



NEOC Situation Update

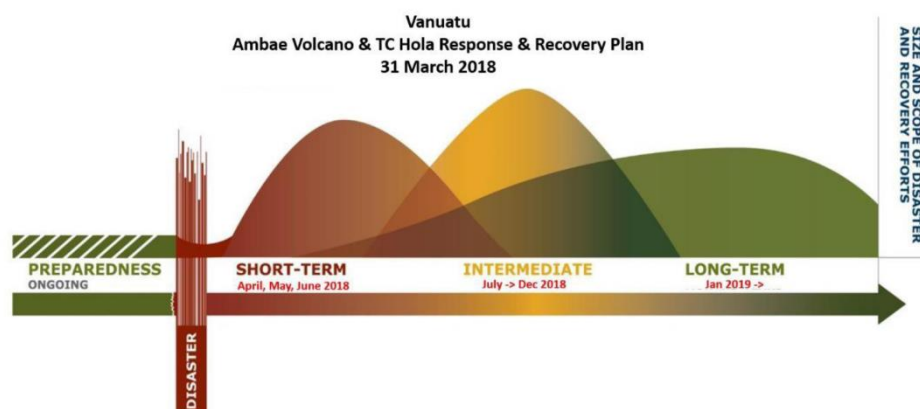
Response Name	TC Hola & Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	16
Date	18 May 2018
Reporting period	14/05/2018 - 18/05/2018
Provinces affected	Penama, Malampa
Attachment(s)	
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

- Following increased volcanic activity by the Ambae Island Volcano, the government declared a state of emergency from 13 April – 13 July.
- Last week, the Government, through the Council of Ministers has reviewed its decision on the evacuation of the entire island of Ambae (population: 10,200) and the suitable permanent relocation sites. The official documentation of the decision is still pending. The decision should provide a way forward on the operation planning.
- Four permanent relocation sites with an estimate total land area of 1124 hectare have been identified on Maewo. Furthermore 19 host communities with a capacity to accommodate 3,000 people (600 HHs) have also been identified in Maewo Island (east of the affected island).
- Over 1,500 people are either in evacuation centers or are living with host communities in Ambae waiting to relocate off-island.
- The registration of voluntary movements done by Red Cross volunteer's shows that more than 800 people have already voluntarily moved out of the island. The voluntary movement registration does not cover the Western part of the island.
- The Lands Department Survey team are still in Maewo surveying the new sites to confirm their capacity
- A National Flash Appeal is currently being compiled to clearly articulate the humanitarian needs for both TC Hola and Ambae Response.
- The VMGD maintains level 3 for the Ambae Volcano activity. The likelihood of the volcano neither increasing nor decreasing its level of activity is unpredictable.

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 Office will take leadership for the intermediate Term (July – December 2018) and Long Term (2019/2020) phases.



Cluster Response Updates

Logistics

- Air Vanuatu flights to and from Longana have ceased operating again until further notice. NDMO Logistics will aim to get daily updates from the airline and share these with the Clusters.
- MV Aganda has been put on standby to ship items from Port Vila to Ambae on Mon 21st or Tues 22nd May.
- LC Kiwi Trader departed Port Vila for Ambae on Tuesday 15th May carrying supplies for Education and Health Clusters and VRCS, with VMF assisting with the loading of Education items from the UNICEF warehouse.
- MV Makila transported Food Security items from the Niscol Warehouse in Santo to Ambae on Sunday night. WASH and Health Clusters also used the Makila to transport items to Maewo.
- MV Makila is assisting with transport of students and teachers and their belongings from Ambae to other islands including Aore, Malo, Santo, Maewo and Pentecost
- NDMO Logistics is considering mobilizing the Mobile Storage Unit in Santo to Maewo, but still require further information on appropriate land space.
- **Requests/Reminders to Clusters:**
 - Any support required with movement of people or stock requires a *Request for Assistance (RFA)* signed off by the cluster leads, All stock releases from any NDMO warehouse requires a *Stock Release Note*, accompanied by an RFA if transport is required. These forms have already been circulated to Cluster leads – please communicate this process to your provincial officers.

- Requests for transport of staff should be sent to NDMO Logs as early as possible. Regular updates of how many people each cluster has on the ground, in what locations and for how long are also required.
- Partners and clusters are requested to update their provincial level NFI stock and available Volunteers - A *Resources* template has been circulated.
- Clusters are requested to inform NDMO Logs of how many officers/staff/volunteers of Clusters have experience setting up an MSU or have received training.

Education

- Torgil Training Centre students and staff arrived in St. Michel safely.
- School furniture's from Saint Patricks College (SPC) had already been shipped to Santo.
- Student's movement to Santo was well managed by PEO Sanma and officers on the ground.
- Santo East School is building extra classrooms and dormitories to host Saint Patricks College.
- Primary Schools in SANMA are also preparing to host affected primary students moving to Santo.
- Schools in SHEFA are accommodating students from Ambae.
- Movement of Penama Adventist college students was welcomed today by AORE staff and students and they were assisted to settle in their dormitories as well as their staff houses.
- SPC students and staff are awaiting their shipment, same with Walaha apostolic.
- **Way Forward**
 - MOET to draft a clear information on school fee exemption to communicate it to the general public.
 - Host schools are working very hard to build extra buildings to host affected schools.
 - Nasawa and Gambule needs extra tents for teachers shelter and classroom tents

Food Security & Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)

- Planning to ship another 2,100 bags (of 25 kilograms) of rice from Luganville warehouse to East and West Ambae for the people in the Evacuation Centers.
- The cluster is also looking at options to source local food from nearby islands in the future to address the needs of people with special needs.
- Livestock Department on Ambae has been relocated to Santo along with the Government Livestock (animals) in their breeding sites.

WASH Cluster

- On-going daily water trucking to Evacuation Centers and other communities facing water shortage.

Health Cluster

- The Health Cluster is planning to send its Emergency Medical Team Four (EMT4) to Ambae sometime next week to provide support to the Health Services on-ground.

Issues Identified by the G&P Cluster in Ambae

- **Airstrip:** Not received formal updates from Air Vanuatu to resume normal flights, however, charter and private flights have been connected since the last few weeks and on to this week.
- **Alcohol:** Security concerns around heavy drinking and related disturbances, property damage and violence. There is a military-enforced ban on alcohol now in place.
- **Cluster Activity:** Discussions with cluster member have raised expectations in communities. Ongoing confusion around cluster visit and service support (especially WASH).
- **Education:** Concerns about limited school capacities for both secondary and primary school to accommodate the relocated students. At least one case of a student refusing to attend the different school. UNICEF request to Provincial Education Office to request a release of tents. Concerns around displacement of children and loss of values.
- **Evacuation Centers:** Overcrowding, privacy concerns, mixture of men, women, young and old including children and people with disabilities. No safe spaces for privacy. No designated spaces for the sick. Limited weather protection, issues around wind and rain.
- **Food supply:** Shortage of food in both camps, growing concern around ongoing food supply. Stale or expired food supplies have previously been distributed. Poor availability of healthy food is a nutrition concern. Issues around fair distribution of food. 900 bags of rice distributed.
- **Gender Based Violence:** Anecdotal reports of gender based violence linked to overcrowding and lack of privacy in evacuation centers, and risks towards unaccompanied children.
- **Hygiene:** Unsafe hygiene facilities, shower rooms not available for women and toilets unsafe for night accessibility, some distribution of hygiene kits, ratio of people to number of toilets too high.
- **Lighting:** Issue across all evacuation centers – no provision of lighting, solar lamps ineffective in ongoing rain conditions
- **Logistical Relocation:** lack of information amongst evacuees about permanent resettlement, relocation, and logistics (especially for vulnerable groups). Evacuees and responders await permanent relocation plan. Evacuees moved to host communities having trouble participating in community activities. Evacuated communities would like to know the system of preference for relocating vulnerable groups.
- **Security:** There is a police presence in the forms of patrols, but little to no presence in evacuation centers
- **Recording:** No records of evacuation taken until Tuesday 8 May, no sign-in/out system in place at evacuation centers (has led to children being left with older people while parents seek privacy). Two types of forms now introduced about ongoing management of property.
- **Returns:** Some evacuated residents in Southern Ambae have been forced to return to collect belongings, which is very costly
- **Shelter:** Tents needed some community spaces and nakamals unprepared.
- **Vulnerable groups:** Resources have not been demarcated for vulnerable groups (women, people with disabilities, children, elderly, or lactating women). Face ongoing difficulties, especially elderly people and people with disabilities.
- **Water access:** Water trucking continues. Rain water collection has been limited and contaminated. Access to clean and safe water a growing concern, especially for women and vulnerable groups.
- *(see Annex 1 for Actions and Recommendations on the above issues)*

- Following reports of overcrowding in evacuation centres, privacy concerns, and lack of protection from wind, sun and rain, shelter cluster partners are encouraged to respond to these immediate needs of people staying in evacuation centres. Some immediate steps recommended include

installation of materials such as tarpaulins (or locally available materials) to increase privacy by creating partitions in open spaces, and provision of solar lanterns to people staying in the centres.

- A general assessment of evacuation centres is being planned to further address these issues.

Penama Provincial Coordination

- The Penama Provincial Government along with the National Disaster Management Office are leading the operation on ground and are currently conducting awareness on the latest COM's decision in the Evacuation Centers and communities.
- Logistics is a challenge to the Penama Provincial Emergency Operations
- Currently conducting food distribution and facilitating Voluntary Movements in terms of registration and logistics.

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

ANNEX I – Actions and Recommendations for issues identified by Gender & Protection Cluster

▪ Gender and Protection Cluster Actions

- Gender and Protection Team visited two camp sites: Longana People's Center and Lovunkatambola in East Ambae.
- Team: Save, CARE, DWA, VDPA, VWC, Just Play and a military force member.
- **VWC**: presentations in communities, awareness and discussions around GBV, abuse, and incest.
- **CARE**: presentation on hygiene promotions on the 5 Fs (fingers, feet, field, flies and fluid).
- **Save the Children**: conducted through the session on child rights and protection, children's accessibility to necessity of life, food water, and shelter and also establishing child friendly space.
- **DWA and DPA**: awareness on the rights of people with disabilities and conducted registration at the end of all the presentations.
- A military force member also presented on how the military is responsible for the state of emergency on Ambae and clarified they only act in accordance to the law, to care for people's property and do patrols.
- G&P Cluster has also begun registration of people with disabilities

▪ Partner Actions

- **DARD**: Currently sending food supplies to Ambae from Santo, only for evacuees in the evacuation centres. Planning to add in fruits to future rounds of food distribution.
- **Education Cluster**: Planning to ship school furniture from Ambae to Schools in Santo and Maewo, Education Department to host students from Ambae
- **UNICEF** to support on school tents to Maewo
- **SG**: Land survey team currently in Maewo. Planning to have someone from the EOC to also get an update from them before departing to Vila

▪ NDMO Actions

- Preparations underway in Luganville
- Registration underway for the whole island aiming to complete East to North Ambae
- Prioritizing completion of ID cards and looking at shipping a printer machine from Port Vila to assist on printing the cards.
- Attempting to capture voluntary movement of people off islands from ships and at the airport coming to and from Ambae
- Working with Red Cross to update figures currently residing in all camp sites so that relief supplies can be shared equally just sufficient to meet the quantity.
- Port Vila needs PEOC situation reports which include key challenges and recommendations so that they can provide feedback.
- One boat engine is on its way to Ambae to support the ongoing operations (paid from the NDMO ops budget, and will remain the NDMO property after the response)
- Council of Ministers sitting has happened, but yet to receive information on the outcome of the meeting
- For now, the EOC controller will need to advise all clusters to plan for permanent settlement sites and not on temporary sites.
- NDMO currently working on a ToR for volunteers working on Ambae and once this is finalized and approved then will be used for payment processes through finance department.

▪ **RECCOMENDATIONS**

Recommendation	Suggested Lead
Meeting minutes from the cluster updates in the Emergency Operation Center should be circulated to all clusters for follow up actions and review of work done by each clusters.	NDMO
Environmental health unit should check on the expired food items before shipping them to Ambae and to continually monitoring the supplies after distribution.	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
Ensure the participation and consultation of women in food distribution planning and implementation.	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
Add gender and protection focal points to future food distribution on the island.	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
Education department should conduct collaborative prior consultation with parents and communities from schools on Ambae on the plans for ensuring that children have continuous access to schools while in evacuation centers, and at the permanent settlement off island sites.	Education Cluster
Consider learning's from other camp based community risk mitigation strategies for mitigating gender based violence risks linked to overcrowding and lack of privacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertake consultations with women and girls to seek their input on improving their safety in the evacuation centers – Install good lighting (noting that solar lighting is limited during overcast days) – Establish security patrols (police, security guards, or community patrols) – Establish safe spaces for women and children – Provide women with whistles to use when they feel unsafe and want support of others in the camp – Install separators in tents to allow for privacy – Identification of women and child headed households, single women, and elderly, those with disabilities and ensure they have separate and safe spaces. 	Shelter Cluster
All clusters should review their policies on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and ensure that all cluster teams deployed are trained and briefed on these policies.	All Clusters
Ensure the participation and consultation of women in planning and implementation for all activities.	All Clusters
Add gender and protection focal points to other cluster activities in the field	All Clusters