

## Situation Report: Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu, March 2015

### Situation Report #5 – (period covered: March 13 to March 18)

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### Situation Overview

#### Background

18 March - Day 4: Category 5 Cyclone Pam has caused widespread, severe damage and loss of life through the country of Vanuatu, particularly in the Central and Southern regions, which experienced a direct hit. A state of emergency is in place for Shefa Province, Vanuatu, and is likely to be extended to Tanna, Tafea, Malampa and Penama Provinces as previously inaccessible and incommunicado areas are reached and assessed. The storm made landfall in Vanuatu around 12:30am on 14 March. Communications networks have gone down, and there is massive property damage in many areas. Water has been restored to up to 80% of Port Vila but in other areas, waterborne diseases such as diarrhea are a major risk. Hospitals & supplies incurred serious damage; 2 UNICEF tents have been set up; supplies have arrived and more en route. ([Source: NDMO Sitrep 3 - Mar 16](#))

Below are highlights for the past 48 hours, and potentially underserved areas. [Download full Report.](#)

#### Needs:

##### 18 March:

- Lenakel hospital -19.533948, 169.289778 needs Airlift for critically wounded, ORS, Medicines, Water, equipment including maternity. [Video](#)

##### 17 March:

- 10:00am via Humanity Road - List of Aid Agencies responding (3W) is now available to [download](#).
- **Ambrym Island** - serious damage, gardens destroyed so will need food. They have some water but will probably need more. ([source](#))
- **Moso Island** has received no relief - they need food and water. **They have been drinking saltwater.** ([source](#))
- **Taunono Village** (coordinates: -16.376684,167.562500) - totally destroyed, need food and water. ([source](#))
- 3:00am **Tanna Island** - population 28,799, (coordinates -19.5, 169.333333), is in desperate need of food, drinking water, and medical care. Air Taxi Vanuatu ([contact info](#)) flew World Vision and NGOs to Tanna Mar 16; they report urgent children injured and only one doctor for 30,000 people. Air Taxi offering to carry 6-7 people and/or supplies ([source](#)) ([source](#)).

## Social Media Overview

As of March 18 8:00am: Humanity Road volunteers have sifted through nearly 300k twitter messages in Twitter and facebook messages. Using a tool called [Scanigo](#), tweets are aggregated noise is filtered out allowing us to focus on those tweets with high potential to be actionable. Based on this review, we are observing situational awareness about damage has increased with the release of aerial and local imagery. Much of the content reported is about the lack of food, shelter, water and extreme damages. Family members are still anxious to connect to loved ones. General twitter traffic is from aid response partners, and there is still very little citizen reporting. General information about the severe damage to hospitals and lack of doctors is also emerging.

### Facebook Highlights:

- [Vanuatu Cyclone Pam 2015](#)  
18 Mar: Unable to get updated information about Aniwa Island tourist locations (see underserved locations below)  
18 Mar: Citizens and diaspora discussing Unicefs report that 100% of crops are lost on Tanna many villages on the coastal area of west Tanna have hand pumps accessing underground water source.
- [Vanuatu Cyclone Pam 2015 Find My Family](#) - this was created for people to post information about missing loved ones.
- [Humans of Vanuatu](#) - information and pictures from a local in Port Vila.
- [Pacific Island Living](#) - this page has shared information and news including news from resorts and tourist areas reporting their status.

### Twitter Highlights from Last 48 Hours:

#### 18 March:

- 8:00am Aniwa Island - we have reviewed 250k tweets and have almost no information about Aniwa Island - we are seeing tweets from family tracing loved ones reportedly on Aniwa.
- Register or search missing persons @ICRC ([Source](#))
- Video of inside Lenekal Tanna Hospital needing Airlift for critically wounded, ORS, Medicines, Water, equipment including maternity. via [CNN](#)
- Oxfam International Assessment teams reach Tanna and Erromango islands in Vanuatu ([Source](#))
- Telecoms sans Frontieres will be assessing communications ([Source](#))
- ICT responders on ground; share contact info with @WFP to facilitate coordination: ([Source](#))
- Tikopia lost 90% of food crops & fruit trees, water contaminated. ([Source](#))

#### 17 March:

- Requests for transportation are emerging such as from [@TanbokProject](#) and [@350](#)
- Royal Australian Air Force base at Amberley in Australia is fielding some military aid transports such as UK DFID from RAF Brize Norton ([source](#))
- WHO is sending health and emergency response experts with supplies. UNICEF are also

working with the Ministry of Health to conduct an immunization campaign in response to a measles outbreak that began before the cyclone. ([Source](#))

- No aid has reached Moso Island; urgent need for H2O, food. ([Source](#))

## Underserved Location Highlights

### Shefa Province:

- **Tongoa Island, in Shepherd Islands** (coordinates for airport -16.891100,168.550995)
  - 17 Mar: In Tongoa - a small island that has about 3,000 people - 95% of homes are estimated to have been destroyed (unconfirmed). ([source](#))
- **Moso Island, in Shepherd Islands** (coordinates: -17.533300,168.250000)
  - 17 Mar: Villagers in the community of Taseriki have received no help and many houses are flattened. There are no shops, people grow their own food, and their crops have been destroyed. Children are going hungry, and they are having to scavenge for food. Villagers have been having to drink saltwater for two days. These people cannot survive like that for long. ([source](#))
- **Taunono Village** (coordinates: -16.376684,167.562500), population about 200.
  - 17 Mar: via UNICEF visit to Village Chief Narua Joe Kwane - All houses are damaged or destroyed. Everyone is sleeping outside. They have received no food or water and are scavenging for coconuts. All the fruit trees are gone. They owned a small Nakamal (a traditional gathering area) where local men used to come to drink cava. It was their main source of income but now it's all gone. ([source](#))
- **Nguna Island** (coordinates: -17.433300,168.350006), 13 villages, population 1,300.
  - No contact, no communications. It is likely houses were destroyed, and likely that there are needs. ([source](#))
- **Emau (Emao) Island** (coordinates -17.483299,168.483002)
  - 17 March: Anyone looking for information for EMAU --- I have been able to reach one person in Mangarongo Village. As far as she knew, they are all alive! There is phenomenal damage -- loss of houses, food, clean water. All of Marou Village has moved up to Mangarongo School. People in Mangarongo are sleeping in the church. Not sure about the rest of the island, but as far as she knew, everyone is alive.
- **Tongariki, Makira, Emae, Epi Islands**
  - Aerial surveys showing they were seriously damaged. In some villages, not a single building is standing. ([source](#))

## Tafea Province

- **Tanna Island** (also Tana) - -19.5, 169.333333 - Population 29,047

### 17 March:

- 9:55pm via DFAT Vanuatu (excerpts)
- Dillons Bay Airport (184610S 1691005E) T0010z, road leading to airport is blocked by broken trees and debris but is clearable, 1 x white building with red roof at the end of the runway, no damage observed. Hut near white building is damaged, water tank observed was intact, runway clear, airport terminal clear.
- Village of Unponkor (184859S 1690054E) 70% destroyed
- Village of Happy Land (185358S 1690338E), 80% destroyed
- Village of Unoroh (185619S 1691026E) 80% destroyed
- Village of Yasauwi (185817S 1691415E) 80% destroyed
- Ipota Airport (185123S 1691705E) 70% of adjacent buildings destroyed, runway is clear, 20 x pax observed, roads on ridge line are blocked, remainder of roads clear
- Village of Ifo (185452S 1692009E) 50% destroyed, some repairs appear in progress.
- Village in position (185021S 1691452E), 90% destroyed.
- Village of Potnarvin (184452S 1691231E) 80% destroyed
- Village in position (183950S 1690924E) 100% destroyed, 10 x pax observed, no approach roads observed.
- Village in position (183758S 1690506E) 50% destroyed
- 8:00pm via Oxfam Vanuatu - there is a possibility that a ferry will be leaving Port Vila for Tanna on 18 March with supplies. ([source](#))
- 4:00pm - via Oxfam Australia - Assessment teams were sent to Tanna & Erromango islands and are due back to Port Vila within 24 hours to report back on what survivors need. Some of the medical personnel in assessment teams sent to Tanna & Erromango islands will stay until more help arrives. ([source](#)) ([source](#))
- 3:30am via ABC News - Photo of Tanna airport [source](#)
- 3:00am Tanna is in desperate need of food, drinking water, and medical care. Air Taxi Vanuatu ([contact info](#)) flew World Vision and NGOs to Tanna Mar 16 and reports urgent children injured and only one doctor for 30,000 people. Air Taxi offering to carry 6-7 people and/or supplies ([source](#)) ([source](#)).

### 16 March:

- 8:00pm Digicel working on restoring cellular communications on Tanna ([source](#))
- 7:30pm Care Australia - initial report from our staff now on Tanna that damage 'significantly worse than Port Vila'. Shelter & water critical needs. ([source](#))

### 15 March:

- A pilot who flew to Tanna and was able to make an initial assessment reported that all

corrugated iron structures were destroyed, the concrete structures had lost roofs, and all the trees had been ripped out. There is no drinking water, and there were two reported deaths (though this is unconfirmed.) ([source](#))

- **Erromango Island** (coordinates: -18.813889, 169.122778), Population 1,959
  - 16 Mar, 1:00am via Humanity Road - Erromango seriously damaged, relief supplies needed ([source](#))
- **Aniwa Island, Tafea Chain** (-19.234444, 169.600556) - population 341
  - 17 Mar: in Tafea chain with villages Imalé, Isavaï, Ikaokao, Namsafoura, In the north part of there is the Aniwa Airport (IATA: AWD, ICAO: NVVB) that is connected to Dillon's Bay, Futuna, Ipota, Tanna. Air Vanuatu is the only airline connecting the local airport. Aniwa Ocean View Bungalows is the only tourist resort in the island and it is located in the south. [Their FaceBook page](#) is not updated since 2013 but here you can find the contact addresses of the owners. The island is also home to B&B tel +678 561 6506 <http://www.aniwaoceanview.com> , [aniwaoceanviewbungalows@gmail.com](mailto:aniwaoceanviewbungalows@gmail.com)

## Malampa Province:

- **Ambrym Island** (coordinates -16.250000,168.116669)
  - 18 Mar: Via update from someone who made it all the way past Willet to Megamone last night (17 March) after dark. A lot of devastation in north Ambrym. The existing school is completely demolished except for sleeping quarters. Most of the homes, teachers homes included, are flattened, trees down everywhere. He is now making his way back on foot to Ranvetlam. He will check more carefully as he goes back. Taking some folks with him back to Ranon. Their gardens (food supplies) have for the most part been ruined. They have some water. ([source](#))
  - 17 Mar: Reported to have widespread damage in the southeast part of the island. ([source](#))
- **Paama Island** (coordinates -16.466700,168.216995)
  - Island reported to have been badly hit. ([source](#))

## Disaster Response Significant Updates in past 48 hours (most recent first)

### 17 March:

- A medical team and field hospital is deploying from Darwin, Australia. They will be setting up their operations at Vila Central Hospital. ([source](#))
- The Japanese government is sending a 14 person medical team to Vanuatu. They will arrive

tonight 18th Mar. The Japanese Red Cross is also going to send their medical team. ([source](#))

- An Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Taskforce of 54 emergency services personnel led by Fire & Rescue New South Wales (NSW) (FRNSW), Australia will head to Vanuatu today to assist with disaster relief efforts. FRNSW has drawn together a USAR team comprising 42 fire officers who are rescue and disaster relief experts, six Ambulance Service NSW paramedics, one NSW Police Force officer, one member of Emergency Management Australia, two doctors and two engineers. The team is expected to depart from Richmond RAAF Base at around 2pm and will be based in Port Vila. Their tasks will focus on clearing critical infrastructure, in particular, the old Port Vila Hospital, which has been severely damaged. ([source](#))
- MapAction has published a list of reference maps including: locations of evacuation centres, location of sites flown in aerial assessment, reference map for Erromango, reference map for Tanna. ([source](#))
- A French Army flight from Noumea brought a dozen utility workers, who will be assisting in the mammoth task of rebuilding the local power grid. ([source](#))
- Unconfirmed report that the municipal water tank in Ohlen burst and the ensuing flood sent three homes washing down the hillside. ([source](#))
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End of Report