



NEOC Situation Update

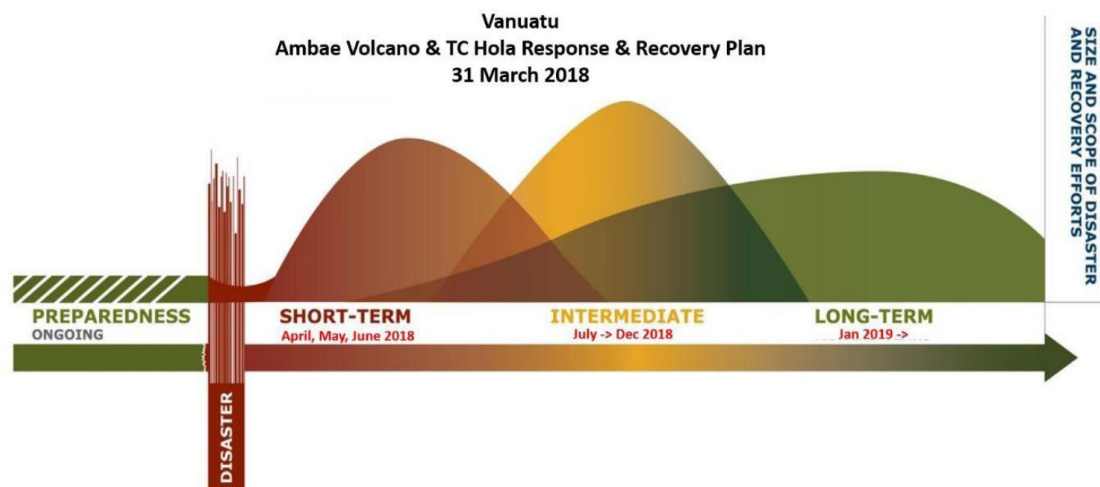
Response Name	TC Hola & Ambae Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	13
Date	04 May 2018
Reporting period	29/04/2018 - 04/05/2018
Provinces affected	Penama
Attachment(s)	
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

- Following increased volcanic activity in Ambae Island, the government declared a state of emergency from 13 April – 13 July. The Vanuatu Government, through the Council of Ministers made a decision to evacuate the entire island of Ambae (population: 10,200) and is working with the Provincial authorities to identify suitable areas for affected communities.
- 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.
- Registration of evacuees is also ongoing simultaneously and is expected to complete in the week ending 18 May. The registration is to ensure that displaced communities are tracked and given the support they need
- Preliminary reports on-island (Ambae) state that voluntary movement is on-going and most people have moved to Santo, Efate and other islands. On-island evacuation is on-going for the Northern parts of the Island to Vureas JSS and Torgil Training Center.

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.



Response

- The Government of Vanuatu, through the National Disaster Management Office is continuing to provide food rations, temporary shelters, non-food items and water for the most affected communities since March 2018.
- The Government of Vanuatu is also working with humanitarian partners to provide technical support through the NDMO.
- The New Zealand Defense Force delivered a consignment of relief aid to the main logistics hub in Luganville on Santo. The consignment included 2000 shelter kits and 300 toolkits as well as over 50 tonnes of assorted dignity kits.
- The Government of Vanuatu has received a donation of 10 Million VT from the Government of China towards Ambae Volcano response.
- Other donors are also standing by for any requests that will be communicated to them through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Since the Ambae response occurred at the backdrop of the Tropical Cyclone Hola response, the Government of Vanuatu would like to ensure visibility and accountability on progress towards implementation of TC Hola response. The NDMO is working with clusters to develop a monitoring framework and key performance indicators for both responses to ensure nothing is missed out. Additionally, all planned recovery and rehabilitation plans in Ambae related mostly to TC Hola have been halted with an objective to transfer these into the new permanent relocation sites. In-country partners involved in these activities have been requested to target their interventions to newly identified sites off the affected island on Ambae.
- Commercial vessels plying the Santo route have been asked to pass by Ambae and support with the transportation of voluntary movement of evacuees.

WASH Cluster

Based on recent water quality testing against volcanic ash, water is generally safe for consumption. Although physically, the color and taste maybe unpleasant. WASH key messages are being developed to better advise on the safety of water, hygiene and sanitation. The only source of water that is safe and not affected by ash fall is ground water and that is being accessed by boreholes and currently used for water trucking. The WASH team continues with daily water trucking to from South East to North West. So far 16,850 Liters of water and 11,119 cartons of water has been distributed to affected communities.

Health

All health facilities (health centres and dispensaries) are functional and staffed as it was prior to the evacuation. Health services available are similar to what it was prior to evacuation depending on the type of health facility and actual staffing.

Three (3) outreach teams are currently providing awareness sessions at community level and covering South and West Ambae Local ground transport has been cited as a challenge in moving essential commodities and mobile teams between stations

Gender & Protection

New relocation sites identified on-island has good accessibility but they require time for clearance, setting up temporary settlements and ensuring that all essential services are established to cater for the internally displaced people. Accessibility with regards to people with disability may be a challenge. And also the idea of moving people from evacuation centers, to on-island temporary sites and off-island will cause a lot of trauma to people with special needs.

7 Evacuation Centers were assessed, some evacuation centers and host families have just one toilet and bathroom for at least 50 people to share is not hygienic. So far no abuse has been reported, but there are reports that some opportunistic are stealing crops and livestock from the homes that have been evacuated. Accessibility for persons with disability is a key issue across all centers. Most students relocating to other schools are traumatized, as they are in new environment, with new teachers and new school, causing them to feel reluctant to attend school.

The diet of pregnant mothers and sick people need to be considered during relief supply distribution.

Below is a summary of people with special needs in evacuation centers and host families.

Evacuation Center/Host Family	People with Special Needs
Sarambulu EC (South East)	1 breast feeding mother , 1 month old baby, 1 sick child
Lovunkatabola (4Host Family) (East)	1 breast feeding mother, 1 month old baby, 1 widower, 4 PWD
Lo Center (East)	7 widow, 2 widowers
Waluriki (7Host Family) (North West)	7 widow, 2 widowers
Wainesasa (North West)	3 pregnant, 2 PWD
Namberukwonge (West)	1 widower, 2 widow, 1 pregnant, 1 blind
Loone (West)	2 elderly widower, 8PWD

Shelter

Shelter Cluster has reviewed available emergency shelter and household non-food item stocks in-country against draft shelter strategy to determine projected additional needs for both TC Hola and Ambae Volcano responses. Additional stocks have been received from the Government of New Zealand, and further stocks may be requested from the Government of Australia.

For the TC Hola response, to date approximately 1,687 households have been reached with 1754 tarpaulins (750 Malekula for 750HH, 479 Ambrym for 412HH, 525 Pentecost for 525HH) and 235 shelter tool kits (235 Malekula for 235HH). 33 tarps have been provided to Ranon secondary school, and 3 tarps to Ranon Primary school. Monitoring is required to check if quantity of assistance is adequate, to enable

families to repair and reconstruct their houses. This assistance has been provided by Vanuatu Red Cross.

For the Ambae Volcano response, 60 tarpaulins which were prepositioned on Ambae have been provided by Vanuatu Red Cross to evacuees. Cluster partners await further direction from Provincial Government on planned movement of the population, so further assistance can be arranged at the relocation sites.

Logistics

Transitional storage space has been secured and vehicles and volunteers sourced for the transport of items.

The Office of Maritime Regulator has put 19 ships on standby for the movement of people from Ambae, 9 of which are based at Santo. Sea routes for the evacuation of people from Ambae to Maewo is being planned out, with the sourcing of vehicles and small sea vessels for transport from the main ports/anchorage points to the proposed relocation sites.

Potential storage options at the off-loading ports on Maewo have been provided by the assessment team who visited the island last week.

NDMO Logistics has been exploring the option of shipping Mobile Storage Units from NDMO Warehouse in Port Vila to be used on Maewo as well as the potential of an additional MSU from WFP from Fiji.

A list of additional sea vessels has been circulated to the Logistics Cluster members and agencies/depts are encouraged to keep the Logistics Cluster in copy of any plans so we can ensure a coordinated effort of shipments of cargo or transport of response teams.

The privately owned Dragonfly yacht will be assisting the WASH Cluster and we are awaiting more details so that others may be able to take advantage of their services.

Requests for Logistics support from the WASH, Shelter and Education clusters are expected this week and clusters are reminded to please submit the Request for Assistance form to Jimmy and Janette (janette.ndmo.vu@gmail.com)

NDMO have requested that any ships stopping at Ambae as part of their normal operations, transport passengers who wish leave Ambae voluntarily before May 25th 2018.

Three additional vehicles have been requested to support operations on Ambae as there are currently only two available.

Penama Provincial Coordination

While the Penama Provincial Emergency Operation Center (PEOC) continues the coordination of on-island evacuation, it is also initiating relocation plans for Maewo. The PEOC is working closely with the Civil Registry Team to ensure that all voluntary movements and on-island evacuees are registered.

The Penama PEOC is currently conducting awareness on on-island and off-island evacuation preparations.

Further Information

VMGD Volcano Update: www.vmgd.gov.vu
NDMO: <https://ndmo.gov.vu>
Prepared by: NDMO Information Management Unit
Next Sitrep: Monday 14th May 2018