



NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	25
Date	16:00 23 October 2018
Reporting period	04/10/2018 – 23/10/2018
Provinces affected	Penama, Sanma
Attachment(s)	N/A
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

- The Ambae Volcano activity remains at level 2.
- Land negotiations on Maewo continued to take place over the past weeks and 5 sites have been identified. Ceremonies have been held at 3 of the relocation land sites with further ceremonies planned in coming days. The completion of a ceremony signifies agreement from the Maewo chiefs that the land is free to be used for food production and construction of shelters. A map of all 5 sites is attached to this Sitrep. In the short term no further sites will be investigated so that focus can shift to the commencement of development work. Land, water and environmental surveys are in the process of being completed.
- NDMO continues to provide ongoing key messaging to affected communities and assist partners in the dissemination of information.
- NDMO has developed (with thanks and acknowledgement to cluster partners for their input) the Maewo Response and Recovery Plan for consideration by government. This plan covers immediate, intermediate and long-term requirements for the 2nd home concept.
- NDMO has prepared an explanatory note with regard to the Maewo 2nd Home Project (attached to this Sitrep) to provide clarity on the status of the Project.
- Save the Children commenced a Cash for Work (CfW) program on Maewo, with the aim of providing short-term support to 900 most vulnerable host and evacuee households over a period of 2 months while improving community/public assets. The first round of CfW was conducted in the North (Namumu, Naone and Marino communities) and involved building gardens for host and evacuee households, as per the suggestion of the communities themselves. 213 households received cash in hand for 5 days of work. The next round of CfW is tentatively planned for the week commencing 29th October with the target communities yet to be determined.

- CARE has completed CDCCC establishment in Asanvari, bringing the total CDCCCs established or provided refresher training to 8, with 3 further CDCCC engagements planned. CARE, NDMO and Red Cross volunteers have completed the assessment of existing safe houses on Maewo using the NDMO guidelines and survey. CARE's shelter engineer is analyzing the results and will work with NDMO to prioritize where urgent improvements are needed ahead of Cyclone season. Shelter cluster and CARE are also working to plan improvements to temporary shelters to better handle severe weather events.
- Data gathered from Ambaen people on Maewo reveals that over 1000 people have suffered a total loss of livelihood, house or both.
- Work on the Food Basket project at the Naruru site has continued with vegetable planting and further materials arriving from Santo this week. Work on a secondary garden at the Qatawol (Tanrogo) site has also commenced.
- WASH cluster continues to work with communities to improve water supply and sanitation issues.
- Food supplies have been distributed to displaced Ambae communities around Santo.
- Communications issues on Maewo have continued over the past weeks with limited internet available at the Kerembei EOC and only Digicel phone coverage for most of the reporting period.

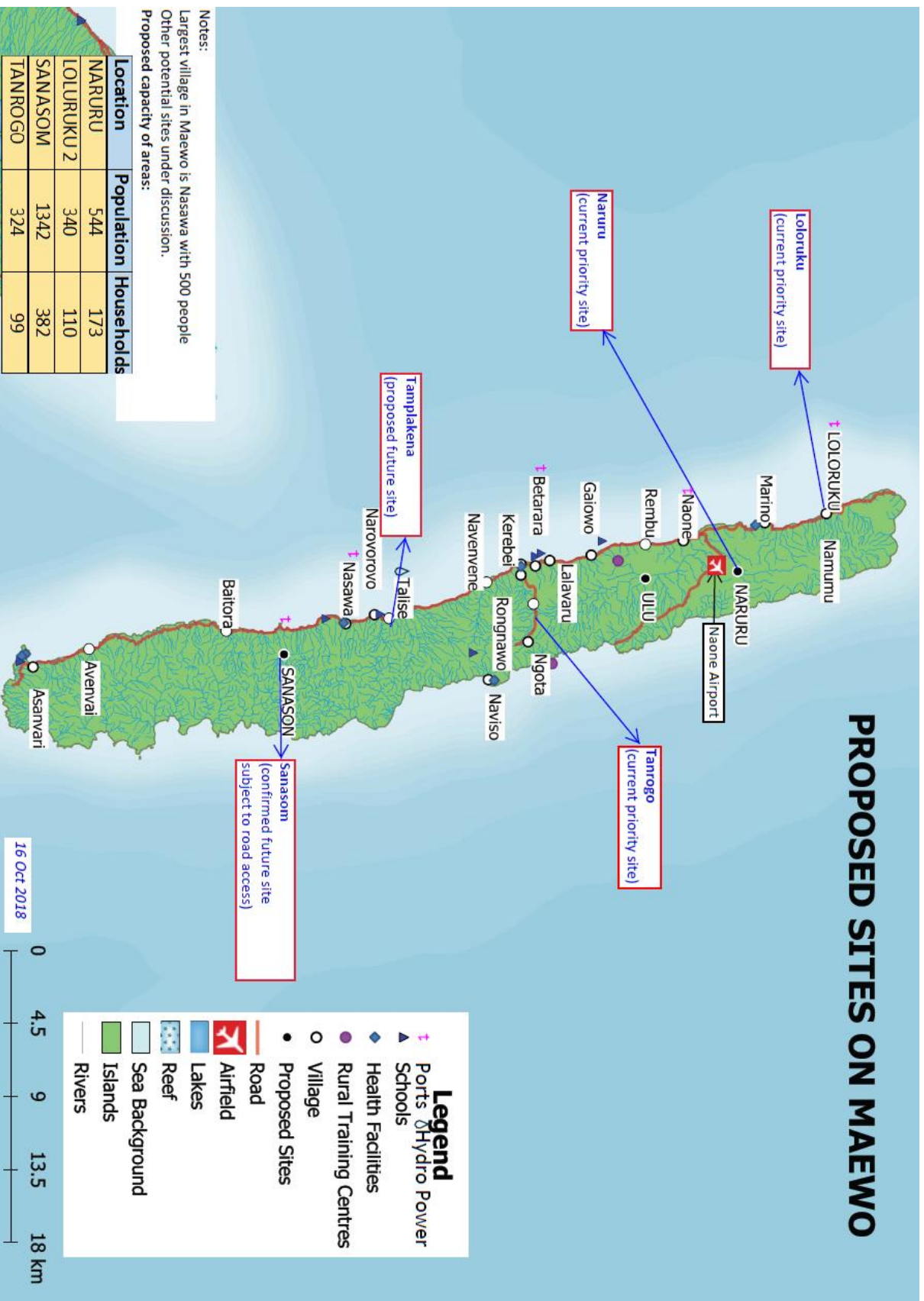
General Coordination

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

Further Information

VMGD Volcano Update:	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

PROPOSED SITES ON MAEWO



Notes:
 Largest village in Maewo is Nasawa with 500 people
 Other potential sites under discussion.
 Proposed capacity of areas:

Location	Population	Households
NARURU	544	173
LOLURUKU 2	340	110
SANASOM	1342	382
TANROGO	324	99

Explanatory note on the Maewo 2nd Home Project

The NDMO wishes to clarify the position in relation to the Maewo 2nd Home Project. The 2nd home site concept is not a compulsory process but a genuine attempt to provide a safe location for people who continue to be affected by the active volcano on Ambae.

Following the end of the State of Emergency people are free to return to Ambae and some have indicated a desire to do so. For these people it is envisaged the 2nd home site will offer a safe and secure place during similar events in the future.

Other Ambae people have indicated a desire to settle more permanently on Maewo, away from the danger of volcanic activity and take up the generous offer from Maewo. These people may choose to return to Ambae for specific occasions as they wish, however maintain the 2nd home site as their primary residence.

In this way community upheaval and disruption following future events is reduced by providing a safe 2nd home site supported by their own communities. Ongoing emergency response costs are also reduced.

The "Maewo Response and Recovery Plan" has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. This plan includes the budgets provided by Clusters and Departments and provides for response and recovery projects in the short, medium and long term.

The Paramount Chiefs of Maewo have stated that following the land ceremonies, Ambae people are free to begin using the land for both food production and construction of shelters.

The Maewo Chiefs have suggested people begin moving to the sites as soon as possible and many Ambae families have indicated their desire do so. It is envisaged a community safe house in the style of Nakamal construction will be built on each site soon after the ceremonies, with local homes to follow.

For this reason an immediate action plan is being developed to support people separate from the "Maewo Response and Recovery Plan", to ensure people are moving to a safe environment. Specific requirements such as, survey of sites, clearing of sites, road access to sites, WASH services to sites, shelter support for community safe houses and local dwellings, provision of Lucas mills and shelter materials, have been determined as urgent. Numerous formal requests for assistance were sent to specific ministries last week.

NDMO's first concern is for the safety of people and it is important that community members are not encouraged to move until a safe environment has been created.

Three sites that the community, Chiefs and EOC team on Maewo have identified as most suitable for community use in the near future are Loluruku 2, Naruru and Tanrogo as they already have road access, are relatively flat and have access to water. Below is a summary of all three sites.

Loloruku 2: The site adjacent to the originally proposed Loluruku site has approximately 8ha. Pig ceremony has already been conducted.

Land Survey- This needs to be surveyed to establish defined size and boundaries.

Water Survey- A water survey has been conducted (awaiting report)

Environment Survey: Has been conducted (awaiting report)

Road access - This site has good road access.

Naruru: This site is adjacent to the airport and where the food basket project has already been established, it was measured as approx. 35ha (not including the food basket area). A small area has already been cleared for the Nakamal as part of the Cash for Work Program.

Land Survey-This needs to be surveyed to establish defined size and boundaries (the site was previously documented as 15ha however is substantially larger).

Water Survey- Water surveys have already taken place on this site (awaiting report)

Environment Survey - Conducted (waiting for report)

Road Access- This site has road access.

Tanrogo: Located on flat ground 2kms inland from Betarara. The size of the land is unknown but proposed to be 35ha. Pig ceremony to open up the land has been done.

Land survey – Needs to be conducted.

Water Survey - In progress (awaiting report). Initial visual inspection has found good water availability with spring and river access.

Environment Survey - Needs to be conducted, team arriving on Maewo 24 October.

Road access – Good road access (steep road from Betarara)

There are 3 remaining sites being considered but these will take longer due to access and terrain.

The Maewo EOC team is meeting with Sub Clusters today (23 October) to clarify and further develop a 5 week plan and determine precise numbers of people to begin the 2nd home projects.