



# GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

## National Disaster Management Office

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### CLUSTER RESPONSE – SITREP

**Response Name:** EARTHQUAKE (7.3 Magnitude)

**Reporting Date:** 24.12.2024

**Cluster Name:** Shelter Cluster

#### Key Figures:

- **House damage assessment:** 211 Damaged houses (Aus + NZ Engineers / 14:00 / 24 December)  
Fully destroyed houses (10), Severely damaged (35), Moderately damaged (50) accounting for 45% of the total assessed house damage.
- **People affected by damage to homes:** 1,055 individuals  
With 45% affected by moderate, severe or total damage with acute shelter needs.
- **People displaced in Evacuation Centres / with Host Families:** 2,919 individuals (DECM / 24 Dec) with shelter assistance identified as need in two (2) evacuation centres and eight (8) Host HHs.
- **People reached with emergency shelter assistance to date:** 865 individuals (VRCS / 24 Dec).
- Shelter Cluster is coordinating with DECM the shelter assistance in displacement sites.
- Shelter Cluster is coordinating with DECM the household level and community level distribution targeting methodology, based on verified damage assessment.
- Discrepancy between people displaced and people with damaged homes is likely due to fear of return (unsure if the home is structurally safe), trauma, aftershocks, lack of access to water, electricity and communication (while those are provided in evacuation centres).

#### Needs:

- Displaced families / individuals in Evacuation Centres are in need of immediate assistance to:  
(1) **restore adequate domestic living:** Sleeping items, Cooking items, Privacy items (soft partitions);
- Displaced families / individuals being hosted by families or self-settled in open displacement areas are in need of immediate assistance to:  
(1) **restore adequate domestic living:** Sleeping items, Cooking items, Privacy items (soft partitions) and Safety items (solar lights); and  
(2) **have access to emergency shelter:** Shelter kits (tarpaulins and toolkits)
- Families / individuals living inside damaged houses or staying next to their homes are in need of immediate assistance to:  
(1) **restore adequate domestic living:** Sleeping items, Cooking items, Privacy items (soft partitions) and Safety items (solar lights); and  
(2) **have access to emergency shelter:** Shelter kits (tarpaulins and toolkits)



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- Both displaced and non-displaced families with damaged houses will need immediate support to assess risk of structural damage and determine if it is safe to return.
- All families with damaged houses deemed unsafe will need support to repair / rebuild against the risk.
- Awareness campaign regarding safety of buildings
- Verified damage assessment for targeted distribution of Shelter Kits and Essential Household Items (NFI's)

### Response Activities Completed:

- People affected by damage to homes: 1,055 individuals  
With 45% affected by moderate, severe or total damage with acute shelter needs.
- 46 HH have received assistance from VRCS in Blacksand in form of tarpaulins and kitchen sets.
- Distributions continue in the Bellevue Evacuation Centre, Ohlem Wota Zone area (50 HH reached) and Meleamat (77 HH reached), Prima.
- Assessment and distributions continue in Malorua: Lelepa Island, Lelepa Landing, Mangaliliu, and on Nguna and Pele (VRCS).
- Ongoing Shelter Cluster coordination meetings to assess gaps and overlapping assistance.
- Scoping options for home assessment if safe to return (e.g. self-assessment checklist, pictures of homes provided to engineers for assessment).

### Response Activities Planned:

- Planning of coordinated assessments and distributions.
- Shelter and DECM cluster partners are designing methodology for targeted assessment and distribution of stocks including of NDMO stock of shelter tool kits, tarpaulins.
- The plan is to start assessment with people sheltering in evacuation centres, through the CDCCCs of the communities sheltering in ECs. Host HH will also be approached for assessment.
- Scoping of modalities for structural damage assessment of homes to facilitate safe return and/or home repairs – especially in the context of imminent cyclone season.
- Considering assessment of landslide risk caused by concurrent earthquake and cyclone impact (and subsequent threat to homes).

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited technical expertise to conduct in depth structural assessments to determine safety to return, considering the potential risk of additional impact of heavy rain and strong winds through the ongoing cyclone season.
- Limited communication with the Communities and Shelter Cluster Partners due to disrupted power, internet and mobile connections.
- Limited resources (funds, staff, vehicles, etc) required for target assessments, distributions and broadly address all needs.