



INTER-CLUSTER SITUATION REPORT

Disaster Type:	Earthquake	Situation Report #:	10
Date:	9 January 2025	Provinces Affected:	SHEFA
Reporting Period:	02/01/2025-08/01/2025		

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- NDMO Response Operations closed following the receipt and distribution of final food and non-food items received from local and international donors.
- The Recovery Operations Centre (ROC) continues to coordinate recovery operations and will lead on reporting sectoral activities as appropriate.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

A 7.3 magnitude earthquake near Port Vila on December 17, 2024, resulted in at least 14 fatalities and over 200 injuries. The National Disaster Management Office has been coordinating search and rescue, needs assessments and the delivery of assistance by partners from relevant Clusters. The State of Emergency concluded on December 24, transitioning leadership of ongoing operations to the Recovery Operations Centre (ROC) under the Prime Minister's Office. Humanitarian actors have been working in support of the Government of Vanuatu collaboratively to address immediate humanitarian needs, restore essential services, and support long-term recovery in affected areas.




80K
 Affected People


14
 Fatalities


265
 Injured


773*
 Displaced

*DECM data reported on 08/01/2025



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HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

	Shelter Cluster	3,835 <i>People received emergency shelter supplies</i>
Needs		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Immediate Assistance for Displaced and Non-Displaced Families: Displaced families in evacuation centers, with host households, or in open displacement areas require essential household items such as sleeping items, cooking tools, and solar lamps. Emergency shelter kits (tarpaulins and toolkits) are needed to restore adequate living conditions.● Support for Damaged Homes: 731 houses have been reported damaged, with 81 fully destroyed, 165 severely damaged, and 485 moderately/minor damaged. Immediate risk assessments are needed to determine safety, and families with repairable homes require support for repairs or retrofitting. Verified damage assessments are essential for effective distribution of shelter kits and household items.● Expanding Housing Damage Reports: To date, 1,461 households (approximately 7,305 individuals) have been assessed for structural and non-structural damage. As assessments continue into peri-urban and rural areas, damage reports are rising, requiring ongoing evaluations and awareness campaigns to promote safer rebuilding practices.● Displaced Individuals: 781 people remain displaced, either in evacuation centers or with host families, requiring immediate shelter assistance.		
Response		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Emergency Shelter Assistance: Shelter support has been provided to 767 households (an increase of 419 households in the past 7 days) across six area councils, including Port Vila, Eratap, Erakor, and Mele, benefiting approximately 3,835 individuals (an increase of 1,881 individuals).● Item Distribution: A total of 1,188 emergency shelter items have been distributed, including: 665 tarpaulins, 358 kitchen sets and 165 shelter toolkits.● Coordination and Targeting: Eight Shelter Cluster coordination meetings have been held to manage emerging needs, address gaps, and align standards and priorities. The Shelter Cluster is collaborating with DECM to refine household and community-level distribution targeting based on verified damage assessments.● Technical Guidance: A Technical Working Group (TWiG) has been established to develop earthquake and cyclone-resistant repair and reconstruction designs and provide construction training.● Ongoing Assessments: Verified assessments reveal increasing damage levels, prompting Shelter Cluster partners to adjust assistance packages to support both displaced households and those with damaged homes.● Future Distributions: Plans are underway to distribute emergency shelter items (tarpaulins, toolkits) and essential household items (kitchen sets, solar lights) to		



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households, including those with disabilities, in seven priority locations: Melemaat, Mele, Prima, Bladnia, Blacksands, Manples, and Malepas.

- **Construction Training:** Shelter Cluster partners are preparing projects to train communities in earthquake- and cyclone-resistant construction techniques and implement repair or reconstruction initiatives.

Gaps & Constraints

- **Housing Repairs and Reconstruction:** A substantial number of homes still require repairs or rebuilding, leaving families in need of temporary shelter solutions.
- **Technical Expertise:** Limited availability of skilled personnel for in-depth structural assessments delays determining the safety of returning to damaged homes.
- **Resource Limitations:** Insufficient funds, staff, and logistical resources (e.g., vehicles) are hindering assessment and distribution activities.
- **Weather Risks:** The ongoing cyclone season, with heavy rain and strong winds, increases the risk of further damage and delays recovery efforts.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

42

Government and humanitarian agencies supported with internet connectivity

Response

- Satellite-based internet services initially installed by WFP will remain operational for the coming weeks to ensure reliable connectivity to critical government and humanitarian operations. As of 09 January, services are active at:
 - The **Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB)**, to assist in the coordination of food distribution 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.
 - **National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)**.
- One kit remains on standby with the NDMO to be deployed in the event of sudden need.
- As terrestrial networks are recovering from the shock of the earthquake, ETC will start to phase out its emergency support once satisfied that government and humanitarian entities supported have reliable and stable access to internet connectivity services.



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	Health & Nutrition Cluster	5 <i>Syndromes surpassed alert thresholds</i>
Needs		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Health Services: Urgent restoration of water supply to all eight assessed health facilities, including Vila Central Hospital (VCH), remains critical to stabilize operations in operating theaters and dialysis units. Psychological support is still required for healthcare workers and patients, with recent increases in trauma-related consultations.● Disease Prevention: Rising cases of influenza-like illness, watery diarrhea, and skin diseases are linked to ongoing water shortages and contaminated water sources, particularly in locations like Teouma. Enhanced disease surveillance and community health interventions are essential.● Facility Safety Assessments: SHEFA Provincial Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) must be relocated due to confirmed structural damage. Assessments for other facilities continue to identify urgent repair and relocation needs.		
Response		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Operational Health Facilities: Key facilities, including VCH, Eton, Teouma, and Kalwat Memorial Health Centre, remain functional, with outpatient surge services prioritized in affected areas. The SHEFA PHEOC, while coordinating responses, will transition to a safer location due to compromised infrastructure.● Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: PACMAT specialists have conducted 51 consultations, addressing earthquake-related trauma, with outreach efforts expanding to Erakor Village and Mele Waisisi. IsraAid has initiated a remote mental health support call center to extend reach.● Medical Team Support: International and national teams, including AUSMAT, NZMAT, and PACMAT, have been integral, providing mental health, midwifery, logistical, and technical support. However, the majority of EMTs are expected to leave by January 18, 2025.		
Gaps		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Water and Sanitation: Persistent water shortages disrupt operations across all eight assessed facilities, delaying critical services like dialysis and dental care. Installation of water filtration systems at key facilities, including VCH, is underway but incomplete.● Resource Shortages: Medicine supplies at VCH are nearing depletion, threatening continuity of care. Additional funding, staff, and vehicles are urgently needed to enhance recovery and outreach efforts.● Weather and Structural Risks: Aftershocks and the cyclone season pose ongoing risks to health infrastructure, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas. Structural damage to facilities like the SHEFA PHEOC highlights the need for long-term relocation and resilience planning.		



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	Displacement & Evacuation Centre Management Cluster	773 <i>People Displaced</i>
<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Displaced Individuals: 773 displaced individuals, including 135 in evacuation centers and 638 with host households, require urgent support. Immediate needs include water, food, medical supplies, lighting, shelter kits, kitchen kits, and tarpaulins or tents.● Vulnerable Groups: Targeted assistance is required for 20 individuals with disabilities, 31 elderly residents, 5 pregnant women, and 26 breastfeeding mothers living with host households. <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assessments and Monitoring: Ongoing field assessments and updated displacement figures are expected on January 10, 2025.● Resource Distribution: Distribution of water, food, medical supplies, lighting, shelter kits, and other essentials is underway. Cash-based interventions are being planned to address needs flexibly.● Coordination Efforts: DECM Cluster meetings are ensuring equitable distribution and minimizing duplication, with the live database supporting updated response planning. <p>Gaps & Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Resource Shortages: Demand for essential items exceeds current availability.● Vulnerable Groups: Additional support is needed to address the specific needs of displaced individuals, particularly those in vulnerable categories.● Coordination Challenges: Effective management of diverse needs across evacuation centers and host households remains a priority.		
	Logistics Cluster	
<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Coordination of Relief Supplies: Effective allocation and monitoring of incoming relief supplies to ensure equitable distribution among clusters and affected communities.● Timely Delivery: Streamlined logistics to distribute critical items, such as food, hygiene kits, and emergency shelter materials, to priority areas promptly. <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chinese Government Contributions: Relief supplies stored in CCECC have been mobilized and distributed to relevant clusters to support ongoing response operations including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Food items handed over to FSAC for distribution. <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Storage and Distribution: With no permanent NDMO storage or warehousing facilities, challenges exist in the management of supplies outside of a state of emergency.		



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- Medical equipment and supplies, including emergency folding beds, medical transfer boards, and instrument sets, have been transported to hospitals to support healthcare needs.
- Water Purification resources allocated to the WASH Cluster.
- **Japanese Government Contributions:** 400 Jerry cans, 7 water purifiers, and 10 generators received on January 7, 2025 delivered to WASH Cluster to address water and sanitation needs.

	WASH Cluster	22,014 People reached with emergency water supplies
Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approximately 20,000 people are in need of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, including displaced individuals and those in schools and health facilities.		
Response <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Emergency Water Supply: A total of 22,014 people have been reached with emergency water supply, including 12,958 litres of water trucked and 5,495 water containers distributed.● Verification Assessments: Status assessments of 190 water systems are underway across Efate. So far, 34 systems have been assessed, ensuring water for over 15,000 people.● System Rehabilitation: Detailed assessments are in progress for 10 priority systems, including the Mele water system serving 7,000 people, to enable quick fixes and rehabilitation.● Hygiene Support: Distribution of 304 hygiene kits has reached 1,491 people, and 272 people have benefited from water filters.● Restoration Efforts: The Mele and Vanuatu Central Hospital (VCH) water supplies have been restored with UNICEF's technical and financial support.● Collaborative Actions: UNICEF is providing resources to partners, including DoWR, World Vision, Vanuatu Red Cross, and ADRA, to sustain emergency response and transition into early recovery efforts.		
Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staffing Challenges: The response coincided with the holiday season, leading to staff shortages. WASH Cluster partners have called back key personnel and implemented extended hours to ensure service delivery during the emergency. However, a rotation schedule is needed to sustain recovery operations and maintain continuity.		



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	Gender & Protection Cluster	1,227 Children reached by CPiE Subcluster Activities
Needs		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shelter Support: Temporary shelters, including tents provided by UN Women, are supporting approximately 600 vendors weekly. More permanent shelter solutions are needed for families in evacuation centres and vendors in displacement sites.● Dignity and Hygiene Kits: Despite ongoing distributions, shortages of dignity and hygiene kits persist, leaving vulnerable groups underserved.● Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Awareness and Services: Increased dissemination of GBViE key messages and safety measures, including improved lighting, are necessary in displacement areas.● Psychosocial Support (PSS): Expanded PSS resources are required for children, caregivers, and vulnerable groups, including faith leaders and responders. Ongoing mental health support in evacuation centres is critical.● Disability Inclusion: Disability-specific assessments have identified significant needs for tarpaulins, shelter toolkits, and other essential resources for people with disabilities affected by the crisis.		
Response		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shelter Support: Temporary tents installed by UN Women are providing safe spaces for vendors. These shelters include access to drinking water and sanitation.● Dignity and Hygiene Kits: The Ministry of Health and partners have distributed dignity kits in evacuation centers and mobile clinics, supporting over 2,000 clients. Additional hygiene kit distributions occurred in Melemaat Zone 3 and other affected areas.● GBV Awareness and Services: Vanuatu Red Cross delivered GBV awareness sessions and distributed 52 solar lights to enhance safety for 260 individuals. Vanuatu Women's Centre resumed full operations on January 6, offering psychosocial services and promoting the GBViE response.● Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE): CPiE sub-cluster partners reached 1,227 children (40% girls) and 920 adults through play-based psychosocial support in static Child Friendly Spaces and mobile outreach. IEC materials and child protection messaging are being disseminated via SMS and radio.● Psychosocial Support (PSS): Mind Care and World Vision provided mental health support for responders and detainees. Key messages on mental health and parenting were disseminated to caregivers and communities.● Disability Inclusion: Disability sub-cluster assessments informed the development of distribution lists for tarpaulins and essential tools. 103 assessments were conducted across affected areas, including Mele, Blacksands, and Malapoa.		



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Gaps

- **Supply Shortages:** Dignity and hygiene kits remain insufficient to meet the needs of all affected individuals.
- **Service Integration:** Child protection and GBV service mapping require more agency collaboration to ensure comprehensive coverage and response.
- **Community Safety:** Improved lighting and safety measures are needed in evacuation centers and displacement areas to reduce GBV risks.

Key Links

- [Building Assessment Link](#)
- [International Deployed Assets](#)
- [ReliefWeb Dedicated Page](#)

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