Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

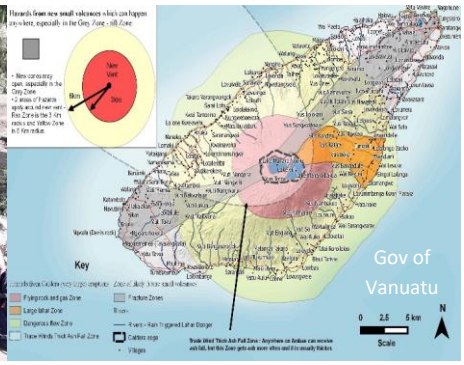
Vanuatu

Ambae Volcano Response

State of Emergency
13th April to 13th July, 2018

Santo Ambae Disaster Support Community: Dóh Réh Tée

Shelter Cluster Vanuatu



NEED ANALYSIS

- From 8th February to 12th April, 2018, Ambae Island's Manaro Voui Volcano sustained volcanic emissions of ash and gases, with significant ash fall impact across much of Ambae, contaminating water sources, destroying food gardens and leading to the collapse of local-style dwellings and kitchens. Approximately 1,600 affected people evacuated to around 17 evacuation centres (13 in the East and 4 in the West) and various host community sites.
- On 31st March, heavy rain on Ambae caused flash flooding that destroyed Waluibue Village resulting in an additional 29 households/115 individuals requiring permanent relocation.
- The entire population of Ambae Island, about 2,635 households or 10,112 people, are considered to be affected. Initial findings indicated at least 1,240 households were severely affected by both TC Hola, which came through the region in early March, and early ash fall from the Ambae volcano.

RESPONSE

- The response has been nationally-led, with strategic direction driven by Council of Ministers' decisions. The first on established the State of Emergency (SoE) for 3 months, declared Ambae a disaster zone and mandated off-island evacuation of the entire population. The second decision changed the evacuation from mandatory to voluntary, within a "2nd Home on Maewo" relocation scheme.
- Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is the primary cluster partner, and have carried out initial, small and highly targeted emergency shelter & NFI distributions at the beginning of the response period while the Government of Vanuatu requested a delay in implementation until the Maewo scheme could be started, allowing affected people to be targeted on Maewo after relocation.
- At the end of the SoE, some voluntary relocation had taken place, but the majority of Ambaeans were still on-island, so the government gave the green light to VRCS to commence with shelter & NFI distributions to 1,000 most affected households on Ambae.
- Shelter Cluster Vanuatu deployed a hub coordination support team member to Ambae to support local coordination structures and carry out community consultations, and solicited in-country support from the Global Shelter Cluster – Roving Housing Land & Property (HLP) Advisor to help address HLP issues.

GAPS / CHALLENGES

- Despite the SoE, there has been no coordinated funding appeal, limited emergency funding available to cluster leads and none for a proposed shelter assessment.
- VRCS has been the cluster's sole partner for this response, and their full response has been delayed due to government request.
- Initial lack of overall strategic direction with clear objectives for the emergency response and "2nd Home on Maewo" relocation scheme.
- Centralized coordination structure, minimal input or consultation of affected people and provincial stakeholders.

CLUSTER TEAM

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KEY DATES

- First Ash Fall Event:
  8th February to 12th April, 2018
- State of Emergency:
  13th April to 13th July, 2018
- Current IFRC in-country support:
  16th April to 26th August, 2018

KEY DOCUMENTS

- Ambae Community Consultations
- NDMO: Key Messages "2nd Home on Maewo"

KEY LINKS

- Shelter Cluster: Vanuatu Ambae Volcano 2018
- ReliefWeb: Vanuatu: Monaro Volcano - Mar 2018
- NDMO: Ambae Volcano Activity 2018

KEY FIGURES

1	2,635 / 1,000
Cluster partners	Households affected / targeted