Cyclone Pam Response: Vanuatu

Situation Overview
As part of the Vanuatu Flash Appeal launched on 24 March 2015 in Port Vila, seeking US$29.9 million for humanitarian operations for the next 3 months, UNFPA received an initial allocation of CERF funds for $225,000 of the total requested $680,000. This will meet the life saving sexual and reproductive health and protection needs of women and young girls.

Initial reports indicate that women in evacuation centers and host communities are experiencing acute needs, for which the MoH requires essential supplies and RH services. Many health facilities and birthing clinics have been destroyed and damaged, with limited access to life-saving maternal and neonatal health services. Violence against women has also been confirmed in the Vanuatu Women’s Counseling Center monitoring missions in Shefa as well as in reports from the medical staff. In addition, the MIRA has indicated high rates of psychosocial distress among the population.

- A secondary quantitative harmonized assessment is underway and is being led by the government (NDMO) in order to gather detailed information on areas affected, pool resources and diminish assessment fatigue. Collated reports will result in a consolidated Response plan. UNFPA and GBV AoR have advocated that SRH and GBV issues are reflected. UNFPA colleagues have offered their participation in the analysis, as needed.

UNFPA Operations

FTPs: The Fast Track Procedures for the Cyclone Pam Response have been approved (March – Sept 2015).

Dignity Kits: 400 dignity kits are being distributed along with IEC materials explaining their purpose, content and an entry point to sensitize communities on SRH/GBV. More DKs are under production.

RH kits and modern contraceptive choices and supplies: The first batch of emergency RH kits and other medicine/supplies arrived on 30 March. Immediate distribution is being planned along with short MISP orientations planned for health facilities, access to modern contraceptive choices is ensured.

Deployments:
- PSRO: 10 staff in Vanuatu & Fiji
- PSRO to deploy 9 midwives (trained and from Fiji) to 4 health facilities/hospitals in Vanuatu
- 3 staff (APRO, GBV AoR, Timor Leste CO) are deployed in Fiji and Vanuatu respectively.
- Pakistan CO will deploy an RH expert for the months of March-April in Vanuatu.

UNFPA Emergency Funds: PSRO has received a total of $303,354.00 from UNFPA’s Emergency Funds, and plans for immediate implementation are underway (including RH kits that already arrived). The budget is considered separate from the projected needs for UNFPA under the Flash Appeal (which addresses the gap).

CERF funds: Have been received for $225,000 (covering SRH and GBV).
Additional funding gap: $455,000
UNFPA Vanuatu Team on the Go...

The UNFPA team continues to work with partners, community-based organizations, women’s and youth networks to ensure outreach of reproductive health services and protection messages to women and youth in cyclone-impacted areas.

UNFPA had its first RH task force meeting (as a subset of the Health Cluster meeting) to coordinate the SRH needs of the affected communities, distribution of supplies, key messaging for communities and so on.

UNFPA (including the GBV AoR), in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children, organized a 2-day workshop on 30-31 March on “Psychosocial First Aid and Child Protection” which included sessions on GBV.

The Vanuatu team has been engaging with the vibrant women’s machinery and women’s movement in Vanuatu to ensure that the humanitarian relief remains responsive to women and girls. Women’s Information Centres have been set up, these are safe spaces for women affected by Cyclone Pam to access information on the support that is available to them as part of the response to the disaster. These information centres will be established in the worst affected areas of Vanuatu, the first of which will be opened in Tanna. This is collaboration between UNFPA ACTIONAID and Vanuatu’s Department of Women.

Donor Response

The Government of New Zealand has announced an initial contribution of NZ$3 million (US$ 2.27 million) to assist Pacific nations impacted by TC Pam. $500,000 is for Tuvalu recovery – building up food security and agriculture, and boat transport to outer islands.

The Australian Government is providing an initial package of life-saving support in response to a request from the Government, including AU$ 10 million ($7.8 million) to be delivered through Australian NGOs, the Red Cross and UN partners. Support for ensuring sexual and reproductive health is included in national responses to ensure an inclusive recovery was reaffirmed in a March 22 meeting between the Vanuatu Prime Minister, Mr Joe Natuman and Australia’s Foreign Affairs Minister Ms Julie Bishop which emphasized her government’s support for mechanisms related to sexual and reproductive health.

USAID will make available US$250,000 to WFP.

The United Kingdom (UK) has made available up to £2 million ($3 million) for humanitarian response.

The European Union (EU) is providing initial humanitarian assistance of €1 million ($1.12 million).

France made an aerial assessment to Tanna on 19 March 2015.

Japan will pledge support once needs assessments have been conducted. Parliamentary Vice Minister arrived on Sunday 22 March 2015. Japanese medical team is on ground with 23 staff.

The Fiji Government has dispatched 40 staff including 12 medical team including 2 midwives and engineers from the military.
### Health

**Reproductive Health**

**Project Objective:** To ensure lifesaving sexual and reproductive health including GBV services in cyclone affected provinces.

**Target Population:** The project aims to cover 35,000 women and adolescent girls who will receive sexual and reproductive health services over a 3 month period.

**Key interventions**
- UNFPA and its partners will implement the Minimum Initial Service Package [MISP] for Reproductive Health. UNFPA in collaboration with partners will support ‘overburdened’ health facilities through the provision of RH kits, medical equipment and supplies to 20 rural health units in 4 provinces.
  - Repair of the Lanakel Hospital in Tanna should be completed by the end of this week, ADF working on repairing the final ward now. This will facilitate the reopening of the much-needed maternity ward and the distribution of RH equipment.
  - 64/71 health buildings in affected areas have now been assessed - about 60% have sustained damage.
- Provision of Dignity Kits to support women’s basic hygiene and protection needs.

**Coordination:** UNFPA is active in the Health Cluster and is ensuring that the critical needs of women of reproductive age and girls are addressed through overall health cluster assessments and interventions.

**Partners:** MOH, Vanuatu Family Planning Association, MDM etc.

### Protection

**Gender-based Violence**

**Project Objective:** To ensure an effective GBV response by service providers (medical, psychological, social workers)

**Target Population:** The project aims to cover 30,000 women and adolescent girls who will information and services on GBV over a 3 month period.

**Key Interventions:**
- Establishment of women’s safe spaces
- Addressing critical needs of survivors of GBV, especially sexual violence.
- GBV support outreach interventions/awareness raising/information sessions
- Provision of Dignity Kits (as mentioned above)

**Coordination:** UNFPA is actively engaged in the Protection cluster including assessments, advocacy, resource mobilization and jointly planning interventions with partners.

**Partners:** Save the Children, VANGO (Vanuatu Association for NGOs)

### Communications:

- Press Releases and feature articles have been on-going, last utilization by PACNEWS on April 8 and a full page feature in the national daily Fiji Times, on April 9
- UNFPA Staff interviewed by Radio NZ International
- Simultaneous updates on PSRO, APRO and HQ websites and social media platforms.
- Vanuatu microsite (for UNFPA) has been created for latest sitreps and documents

### Cyclone Pam Response Team:

- Dr. Laurent Zessler (Director and Representative)
- Ms. Virisila Raitamata, Assistant Representative
- Ms. Yindee Yaibuthes, IOM
- Ms. Maha Muna, Gender Adviser
- Dr. Sophaganine Ty, RH Adviser
- Ms. Ariela Zibiah, Communication Analyst
- Mr. Keith Andrews, Logistics Specialist
- Dr. Adriu Naduva, Programme Analyst
- Mr. Gideon Mael: Programme Analyst

### On Surge:

- Ms. Priya Marwha, Humanitarian Coordinator, APRO
- Ms. Devanna de la Puente, GBV AoR
- Dr. Chandani Galwaduge, RH officer (UNFPA TL)
Some key dates:

17 to 21\textsuperscript{st} April - revision of flash appeal

15 April - NDMO/VHT presentation assessments findings

26 April - Joint action plan to be presented

At one of the main evacuation centers in Port Vila, Freswota Primary School.