LOCATION: Vanuatu

DATE: 18 March 2015

Situation Overview

- A Category 5 Cyclone, named Pam, caused widespread, severe damage and loss of life throughout Vanuatu, particularly in the Central and Southern regions, which experienced a direct hit (NDMO Vanuatu, 16 March 2015). The most impacted provinces include Shefa, Tafea, Malampa and Penama.
- Significantly more damage has been reported to housing on Tanna Island in Tafea Province than what has been observed on Efate, including damaged areas outside Vila. Approximately 80% of all structures - including housing, businesses and schools - have been affected by the cyclone's winds.
- Much of the storage space in Vila and Tanna appears to have been damaged.

Land Transport

- Roads between the airport and Lenakel center were cleared on Saturday and the road linking Lenakel to the east side of Tanna was cleared on Sunday.
- The Department of Public Works crews were observed continuing clearance operations. Communities are currently clearing feeder roads.
- Contact to southern areas is still limited and many side roads remain difficult to pass, a normal condition during rainy season.
- On the main island of Efate, bridges were down outside Port Vila (16 March 2015).

Air & Sea Transport

- The airfield at Bauerfield International Airport in Port Vila is reported to be operational. Commercial flights seem to be functioning normally.
- There are reports of closed airports in some provinces; most of the islands do not have airports, and those that do have small landing strips that are difficult for large planes to navigate.
- Tanna's only wharf appears to be undamaged by the cyclone.

Customs

- It is currently being reported that all stock arriving in country is subject to clearance through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) prior to departure from the country of origin. To expedite this process all agencies are asked to follow the below procedure (please note that this may change at further notice):
  1. Email your shipment details to ndmo.logistics@gmail.com (please also cc joelene.waters@gmail.com).
  2. Please ensure 'NDMO Clearance Request' is in the subject line.
  3. This will then be site and cleared by the NDMO who will send an email of approval. It is imperative that you keep the carrier in CC ie: DFAT, MFAT etc so that when approval is given they will receive it immediately and can dispatch your goods.

Coordination/Information Management/Telecommunication

- The National Emergency Operating Centre (NEOC) / NDMO manages coordination of the information gathering, initial response and planning for assessments.
- Communication networks throughout the country are down, therefore a limited amount of information has been received from other islands. A flight over Tanna suggested considerable damage and further assessments are planned over the coming days. Digicell is on Tanna Island and it is expected that limited service could begin by...
tomorrow, 19 March. No contact has been made with outer islands in Tefea province though the government was working on chartering a helicopter.

- Arrival of Unsolicited Bilateral in-kind Donations have been flagged as a potential issue that could cause congestion. The Logistics Cluster has shared a guidance document on Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBDs) on the Logistics Cluster Vanuatu webpage: http://www.logcluster.org/document/vanuatu-general-guidelines-unsolicited-bilateral-donations-ubds

### Other Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Many power lines are down although the UNELCO (utility company) crews have already been observed laying new lines. The central Lenakel electricity generator appeared undamaged. Gasoline stocks are reportedly low.

### Contacts:

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