



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU  
GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

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## MoET EOC Situation Update

<b>Response Name</b>	Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold   COVID-19   Tanna (Yasur Volcano) Ash Fall
<b>Situation Report</b>	02
<b>Date</b>	24 April 2020
<b>Reporting Period</b>	18 April – 24 April 2020
<b>Provinces affected</b>	Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, Shefa & Tafea
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	
<b>MoET EOC Status</b>	Activated – Tuesday 07 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
<b>Next SITREP</b>	05 May 2020

### Situation Overview

The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) is currently coordinating the Education Cluster to respond to three (3) disaster events: Tropical Cyclone Harold, COVID-19 and Tanna Volcano Ash Fall. The responses are targeting schools (ECCE, Primary, Secondary and PSET).

#### TC Harold

In line with the Declaration of Holidays for Schools Order No.49 of 2020 that was made on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020 by the former Minister of Education and Training, the MoET is coordinating the impact (or detail) technical assessments in the provinces of TORBA, SANMA, PENAMA, MALAMPA, AND SHEFA. The impact assessments seek to have clear information on the extent of damage on schools (ECCE, Primary, Secondary and PSET).

#### COVID 19

The MoET is coordinating and facilitating COVID-19 preventive measures at all levels of schooling.

In light of TC Harold, the MoET is being flexible on implementing COVID-19 preventive measures in badly affected schools in the provinces/islands hit-hard by TC Harold.

Decision No.13 of a COM Meeting held on the 09<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 stated that schools in Shefa and Tafea provinces are to resume normal duties on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 “while maintaining good hygiene practices & physical distancing”.

### **Tanna (Yasur volcano) Ash fall**

The Tanna Yasur Volcano Ash Fall has impacts on schools (ECCE, Primary, Secondary and PSET) from east to central parts of Tanna Island.

### **Highlights**

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#### **TC Harold**

- MoET assessment teams were dispatched to SANMA, PENAMA, and MALAMPA provinces to carry out impact assessments of TC Harold on schools (ECCE, Primary, Secondary and PSET).
  - SANMA assessment team stationed in Luganville, Santo
  - PENAMA assessment team divided into four (4) groups: 1 group stationed at Saratamata, Ambae and conducted assessments of schools on Ambae and Maewo. The other three (3) groups were located at north, central, and south Pentecost respectively.
  - MALAMPA team went to Malekula during the first week of assessment (20-26 April 2020). The temporary lockdown on Malekula left the team stranded. Once the temporary lockdown is uplifted, the team will travel to Ambrym.
- Torba provincial education office staff conducted assessment of schools in Torba province
- Shefa provincial education office staff conducted assessments of schools on the Epi Island.

#### **COVID-19**

- PSC circular no.15 dated 09<sup>th</sup> April 2020, has approved for “staff to take annual leave if they wish to remain home to supervise their child/children during home schooling period currently established by MoET”.
- MoET released a Media Statement on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to all parents, gadians, students, schools and education authorities in the country. The Media Statement articulates what schools in SHEFA and TAFEA Provinces need to do and have in place before schools resume their normal programs.

#### **Tanna Yasur Volcano Ash Fall**

- The Tafea Provincial Education Office is coordinating the rapid and impact technical assessments of the Yasur Volcano Ash Fall on schools in the affected area(s).
- School principals are also calling the MoET Call Centre to report impact of ash fall on their respective schools

## Damages

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The information on damages to schools is based on Preliminary reports received by the MoET EOC (EOC call centre / PEOs unofficial reports / media)

### TC Harold

#### a. TORBA

- No major damages report for schools, except in West Gaua where a Year 3 classroom roof and a staff house have some damages. However, the school confirmed this can be fixed in the coming days by the SCA.
- Schools on Ureparapara & Mota Islands report that water sources from creeks needs to be addressed

#### b. SANMA

- **Santo**
  - Since the ECCE Centres are either semi-permanent or built with local materials, it is likely that majority (if not all) ECCE Centres in West Coast, South, Big Bay area, and some in Luganville are totally destroyed
  - 16 Primary schools experienced major damages or are destroyed
  - 3 secondary schools with major damages
  - 1 PSET institution destroyed
- **Malo**
  - All ECCE are destroyed
  - 5 primary have been destroyed
  - 1 secondary school (only one on Malo) has been badly damaged
  - 1 PSET Institution badly damaged
- **Aore**
  - Aore Adventist College badly damaged

#### c. PENAMA

- **Pentecost**
  - Around 90 per cent (%) of schools (ECCE, Primary and Secondary) on *Pentecost* Island are badly affected and damaged. Most of these schools are in the central, south and eastern part of the island. Teaching and learning materials are also damaged in the devastated area of central, south and east Pentecost.
    - Majority of ECCE centres in Central and South Pentecost destroyed
    - 9 primary schools reported huge damages (or destroyed)
    - 3 secondary schools report enormous damages (or destroyed)
    - Most affected schools on Pentecost have lost school documents, equipments and damaged furniture (chair, desk, benches, tables, beds)
    - WASH facilities (*contaminated water in tanks; water supply system not functioning; local toilets destroyed; flash toilets and hand washing facilities not functioning due to water supply problem*) in most affected schools of central, south and east Pentecost have been damaged
    - School gardens destroyed in central, south and east Pentecost

- **Ambae & Maewo**
  - No major damages reported from *Ambae* and *Maewo* schools, except minor damages reported from Navuturiki Schools

#### d. MALAMPA

- **Ambrym**
  - About 20 schools (primary and secondary) in *north Ambrym* experienced some damages to classrooms, teachers' houses, and WASH facilities
  - All ECCE Centres in north Ambrym are destroyed, except Linbul and Fanto
  - School gardens are destroyed in north Ambrym
- **Malekula & Paama**
  - Reports of major damages to schools in *Malekula* and *Paama islands* are yet to be received

#### e. SHEFA

- **Epi**
  - 3 schools (primary & secondary) on Epi reported some minor damages to school buildings, including staff houses/bush kitchens

### Needs

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The **immediate needs** for schools in the most affected provinces (*Sanma, Penama & Malampa*) are categorised as follows:

#### 1. Shelter

- Most of the school staff (both teaching and support/ancillary) in the badly affected provinces and islands are in need of emergency shelter assistance
- Schools with damaged boarding facilities (*dormitory*) will need temporary shelter assistance
- Temporary Learning Spaces are needed for schools to resume

#### 2. WASH

- As water in tanks/wells may have been contaminated and water supply systems not functioning, there is a need for clean drinking water
- There may be limited supply of sanitation and hygiene kits; MoET will need to collaborate with the WASH Cluster to prioritise more support and supply to schools and their communities

#### 3. Food

- In certain school communities within the badly affected provinces, food shortage is expected. Hence, emergency food supply is needed.

### Response

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#### TC Harold

- MoET EOC established a toll-free number – 160, as a means for school principals, teachers and parents to access information re TC Harold, Covid-19 and Tanna Yasur Volcano Ash Fall impacts and responses to schools.
- Impact assessment of schools (ECCE, Primary, Secondary and PSET) are currently undertaken in the badly affected provinces of SANMA, PENAMA, and MALAMPA

- Distribution of essential stationery, equipments and materials for MALAMPA, PENAMA, and SANMA Provincial Education Offices and schools (principals & teachers) badly affected by TC Harold.
  - **MALAMPA:** 1 generator; 1x30 meter electrical cable; 33 pips/printed with MoET Logo; 3 chainsaw; 2 stroke engine oil (5 litre); 2 camera; 4 printing tonners ; 25 cartons of A4 paper; and 46 package of water (1 litre) distributed to Olal (Ambrym) for affected schools.
  - **PENAMA:** 1 carton A4 paper; 4 printing tonners; 10 pips/printed with MoET logo; 3 chainsaw; 2 stroke engine oil (5 litre); 2 camera; 40 package of water (500ml) distributed for schools at Pangi, South Pentecost.
  - **SANMA:** 1 generator; 17 pips/printed with MoET logo; 5 chainsaw; 2 stroke engine oil (5 litre); 25 cartons A4 paper; 4 tyres for a project vehicle in Luganville; 2 camera; 1x30 metre electrical cable; 4 printing tonners

## COVID 19

- Distribution of stationery and equipment supplies for MALAMPA, PENAMA, and SANMA Provincial Education Office to be used for HSP and office administrative tasks.
  - **MALAMPA:** 4 printing tonners ; 25 cartons of A4 paper
  - **PENAMA:** 1 carton A4 paper; 4 printing tonners
  - **SANMA:** 25 cartons A4 paper; 4 printing tonners
  - **TAFEA:** 20 cartons A4 paper; 4 printing tonners
- Implementation of Home Schooling Package (HSP) continues for majority of the schools in SHEFA, TAFEA and PENAMA (Ambae & Maewo Islands) Provinces.
  - Monitoring of the HSP has commenced for schools in SHEFA, TAFEA and PENAMA (Ambae Island) Provinces.
- Malapoa College, Lycee LAB, Onesua College, and other secondary schools on Efate Island are collaborating to develop an online learning platform for secondary schools.
- Many schools in SHEFA and TAFEA Provinces have resumed since 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 with specific measures for Covid-19 prevention.

## Tanna Yasur Volcano Ash Fall

- The Tafea Provincial Education Office is coordinating the rapid and impact technical assessments of the Yasur Volcano Ash Fall on schools (ECCE, Primary, Secondary, and PSET) in the affected area(s).

## Gaps

- MoET is requesting UNICEF support for *tents, WASH and dignity kits* for schools in Sanma, Penama and Malampa provinces that are badly affected/damaged/destroyed.
- Discussions held between MoET and the French Embassy to support the MoET in providing *Psycho Social Support* to teachers and students
- MoET needs financial support for iron roofs as inter-mediate materials for temporary shelters and learning spaces in schools

## Impacts

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Many of the schools (ECCE, primary, secondary and PSET) in the badly affected provinces/islands may not resume as expected by the MoET. This is because the schools are used as evacuation centres, while many have been destroyed by TC Harold.

## Donor activities

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- DFAT continuously supporting MoET's communications through radio and television broadcasts, and short message services through Digicel and Vodafone.
- UNICEF has indicated that tents are currently preposition in the country and that arrangements are underway for more supply of tents from UNICEF warehouses in the region.
  - MoET will collaborate with UNICEF to ensure badly affected schools have access to these tents for temporary shelter and temporary learning spaces
- MFAT has offered to provide financial support for safety wear

## Further Information

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- Education and Training Updates: Toll free: 160 | DL: 33505/33509/33517/23317
- Ministry of Education and Training: <http://www.moet.gov.vu>  
<https://www.facebook.com/moetvanuatu/>
- National Disaster Management Office: [www.ndmo.gov.vu](http://www.ndmo.gov.vu) | [m.facebook.com/ndmo.gov.vu](https://www.facebook.com/ndmo.gov.vu)

- Prepared by: MoET Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)
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- Signature:

