

# SOUTH PACIFIC – TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

MARCH 27, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**11**

Confirmed Fatalities in Vanuatu Resulting from Tropical Cyclone Pam  
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – March 24, 2015

**295**

People Residing in Evacuation Centers on Efate Island, Vanuatu  
OCHA – March 26, 2015

**166,000**

Estimated Number of People in Vanuatu Affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam  
Government of the Republic of Vanuatu (GoRV) and Vanuatu Humanitarian Team – March 26, 2015

**4,600**

Estimated Number of People in Tuvalu Affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – March 2015

**30,000**

Estimated Number of People in the Solomon Islands Affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam  
IFRC – March 17, 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Rapid assessment findings indicate that 166,000 people in Vanuatu require some form of humanitarian aid. Assessments continue in other countries affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam.
- The GoRV and the UN launched a \$30 million flash appeal for the humanitarian response in Vanuatu on March 24.
- Under the leadership of host governments, the international community continues to respond to identified humanitarian needs in storm-affected countries.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM TO DATE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$450,000
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$1,000,000
<b>\$1,450,000</b>	
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 22, the GoRV and response partners—the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team, the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, and other actors—concluded a series of joint initial rapid needs assessments of the country’s storm-affected islands. Based on assessment findings, approximately 166,000 people spanning 22 islands throughout the provinces of Malampa, Penama, Shefa, and Tafea require some form of humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. In other countries affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam, such as Tuvalu, the remote location of storm-affected islands and unreliable communication networks have impeded information-gathering efforts, and response actors continue to await assessment results.
- On March 24, the GoRV and the UN officially launched the Emergency Response Plan for Vanuatu, a \$29.9 million flash funding appeal to support the humanitarian response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. The plan’s strategic goals include providing immediate life-saving assistance for storm-affected populations; supporting the restoration of livelihoods and self-reliance through food security interventions, as well as shelter and community infrastructure repair; and reestablishing and strengthening basic services.
- The international community continues to collaborate with national authorities to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from the cyclone. In accordance with the FRANZ Arrangement—an agreement on disaster relief cooperation in the South Pacific—the governments of Australia, France, and New Zealand are working with Pacific Island nations to bolster international response efforts in the storm-affected countries, with other donors contributing supplementary assistance.
- To date, USAID has provided more than \$1.4 million for humanitarian assistance in Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and the Solomon Islands. The funding primarily supports the distribution of food assistance and emergency relief items; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities; and an expansion of humanitarian logistical capacity in Vanuatu.

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

## VANUATU

- President of Vanuatu Baldwin Lonsdale extended a state of emergency across all six provinces of Vanuatu, OCHA reported on March 21. The GoRV initially declared a state of emergency only for Shefa Province on March 14. According to Vanuatu media, the state of emergency for all six provinces will expire on March 28.
- Based on recently completed rapid needs assessments, food assistance and agricultural support—such as seeds, farming equipment, and other agricultural inputs—are among the key needs in Vanuatu, as the storm severely compromised the livelihoods of at least 80 percent of the country’s rural population and damaged or destroyed food stocks. The initial assessments also confirmed that Tropical Cyclone Pam damaged 20 to 90 percent of structures in some locations, including approximately 15,000 houses. As a result, an estimated 75,000 people are in need of temporary emergency shelter support. In addition, the assessments highlighted a need for improved access to safe drinking water, given damage to rainwater tanks and contamination of groundwater sources.
- To facilitate the return home of people from evacuation centers, many of which are schools, the GoRV and relief actors have distributed plastic sheeting to help households meet interim emergency shelter needs and offering transportation assistance as needed, according to OCHA. The GoRV also initiated food distributions through municipalities and area councils to address the emergency food needs of returnees and other community members, including displaced persons living outside of evacuation centers. Recent rapid needs assessments indicate that a high number of displaced individuals, particularly on outlying islands, are staying with relatives or other hosts.
- On March 21, response actors in Vanuatu dispatched the first distribution of food baskets with 15-day rations and seed packs for restoring agricultural production to approximately 809 households in the heavily storm-affected Shepherd Islands, including Buninga, Emae, Makira, Mataso, Tongariki, and Tongoa, according to the Food Security Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. As of March 25, the GoRV and partners had sent emergency food packages—containing 15-day rations of rice and canned goods—to all 22 of the country’s affected islands, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports.
- USAID/FFP recently contributed \$1 million to WFP’s emergency operation (EMOP) to assist the GoRV meet the emergency food needs of Vanuatu’s storm-affected population. WFP estimates that 162,000 people in Vanuatu are in need of food assistance and expects to provide assistance for approximately three months for people most severely affected by the storm. USAID/FFP’s contribution will support an estimated 17 percent of the Vanuatu EMOP.
- In addition to its EMOP, WFP has launched a special operation to provide logistics coordination, storage capacity, and telecommunications assistance in Vanuatu in response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. In recent days, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to reinforce humanitarian logistics capacity and coordination for the Vanuatu response, including augmenting storage capacity for relief items in country, through WFP’s special operation.
- USAID/OFDA has also contributed \$100,000 to the French Red Cross (FRC) to distribute emergency relief supplies, implement WASH activities in evacuation shelters, and support the return of evacuees to their homes. USAID/OFDA plans to contribute additional USG humanitarian funding in Vanuatu to address identified response needs and gaps.

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## TUVALU

- The Government of Tuvalu (GoT) has extended the country’s state of emergency—initially issued on March 13 and set to expire on March 20—by a week to March 27, OCHA reports. Between March 9 and 12, floods resulting from storm surges and sea swells triggered by Tropical Cyclone Pam damaged houses, public infrastructure, and crops in Tuvalu. IFRC estimates that the storm affected as many as 4,600 people, representing approximately one-half of the country’s total population.
- Recent assessments of Tuvalu’s central islands indicate population displacement and destruction of crops and infrastructure resulting from Tropical Cyclone Pam, particularly on Nui and Nukufetau, according to OCHA. Telecommunication and power disruptions are slowing efforts to obtain information from Tuvalu’s outer islands, and attempts to assess the northern islands remain ongoing.
- The GoT, as well as relief organizations and international donors, are responding to initial requests for assistance, including safe drinking water, medicine, shelter support, and food assistance. On March 25, the Tuvalu Red Cross Society reported that the organization had reached all nine of Tuvalu’s islands with relief supplies provided by the

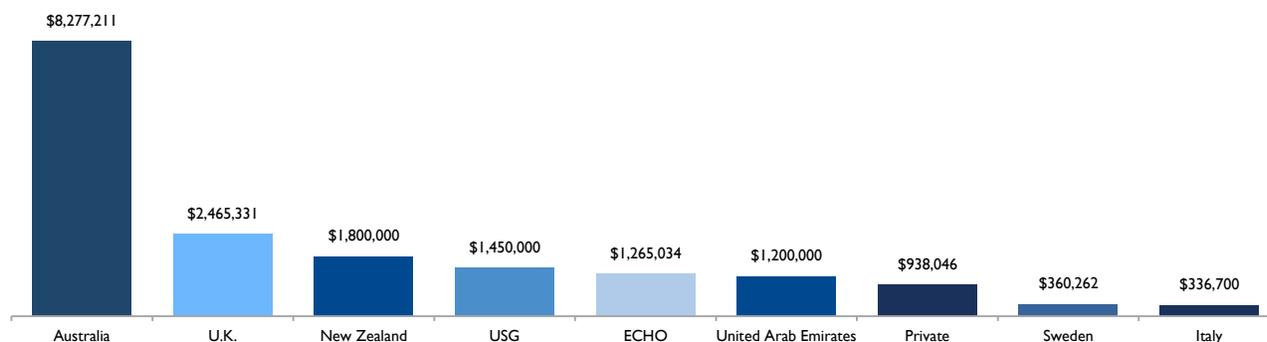
governments of New Zealand, Australia, and Fiji. The Tuvalu Red Cross expects to dispatch additional assistance, including shelter materials and food, to the islands in the coming days.

- On the island of Nui, the GoT is working to find temporary shelter solutions for residents living in evacuation centers due to widespread flooding, according to media reports. Approximately 70 families were reportedly living in schools on the island as of March 25.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 to IFRC to distribute emergency relief items and offer basic WASH assistance to cyclone-affected households in Tuvalu.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Between March 10 and 12, Tropical Cyclone Pam brought heavy rains, rough seas, and strong winds to the Solomon Islands, particularly in eastern areas. Per international media reports, Tropical Cyclone Pam destroyed some houses and vegetation in the country’s easternmost province of Temotu, particularly affecting Anuta and Tikopia islands. The cyclone may have affected as many as 30,000 people in Temotu and Malaita provinces, IFRC estimates.
- International and national humanitarian organizations, including IFRC, the Solomon Islands Red Cross, and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) are providing assistance in the Solomon Islands, according to OCHA. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 to World Vision to aid the country’s storm-affected households.

### 2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of March 27, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments based on the fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2014. The majority of funding is supporting the response in Vanuatu.

### CONTEXT

- Tropical Cyclone Pam formed in the South Pacific Ocean on March 9 and brought strong winds, heavy rains, storm surges, and floods to several island countries—including Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu—as it tracked southward over several days. The storm passed over central and southern Vanuatu as a Category 5 storm on March 13 and 14, resulting in extensive damage.
- The USG declared disasters in Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and the Solomon Islands due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Pam. On March 14, U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu Walter North declared a disaster in Vanuatu. U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu Judith Beth Cefkin issued a disaster declaration for Tuvalu on March 15, while U.S. Chargé d’Affaires for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu Melanie Higgins declared a disaster in the Solomon Islands on March 18.
- As the storm developed, USAID/OFDA deployed staff to the South Pacific in preparation for a potential humanitarian response. Due to the storm’s impact on Vanuatu, two USAID/OFDA regional advisors traveled to Port Vila, Vanuatu, to assess humanitarian conditions and help coordinate USG response activities in collaboration with USG interagency staff, regional humanitarian actors, and other donors. USAID/OFDA staff based in the region remain in contact with U.S. mission disaster relief officers and other USG staff to continue tracking humanitarian developments in countries affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES  
AFFECTED BY TROPICAL CYLONE PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>VANUATU</b>			
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
FRC	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$100,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO VANUATU FY 2015</b>			<b>\$1,350,000</b>

<b>TUVALU</b>			
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
IFRC	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO TUVALU IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>

<b>SOLOMON ISLANDS</b>			
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
World Vision	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$1,450,000</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 27, 2015.

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>