

Community Leader Consultation

St. Patrick's College Evacuation Centre

Location of Consultation: St. Patrick's College, North Ambae Area Council

Date of Consultation: 13th June 2018

Date Findings Presented to PEOC: 15th June 2018

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

NB: This was a short, primarily shelter & settlement-focused non-technical consultation that has potentially highlighted multi-sectoral issues, pending further technical assessment by other sectors. This subsequent report was presented to Provisional Evacuation Operations Centre (PEOC) & partners.

1 Event Background

In April 2018, Manaro Volcano started emitting ash that destroyed or damaged sleeping dwellings, kitchens and community buildings as well as gardens across the six villages consulted from Kamal Tambe Tamata ward of North Ambae Area Council, who are currently sheltering at St. Patrick's College evacuation centre of North Ambae Area Council. As reported by respective community leaders, these affected villages include (village spelling may be incorrect):

1. Lolobifuneh (1 dwelling destroyed, 3 damaged of 11 households [HH] in total)
2. Lofuifetu (2 kitchens damaged, 1 kitchen destroyed of 22 HH in total)
3. Saraebolo (9 dwellings damaged of 9 HH in total)
4. Lomalang (7 dwellings destroyed of 15 HH in total)
5. Wainasasa (17 dwellings destroyed of 22 HH in total) {Community leader was also headmaster of St. Patrick's College}
6. Wan Hill (2 dwellings destroyed of 13 HH in total)

As reported by respective community leaders, in total this amounts to about 92 HH originally affected. Of those 92 HH, the community leaders reported around 85 HH (around 300 people) initially displaced to the St. Patrick's College evacuation centre after the event, and at the time of this consultation this figure had reduced to "less than 50 HH / 100 people." Community leaders reported that of those that have left the evacuation centre, "most have gone to Vila or Santo."

For comparison, according to 29th May evacuation centre data collection by Vanuatu Red Cross Society, the Kamal Tambe Tamata area population is reported as:

Name	Household	Population	No. of Males	No. of Females
"Kamaltamata"	92	344	183	146

Community leaders reported that the dwellings in their villages consisted of “mostly” local houses (natangora, bush materials), and “a few” semi-permanent dwellings (understood to be dwellings of mixed materials, for example concrete foundation with bush material construction) and permanent dwellings (understood to be dwellings of concrete foundations, timber construction, and corrugated iron roofing).

Qualification of “destroyed” was reported as needing complete reconstruction, and “damaged” examples were reported as including partially collapsed or leaking roofs. Communities reported that the available natangora growing around the communities had been damaged by the ash fall, and that it would take “about one year” for the natangora to grow back to a stage where it can be harvested and used as building material for new construction and/or repairs.

2 Consultation Approach & Methodology

On 13th June this Shelter Cluster support team member accompanied Save the Children on a short visit to St. Patrick’s College evacuation centre in North Ambae Area Council.

The support team member requested direct consultation with each of the six community leaders, and the discussion was accompanied by additional feedback from about approximately 25-30 community members, evenly split between men and women and including older members of the communities.

The objectives of the consultation were to:

1. Hear how these communities have been affected from a shelter & settlement perspective.
2. Get feedback from affected communities on the process and decision-making behind the choice they registered on the intention survey.
3. Gauge how informed their choices have been to date.
4. Hear community expectations of the “2nd home on Maewo” scheme.

3 Intentions and Expectations

Intentions and Maewo: Registration of intentions by NDMO (relating to Govt. of Vanuatu “Move to Maewo (2nd home)” scheme) had been recently carried out. The community reported being given two options: “stay in Ambae or move to Maewo”. However, they reported that they requested to the intentions survey enumerator if they could have the benefits of the “Move to Maewo (2nd home)” scheme, but instead of Maewo it be on *Santo*, i.e. a plot of land provided, a home built for them and services increased on Santo (as the messaging is understood). It is unclear what exactly prompted this request, considering it is not presented as an option during the intentions survey. The community presented reasons why a move to Maewo would be inappropriate for them:

- A larger Ambae population moving to Maewo would “overcrowd” Maewo people.
- Less employment opportunities on Maewo
- Most livelihood activities centred on cash crops, and the market on Maewo would not be big enough to be unsustainable.
- Transportation issues. One community member indicated: “Boat transport between Ambae and Maewo is more expensive and more infrequent than between Ambae and Santo.” Transportation by boat to Maewo was reported as costing 15,000 VUV (plus any land transportation to resettlement sites) vs. 3,000 VUV to Santo.

- More family connections on Santo than on Maewo.
- On Santo, they would have more opportunity to own titled land, rather than any type of tenure on Maewo that the government would provide as they understood (own any new land outright & titled vs. government loan, lease, etc).

The communities also reported that if they had been consulted in the first place as to what their preferences would be, their first option would have been to request support to return to their home villages first, and their second option would be for support to move to Santo. Maewo would not have been a consideration.

Concern over Land Rights: The communities also raised questions and concerns relating to HLP (Housing, land and property) rights on Maewo during the consultation, with the main point raised being the lack of clarity around what the plot allocation actually means, legally speaking. Community members expressed their preference to own land outright, as opposed to lease or custom scenario.

Expectation from Government for Housing: Regardless of whether the community felt like their request of support to move to Santo was entertained, or if they were to move to Maewo, their expectation was that the Government of Vanuatu would be providing housing for them.

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: The community agreed that regardless of how the next few months carried out, their biggest need for support was to “secure” their “1st” home before considerations for their “2nd” home.

4 Vulnerable Groups

- Only partial information was gathered relating to vulnerable groups as community members reported that there were “elderly and disabled” members of the community. Additional information may be available from Gender & Protection Cluster, Save the Children or NDMO.

5 Places of origin/original villages – Summary of Key Findings Table

No.	Area / Issue	Description
1.	SHELTER Protection / Shelter NFI	Community members report local houses, built by individual households of natangora and bush materials, would be difficult to repair given that natangora plants have been affected by ash fall and would take up to one year to grow back to harvestable age & size. Community requested tarpaulins, fixings, building materials and tools to assist with securing their “1 st ” homes before moving on to any other option.
2.	FOOD AND GARDENS Food Security	Gardens were damaged by ash fall, additionally, while residents have been away, unattended animals have entered gardens and damaged crops. However, with recent rainfall they have reported that they expected some crops to start growing back.
3.	LIMITED ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER WASH	Community leaders reported that their tank and well sources of water have been “spoiled” by ash fall.

6 Evacuation Centre – Summary of Key Findings Table

No.	Area / Issue	Description
4.	TIME SPENT IN EC All	Families are living/sleeping within a number of community and school buildings for an extended period (2-3months).
5.	FOOD QULAITY Food Security Cluster	Although community members reported adequate amounts of food, they complained of quality and variety, for example only receiving tinned meat and rice. They requested “more noodles and vegetables so we can stay healthy.”
6.	TOILETS WASH / Protection	Toilets were reported to be “smelly”, and “too small” for adequate access by the elderly and persons living with disabilities
7.	LIMITED ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER WASH	Community leaders reported access to one bore hole on site, however, they suggested that if they were to be provided with water tanks, they could collect rain water themselves off the school buildings to meet their needs.

7 Recommendations

This rapid consultation has potentially identified sectoral issues 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.