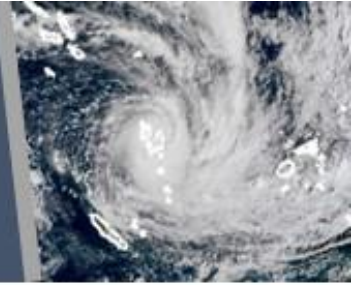


Tropical Cyclone Harold

Vanuatu National Health Situation Report #6 – 04 May 2020



HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 3 deaths, 119 injuries and 36 referrals have been reported as a direct impact of TC Harold.
- ❖ There have been reports of increases in communicable diseases in affected areas, including diarrhoeal diseases, vector-borne diseases, influenza-like illness, respiratory infections and skin infections.
- ❖ Other indirect or delayed impacts such as on nutrition and mental health have been reported.
- ❖ 73 Health Facility Assessments have been completed for facilities in the three main affected provinces and in Shefa; these indicate widespread and severe damage particularly in Sanma and Penama.
- ❖ 29 Emergency Medical Teams or specialist health teams have been deployed to the three most affected provinces; over 3,850 patients have been seen.
- ❖ Other health sector response activities are underway eg. re-stock of medical supplies, restoration of cold chains, ramp up of syndromic surveillance, community awareness activities, vector control response.

NOTE: Major updates to figures or text relative to the last Situation Report are indicated **blue highlights**.

BACKGROUND

On 06 – 07 April 2020, Severe Tropical Cyclone Harold made landfall in Vanuatu and caused widespread damage. The National Disaster Management Office identified health as a sector of immediate need in Sanma, Malampa and Penama provinces. This Report produced by the National Health Incident Management Team presents a brief overview of the health situation and health sector response to TC Harold as reported by Health Emergency Operations Centers operating at national and provincial levels. **The Tropical Cyclone Harold Health Sector Response Plan is currently under revision to guide transition from emergency to intermediate and recovery phases.**

For further information and earlier Situation Reports, please see: <https://moh.gov.vu/index.php/pages/tc-harold>

CURRENT HEALTH SITUATION

Direct impact

The direct impacts of TC Harold on the health of the population in affected areas have been deaths and injuries resulting from building collapse, fallen objects, wind-strewn debris, drownings or pre-existing illness (Table 1).

Table 1. **Direct impact of TC Harold**, as reported to NHEOC by 04 May 2020 at 5.00pm Port Vila time

Province	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	All
Estimated number of persons in affected areas ^a	53,943	17,026	21,305	176,161[^]
Health facilities ^b in severely cyclone-affected areas ^c	31	14	13	58
Confirmed deaths as a direct result of cyclone	1	2	0	3
Persons injured as a direct result of cyclone	60 ^d	59	0	119
Referrals/medevacs ^e to provincial or regional referral hospital as a direct result of cyclone	14	3	0	17
Referrals/medevacs ^e to VCH as a direct result of cyclone	12	7	0	19

tbc = to be confirmed; ^a from NDMO Rapid Technical Assessment Report (April 2020); [^] includes affected population in Torba (10,102) and Shefa/Shepards Group (23,056) ^b includes hospitals, health centres, dispensaries, clinics and aid posts; ^c based on predicted maximum sustained windspeeds equivalent to Category 3-5 cyclone; ^d includes injuries reported in NPH Emergency department, NPH OPD, SANMA EMTs and SANMA Health Facilities; ^e includes antenatal and paediatric cases.

Indirect or delayed impact

- **Water-borne diseases:** **Watery diarrhoea commonly seen at health facilities in Sanma, Penama and Malampa.** Some reports of increases in skin conditions and infections due to poor hygiene and irritation.

- *Vector-borne diseases*: 3 confirmed dengue cases at Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH) are now recovered; malaria cases reported in Santo and under investigation; 1 confirmed malaria case in Pentecost (likely imported from Santo); 8 malaria cases confirmed in Torba with active case detection initiated; new malaria cases in Malekula resulting from previous malaria patients not completing treatment. For all provinces, it is yet to be confirmed if these constitute an increase in malaria transmission because of TC Harold. **Complaints received from communities in Penama and Malampa about increased numbers of mosquitoes.**
- *Respiratory infections*: **Influenza-like illness commonly reported or seen at health facilities and by Emergency Medical Teams in Sanma and Penama.**
- *Other communicable infections*: 5 deaths at NPH suspected to be caused by leptospirosis (testing and investigation results pending). Reports of cases of conjunctivitis in Sanma, Malampa and Penama (with cases also noted in Penama before the cyclone). **2 confirmed cases of Yaws in Penama.**
- *Non-communicable diseases*: **Burden on outpatient services reported to be high and many are unable to be reviewed by a trained health worker.** Medications for non-communicable diseases difficult to find.
- *Nutrition*: Malnourishment has been reported in some areas (especially in Malampa) and further assessment and response is needed.
- *Vaccine-preventable diseases*: No increases noted.
- *Mental health*: Many people in affected areas are still preoccupied with finding food, shelter and medication. **Identified high risk of new mental health conditions directly related to the cyclone and also due to unemployment resulting from COVID-19 restrictions.**
- *RMNCAH (Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health)*: **Services affected in Sanma and Malampa due to major infrastructure damage and restricted access to health facilities.**
- *Other*: Reports of high incidence of gender-based violence in cyclone-affected areas with gender and protection issues identified particularly in Malampa.

HEALTH FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Results have been received for a total of 73 health facilities in four provinces (Table 2). Priority was given to conducting assessments in severely affected areas and in hospitals, health centres and dispensaries. However, results are also included for other areas and for some aid posts. Additional assessments are being conducted as resources and time allow. **Note that results below are for facilities surveyed and are not representative of all health facilities in the entire province.** More detailed analyses of these data are planned.

Table 2. **Results of 73 Health Facilities Assessments (HFAs) by proportion (and number) of health facilities* surveyed in affected areas, as reported to NHEOC by 04 May 2020 at 5.00pm Port Vila time.** Red = ≥50%, Orange = 25-49%

Province	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	Shefa	All
HFAs completed for facilities in affected areas	32	15	19	7	73
Buildings moderately or severely damaged	69% (22)	67% (10)	21% (4)	14% (1)	51% (37)
Medical equipment moderately or severely damaged	41% (13)	40% (6)	11% (2)	0% (0)	29% (21)
Medical supplies moderately or severely damaged	41% (13)	33% (5)	16% (3)	0% (0)	29% (21)
Facility access very difficult or with obstacles	41% (13)	47% (7)	42% (8)	14% (1)	40% (29)
Referral system not functioning	25% (8)	27% (4)	5% (1)	0% (0)	18% (13)
Water supply insufficient or interrupted (not enough)	50% (16)	60% (9)	32% (6)	0% (0)	42% (31)
Water cloudy, pipes broken or contamination sources nearby	63% (20)	67% (10)	11% (2)	14% (1)	45% (33)
No functioning toilets	28% (9)	27% (4)	26% (5)	0% (0)	25% (18)
No power after cyclone	31% (10)	27% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	19% (14)
Reports (or rumours) of increase in illness	9% (3)	13% (2)	5% (1)	0% (0)	8% (6)
Have patients that suffer chronic diseases who are not able to receive treatment	25% (8)	40% (6)	16% (3)	14% (1)	25% (18)
Priority HFAs to be completed (hospitals, health centres, dispensaries)	2	0	0	0	0

*Includes hospitals, health centres, dispensaries, clinics and aid posts unless otherwise stated.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS

To date, a total of 29 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) or specialist health teams have been deployed across the three most affected provinces and have reported back on the number of patients seen (Table 3). EMTs generally include at least one medical doctor, nurse, midwife, public health specialist and logistics/health infrastructure officer. Deployments are ongoing and are prioritised to severely-affected areas.

Table 3. Summary of Emergency Medical Teams or specialist teams, as of 04 May 2020 at 5.00pm Port Vila time

Province	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	All
Number of EMTs or specialist health teams deployed	19	5	5	29
Total number of health specialists deployed	32	28	22	82
Total number of patients seen	1,347	1,177	1,326	3,850

OTHER HEALTH OPERATIONS UPDATES

Table 4 provides a brief update on recent activities by thematic area. Further information is included in earlier Situation Reports (<https://moh.gov.vu/index.php/pages/tc-harold>).

Table 4. Updates on situation by thematic area as of 04 May 2020 at 5.00pm Port Vila time

AREA	SITUATION
Environmental health/ community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) officers continue to restore services, supplies and provide handwashing facilities. Water receptacles that can harbour dengue mosquitoes are being removed or treated in Santo especially around dengue cases, and entomological monitoring continues.
Risk communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Saeklon ki helt mesej</i> booklet used in community outreach activities in Sanma, Malampa and Penama. Water- and food-borne disease awareness team deployed, and dengue awareness activities continued in Sanma. Handwashing and personal hygiene awareness activities continued in Penama and Malampa.
Psychosocial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMTs include Mental Health Officer who provide psychosocial support to patients.
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syndromic surveillance system has been enhanced in Sanma, Penama and Malampa. Rapid Response Teams deployed in Santo to conduct case investigations for dengue and leptospirosis, and in Pentecost for malaria.
Communicable diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency bed net supply dispatched with distributions commenced in Santo. Additional bed nets sent to Melsisi in Penama and distributed. Emergency supply awaited in Malampa. Emergency vector control (space spraying) started in and around dengue case locations in Santo. Public Health Response teams continue to investigate infectious diseases. Active case detection for malaria conducted in Santo (and Torba).
RMNCAH and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services delivered through integrated program with EMT deployments in Sanma. Logistics constraints are undermining deliveries of supplies to some areas. Assessments ongoing on Penama, Malampa and Sanma with report expected soon.
Immunization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold chains found to be damaged in 20 of the 41 facilities assessed (9 in Sanma, 10 in Pentecost, 1 on Ambae). Activities ongoing across three provinces to restore cold chain and re-stock vaccines, although re-supply issues reported for Malampa.
Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment results awaited to guide specialist deployments and trainings. NCD screening and management of patients ongoing in communities in Penama, with health education covering nutrition, prevention and management of NCDs etc.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH RESPONSE TO TROPICAL CYLCONE HAROLD

- MOH website: <http://moh.gov.vu/index.php/pages/tc-harold>
- National Health Emergency Operations Center: nheoc@vanuatu.gov.vu
- Vanuatu Health Hotline: 119
- Ministry of Health, Health Promotions Vanuatu Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Health-Promotions-Vanuatu-1674266679566197/>
- Health Incident Management Team Coordinator: Dr Posikai Samuel Tapo - Mobile: 773 7178

Approved by: Dr Posikai Samuel Tapo, Coordinator - Incident Management Team
Issued: 04 May, 05.00pm
Next SitRep Expected*: 11 May 2020

**The intention is to issue Situation Reports 1 – 2 times per week, though the frequency will depend on the evolving situation.*