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Lessons Learnt and Experiences in Disaster - Case of Vanuatu

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Tankio tumas long help!



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Its 2000km from Vanuatu to Tonga but these images make us feel like you are by our side #TCPam @tongaredcross

📍 Fiji



Source: Twitter @aureliabalpe

Outline:

1. Background

2. What we did

3. Challenges

4. Plans for the Future: Emergency Communications



Photo: Lew Toulmin

Disaster Risk Profile of Vanuatu

Ranked **FIRST** - world's most vulnerable country to natural disaster

- Exposure to both geo-physical and hydro-meteorological hazards
- Limited financial and technical capacity to prepare for and respond to the associated risks

Geographic location within the Pacific Ring of Fire and Centre of the Pacific Cyclone Belt

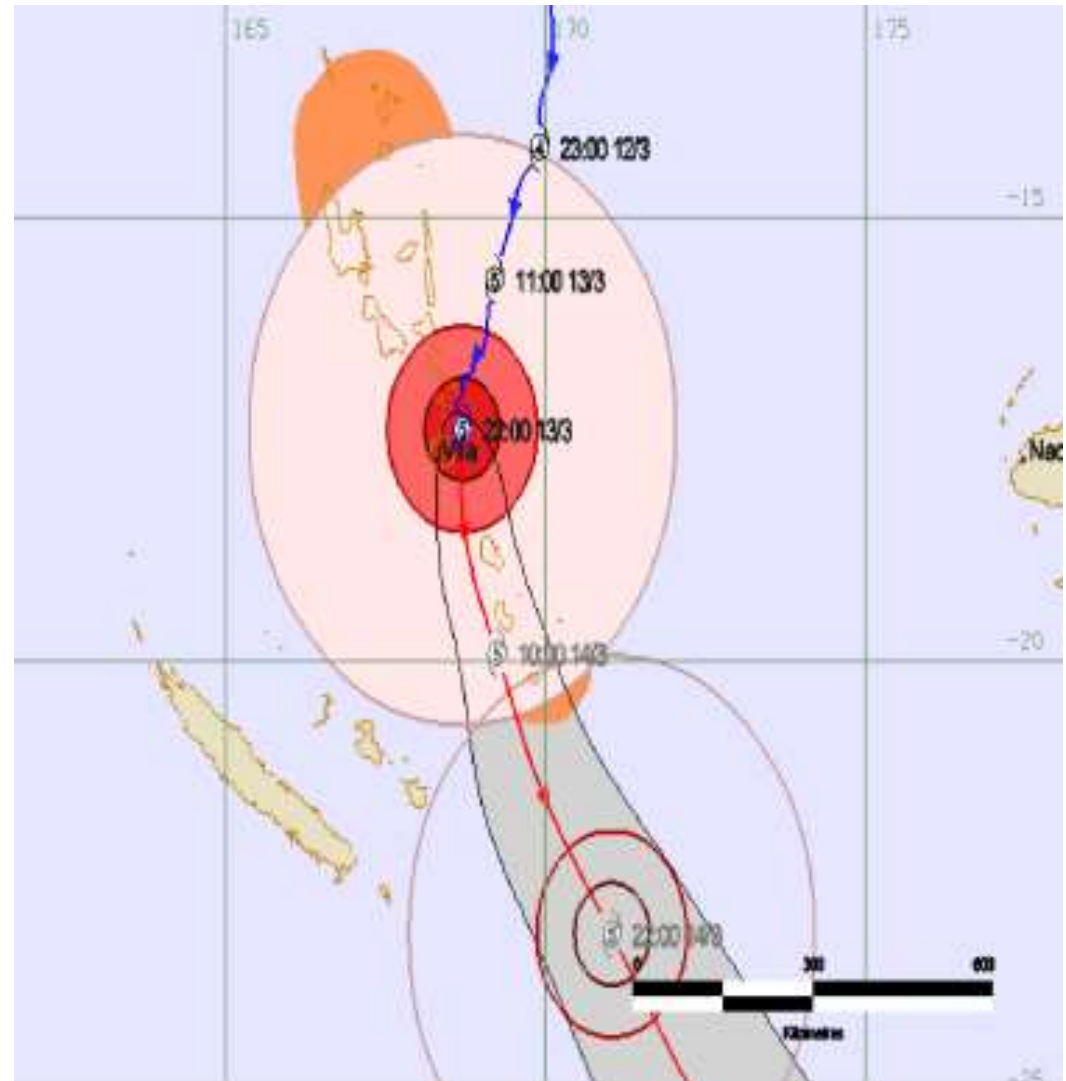
- Relatively high frequency of volcanic eruptions, Cyclones, earthquakes, tsunami, storm surges, coastal and river flooding, and landslides



Background: Category 5 – Tropical Cyclone Pam

March 12th – 14th 2015

- Extremely destructive category 5 cyclone
- Estimated wind speeds of 250 km/h and wind gusts at 350km/h
- Central and Southern Provinces (includes, Shepherds, Efate, Port Vila, Tanna and Erromango Island)



Source: Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

Background: Highlights

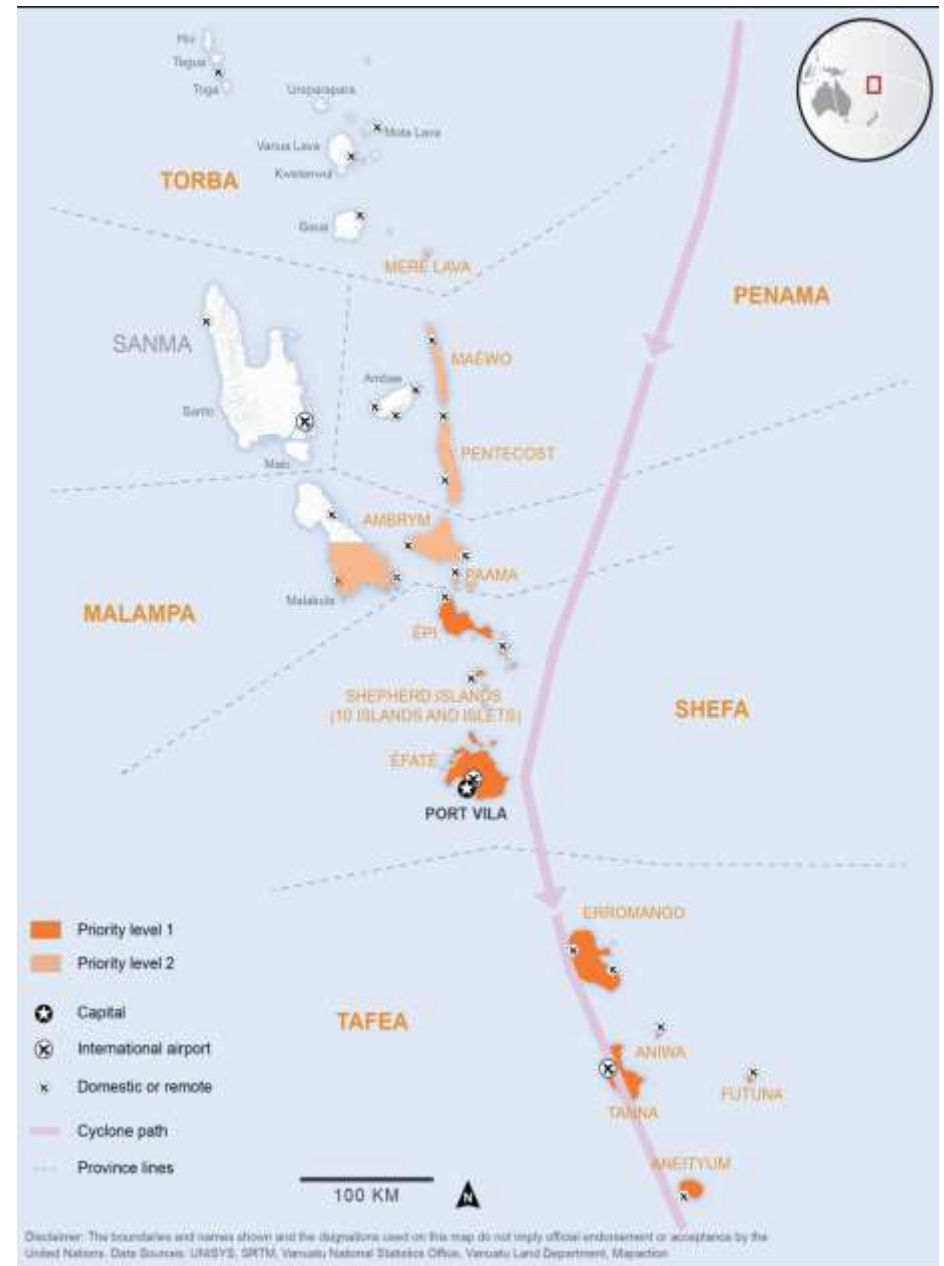
Severe and wide-spread damage

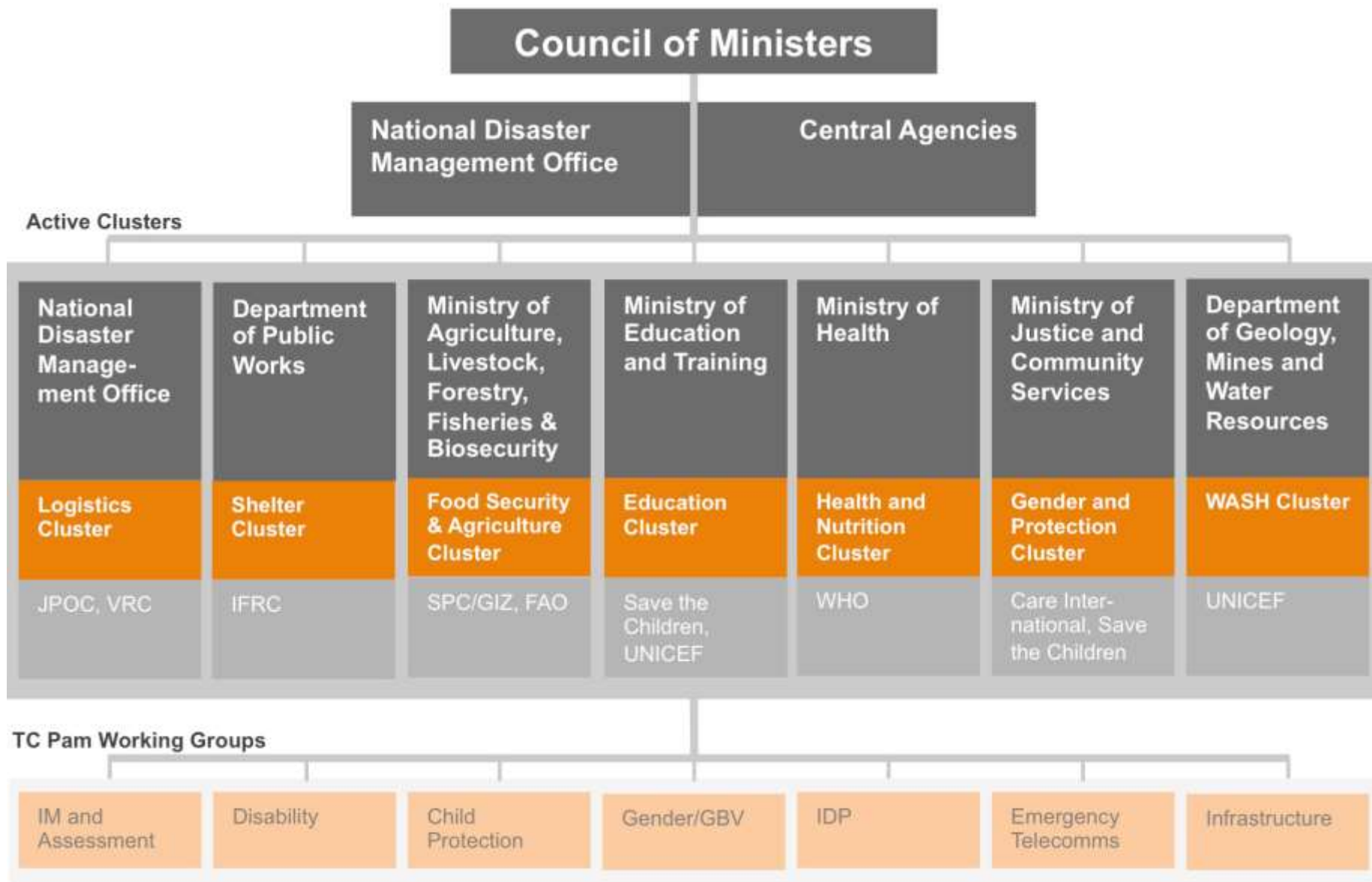
- Cyclone Pam severely compromised the livelihoods of at least 80 per cent of Vanuatu's rural population.
- 16 Confirmed fatalities.
- 66,000 People affected on 22 islands.
- 17,000 buildings damaged (including homes, schools, health facilities).

Estimate cost of damage (economic value)

- –US\$449.4 Million (VT48.5 Billion)
- –Equivalent to ~64.1% of GDP

Source: Vanuatu Humanitarian Team





Source: Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

Emergency Telecom Cluster (ETC) members and our international partners :

Emergency Telecom Cluster (WTC) Group:

World Food Program (WFP),
Telecom Without Borders (TSF),
British Telecom,
Ericsson,
Google, Nethope, Cisco

International Partners:

International Telecommunications Union (ITU),
Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT),
Telstra, Vodafone Foundation, APNIC, ISOC,
Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC),
Trend Micro, Microsoft, Huawei, Baracuda, VMWare



What we did?

1. Initiate discussions with operators to prepare for cyclone rebuilding efforts;
2. Negotiate with operators to send free SMS warning to 92 % of citizens;
3. Focal point for Telecommunication rebuilding efforts;
4. Coordinate with TRR to allocate spectrum for emergency
5. Deploy emergency communication to provinces



Photo: World Food Program

March 14th 2015 - 1% of telecom services

April 14th 2015 - 85% telecom services restored

Photo: Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Challenges for Telecommunications Sector

1. **Regulatory powers to enforce sharing of resources and immediate collaboration**
2. **Biggest issues affecting speedy recovery:**
 - i. The logistics, time and effort required to ship materials to islands affected spread over 1,200 KM
 - ii. Electricity is unavailable in badly damaged sites
3. **As a result damages sustained, transmission networks must be rebuild in worst affected sites**
 - Significant investment in rebuilding sites
 - Investment will likely affect profitability of private sector

Plans for the Future: Emergency Communications Strategy

1. A well coordinated relief distribution strategy;
2. A well coordinated network restoration plan with telecom operators;
3. Establish emergency communications in all provinces;
4. Develop a National Emergency Communications Strategy;
5. Establish an emergency communications rebuilding fund



Photo: TSF

TROPICAL CYCLONE
PAM
 HUMANITARIAN
 ACTION PLAN

1 May 2015



Prepared by the Government of Vanuatu with support of humanitarian partners

Tankio tumas

PERIOD

May 2015 – July 2015

272,000

est. total population

SUMMARY

The Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) builds on, and replaces, the Flash Appeal launched on 24 March, and is based on the results of the Second Phase Harmonized Needs Assessment. The Government-led Clusters focus their activities on one primary Strategic Objective: meeting the remaining life-saving and protection needs of 158,000 people in 23 islands

FUNDING TO DATE

70%

188,000

est. people affected

As of 29 April, OCHA's **Financial Tracking Service** (FTS) recorded US\$31 million in financial and in-kind contributions from donors. Of this total, \$16.4 million were contributed to the Flash Appeal, which has been 55 per cent funded. Shelter and Gender and Protection clusters have been almost completely funded, while Food Security and Agriculture, WASH and Health and Nutrition clusters have received more than half of the requested amount. On the other hand, Coordination, CCCM and Early Recovery projects have not received any financing.

80%

158,000

affected people targeted in HAP

At the same time, through a limited number of activities supporting two complementary Strategic Objectives, the HAP also maps the transition from emergency response to the longer-term recovery effort under the Government of Vanuatu Strategic Action Plan (SAP), which will not use the Cluster system as a coordination mechanism.

 USD 13.5 million
requested

Source: Vanuatu Humanitarian Team