carried out in the relocation sites in east and west Ambae, over 900 new students displaced from the north and south and over 50 teachers have been received by host communities. This is putting significant pressure on available education resources. It is already estimated that there will be over 100 tents required to provide additional learning, accommodation and office space for children and their teachers. The education cluster is currently revising their response plan to reflect the new realities as priority is to minimize as much as possible disruptions to learning activities.

Logistics

Results from a logistics capacity assessment conducted in Ambae revealed that the road from Saratamata HQ in east Ambae to Lolovele in south Ambae is not passable due to damage to the river crossing. Additionally the road from Lolowai in east Ambae to waluweibue in the north as well as the road from Devils Rock in the west to Loone in the North West are also impassable due to damage by falling trees and rainfall damage respectively.

General Coordination

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), through its Cluster System, is coordinating the on-ground response to both Tropical Cyclone Hola and Ambae Volcano response. The government has adopted a three phase strategy to deal with these emergencies, in which the NDMO will take leadership on the short term emergency phase (April –June 2018), while the Prime Minister's will be responsible for the intermediate Term (July – December 2018) and Long Term (2019/2020).



Cluster meetings are continuing to take place and an inter cluster meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 2nd May.

Penama Provincial Coordination

As a result from the Penama Chiefs Forum that happened on 24th – 25th April 2018, four off-island permanent relocation sites were identified in the island of Maewo with a total of 19 host communities that can host approximately 3,000 people. The discussions are still ongoing for the island of Pentecost. (see below Maewo identified permanent sites)

PERMANENT RELOCATION SITES			
NO.	NAME	LOCATION	LANDSIZE (ha) - estimate
01	Sanason	South	600
02	Ulu	Central	300
03	Naruru	Central	15
04	Loloruku	North	209

Further Information

VMGD Volcano Update: www.vmgd.gov.vu
NDMO: <https://ndmo.gov.vu>
Prepared by: NDMO Information Management Unit
Next Sitrep: Tuesday 01st May 2018