

PROGRAM UPDATES

**Tropical Cyclone Pam Recovery**

Category-5 Tropical Cyclone Pam devastated Vanuatu in March 2015. Red Cross continues to work with communities in recovery. Currently working in Paama, the Shepherd Islands, Tanna, Efate and Efate offshore islands, Red Cross focuses on the areas of shelter, WASH, livelihoods and DRR. Recovery work is completed in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent, Australian Red Cross and French Red Cross.

Reconstruction of the damaged school buildings at Nofo school on Emae island is well underway. Red Cross is now receiving additional assistance in the construction from the Vanuatu Military Force (VMF).

Also in the Shepherds Islands, materials for the construction of latrines have been delivered to 6 villages and trainings run with community members in how to construct the latrines. Red Cross volunteers will be assisting community members to construct the latrines in the coming months. Two new rainwater catchments have also been constructed on Emae and Makira islands. In October, volunteers from Emae, Makira and Mataso participated in a first aid training of the trainer course so that they can then pass these life-saving skills onto other community members.

In Paama, 320 latrines have now been constructed by community members with assistance from Red Cross volunteers. Planning is also underway for the installation of hand pumps in all 23 villages of the island in the coming months.

In Tanna, 27 latrines have now been constructed in schools as well as tap stands for water access. Red Cross has developed and is ready to implement an exciting new WASH in schools module which will be trialled in Tanna next month.

In October, the second phase of the livelihoods recovery program commenced. The new phase will see cyclone-affected urban youth in Port Vila provided the opportunity to undertake vocational and small business management training. This will be combined with a mentoring program to give these youth guidance to succeed in their chosen fields.

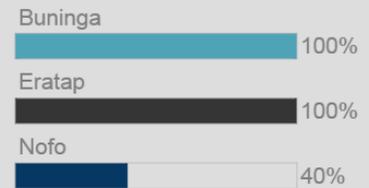


A VRCS staff member conducts a women's focus group in Marae village on Emae island.

TC PAM OCTOBER SNAPSHOT

SHELTER

School reconstruction progress



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

320 toilets

constructed in communities on Paama



27 new toilets constructed in schools in Tanna



A decorated toilet slab in Mataso.

A monitoring visit was also conducted to Emae to speak with women, the elderly and people with disabilities in the communities we work. The visit made sure that Red Cross was appropriately considering the needs of these groups in our response.



DRR Day in Maskelynes, Students ready for the DRR parade



Group Discussion about assessment process in Lanvitvit, Aulua

The DM Coordinator, DR team and Tanna branch staff and volunteers undertook DRR Mapping in West Tanna between 16 – 20 October 2016 for the purpose of finalising numbers of communities for DRR activities and to provide information to recovery officer and stakeholders in order to begin activities implementation.

### Supporting Community Planning - Phase 3 (SCP3)

This month the SPC3 program focused on Malekula, Makelynes and Akhamb of Malampa Province. In Luttes, the community and Red Cross celebrated International Disaster Risk Reduction Day which also involved high school students. Community meeting and family disaster plan introductions for Pellonk, Luttes and Peskarus were initiated and CDC assessment training and quiz were conducted. A visit by Red Cross WATSAN Reginal Technical Advisor—Ludovic Arnout took place from 22/10 to 04/11 and in Farun/Akhamb from 27th to 31st of October.

### Together Becoming Resilient - Phase 5 (TBR5)

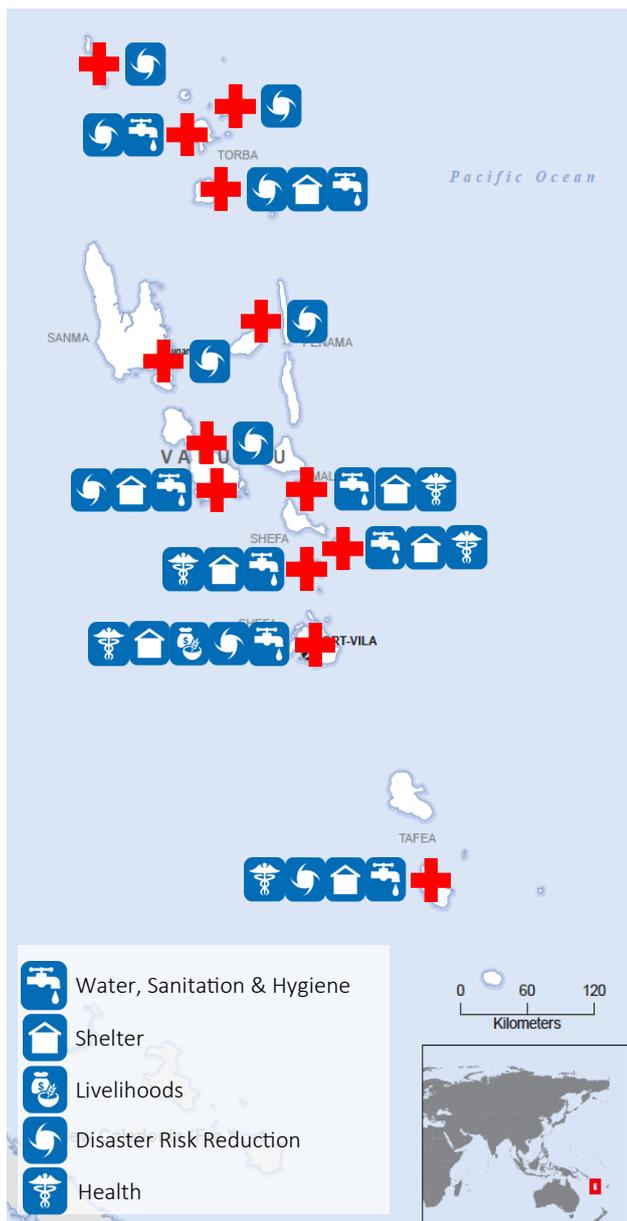
The activities in Sola and Vanualava Island included a Provincial Assessment Training and Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) which was run with PDC members and ACS for Torba Province. The Torba Provincial Disaster Plan has also recently been endorsed by the National Disaster Management Office. Data collection for end line KAP Survey was also completed for 23 communities.

### Youth Empowering Vulnerable Communities

Vanuatu Red Cross has just commenced a new short term project in Santo funded by Japanese Red Cross, 'Youth Empowering Vulnerable Communities'. This project will focus on engaging youth volunteers to deliver DRR awareness in 10 communities in Santo. Awareness sessions will be conducted over the next 3 months and the project will complete in March next year.

Red Cross is working on repairing evacuation roads and has begun the Construction of the first two kindergartens of 16 kindergartens in 16 communities across North Tanna. Imafen and Eniu communities of North Tanna have already had their kindergarten's foundations laid and are erecting the walls currently. The Kindergarten Construction project not only provides an important asset to communities for their children but also sees the selection and hiring of 14 workers to continue working on the 14 remaining kindergartens offering local jobs to local people.

Each Kindergarten will include a rain water harvesting system and four latrines; two for children, and one each for men and women. The kindergartens will also include a small space where Community Disaster Committees (CDC's) can conduct their work and awareness activities making the kindergartens a multipurpose facility for communities during everyday activities as well as in a disaster. An MoU is also being prepared for the use of the Kindergartens once constructions are complete. Finally, Build Back Better and Build Back Safer awareness sessions have been conducted in 8 communities out of 16 and on the DRR side Training on CDC Roles and Responsibilities are ongoing.





**Epau Community Map; Winner, Community Lead Champion Award**

## FINPAC

On the 12 and 14th of October 2016, a FINPAC DRR Practitioners Workshop took place in Nadi, Fiji. A total of 8 countries, NS' who implemented the FINPAC project participated. Four Vanuatu Representatives consisting of the VRCS DM Coordinator and project officer Tristelle Karae together with a representative each from NDMO and VMGDA attended the workshop.

The workshop sought to capture outcomes and lessons learned from FINPAC Component 2 while providing inputs into the regional guideline for community engagement and integration of weather, climate and disaster information to support community resilient development.

Community Creativity Champion was awarded to Vanuatu for Outstanding creativity in community engagement and packaging of Early warning information for communities.

Community Lead Champion was awarded to Epau Community in recognition of a community that has gone beyond the scope of the project to incorporate environmental initiatives. A Certificate of appreciation to NDMO, VMGD and VRCS project officer Tristelle Karae were awarded.

## First Aid

The First Aid Team provided First aid Training and services to World Disaster Risk Reduction Day and Community Disaster Committees in the Hoken area. The First Aid team has also been busy translating much of its training materials into Bislama which will be ready in late January for use across each of the 5 provincial branches as commercial and community First aid programs. A major development for the branches which enables the provision of Vanuatu context appropriate training to communities, volunteers and staff as well as the ability to raise funds for branch activities through engaging in commercial first Aid ventures.

## Organisational Development

Our Organisational Development Coordinator has been hard at work and VRCS has recently concluded an MOU with NDMO IT The MOU enables the National Advisory Board for climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction online portal to include the VRCS Website.

## Meet the VRCS Finance & HR Team

A team that VRCS could not function without, however often only found working behind the scenes. The Finance and HR team could be described as the glue that holds VRCS together. Hard at work ensuring all finances are accounted for and that daily activities are smooth not to forget the organisation of visas for overseas workshops and travel are up to date. After a teary eyed farewell to Matea Bandol we now welcome Mittal Pardeen to our team as the finance and administration delegate. Also as Stephanie will be taking maternity leave we also welcome Pricilla Stevens to our team. Often seeing much of the field activity through accounts, two of our finance staff had the opportunity to travel to Tanna recently. Guillaume just recently spent a week in Tanna providing support and mentoring to the finance/logistics officer there. While Sheilla accompanied Madam CEO to Tanna and provided training to the branch officer and Chair on how to manage the new VRCS donation box recently installed at Whitegrass airport. Thank you to the Finance, HR and Admin team for the consistent dedication and support to us all.



**VRCS Finance, HR & Administration Team from left to right: Mittal Pardeep, Guillaume Laisse, Joanna Kalpokas, Patrea Ryan, Beverly Esau, Marie Bador, Staphanie Mankon, Pricilla Stevens, Sheilla Nishai and Nemi Naparau**

## October News & Events

### World Disaster Risk Reduction Day

Red Cross participated in World Disaster Risk Reduction Day on 13th October. A number of organisations in Vanuatu came together to advocate on measures to mitigate and prepare for disasters.



*Vanuatu Red Cross staff and volunteers prepare to march for World DRR Day*

Organisations and government departments included NDMO, GIZ, Oxfam, World Vision, Wan Small Bag theatre, Save the Children, Ministry of Agriculture, Red Cross, Promedical and the Ministry of Climate Change. Members of these organisations marched from Anchor Inn to Independence Park where stalls were set up to provide information to the public on different types of disaster, how to prepare before, and what to do during and after a disaster. Also Red Cross took the initiative to showcase some of the services that we can provide to the communities to better prepare such as First Aid workshops.



*The Vanuatu Red Cross information stall at World DRR Day*

### Gender & Protection in Humanitarian Action Workshop

Over 3 days from the 26th—28th October, VRCS Gender & Protection focal point, Renie Anderson, attended the Gender & Protection in Humanitarian Action workshop facilitated by the Gender & Protection cluster and UN Women. The workshop assisted cluster members to develop a better understanding of the humanitarian architecture within Vanuatu, the cluster system and ways in which gender, protection and inclusion can be incorporated into emergency response.

### New rainwater catchment systems for 12 communities in Santo

Twelve communities in Santo will receive new rainwater catchments systems this month as part of a donation from the Goldie Knight Foundation, an Australian-based organisation. The tanks and catchment systems will be installed by community members with assistance from VRCS volunteers.



*Staff member during Gender & Diversity in Emergencies Workshop*

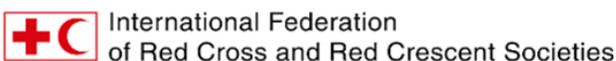
### Gender & Diversity in Emergencies workshop

Two 2-day workshops were held in September and October for VRCS staff and volunteers to learn about integrating gender and diversity considerations into our work. Integration of gender and diversity is crucial to ensuring that Red Cross meets the needs of all people affected by disasters and complies with our mandate of assisting the most vulnerable. Over 20 volunteers and staff attended.

### Welcome to two new trainees for the VRCS first aid program

Vanuatu Red Cross extends a warm welcome to our two new first aid trainees, Isabel Shem and Jocelyne Samuel. They will be working with VRCS for 6 months, learning all about our first aid program and assisting in its implementation.

Vanuatu Red Cross receives support from our Red Cross operational partners to implement our work in Vanuatu.



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