

Shelter Cluster Vanuatu – Meeting Notes

Meeting:	Shelter Cluster Vanuatu - Cluster Meeting		
Date:	17 October 2018	Time:	10:00
Meeting Facilitator:	Harold Allanson, Lead	Location:	Public Works Department (PWD)
Minutes Prepared By:	Xavier Genot	SCV Website	https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/vanuatu-ambae-volcano-2018

Agenda

Attendance: See attached attendance sheet

Agenda:

1. **Action Items** from previous meeting
2. **Santo** – Current Situation/partners updates
3. **Maewo** - Emergency shelter conditions / Evacuation Centers baseline assessments / partner updates / Second Home program
- Shelter Cluster recommendations**
4. **Shelter Cluster Terms of Reference**
5. **Safe Shelter Awareness**
- AOB**

Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic

Action items from previous meeting

Action	Owner	Due Date	Comments
1. NDMO to clarify terminology around evacuation centres to be used by partners in English and Bislama.	NDMO	15/10/2018	Pending. No NDMO representative at the meeting.
2. Sandra to send Francois key questions to inform labour market understanding.	OXFAM	01/10/2018	Francois prepared notice to be circulate to communities to map skilled and unskilled workers in Maewo. Database will be accessible to partners and for labour market assessment.
3. NDMO to circulate information on evacuation centres mapping plan to allow partners to see how they can contribute	NDMO	15/10/2018	Update during the meeting by IOM as no NDMO representative at the meeting.
4. VSC agreement to build safe shelter awareness strategy for current response and the 4 key messages	Shelter Cluster Lead / partners	From 28/09/2018 on	Update on section 5 of the meeting
5. Call for identification of an artist to help transfer of technical drawings within ni van culture	Shelter Cluster Lead / partners	As soon as identified	No inputs received to this call, more information on section 5 of the meeting

6. VSC to identify Lessons Learned from past resettlements in Vanuatu and regions, to inform ongoing response	Shelter Cluster Lead / CARE	For next meeting, tentatively 17/10/2018	Postpone. <i>Note: To assess if it should consider also TC PAM and other recovery programme, as second home will be managed following this type of framework. It might be useful to look at community mobilisation and cash for work programing impact in similar context.</i>
7. Request to PWD to look at G&P issues highlighted on assessment conducted in Santo	Shelter Cluster Lead / G&P cluster	15/10/2018	Pending, option to include in annex Gender & Protection key findings.
8. PWD and G&P cluster to look on finding housing solutions for evacuees displaced on Santo terminal	Shelter Cluster Lead / G&P cluster	15/10/2018	Pending.

Santo – Current Situation/partners updates

Aylick Loas is now the Shelter Cluster lead for Santo in replacement of Henry Wells.

Shelter Cluster team and NDMO visited an Ambae evacuees site at Marino Road.

- ✓ *6 communities (around 600 people) bought land to settle down their second home few months ago, in the aftermath of 2017 Ambae evacuation crisis.*
- ✓ *They have already clean some land and trees, planted some crops and build some houses, all on their own. Lack of technical knowledge around foundations, connections or bracing.*
- ✓ *They have not identified safe house/evacuation center in case of cyclone and have no CDCs in place.*

On Santo, 3 main groups of evacuees could be identified:

- *bought land and started to settle there, and build shelters/houses*
- *build land but have no resources to build anything,*
- *hosted on evacuation site, mainly in church compound*

The strategy developed for Maewo seems also relevant also for Santo, but there are no resources to do so at the moment.

Partners update:

Sharon (CARE on behalf of Gender & protection cluster):

- G&P cluster, is advocating to put as priority support to 7 HH (26 people) in Solewe, as they are in dire situation.

1. **Solwe** - Shelter is in the muddy, swampy area and families are sleeping in tents which are over-crowded and there is no privacy. They are sleeping on sheets of corrugated iron with a mattress on top. The tarps are not strong and leak when it rains. They are worried about cyclone season as the shelter is not strong and they are surrounded by trees. The outdoor kitchen is muddy and there are pools of dirty, stagnant water next to the kitchen, shelter and toilet. The bush toilet has overflowed and they don't use it anymore. A health staff member told us that if the level of the toilet water is the same as the mud then we already have hygiene and health issues. There is no shower facility and the community has to walk about 15-20 minutes each way to collect water

2. **A key issue with other sites is lack of strong, cyclone proof shelter.** Tents are leaking when it rains, tarps blow in the wind. Many toilets only have a tarp or material as the door and this blows in the wind. Outdoor kitchens are not sanitary and are over-crowded. In one site there is over 100 people using a toilet, in another site over 70 people use 2 toilets.

3. Land tenure and security is a huge issue. People need land to live on and grow vegetables on. We had many reports of people having to pay high rent and disputes as leases were exchanged between different land owners.

- In one case 7 people are claiming to own the land and the case is currently in court. The evacuees are scared as each potential land owner comes and asks them to pay rent to them.
- In another case, evacuees had paid 200,000vatu and then they had to pay 5,000 vatu each month in rent. Then the first landowner died and his brother asked for another 200,000 vatu and increased the rent amount to 35,000vatu a month.

4. Reports of security issues and evacuation sites not being safe:

- Shelter is often in isolated areas, with no land boundary and no houses close by
- Reports of clothes being stolen from clothes line
- Reports of trespassing and one report of a prisoner from the local correctional facility escaping and hiding in the bush near where the evacuees were living
- No privacy as strange people can walk into the evacuation sites - reports of people taking photographs without permission and posting them on FB.
- Reports of drunk people coming into the evacuation sites and swearing at the people from Ambae

5. Overcrowded shelter and lack of food is contributing to domestic violence and arguments between evacuee families and husband/wife.

Sandra (OXFAM):

- Program funded by a private charity and now mostly through MFAT funding
- Unconditional cash transfer in Santo and Maewo
- Will start in Santo and would be implemented after in Maewo pending assessment and partner contracting/agreement.
- A national feasibility assessment for Cash based intervention was done before the evacuation crisis unfolds. The assessment done in Maewo was not really positive, and should be revised with displacement impact. OXFAM has also no presence or current capacity in Maewo and is looking for partners interested in assessment on market evolution and potential Cash Based Intervention and potentially for implementation.
- In Santo, the national assessment shows positive results as for instance good access to market. OXFAM has signed MOUs with VDPA, VRCS, Local Authorities and Municipalities to implement program. An office has been setup in Santo and baseline survey will start next week. It will target up to 1600 displaced families & 300 host families. 3 month assistance period – followed by assessment of status & additional needs.
- The amount of is based on household minimum expenditure data (HIES)– 25% for displaced households (17,000), and Host households: 9% - 10% of minimum HH expenditure (7,000)
- For HH that have no national ID cards, Oxfam will produce some specific for this program, which could also support transition to National ID. With ID Card or Oxfam card, HH will be able to cash check at the bank. There will be an end line assessment
- OXFAM has setup an office with a team of 6 people.
- Cash transfer should start in November for Santo, depending on baseline survey and registration community by community.
- A Cash Working Group will be organized, tentatively next week.

Karin (Save the Children)

- SC conducted a rapid Food Security and Market Assessment in Maewo in August 2018 to determine the specificities of its FSL activities, funded by MFAT and DFAT.
- On 8th October, Save the Children rolled out its Cash for Work program on Maewo, with the aim of providing short-term cash in hand to 900 most vulnerable evacuee and host households (60%/40% split) over a period of 2 months. The first round of CfW took place in the North (Naone, Marino, Namumu), targeting 225 HHs.
- The CfW relies on communities and chiefs in deciding on the most relevant work to be conducted in the community at the time (This may involve community gardens, harvesting of local building materials, clearing of land. None of the CfW schemes supported by SC will involve the direct construction of emergency shelters/nakamals).
- In the next couple of weeks, the Save the Children team on the ground will be monitoring the initial impacts of the cash injections on the local market and the availability of supplies. The next round of CfW is tentatively planned for w/c 29th

October in the central area of the island- the target communities are yet to be defined.)

Caroline (IOM)

- On support of NDMO, will start to verify Santo registration data, based on FSAC data
- Original registration was 6300 individual originally, then 7300 after for the last round of verification.
- With Nathalie from NDMO, will crosscheck data on database for Santo and Maewo, to identify potential duplications.
- Clarification that ID number is head of HH one.
- On request of NDMO, IOM will also support the mapping of evacuation centers, based on approach developed by CARE with the Shelter Cluster, VRCS and NDMO in Maewo. But there is limited capacity and funding available for Santo.

Francois (CARE)

- We were lucky in Maewo to have experienced VRCS team leaders to lead Evacuation centers baseline assessment. This work could not be done by simple volunteers, if we want to have good results, and not waste time and resources that are scarce.

Xavier (Shelter Cluster, IFRC)

- Unfortunately VRCS representative could not attend the meeting, but it is important to understand that VRCS is in planning mode, after huge efforts in response with Disaster Emergency Response Fund (DREF) that is ending, VRCS delivered most of emergency shelter items and support so far.
- On the ground, branches and volunteers are always happy to support, but we should all understand that they have regulations as for allowance. Partners should coordinate at branch level, but also at national level.
- They are also prepositioning stocks for the next cyclone season, with IFRC Suva office support, for a total capacity to support 1300 HH with Shelter & NFIs. This is still ongoing and updated on the Pacific Logistic cluster platform .
- Other partners should also update their shelter/NFIs stocks, as this is key for preparedness for the incoming cyclone season.

Maewo - Emergency shelter conditions / Evacuation Centers baseline assessment / Partner updates / Second Home program

Emergency shelter conditions

Shelter Cluster team went on a rapid assessment on Monday 01/10 with South Ambae Area Secretary General to check the impact of the last days heavy rain on evacuation sites located along the southern part of the road from the EOC (around 60% of all evacuation sites in Maewo).

This assessment aimed also to check on type of emergency shelters built by people, to see if the proposed approach was appropriate (safe shelter awareness around 4 key messages and reinforcement shelter kits).

In one of the most vulnerable site (Talise), 68 HH are living in a 13 by 13 m2 shelter made with tarpaulins, bamboo structure and with some CGIs loaned by the community.

Serious impact in term of privacy.

They suffered for the first time flash flooding on 30/09 night, flooding their shelter but also community kitchen and other facilities. The evacuees are starting to implement deeper trenches but it's likely to be insufficient to face incoming rains.

Whatever the scenario of events unfolding:

- *HH resettled in new sites,*
- *HH staying temporarily on their displacement sites,*
- *HH going back on Ambae after State Of Emergency*

the Shelter Cluster approach around Safe Shelter Awareness and reinforcement kits seems relevant and therefore should be implemented, pending on resources available in response to CARE concept note

Recent heavy rain flooded some of the evacuation sites due to high level of water table, and some flash flooding occurred in some cases. This has an impact on evacuees that are already leaving in difficult emergency shelter conditions.

When heavy rain, crossing rivers at multiple occurrences becomes impossible by car and impossible/dangerous by walk

Evacuation Centers baseline assessment

A training was organised on 03/10 from 10:30 to 13:00 with the support of Shelter Cluster to NDMO.

Facilitated by François Sail, CARE shelter expert, in VRCS offices.

20 enumerators were trained (VRCS volunteers, CARE staff, NDMO/IOM volunteers, ASG from south and West Ambae). Province Disaster Officer, VRCS branch officer & chairman, Shelter Cluster Team attended also the training.

During first part, CARE facilitator explained the process, assessment questionnaire and use of KOBO on tablets loaned by CARE.

During the second part, enumerators conducted a sample assessment on a nearby church.

Sharon (CARE):

- During this monitoring mission, what were the findings from Shelter Cluster team on the strength of buildings to be used for EVC, to know the amount of work to be done.

Xavier:

- I could only look at the church used for the training. It's a solid building, but with some weakness as for veranda roof being connected to the main roof. There is a need there to do some work as for adding cyclone straps at a minimum. There are also missing doors and shutters for windows.

Note from CARE: This building is very representative of the situation of many more buildings that need reinforcement. Care will mainly work on:

- *Roofing: adding extra good roofing screw.*
- *Post to carpentry trusses : improve connection with thick galv plate connectors*
- *Reinforce carpentry trusses: add nail plate or thick galv plate with bolts system*
- *Add windows/doors where missing*
- *Add cyclone shutters where windows are glass louvers*

Partner updates

Francois (CARE)

1. Context of Maewo Shelter response

- Strategy based on CARE Shelter TA assessment visit on Maewo (26/08 > 04/09)
- Concept note sent to NZ MFAT on 28/09, approved via email 15/10 (pending contract)
- Budget approx. 360,000 NZD (25,000,000VUV) reduced to 300,000 NZD. It will not impact outcome 1 but reduce number of buildings to be reinforced for outcome 2, from 20 to 15
- Target schedule for implementation 3 months

2. Outcome 1 – Temporary family shelters improvements

- Approx. 500 HH are living in temporary shelters (60-65% of the 800 HH)
- Temporary shelters need to be reinforced for the Cyclone season
- Self recovery approach (with technical support) is appropriate

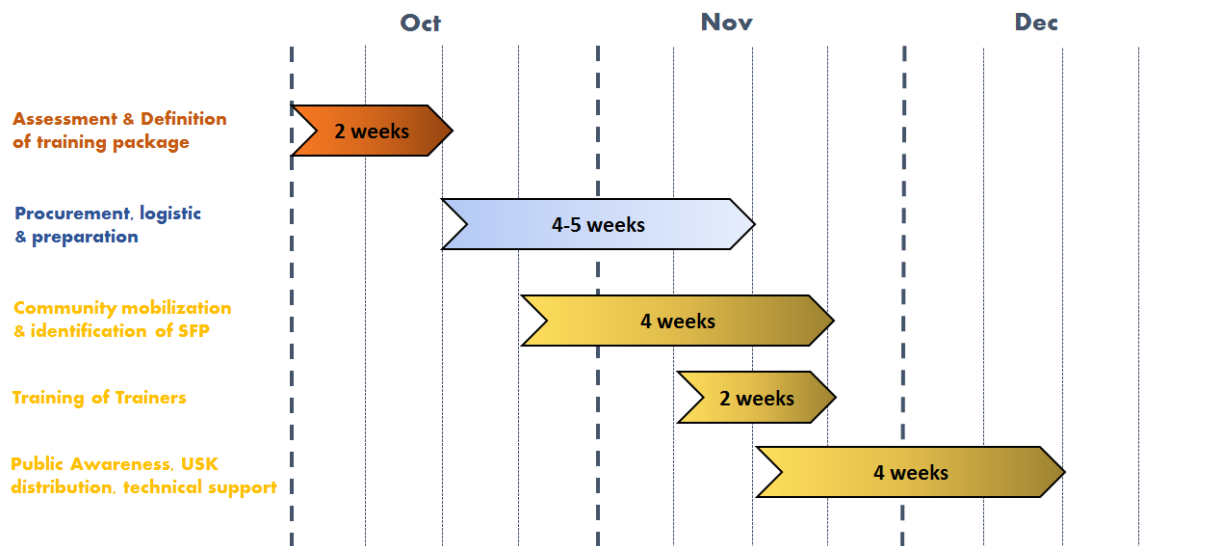
Proposition of action:

- Distribution of Upgrade Shelter Kits (500HH) + Community Tools kits (1 for 20HH)
- Technical support (Community Shelter Focal Point to be identified and trained)

Update from last SCV meeting:

- Different types of Shelter kits will be proposed according to the situation
- The Community Shelter Focal point won't be identified as CDCCC members
- Ongoing preparation for the Safe shelter Training package (with Shelter Cluster)

Planning for activity 1 - Temporary family shelters improvements



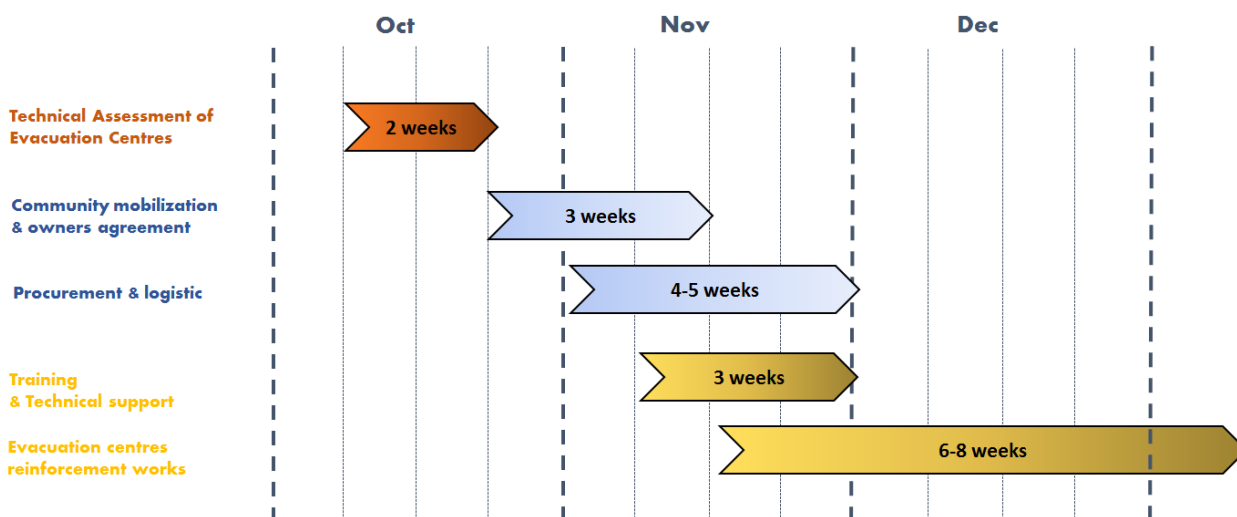
3. Outcome 2 – Access to safe cyclone shelters

- A rapid assessment on evacuation centres capacity shows a lack of 1,700 places
- Detailed mapping is needed (with potential blocks to access to be checked).
- Relocation and/or construction of additional cyclone shelters could be considered
- Proposition of action :
- Technical assessment following NDMO guidelines to be carried + mapping
- Reinforcement works to be done in close partnership with buildings owners

Update from last SCV meeting:

- 20 VRCS/NDMO volunteers trained (03/10)
- EC Baseline surveys done (08/10 > 12/10)
- Datas will be checked with NDMO (Alice/Natalie) on Maewo (19/10)

Planning for activity 2 – Reinforcement of Evacuation Centres



4. CARE Shelter team technical support

- Technical support to EOC Maewo (NDMO and Provincial authorities) for recovery & long terms solutions (construction of traditional safe house on resettlement sites)
- Technical support to other partners : SCV & Save the Children

Proposed approach:

- Technical focus group on Maewo community safe houses (Nakamal)
Visit done with NDMO on 04/10, Bill of quantities sent to NDMO (05/10)
- Technical support (sharing strategy & project documentation) for Shelter response on Santo

Francois (CARE):

- For EVC, all buildings have been assessed in a week and data are often good. He will check all data with Nathalie and Alice from NDMO when in Maewo end of this week. This will help to identify building suitable to be used for EVC. NDMO could not provide a introduction letter for enumerators, as stated in the guidelines. It was not an issue for the assessment part, but Shelter Cluster and NDMO need to support in liaison with VCC and Ministry of education.
- Shelter Cluster team (Harold and Xavier) is fully supporting these activities and fastracking support with Francois to develop needed Information Education Communication (IEC) material. More details later in the meeting.

Harold (PWD, Shelter Cluster coordinator)

- Yes Shelter Cluster will support as possible. As a reminder from last meeting discussion, NDMO, PWD and DLA should certify EVC after strengthening work being complete.

Francois (CARE):

- Care will implement this programme with 28 Shelter Focal points (from Maewo and Ambae communities). There is still need to define how it will work in term of allowance. The best would befor them to become CDCCCs members, but if so they could not receive allowance. This is a modality that require more discussion with communities.
- There will be no tarps in the kits distributed, but, as for IFRC shelter kit, the bag made of tarps might be the content of the kit. If the choice goes for a box, it will represent 10 to 20% of the cost. As Rase and chiefs don't want any more tarps in Maewo, Francois will discuss the issue with them.

Caroline (IOM)

- IOM is supporting NDMO to suggest the development of a salary scale for staff and allowances for communities, to be circulated to all partners. It should be checked also with finance department to fit with their current framework.

Francois (CARE):

- For outcome 1, we will identify shelter focal points with T shirt that are part of the Shelter Cluster safe shelter awareness approach. It might be possible to finalize all in time, as these activities will start mid November.
- On request of NDMO, Francois supported technical meeting on nakamal/safe house, with development of a Bill of Quantity.
- In discussion of the chiefs in Maewo, some knowledge on traditional construction methods have been lost, and a proposition have been made to have a delegation from Tanna, that is really strong on the field of traditional construction methods to come late October in Maewo to support on reactivation. Tanna delegation of 3 people is already identified, but still need confirmation from Maewo Chiefs for them to come. *(Note: this is not possible for the moment, and should be re assessed later on)*

Maewo - Second Home program

Note: Jeff from NDMO sent slides to update Shelter Cluster and partners on second home program. Unfortunately he could not join the meeting, and as there are no other NDMO representatives, Harold went through the slides with partners, to identify key issues and recommendations from Shelter Cluster.

Paul (Lands department):

- A team is in Maewo this week to start the first step of the survey, to map boundaries and GPS coordinates. This would take 2 weeks and is needed to address potential future land disputes. Final agreement between Government and Chiefs of Maewo could not be finalized before this survey is completed.
- Cleaning of parts of the land could start as Maewo chiefs know well the boundaries
- A second land survey will be needed after full cleaning, to plan settlement with households' plots, community space and other infrastructure. There is a need to agree on standards to be used.

Harold:

- To clear the land, heavy machinery are needed and funding to support this activities, for machines being on the island for fuel and maintenance, or bringing new one from other island in Vanuatu, as needed.
- PWD received request of support from NDMO, but need to wait for the first survey to know what needs to be cleared and second land survey, cleaning work, and community settlement planning before knowing infrastructures to be implemented on each land and funds needed.

General comments and recommendations:

- It seems that the target of priority households to be resettled rise from 156 to 300 HH. What is the reason and are we sure the lands could accommodate this.
- As forest has to be cleaned on identified lands, we shouldn't miss opportunity to save wood for building purpose.
- Shelter Cluster could support design, costing and recommendations, but building houses is out of its scope, it's a recovery program.
- Community safe house will be the first building to be erected on these sites. Women and children should be able to access it, even if we use the term nakamal, these buildings should be multipurpose
- Standards should be defined for planning, but it seems that there are none available. Participatory community planning should be done, with proper gender and inclusion process. This could not happen before cleaning and land survey are completed, to know actual number of HH and individual could be hosted on these sites
- The plan in the presentation should come with budget versus funds available, to allow stakeholders planning of activities. It should also reflect on implementing and piloting stakeholders. For the moment there is only a timeline with retro engineered steps, nothing after. At this stage it seems timely unlikely that households would be able to settle there before the end of SoE, but this does not mean that the project couldn't move on with first activities as for survey or cleaning.
- Access to basic services in settlement, or at proximity, should be ensured before communities to settle there, it should include WASH, Education, Health and livelihood. Is the Ministry of education involved, through their Ambae response plan.
- There is un-clarity at this stage on what would be the governance of these new settlements, how the resettled communities will organize themselves, from how it was in Ambae and how it will be now.
- Communication with communities is key there, for them to know what is happening and what are they choices, but also for them to contribute to the decisions made, as for community planning of the new settlements.
- The need for people to be safe during the cyclone season should be the first priority. The cyclone season is starting early November, and fast-tracking the resettlement of households might put them at risk if their new precarious settlement that might not have capacity to provide them access to sufficient safe house capacity, or isolating from access to existing safe infrastructure. There are concerns raised by a number of people in the meeting that if they move to the new sites during cyclone season they would be at greater risk. Clear messages to communities should be prepared and disseminated about managing risks and staying safe. Strategy defined by Shelter Cluster, and activities implemented include strengthening of existing evacuation centers capacity. Diverting most resources to resettlement of few households would minimize capacity to support evacuation centers capacity for the overall communities.

Vanuatu Shelter Cluster TORs

Only place where some kind of TOR, is on description of the 8 clusters section on NDMO website <https://ndmo.gov.vu/resources/clusters>

But missing description of Shelter Cluster (objectives, scope, etc...)

Proposed description drafted in consultation process with PWD and IFRC,

- To be submitted when finalized to NDMO
- To constitute the core of VSC TOR

The draft will be shared, as action points, with partners to get their inputs.

Safe Shelter awareness

- Vanuatu Shelter Cluster 4 key messages circulated to NDMO, to be included in key messages to communities in Maewo and Santo.
- 2 IEC material in development:
 - ✓ To be finalised with modification of few technical details and layout
 - ✓ To be translated in Bislama,
 - ✓ To be printed on a 2 sided A4 (laminated) – A2 poster
 - ✓ Shelter Cluster logo, PWD, IFRC, VRCS, CARE and other logo for partners supporting its dissemination
 - ✓ To be disseminated with distribution of material, training and other activities

A first version of the IEC material will be tested in Maewo by Francois with communities and stakeholders, then finalized at Port Vila level, before printing for further activities.

A drawing has been developed to reflect the current response, that will also be part of the safe shelter awareness approach, as it represents some of key measures to take (drainage or bracing).

The comments from meeting's participants will be integrated in the next version of the drawing.

It will be printed on the front side of the t shirt, with 4 key messages in the back. A first version will be developed for Shelter Cluster Coordination staff, and a second version for community member's shelter focal points.

AOB

1. The Academic-Practitioner Collaboration for Urban Settlements, South Pacific Visioning a Pacific-Focused Research Network is organising a workshop in Port Vila next Tuesday 23/10 in Port Vila. For any more information on APCUS and workshop, you can contact Jenie Day jday@unimelb.edu.au
2. The Vanuatu Shelter Cluster website has been updated with all last documents.

Action Items

Action	Owner	Due Date
Partners to update their shelter/NFIs stocks through the https://palm.logcluster.org/#/public/home website, in view of the incoming cyclone season	All partners	05/11/2018
G & P cluster priority support requested in Santo for 7 HH (26 people) in Solewe, as they are in dire situation.	All partners with will and capacity to	As soon as possible

			support	
OXFAM is looking for partners in Maewo for assessment and implementation of cash based interventions, in follow up of programme in Santo. For more information sandrah@oxfam.org.au			All partners	
NDMO to clarify terminology around evacuation centres to be used by partners in English and Bislama.			NDMO	As soon as possible
Request to PWD to look at G&P issues highlighted on assessment conducted in Santo. <i>During G&P 18/10 meeting, agreement for key findings and recommendations from G&P to be included in the Shelter Cluster report in annex. G&P to send their inputs</i>			Shelter Cluster Leader / G&P cluster	<i>During G&P 18/10 meeting, agreement for key findings and recommendations from G&P to be included in the Shelter Cluster report in annex. G&P to send their inputs</i>
PWD and G&P cluster to look on finding housing solutions for evacuees displaced on Santo terminal			Shelter Cluster Lead / G&P cluster	As soon as possible
Some issues discussed during the meeting where not only shelter cluster related, as for preparedness and second home program. Request to NDMO to organise relevant intercluster meeting to address these 2 issues			NDMO	As soon as possible
Safe Shelter Awareness to be tested in Maewo, then finalized and endorsed by Shelter Cluster			Shelter Cluster Lead / CARE	05/11/2018
Partners to send comments on the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster input to inform shelter cluster page on NDMO and VSC website			All partners	05/11/2018
Next Meeting				
Date:	TBD	Time:		Location: Public Works Department
Comment:	The next Shelter Cluster Vanuatu meeting will be held tentatively on Wednesday 7/11/2018 at 10AM @PWD small conference room.			