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Information Bulletin

Vanuatu: Tropical Cyclone Lusi

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Lusi passed through Vanuatu during the period between 9 and 12 March, resulting in some 20,000 people affected, 8 fatalities and damages to plantations and houses. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) reported a total of six evacuation centres being activated during and after the cyclone, however these centres have been closed as of 17 March.

As of 21 March, 60 people in South Santo (Sanma Province) were still displaced and living with host families. In the cyclone's immediate aftermath, reports indicated widespread damage across Northern and Central provinces: Shefa, Sanma, Penama, Malampa and Torba.

An aerial reconnaissance took place on 14 March and the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) Disaster Risk Reduction Officer was part of the six-member survey team. Reports from Provincial Authorities and the aerial survey confirmed that the most affected areas/islands include the following:

Penama Province: Western Pentecost, East Ambae, Maewo

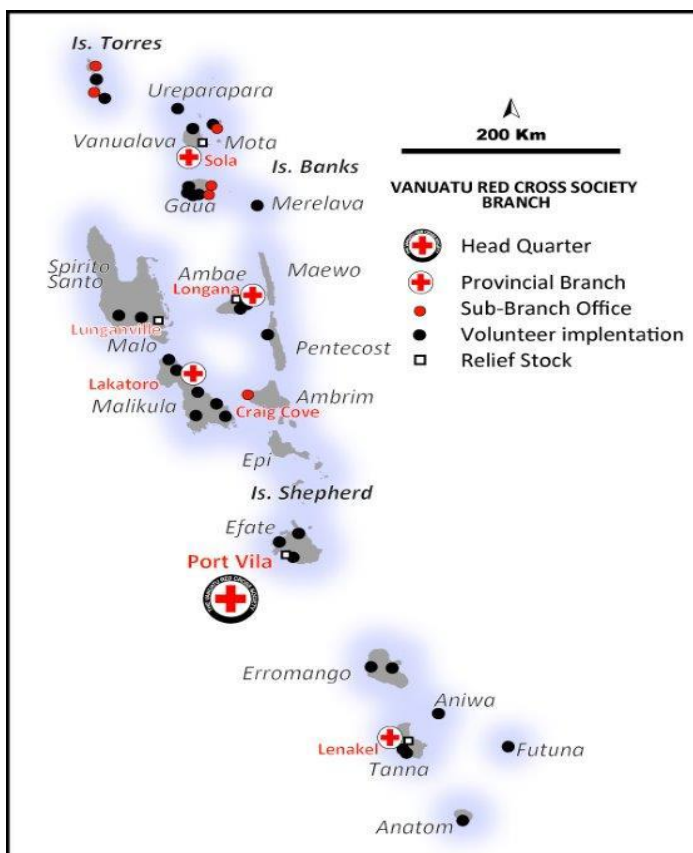
Malampa: Western Ambrym

Sanma Province: South Santo

Torba Province: Gaua and Vanua Lava

Shefa Province: Shepherd Islands

According to the initial findings of the aerial assessment, the emerging needs likely to include water and sanitation (WatSan), non-food items (NFIs), food, and agriculture assistance. Although evidence has shown minimal damage to houses, the findings suggest tarpaulins as temporary roofing material is a prioritized need.



The aerial assessment report also stated that banana plantations and root crops across the northern and central provinces sustained significant damage from winds, flooding and high water-tables and notes that in the following months, impacted families will need support to recover their livelihoods, particularly in the agricultural sector, and to build their resilience to future disasters.

As of 21 March, the NDMO reported significant damage to 132 houses in the islands of Emae, Maewo, Ambae and Pentacost. VRCS assessments reported an additional 61 houses were damaged in Torba Province. There was significant damage to infrastructure, however the extent of damage to water supply is to be determined by the Rapid Cluster Assessment Team, which is currently underway.

A Rapid Cluster Assessment Team comprising of representatives of government departments and other agencies including VRCS has been deployed across the most affected provinces of Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa and Shefa.

The National Emergency Operating Center (NEOC) is managed by the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT) and has activated the following clusters: Health and Nutrition, Education, WASH, Food Security and Agriculture, Logistics, Gender and Protection.

Despite no formal request for international assistance there have been targeted bilateral requests through FRANZ that has resulted in support for the costs of the aerial surveillance mission, replenishment of non-food items, and support personnel for the operation.

The Information Bulletin no. 1 was published on 18 March 2013 and can be accessed [here](#).

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

On 12 March, Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) branch based Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) were mobilised to participate in joint initial assessments with Community Disaster Committee members, with assessment and coordination support from the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT).

VRCS utilised their prepositioned supplies in Ambae, Vanualava, Santo, Malekula and Efate islands and distributed NFIs (tarpaulin, water container, cooking set, hurricane lamp, tool) in Penama, Torba, Sanma, Malampa and Shefa provinces. The distributions also have been closely coordinated with the VHT.

Table 1: Summary of assistance/items provided

Island*	Number of households reached**	Type of assistance/items provided
Pentecost	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarpaulin • Rope • Water container • Bed sheet • Hurricane light • Candle
Ambae	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarpaulin • Rope • Water container • Axes • Knives
South Santo	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blankets • Hurricane light • Bed sheet • Blanket • Cooking pot • Aluminium cup • Bucket • Yam spade • Clothes
Merelava	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarpaulin • Axe

*Assessments and distributions are ongoing in Ambyrm, Gaua, Vanualava, Emae, Mataso, Makira and Epi

**Average household size 4.8 (Vanuatu Census 2009)

VRCS has activated its Emergency Operations Centre and is participating in coordination meetings for preparation and planning of a national response. VRCS is replenishing branch disaster preparedness stock from its national warehouse in Port Vila and is receiving bilateral assistance for immediate restocking in preparation for the remainder of the cyclone season.

IFRC

IFRC has been in regular contact with VRCS since the cyclone warning was released and is providing ongoing support to the Disaster Management Officer, including posting a Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) update, and monitoring the weather situation. IFRC will continue regular communication with VRCS for any potential support.

Partner Support

VRCS has an ongoing partnership project with the French Red Cross, and the presence of Project Officers in the disaster affected region has strengthened the direct support to the operation. Furthermore, New Zealand Red Cross and Australia Red Cross have been liaising with their respective governments for response support and needs on the ground.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.