



# VANUATU: Earthquake

## Pacific Humanitarian Team

Situation Report

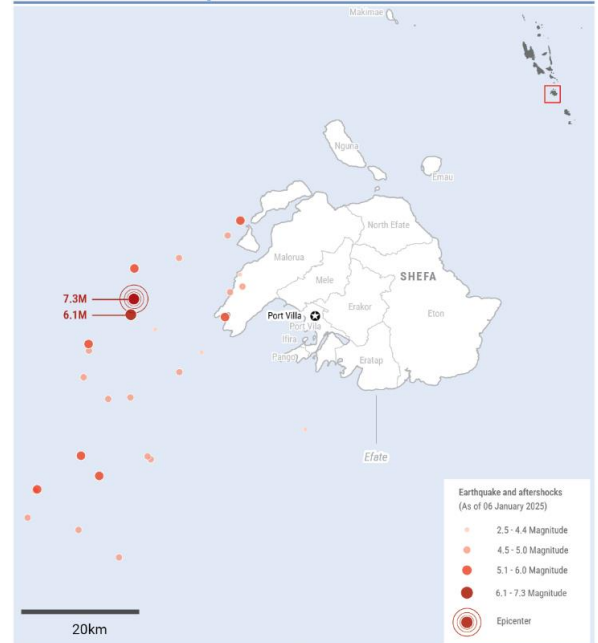
7 January 2025

This report is produced by the OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands in collaboration with humanitarian partners under the Pacific Humanitarian Team. It covers the period from 26 December 2024 to 7 January 2025.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The situation in Vanuatu remains critical following the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck on December 17, 2024. Ongoing aftershocks pose a high risk of landslides and building collapses.
- A total of 14 fatalities and more than 265 injuries have been confirmed. 1,092 people remain temporarily displaced, 570 houses have been damaged affecting 2,850 people.
- 110 classrooms across 45 schools have been partially or completely damaged.
- The State of Emergency (SoE) concluded on December 24, with the coordination of recovery operations transitioning to the Recovery Operations Centre (ROC) under the Prime Minister's Office. The Port Vila and Efate Earthquake Recovery and Resilience Plan was presented to international partners on January 2.
- The humanitarian response, conducted by the national clusters supported by the Pacific Humanitarian Team and coordinated by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), continues to address the needs identified during the SoE

#### VANUATU - Earthquake



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Map Sources: HDX, UNCS, and USGS | Map created: 06 Jan 2025



**80K**

People Affected



**1.1K**

Temporarily Displaced



**14**

Fatalities



**265**

Injuries



**570**

Damaged Houses

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The situation in Vanuatu remains critical following the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck on December 17, 2024. Ongoing aftershocks pose a high risk of landslides and building collapses. The earthquake has resulted in at least 14 fatalities and more than 265 injuries. 1,092 people remain temporarily displaced, 570 houses have been damaged affecting 2,850 people.

Infrastructure damage is extensive, with landslides obstructing road access to Efate and the outer islands, including the main seaport. The two major water reserves in the Ohlen area, which supply water to Port Vila, have been completely destroyed and require reconstruction. The earthquake has impacted the functioning of Vila Central Hospital (VCH) and health clinics in Shefa province. Presently, the hospital is operational, with water quality at VCH confirmed as safe by the Department of Water Resources. A physical inspection of the National Vaccine Store confirmed that there are no major structural damages and the vaccines are safe.

In the education sector, 110 classrooms across 45 schools have been partially or completely damaged. The Central Business District (CBD) area of Port Vila remains closed, and many small to medium enterprises and communities have lost livelihood assets. Telecommunication services are being restored.

The State of Emergency (SoE) ended on December 24, 2024. In accordance with the Disaster Recovery and Resilience Act of November 17, 2024, leadership of the recovery operations has transitioned to the Prime Minister's Office, with coordination held by the Recovery Operations Centre (ROC). The Port Vila and Efate Earthquake Recovery and Resilience Plan was presented to international partners on January 2.

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Needs:

- The two major water reserves in the Ohlen area, which supply water to Port Vila, are completely destroyed and require reconstruction.
- Rapid assessments by the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) and UNICEF in 11 communities, four evacuation centers, and two schools have found that over 50% of these sites lack an improved drinking water source. Seven sites do not have sufficient water available. Damage was reported to water intake sources, including spring boxes, pipelines, storage tanks, and distribution tanks. Additionally, rainwater tank bases, downpipes, and tanks are broken
- Erangorango, Etas, Teouma avocado community, and MauMau school, require support for complete upgrading of the water system or construction of a new water supply system due to inadequacies in the current infrastructure.

**50%**

of assessed sites lack an improved drinking water source.

#### Response:

- Detailed technical assessments are ongoing, led by the DoWR to evaluate the need for quick fixes, repairs, and rehabilitation of water supply systems.
- The DoWR with the support of the WASH Cluster Partners (UNICEF, ADRA, WVI, VRCS) is facilitating water distribution, the provision of water containers, hygiene kits, and urgent repairs to water supply systems in Eratap, Erakor, Mele, Meleamat, Mangaliliu, Tanoliu, Pango, Etas, Teouma, and various evacuation centers such as Melesisisi, Maumau School, Ifira, Malaroua, Pango, Port Vila, and Tanvasoko. The support provided to date includes:
  - Two 6,000-liter, two 5,000-liter, six 1,500-liter, 1,500-liter, and 6,000 liters water bladders provided by UNICEF to DoWR.
  - At least 13 5000-liter tanks and 20 6,000-liter water tanks provided by UNICEF. DoWR positioned the tanks in communities experiencing water supply shortages. These tanks are refilled regularly by DoWR through collaboration with UNICEF.
  - 12 centrifugal pumps provided by UNICEF.
  - Distribution of buckets and jerry cans by VRCS and WVI with the support of UNICEF.
- The WASH Cluster is supporting the provision of hygiene services. UNICEF, ADRA, VRCS, UNFPA and WVI have distributed hygiene kits in Ohlen, Port Vila, Teouma, Etas, Mele, and Eratap. The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is also conducting a health awareness campaign.
- The WASH Cluster is coordinating efforts with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Shefa Health to restore WASH services. The DoWR and UNICEF have installed a water filter for the dental and dialysis units at VCH.
- The WASH Cluster is collaborating with the Education Cluster to provide support for the 45 schools with damaged infrastructure concerning water, sanitation, and hygiene.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Logistical constraints, such as a lack of sufficient vehicles and traffic congestion, hinder the execution of water trucking operations and water system assessments as necessary.
- The closure of shops is preventing the WASH Cluster from procuring essential items needed for water trucking and urgent repairs of water systems.
- A recovery plan was developed for a six-month period, which is currently being updated. However, the cost of recovery for 12 months and beyond is expected to substantially increase, revealing a significant funding gap.

## Health & Nutrition

### Needs:

- MoH confirmed 14 deaths, more than 265 injured.
- Out of the 13 health facilities in the affected areas, eight suffered minor damage. While they remain functional, repairs are required.
- Preliminary assessments show the national and provincial cold chain are functioning with little loss to vaccine stores.
- Structural assessments determined that the Shefa Provincial Health building complex must be demolished, necessitating long-term relocation.
- Further assessments are ongoing to determine the status of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services.
- MoH requested pagers for VCH.
- As of January 3, 2025, prolonged fever surpassed the alert threshold. Observed increase in influenza-like illness, watery diarrhea. A fluctuation in reported cases of foodborne illness, acute fever and neurological syndrome (AFN), severe acute respiratory illness (SARI), and conjunctivitis. Bloody diarrhea and ciguatera fish poisoning cases were reported on December 27.
- UNICEF provided technical leadership to organize a four-day rapid nutrition assessment in communities with displaced populations through collaboration of Nutrition Sub-Cluster members. A rapid nutrition assessment screened 122 children under five, identifying 0.8% with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 2.5% at risk of MAM. Focus group discussions with 142 community members revealed rising cases of sanitation-related diseases such as scabies, boils, conjunctivitis, and diarrhea. Communities are coping by reducing meal frequencies and portion sizes, borrowing money to buy food, and prioritizing children's meals, which further worsening already limited dietary diversity.

# 14

Reported deaths and 265 injuries.

### Response:

- Enhanced surveillance has been activated in Port Vila and Efate.
- The MoH is coordinating the health sector and assessing health facilities with the support of the WHO. Respond Global through Helper-1 assessed facilities and villages on nearby islands immediately after the earthquake.
- WHO and UNICEF provided dedicated technical support to the Shefa Health Office to assist in coordination of provincial health operations the development of the Shefa Health Response, Recovery, and Resilience Plan.
- Seven Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) were mobilized to support response efforts coordinated by MoH with the support of WHO, including:
  - VanMAT, Vanuatu's Emergency Medical Team provides surge support for health facilities.
  - A six-member Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) was followed by a 13-member second rotation focused on surgical support, including an occupational therapist and a physical therapist.
  - A three-member New Zealand Medical Assistance Team (NZMAT) that was embedded at VCH and demobilized on December 22.
  - The Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) EMT provided technical support to the MoH for managing clinical data. As of January 3, the in-country team returned to Japan, but the JDR EMT will continue to support the management of EMT data until the Emergency Medical Team Coordination Cell closes.
  - The Pasifika Medical Association's Pasifika Medical Assistance Team (PACMAT) has a 12-member Mobile EMT specifically focused on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in communities, comprising psychiatrists, mental health nurses, a public health doctor, a public health nurse, and support personnel. As well, PACMAT is providing surge support at VCH.
  - A 15-member EMT from Indonesia, including five nurses, eight doctors (with surgical care capabilities), one pharmacist, and one logistician, is providing surge support at the Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Hub.
  - FEMAT, Fiji's EMT arrived on 5 January and is providing surge support at the NCD Hub in preparation for the Indonesian EMT's departure.
- From December 18 to January 2, 11 teams have been deployed to evacuation centers, providing services such as MHPSS (Erakor HC), general outpatient care (NCD Hub), and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services (UNFPA and VHFA), reaching approximately 2,462 people.
- Four Fijian midwives were deployed by UNFPA for one month at the request of the MoH. Two midwives are stationed at the VCH maternity unit, and two are with the Vanuatu Family Health Association's outreach teams. A total of 367 people (both male and female) were reached with SRH services and information, including quality antenatal and prenatal care, family planning, and safe delivery for mothers and babies. In the first week of deployment, there were ten recorded safe deliveries facilitated by the midwives.

- The Health and Nutrition (H&N) Cluster partners are supporting the MoH in maintaining all functions of the VCH. Support includes:
  - Erection of tents at VCH by Respond Global, UNFPA, and UNICEF.
  - Installation of a water filtration system for the dental and dialysis units by the Department of Water Resources, UNICEF, and VCH on December 31.
  - UNICEF Dispatched of 240 first aid kits to the MoH, with 128 allocated to VCH and 112 to the health post established at the Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF) camp in coordination with Promedical Vanuatu.
  - VRCS assisted with the cleanup of VCH.
- The H&N Cluster also supported operations in health facilities in Efate, which included:
  - Provision of tents to health facilities for use as temporary first aid stations and antenatal clinic waiting areas by UNICEF and UNFPA.
  - Logistics support for the reactivation of the George Pampidou Maternal and Child Health (MCH) clinic outreach services by UNICEF to ensure uninterrupted delivery of essential health services, like immunization.
  - Ongoing collaboration with Shefa Provincial Health to support outreach activities in primary health care facilities affected by power outages, continuing the provision of life-saving immunization services.
  - The Vanuatu Family Health Association provided clinical services, including the minimum initial service package for SRH and maternal, newborn, and child health services.
  - The VRCS distributed assistive devices, including wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, walking frames, toilet and shower chairs, and other items.
- The SRH Working Group has been activated.
- WHO shared key messages following the earthquake in English and Bislama, along with a fact sheet to support the MoH in messaging to disaster-affected communities. The VRCS is also raising awareness of blood services to promote blood donations.
- The Nutrition sub-cluster co-led by MoH and UNICEF is closely coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Biosecurity (MALFFB), as well as WHO and FAO to enforce international and national guidelines on unhealthy food donations and regulations regarding breastmilk substitutes.
- The MoH, WHO, and UNICEF developed a breastfeeding advisory to ensure proper support and guidance in the wake of the disaster.
- The VRCS is providing Psychological First Aid (PFA) to the affected people.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Additional assistive devices are needed, and a comprehensive list is currently being developed.
- MHPSS needs have emerged as a delayed impact, with health workers and community members requiring psychological.

## Evacuation Center Management & Displacement

#### Needs:

- As of January 6, 2025, a total of 1,092 people remain temporarily displaced across three evacuation centers and 50 host households (HH).
- 98 people from 25 HH are in evacuation centers; 37 adults, 21 teenagers aged 14 to 17, 21 children aged six to 13, and 19 young children under the age of five.
- A total of 994 individuals from 227 HH are temporarily displaced in host HH. This group includes 441 adults, 120 teenagers, 184 children, and 130 young children, of which 22 are people with disabilities, 33 are elderly persons, and seven are pregnant women.
- Identified needs across both groups include water, food, medical supplies, lighting, and shelter kits. Water remains top priority in both settings, followed by food assistance and medical supplies

# 1.1K

Temporarily displaced persons

Across **3** evacuation centres  
and **50** host households

#### Response:

- The National DECM Cluster is supporting distributions in evacuation centres and Host HH from the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, WASH Cluster, Protection and Shelter Cluster.

#### Constraints:

- Several DECM Cluster members have reported security concerns at distribution sites, highlighting the need to strengthen security measures to ensure the safety of both displaced populations and humanitarian workers during aid distribution.
- The ongoing need for accurate and up-to-date data on displaced populations remains a priority.

## Shelter

### Needs:

- A total of 2,850 people have homes. Out of 2,388 houses assessed, 570 have been reported damaged, including 245 that are severely damaged and 325 that are moderately damaged. As house damage assessments are ongoing, this number is expected to increase.
- The discrepancy between the number of displaced individuals and those with damaged homes is likely due to fear of return, stemming from uncertainty about the structural safety of their homes, trauma from the disaster, aftershocks, and lack of access to basic necessities such as water, electricity, and communication.
- Temporarily displaced people in evacuation centers require immediate assistance to restore adequate domestic living conditions (sleeping items, cooking items, and privacy items like soft partitions).
- Those temporarily displaced in host HH or self-settled in open areas, as well as individuals living in damaged homes, need immediate assistance to restore adequate living conditions (cooking items, privacy items like soft partition, and safety items like solar lights), and access to emergency shelter (shelter kits consisting of tarpaulins and toolkits).
- Both displaced and non-displaced families with damaged homes need immediate support to assess the risk of structural damage and to determine whether it is safe for them to return.
- Families with damaged homes that are deemed unsafe but structurally repairable require immediate assistance for repairs or retrofitting to ensure their safe return home.

# 2.8K

People affected by damaged homes

### Response:

- Emergency shelter assistance has been provided to 2,415 people (483 HH) across 13 locations, including Kokoreko Manples, VSDP Office, Wan Smolbag Evacuation Centre, Blacksands, Bellevue, Ohlen Hole, Ohlen Tank, Ohlen Nambanga (Green Valley), Abattoir, Correctional Center, Freswota 6, Freswota 1, and Teouma by VRCS, the Salvation Army, World Vision Vanuatu, Save the Children and NDMO. Distributions included 499 tarpaulins, 139 shelter toolkits and 159 kitchen sets.
- Assessments and distributions are ongoing across the eight most affected council areas.
- The Shelter Cluster is conducting ongoing coordination meetings (#10) with partners and stakeholders to assess emerging needs, agree on standards and priorities, and manage potential gaps and overlapping assistance. Further information is available at the following link [EQ- Response- Vanuatu Shelter Cluster Website](#) and on [Shelter Cluster common operating picture dashboard](#).
- The Shelter Cluster, in coordinating with the Disaster Emergency Committee Management (DECM), ensures required shelter assistance is provided at displacement sites.
- The Shelter Cluster and DECM are working on the household level and community level distribution targeting methodology, based on verified damage assessments.
- The IFRC has deployed a Shelter Cluster coordinator to support the national shelter cluster lead.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- A significant number of houses require repairs or reconstruction.
- People with damaged houses will need temporary shelter until their dwellings are repaired or reconstructed.
- There is limited technical expertise available to conduct in-depth structural assessments to determine safety for return, considering the potential risk of additional impacts from heavy rain and strong winds during the ongoing cyclone season.
- Resources are limited (including funds, staff, vehicles, etc.) for conducting targeted assessments, distributions, and broadly addressing all needs.



## Protection

### Needs:

- Vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities, were affected by the earthquake and are temporarily displaced.
- Psychological distress is widespread, impacting children and families, and is exacerbated by aftershocks and displacement. There is an urgent need for MHPSS.
- Child protection concerns are critical and immediate.
- There is an increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV), particularly affecting young girls and women.
- Incidents of neglect have been reported involving persons with disabilities in the Blacksands area.
- Most caregivers of persons with disabilities are working individuals, and with the Community-Based Development (CBD) centre closed due to infrastructure damage, there may be a need for food support in the coming weeks.

### Response:

- Hotlines for the referral of GBV cases have been activated. The Vanuatu Women's Centre's line 161 is operational, and the justice and protection phone tree has been shared on the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MOJCS) Facebook page. However, service hours and availability of trained staff remain limited across all GBV service entry points, and referral systems require further support.
- The VRCS has provided awareness to affected communities regarding GBV and access to services and information to implement safety measures that reduce GBV risks.
- UNFPA distributed dignity kits (250) and Menstrual hygiene and management Kits (236) in partnership with ADRA to people in evacuation centers and temporary shelters.
- Members of the Child Protection in Emergency (CPIE) sub-cluster led by UNICEF including the Vanuatu Football Federation's Just Play Programme, the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, and World Vision Vanuatu, continue to respond by offering play-based psychosocial support to children in fixed Child-Friendly Spaces and through mobile outreach and key messaging to parents and caregivers. A total of 647 children (287 girls) have been directly reached, including in Etas, Erangorango, Ifira, Eratap, and evacuation centers such as Mele Waisisisi, Kokoreko Manples, and Maumau School.
- The CPIE sub-cluster has initiated service mapping for child protection (including child-focused GBV services) that integrate vulnerabilities and hazards for earthquake response and future emergencies.
- UNFPA worked with the Health Cluster/SRH Working Group to conduct a mapping and assessment of the Health sector GBV services, and the impacts of the Earthquake on availability and quality of care standards.
- The Disability Inclusion in Emergency sub-cluster verified disability data for the following area councils: Mele, Tanvasoko, Northern Ward, Erakor, and Eratap, for psychosocial support activities and distribution of disability kits, and conducted 67 impact assessments in Blacksands, Mele, and Melemaat.
- World Vision has provided MHPSS and pastoral care to correctional detainees, as well as to communities in Etas and Teouma Valley. They have also distributed MHPSS and pastoral care resources to faith leaders in PANGO, Teouma, Malapoa Estate, Blacksands, Beverly Hills, and Nambatu.
- Mind Care is supporting earthquake responders by providing MHPSS.
- UNICEF prepositioned IEC materials on child protection, mental health, positive parenting practices, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, which have been released to partners for dissemination across affected areas.
- UN Women, CARE Vanuatu and the Department of Women facilitated the rapid gender analysis (RGA) to inform recovery efforts.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited availability of human and financial resources for adequate and trained staffing to support the increased need for protection services in the aftermath of the earthquake.
- Coordinated multi-sectoral service assessments to fully measure impacts of disaster on services are needed. Child Protection and GBV assessments are underway to address this issue.

## Emergency Telecommunications

### Needs:

- Starting from 25 December to date, preliminary repairs to the damaged Interchange Limited (ICL) cable landing station have been successful, enabling MNOs to restore regular voice and data services.
- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), through the [ITU-ETC Disaster Connectivity Map \(DCM\)](#) initiative, reported that Vanuatu's Internet traffic appeared to be back up to 100% according to the IODA (Internet

Outage Detection and Analysis) project, including Digicel and Vodafone since 25 December, and Wantok since 26 December.

#### Response:

Satellite-based internet services initially installed by the Pacific ETC will remain operational for the coming weeks to ensure reliable connectivity to critical government and humanitarian operations. As of 6 January, services remain active at:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB), to assist in the coordination of food distribution operations.
- National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to support coordination of ongoing relief operations.
- Shefa Provincial Health Centre, where medical support for the affected province is being coordinated.
- National Vaccine Cold Chain Centre, enabling the monitoring of temperature-controlled chambers for the country's vaccination stockpile.

Internet connections previously installed in the NDMO Non-Food Item (NFI) Warehouse, National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), and Kaiviti Motel (the hub for UNDAC and other UN agencies) have now been discontinued and relocated to other priority operational sites.

## Food Security

#### Needs:

- Food security concerns are rising for HH whose houses have been damaged.

#### Response:

- FSAC transitioned to the recovery phase, focusing on integrating agriculture and food security into long-term recovery plans.
- WFP has conducted surveys covering 1,300 HHs to access food, livelihoods and nutrition support.
- National FSAC distributed food rations in evacuation centres in the areas of Mele, Melemaat, Manples, Malapoa Estate, Anamburu, Pango, Mangaliuliu, Blacksands, Tamals, 21 Jump Street, and Blandinier. As of 30 December, 3,978 kg Rice, 3,526 Pcs of Noodles, 15,000Pcs of Canned Fish, 3,528 pcs of Biscuits, 4,200L of Water and 50 bags of Special needs package were distributed by FSAC members including FAO, VRCS, Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) Australia, Government of France and Indonesia and WVI.
- WVI provided monthly food vouchers to tuberculosis patients.
- The Statement on Nutrition Balanced Food and an advisory on unhealthy food donation was approved by the MALFFB.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Insufficient clarity on current stock levels of dry rations and funding availability to procure additional supplies.
- Most of the staff from relevant departments are still suffering trauma and cannot resume working, impacting assessment and recovery operations.
- Trainings and tools for data collection and analysis, including the use of Kobo, need to be expanded to enhance monitoring and response planning.

## Education

#### Needs:

- 110 classrooms in 45 schools have been partially or completely damaged, affecting 12,655 children.
- Replacement of damaged or lost equipment at the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) is needed.
- There is an urgent need to provide alternative learning options to children whose schools will not be able to re-open on 3rd February.

# 110

Damaged classrooms  
across 45 schools

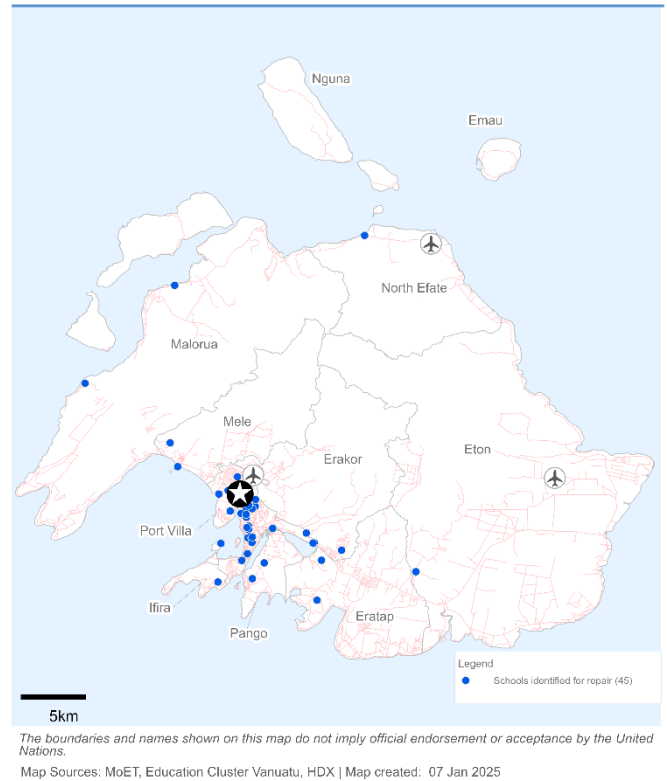
## Response

- Efforts are underway to preposition essential materials, including Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and teaching and learning supplies.
- The Education Cluster is exploring various temporary solutions, such as Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and prefabricated structures, to enable the swift resumption of educational activities in affected schools.
- A Psychosocial Support (PSS) campaign has been launched on the MoET Facebook page. As in Vanuatu Facebook access does not require an internet subscription, Facebook is an efficient tool for reaching communities at scale.

## Gaps & Constraints:

- Schools are expected to reopen on 3 February, 2025, presenting logistical challenges for completing temporary solutions in time and distributing essential materials to affected schools.
- There is a lack of remote learning alternatives and inadequate connectivity in schools to support education continuity.
- There are insufficient materials and training to address the current needs, particularly for temporary learning spaces and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

## VANUATU - Affected Schools



## Logistics

### Response:

- As of 3 January 2025, a total of 40 humanitarian flights were completed by Australia, France, New Zealand, Indonesia, China, Japan and the WFP-supported Pacific Humanitarian Air Service (PHAS). The flights included aerial assessments, delivery of relief items, transportation of personnel and medical evacuations.
- The NDMO completed the handover of all relief items from its warehouse to cluster leads on 24 December 2024.
- NDMO Logistics continues to provide some assistance with customs clearance and transportation of relief items from the airport to the relevant cluster leads' storage.
- The WFP donated two mobile storage units (MSU) to the NDMO. One MSU has been set up outside the NDMO as an office space for the NDMO staff. When necessary, the MSU was also used as a temporary warehouse.
- The WFP deployed a Logistics Preparedness Officer to Vanuatu to support the Logistics Unit within NDMO.

## Early Recovery

### Needs:

- Many small/medium enterprises and communities lost livelihood assets. A damage and loss assessment is needed.
- The immediate needs highlighted by the Port Vila City Council include tents and portable toilets to accommodate 600 displaced Market majority of them are women.

### Response:

- Early Recovery Cluster led by UNDP was activated.
- 14 Solar Kits were distributed to Mamao community in Teouma, to 14 HH.
- Six Supply Boxes (HIV/TB commodities) were handed over to the MoH.
- UNDP embedded an early recovery advisor in ROC to support the recovery efforts.



- UN Women, in coordination with NDMO and WFP, is securing tents to be used as temporarily market space in the CBD area.

#### Constraints:

- Household-level damage and loss assessments have not yet been initiated.

## Cross Cutting Issues.

### Accountability to the Affected Population (AAP)

- The Government has its AAP mechanism in place coordinated by the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) system. Agencies are supporting RCCE to ensure that effective AAP systems are in place.

## Coordination

The OCHA-UNDAC team has been supporting NDMO with embedded coordination and information management capacity. Support includes the updating of national inter-cluster situation sitreps and the 5Ws. To support a smooth transition to recovery, OCHA-UNDAC also embedded coordination and information management capacity to ROC.

The PHT conducted several meetings with coordinators and Vanuatu-based partners to clarify the process for the humanitarian community in aligning its response activities with this transition and ensuring a seamless integration with the overall government recovery efforts.

As response activities phase-out and recovery activities start, the coordination support to ROC is being handed over to UNDP (PHT ER cluster lead) and the PHT recovery activities are coordinated by the ER Cluster.

Strategic engagement and coordination with the FRANZ Alliance + continue where OCHA provides updates on the coordination of the humanitarian response.

### Cash Coordination

The Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG) supported the Vanuatu National Cash Working Group to agree on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculation and the transfer value it yielded to serve as a benchmark for agencies to use if undertaking cash and voucher assistance. The PRCWG raised awareness on the use CVA through social protection systems with the ROC team.

### UNDAC Environmental Assessment

The UNDAC Environment Assessment Team completed drone assessments of the flora and fauna in the areas identified by the Department of Environment to have suffered damage from the earthquake. Other assessments included the dump site for debris cleared from the Port Vila CBD, drone assessments of wharf structures, and the hillside landslide adjacent to the wharf. The VRCS building was also assessed.

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For more information, please visit <https://response.reliefweb.int/vanuatu/earthquake-december-2024>

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