

Consultation with Waluweibue and Waluriki Communities

Location of Consultation: Waluriki Community, North Ambae

Date of Consultation: 12th June 2018

Date Findings Presented to PEOC: 13th June 2018

Visit Conducted By / Report drafted by: Alice Jefferson (Shelter Cluster), visit supported by Save the Children who were conducting monitoring of a child-focussed project in same location.

NB: This was a short, primarily shelter-focussed but non-technical consultation that has potentially highlighted multi-sectorial issues, pending further technical assessment by other sectors. The subsequent report was requested by Provisional Evacuation Operations Centre (PEOC).

1 Event Background

On the evening of Friday 30th March 2018, a lahar (described as a 'flash flood / landslide') struck the village of Waluweibue, North Ambae destroying damaging or destroying the majority of the villager's homes and key community buildings. The village was originally home to over 30 households. Waluweibue lies next to the coast at the bottom of a slope at the northern side of Manaro Voui volcano. The villages have also experienced the impacts of ashfall from the volcano during eruptive activity in both 2017 and 2018.



Figure 1 Damage to Waluweibue Village

2 Consultation Approach

On 12th June a member of the Shelter Cluster support team accompanied Save the Children on a visit to Waluriki Evacuation Centre (North Ambae).

The support team member made visual observations of both the evacuation centre in Waluriki and Waluweibue village plus held two group discussions in Waluriki.

- **Group Discussion A:** Involving an est. 15-20 Waluweibue community representatives who were currently living in the Waluriki EC. There were both male and female representatives present. The community had suffered severe damage during the lahar.
- **Group Discussion B:** Involving an est. 10-15 Waluriki community members (host community) who were not displaced but were sharing resources with Waluweibue community and had suffered from ash fall. (*Please see request table on pg6*)
- **Key Informant Consultation:** Following the group discussion, there was a short additional consultation with one female key informant from the Waluweibue community.
- **Visit to Waluweibue village** to observe damage

3 Group A: Waluweibue 'Evacuee' Community

Displacement Summary:

- On Good Friday at 0200, Waluweibue community members, (comprising of 31 households (HH) / 119 individuals), self-evacuated to nearby 'high' land after being alerted to the sound of falling rocks and mud.
- There were no reported injuries or deaths however much of the village was destroyed including family homes and community buildings such as the school.
- Significant material including large rocks were deposited over the community's land. A large gully was also created through the centre of the community, running south (from 'uphill') towards the north (the sea).
- Most peoples' possessions including household items, furniture and clothes were destroyed. Limited items have been salvaged.
- The entire community then evacuated to nearby Waluriki (est. 1.5km East) where many households have remained for the past 2-3 months.
- An est. 3 HH that have subsequently travelled to Santo and Villa. It was not clear when these families left and what their attentions are for returning.
- In addition, secondary school students have been relocated to Maewo or Santo as part of the broader decision to move all secondary students from Ambae. The location of where the children were sent depends on which school they had attended in Ambae.
- Immediate assistance and supplies were provided by numerous local actors including, but not limited to, the police, local government, community including Church groups and the Red Cross,

Group A: Additional Feedback from Waluweibue Community

- Majority of homes in Waluweibue, typically constructed of either concrete & iron roofing or 'traditional houses', were reported as "badly damaged" or destroyed by the evacuee community.
- The community said that they sometimes pay builders / carpenters to construct homes rather than self-build.
- It was stated that iron roofing materials could perhaps be salvaged and then reused.
- Education for primary-school aged children was taking place at a nearby school (given damage to original school in Waluweibue).
- Food was not fully discussed during the focus group.
- No significant health issues were reported by the evacuee community and it was stated that Health 'EMT' visits take place once a week.
- No significant livelihood information was shared by the evacuee community bar the main pre-disaster activities being fishing, copra and garden crops.
- The evacuee community do not view returning to the village's original site as an option given the amount of damage.

4 Group A: Intentions and Expectations

Intentions and Maewo: Registration of intentions by NDMO (relating to Govt. of Vanuatu '2nd Home on Maewo' scheme) had been recently completed by the Waluweibue Community. The community reported being given two options: "stay in Ambae or move to Maewo". The majority reported selecting "Maewo" as the only viable option open to them. Full data will be available from NDMO.

Concern over Land Rights: The evacuee community raised questions and concerns relating to HLP (Housing, land and property) rights on Maewo during the consultation including;

- Who owns the land?
- What are our rights?
- Should we expect a certificate as evidence?

Site Visit Request: The evacuee community have requested that a representative(s) of the community are given the opportunity to visit the Maewo site early in the process in order to learn more and feedback to the community prior to moving.

Expectation from Government for Housing: Of those who selected the option of a '2nd Home on Maewo', the expectation is that the Government will build new housing for each family (to the same / better standard than their homes pre-disaster", and once everything is ready the families will be moved to Maewo. Community members would also like to be included within the design process.

Expectation of Timeframe: The community had understood from NDMO-led awareness sessions that the move to Maewo would be completed by July 30th, 2018.

Other Intentions: In addition to indicating their intention to take the '2nd home option', the community has stated they are exploring other recovery options, including possible settlement options on Ambae. This was explained as ensuring they still had a permanent "1st home" on Ambae. If a suitable site was agreed, the community explained that they would require "support".

5 Group A: Vulnerable Groups

- Only partial information was gathered relating to vulnerable groups. Two pregnant mothers and two widows were referenced during the consultation, as well as elderly members of the community. Additional information may be available from Gender & Protection / NDMO.

6 Group A: Evacuation Centre – Summary of Key Findings Table

No.	Area / Issue	Description
1.	TIME SPENT IN EC All	Families are living/sleeping in a number of small community buildings for an extended period (2-3months).
2.	OVERCROWDING Shelter / Protection	Buildings were described as “overcrowded” – supported by visual observations. Example of one building is a “community meeting house” (traditional materials, pitched roof extending to the ground) where 5HH (20+ people) are living. Another building was smaller and made of concrete with a roof constructed of iron sheeting. <div data-bbox="1050 544 1449 842" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1046 844 1449 900" data-label="Caption"> <p>Figure 2 Community Meeting House, Waluriki EC</p> </div>
3.	LACK OF PRIVACY Protection	Complaints of “a lack of privacy” – supported by visual observation. Some makeshift divides between the families made from material but this does not appear to offer any real privacy.
4.	NOT ENOUGH MATTRESSES Protection / Shelter & NFI	Sleeping arrangements were highlighted as a concern. Requests were made for additional mattresses as there were only 12 single mattresses for 100+ individuals. It is unclear if there are additional needs for vulnerable persons.
5.	LIMITED LIGHTING Protection / Shelter NFI	Lighting was reported as an issue - some kerosene lights and battery-powered torches were provided to the evacuee community but families said that they will not have access to batteries when they run out, and requested solar lights.
6.	LACK OF LATRINES Wash / Protection	Evacuee community also highlighted the issue that they only had access to two latrines (for 100+ individuals). It was also stated that there was no lighting at the latrines.
7.	LIMITED ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER Wash	Access to water was highlighted as a key challenge. When first displaced, evacuee community were using the host community’s well. This was unsustainable as the usage exceeded available water. There is also at least one water tank however families were unsure of how boiling water would remove the ash contamination from both the well and tank.

Group A: Summary of Support Received to Date

- Various food / clothing / basic item donations from provincial government / other communities during initial response.
- Shelter / Non-Food Items: Red Cross provided small amount of emergency shelter / basic NFI items early in the response.
- Health: Weekly EMT have been visiting the EC
- Wash: Save the Children have provided 'tippy taps' along with child-focussed projects (e.g. Child-Friendly Space at the host primary school).
- Gender & Protection: Care have distributed sanitary items to evacuees est. 1 month ago and participated in the NDMO-led registration activity, capturing information about vulnerable groups.

NB: Evacuee community member 'Wendy' maintains a comprehensive list of all support received and has been travelling to / from Saratamata Provincial Office on a semi-regular basis to seek updates.

7 Recommendations

This rapid consultation with has potentially identified a number of critical, immediate needs that sectors are encouraged to technically assess further and respond to, where appropriate (see 'Group A: Evacuation Centre – Summary of Key Findings Table'). The report will be shared with partners in the Penama PEOC and with national-level colleagues.

- Based on discussions carried out and by direct observation, is strongly recommended that recovery and settlement needs are better understood and addressed of this and other affected communities, with further community consultation and participation in future planning.
 - A recommended first step is to better understand the current status of land negotiations for '1st home' in East Ambae that were referenced by the focus group.

NB: A request list from '**Group Discussion B: Waluriki Communities**' is available as 'Annex 1' one pg 6.

Annex 1: Group B - Priority Requests from Waluriki Host Community

Received from Community leaders / Primary School Principle

For	What	Spec Request from Community	Purpose as Described by Principle / Community
Vanuemarama Primary School, North Ambae	Materials for the construction of 4 x toilets	'VIP' (?20ft x 13pcs?)	To upgrade primary school toilets.
	Tarpaulin(s)	Large	Materials for temporarily repairing the classroom roof.
	New classroom building	TBC	In part to help cope with the influx of additional primary school students for Waluweibue.
Waluriki Community	Materials for the construction of toilets	'VIP'	Provision of more community toilets, in part to help with the needs of the Waluweibue residents (evacuees) currently living in Walariki community buildings. As of June 12th, over 100 evacuees are sharing 2 community toilets - type unknown.
Waluriki indiv. Household use, North Ambae	5pcs iron roof x 36HH	?	To "complete 36 HH toilets" (concrete base and toilet seat originally provided by ADRA).

Please contact Principle Andrew at Vanuemarama School for further information.