

Shelter Cluster Vanuatu – Meeting Notes

Meeting:	Shelter Cluster Vanuatu Cluster Meeting		
Date:	07 Sept 2018	Time:	1300
Meeting Facilitator:	Harold Allanson, Lead	Location:	Public Works Department (PWD)
Minutes Prepared By:	Robert Dodds	SCV Website	https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/vanuatu-ambae-volcano-2018

Agenda

Attendance: See attached attendance sheet

Agenda:

- Action items from previous meeting
- Current situation Maewo & Santo
- Response update – partner updates for Maewo and Santo
- Strategy update – intermediate term
- Update on long-term resettlement
- AOB

Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic

Action items from previous meeting

- Most items complete.
- Contingency planning to be discussed in this meeting.
- Environment representative not present at this meeting.

Current situation In Maewo and Santo

Maewo

- 2,662 individuals and 780 households with a total of 39 host communities. (28th August, NDMO Sit Rep #20)
- Registration and data compilation for Ambae evacuees in Maewo is completed as of 28th August 2018.
- Many emergency shelters not designed / constructed to withstand heavy rains.
- Evacuees staying with host communities, host families, in new settlements, in evacuation centres and some are renting.

Santo

- Estimated 4,250 people (13th August, NDMO Sit Rep #16)
- Registration of evacuees ongoing. Logistics challenges due to dispersed settlements. (NDMO sitrep 22, 06/09/2018)
- 66 vulnerable evacuees in Luganville, 33 of which are carers of those with special needs. (NDMO sitrep 20, 28/08/2018)
- COM decision 28/08/2018 approves that Government provides emergency food and relief items for displaced Ambae people who have voluntarily moved to Santo, and that the Sanma Provincial Government is supported to help manage this. Humanitarian partners are advised to cooperate with NDMO to streamline efforts to address humanitarian needs.
- Critical gaps reported in emergency shelter support for up to 300 households (shelter cluster scoping mission 14-17 August).

Response update – partner updates from Maewo and Santo

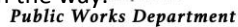
Maewo

Morgan (PWD) – presented photos on slides 5-12. Emergency shelters built with 2 tarps by Vanuatu Red Cross (VRCS) and PWD. Local materials such as natangora have been incorporated where available, provided by chiefs. Some of the tarps have been used at nakamals to shelter young and widowed men.

Harold (PWD). Some tarps have been leaking, generally those which have been installed on flat roof structures. Technical advice has been given to these families by PWD and VRCS, as well as copies of the Besik Konstraksen Hanbuk. Flooding is an issue in swampy areas. The Penama shelter team is now making a report to be submitted to NDMO to advocate for families to be moved out of swamps.

Augustine (VRCS). Communication is lacking, people don't have information about the current level of the volcano. Few coordination meetings are taking place. Many communities have concerns over livelihood. Every community has different issues - soap, food, water. If weather is good, there is not a problem with shelter. Heavy rain is a challenge for evacuees. Some tarps are leaking where they have been nailed, have an insufficient overlap or have been installed flat. VRCS continues to provide advice to households on drainage, roof slope, good joints, and low-lying areas where water rises up through the ground. Some

shelters have been constructed too close to the shoreline, and at risk of storm surge and strong north winds which can come up for 7 days at a time. Some tents from the 2017 response are being used and are in poor condition. VRCS has been working with health and education to set up communal tents and working with CARE for mapping of safe shelters. Cyclone shutters will need to be installed on some buildings if they are to be used as shelters. Further distribution of tarps has taken place. VRCS and PWD assessed a landslide yesterday, report is on the way.

 Public Works Department

Step (CARE) – presented photos on slides 26-35. Many emergency shelters are constructed from green bamboo frames with tarps and won't withstand heavy rain or cyclones. Immediate shelter needs on Maewo are being met. Cyclone season and longer term needs more attention. Some people are living in shelters with 8 families. People already starting to improve their shelters in what seems to be a natural and organic process. Some upgrades are entirely new using natural materials. Relationships between communities seem amicable. Rasa URE keen to avoid an environmental disaster through over-use of tarps. There is a question mark over quantity of natural materials available on Maewo such as natangora and bush rope. CARE procuring tie wire and nails. Many rainwater catchment tanks not being used next to the EOC. What's the plan for that? 4 separate landslides reported, people sheltering with neighbours.

Francois (Independent).

Recommended technical designs from the current response in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh can be suitable for Maewo, particularly for reinforcing emergency shelters with bracing, cyclone straps and anchoring.

Sex and age disaggregated data

- Kathleen (CARE). Has data been collected on women headed households?
- Caroline (IOM). Yes, sex and age disaggregated data has been collected by NDMO with IOM support. Headline data has been shared in NDMO sitreps.

Mapping of evacuation centres

- Jeff (resettlement coordinator NDMO/PMO). What's the process and status of mapping of evacuation centres?
- Step (CARE). A few villages have been done in the north of the island with CDCCCs. During the recent CARE mission, the team inspected cyclone shelters. There is one pre-fabricated cyclone shelter with external shutters which functions as an Adventist church on a normal day and has a 200+ people capacity. Some other buildings can be improved by installing cyclone shutters and other cost-effective measures such as installing more nails in roof sheeting and nail plates on trusses. Many buildings already have wooden shutters with no glass, which is ideal. Some large classrooms are available. It seems like both host and displaced populations can be sheltered during a storm. Access will be challenging if roads are cut off by storm water in overflowing streams. Some church roof trusses are not well connected, with skew nails on one side, and connector plates on the other. Traditional nakamals exist which good in cyclones.
- Megan (CARE). CARE is setting up new CDCCCs as well as working with existing ones. Some are from Ambae and have re-established themselves in their new places. The CDCCCs are the entry point and coordination point at community level. CARE is also mapping women's groups to better tap in to the community and enhance information flow. The CDCCS and women's groups can potentially lead awareness around the evacuation centres.
- Caroline (IOM). Can NDMO volunteers be engaged in this process along with the CDCCCs? For mapping of evacuation centres, it's recommended to use the guideline. Evacuation Centre Guidelines and checklist can be found here: https://ndmo.gov.vu/resources/downloads/com_jaextmanager/category/17-evacuation-centre-guidelines
- Jeff (resettlement coordinator NDMO/PMO). Has sheltering in banyan trees been investigated?
- Harold (PWD). Not so many banyan trees present on Maewo.
- Augustine (VRCS). A simplified 'early warning early action' approach is suggested in the emergency context, as setting up and training of CDCCCs can be a lengthy process best done when the community is able to commit adequate time to follow all steps and training required to establish a CDCCC (not during an emergency response).

Santo

- Harold (PWD). Presented photos on slides 14-16. Many people have carried possessions and emergency shelter assistance received on Ambae, but there are still big emergency shelter gaps. Airport upgrading underway, meaning that 600+ HH will need to move out from Banban area. Meeting going on to explain this to communities.
- Augustine (VRCS). VRCS has responded to another 150 HH with distributions of family kits. Some churches hosting people are asking them to move out. Clusters still waiting for government to release funds.
- Megan (CARE) CARE doesn't work in Santo but would be interested to ask DFAT for feedback following their recent mission to Santo. A shelter assessment is needed and may be supported by donor partners through existing partnerships.
- Robert (IFRC). Agreed that an assessment is needed. Shelter Cluster should also support the ongoing registration to avoid duplication of information collection.
- Jeff (resettlement coordinator NDMO/PMO). Could be a good opportunity to conduct a multi-sector assessment. Direct



letter to NDMO Director is suggested. VANGO doing an assessment already.

- Robert (IFRC). Suggested to develop this process at provincial level with local government and partners.

Strategy update – intermediate term

Public Works Department

Maewo

1. Support evacuees and host families to reinforce and weatherproof their shelters through provision of local material and technical support
2. Support community-led preparedness for the upcoming cyclone season through
 - mapping of location and capacity of evacuation centres/safe houses
 - remedial repair of evacuation centres/safe houses
 - Contingency planning & simulation exercises

Santo

1. Support ongoing registration processes to identify vulnerable groups to better understand priority shelter needs

Comments from partners

- Harold (PWD). Environmental considerations to be taken in to account to minimize impact. PWD would prefer to work on community buildings which would serve as community safe shelter, rather than at individual household level.
- Step (CARE). Currently ordering nails and tie wire to strengthen shelters. Rope as cross bracing. Awareness needed in parallel. Foundations weakest part.
- Megan (CARE). DFAT funding for multi-sectoral programming. Will act based on CARE's recent mission report, prioritizing low-cost, high impact activities. Advocacy around shelter. Big needs and big gaps. Advocacy to donors. Will look to recommendations, CDCCCs and safe house awareness. Moving people from sites to slightly different location.
- Augustine (VRCS). Good knowledge exists in communities.
- Caroline (IOM). CCCM to continue to support NDMO. If a site is not suitable, IOM can fund movement of people from one site to another. Funding available for trainings and capacity building. IM and CCCM focus but could potentially extend to support safe shelter awareness. Unlikely that funding could cover hardware such as nails and strapping.

Update on long-term resettlement

Jeff (resettlement coordinator NDMO/PMO). The chiefs have come up with a specific proposal for evacuees to settle on sites 1 and 4 (not yet endorsed). People who have lived on sites 1 and 4 for 5 years will be accepted as Maewo people and be allowed access to sites 2 and 3 which are customary lands available for all Maewo people. The chiefs and government feel this is a good plan and it is expected to hear more on this from COMs over the coming days.

Megan (CARE). This approach raises gender and protection concerns including women being married off.

Jeff (resettlement coordinator NDMO/PMO)

- Jeff will move from NDMO to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) after the end of State of Emergency (SoE).
- A Communicating with Communities focal point will soon begin working with the resettlement team, to be based on Maewo. They will work closely with all teams on the ground including CDCCCs to engage the communities and better understand their needs.
- A Project Management team member will be based on Maewo.
- The Recovery Committee is forming a 'PDNA' group responsible for assessing recovery issues and mobilising resources to address them. It is foreseen that this group will be the counterpart of the resettlement coordinator.
- To minimise environmental impact, a large quantity of materials may need to be shipped to Maewo for construction activities. A pricelist is available for off-island materials, and the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation has indicated that they can do an environmental impact study.
- Once the SoE ends, the existing response budget may need to be reviewed.
- We will need to wait for future COM decisions to clarify direction around long-term resettlement.



Harold (PWD). Departments will deal directly with PMO on decisions around long-term resettlement.

Caroline (IOM)

- Flying Labs, a Ni-Van organisation has just returned from Fiji after completing a Bachelor of Geoscience in Fiji. Engaging their services could be investigated as a capacity development project.
- UNOSAT could do provide satellite imagery over a period of time to monitor environmental degradation.

AOB

Nothing to report.

Action Items

Action	Owner	Due Date
Prepare and submit report to NDMO to advocate for families to be moved out of swamps on Maewo.	Shelter Cluster Lead, Penama Province	14/09/2018
Obtain more information on reported landslides on Maewo, and provide assistance if required	Shelter Cluster Lead, Penama Province	14/09/2018
Obtain technical designs of intermediate-term shelter program in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh as a case study for Maewo.	Francois	14/09/2018
Request mission report from DFAT on their mission to Santo	Shelter Cluster Lead	14/09/2018
Conduct emergency shelter assessment on Santo	Shelter Cluster Lead	ASAP. High priority.
Obtain pricelist for off-island materials	Resettlement Coordinator	14/09/2018
Request clarification from WASH cluster on tanks beside EOC on Maewo.	Shelter Cluster Lead, Penama Province	14/09/2018
Engage Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation for an environmental impact study.	Shelter Cluster Lead / Resettlement Coordinator	14/09/2018

Next Meeting

Date:	TBD	Time:		Location:	Public Works Department
Comment:	The next Shelter Cluster Vanuatu meeting will be held in approximately two weeks' time.				