



OVERVIEW

Currently, an estimated **166,000 people, including 82,000 children**, on **22 islands** in Vanuatu have been affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam. An estimated **50 to 90 per cent** of local dwellings have been damaged by strong winds and approximately 75,000 people are in need of temporary emergency shelter and 110,000 people are without access to clean drinking water. There are reports of both mass displacement in remote areas and vulnerable groups in temporary shelter. Numbers are fluid and constantly changing with more areas being accessed and assessed. Relief efforts have moved from assessment and planning, to delivery and distribution.

Following direction from the Prime Minister, a joint effort was launched on 23 March 2015 to respond to urgent needs allowing people to return to their communities, freeing up schools to begin resumption of classes and promoting distribution of aid at community level through local governance structures. The efforts were coordinated by the Evacuation Centres Working Group (ECWG).

The Government initiated blanket food distribution through municipalities and area councils ensuring that

HIGHLIGHTS

The first round [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) (DTM) report for Port Vila has been completed.

A [flash appeal](#) was released on 23 March for a total of USD 29.5 million of which **IOM is appealing for USD 1,050,000.**

There are **3,902 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in **43 evacuation centres (ECs).**

urgent food needs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and communities were being addressed. With the support of the Shelter Working Group (SWG), NGOs responsible for managing the centres (Save the Children, ADRA, Red Cross) used their existing registration information to distribute tarpaulins to households to cover interim emergency shelter needs. The ECWG and Protection Cluster identified transitional sites with adequate facilities to house vulnerable individuals and families, arrangements were made to transport and



Families returning home from evacuation centre following coordinated exit strategy © IOM 2015

ensure adequate care for this caseload. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has further been supporting voluntary returns through mobilization and provision of transport to assist families to return to their communities.

IOM continues active involvement in the areas of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Shelter and Health. While Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) conditions are not ideal with an insufficient number of latrines and limited availability of hygiene facilities, the Port Vila water supply is now functional and hygiene kits are arriving and being distributed in Vanuatu.

IOM RESPONSE

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

On 23 March, the first round of the [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) (DTM) was completed in Port Vila carried out 20–22 March 2015. Based on needs identified through the DTM in Port emergency shelter and food were the top two priorities preventing displaced from returning.

Collected health data of IDPs from the DTM is being analysed. Main health problems include flu-like illnesses and diarrhoea. There are **3,902 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in **43 evacuation centres (ECs)**. Among these centres, **24 ECs** have closed and the remaining open **19 ECs** are hosting **1,060 people** who have received tarpaulins with some in the process of voluntary return.

A limited number of evacuation centres have on-site health facilities, though there is access to existing health clinics in Port Vila including the Vila Central Hospital

Additionally, approximately 80 per cent of surveyed IDPs expressed a willingness to return to their communities of origin if they receive emergency shelter assistance. However, a significant number of IDPs, had their houses completely destroyed by the cyclone and cannot easily leave the ECs.

IOM together with NDMO undertook monitoring visits to all school-based evacuation centres today to check on progress and identify any further needs. All individuals in school-based ECs, which received tarpaulin distribution, are in the process of returning voluntarily to their areas of origin, or planning to return in the coming days as the ECs are closing. For those identified vulnerable groups in school based ECs that were offered transitional site accommodation, there were none that decided to use this option or felt that they were unable or unwilling to return home. The option of transitional accommodation and transport support will remain available until all ECs are closed. IOM and NDMO will continue to monitor the process of people returning to their communities of origin. It is expected that all ECs will be closed by 27 March allowing for rehabilitation to begin within communities.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Following the arrival of toolkits to Port Villa on 21 March, an additional 475 toolkits are expected to arrive in the coming days which will complement in-country stocks of shelter construction materials.

IOM is recommending for kitchen sets to be considered a priority NFI. Additionally, planning for further distribution of shelter kits in the Port Vila area is ongoing.

FUNDING

On 23 March, a [flash appeal](#) was released with a funding appeal of USD 29.5 million. Within the appeal, IOM is appealing for **USD 1,050,000** in the areas of CCCM (USD 300,000) and Shelter (USD 750,000).



NDMO and IOM interviewing IDPs during return planning © IOM 2015