

# Tropical Cyclone Harold

## Vanuatu National Health Situation

### Report #3 - 22 April 2020



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 3 deaths, 56 injuries and 31 referrals have been reported to NHEOC as a direct impact of TC Harold.
- ❖ There have been initial reports of increases in communicable diseases; confirmation is required.
- ❖ 46 Health Facility Assessments have been completed; these indicate widespread and severe damage particularly in Sanma and Penama.
- ❖ 15 Emergency Medical Teams or specialist health teams have been deployed to the three most affected provinces; a total of 2,162 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.

#### 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 Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) presents a brief overview of the health situation and health sector response to TC Harold by national and provincial teams operating through Health Emergency Operations Centers.

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

#### CURRENT HEALTH SITUATION

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 22 April 2020 at 9.00am Port Vila time*

Province	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	All
Estimated number of persons in affected areas <sup>a</sup>	53,344	32,055	40,917	159,474 <sup>^</sup>
Health facilities <sup>b</sup> in severely cyclone-affected areas <sup>c</sup>	52	26	13	91
Confirmed deaths as a direct result of cyclone	1	2	0	3
Persons injured as a direct result of cyclone	56 <sup>d</sup>	29	tbc	85
Referrals/medevacs <sup>d</sup> to provincial or regional referral hospital as a direct result of cyclone	9	3	tbc	12
Referrals/medevacs <sup>d</sup> to VCH as a direct result of cyclone	12	7	tbc	19

tbc = to be confirmed; <sup>a</sup> from NDMO estimates as of Situation Update 02 (08 April 2020); <sup>^</sup> includes affected population in Torba (10,102) and Shefa/Shepards Group (23,056) <sup>b</sup> includes hospitals, health centres, dispensaries, clinics and aid posts; <sup>c</sup> based on predicted maximum sustained windspeeds equivalent to Category 3-5 cyclone; <sup>d</sup> includes antenatal and paediatric cases; <sup>e</sup> includes injuries reported in NPH Emergency department, NPH OPD, SANMA EMTs and SANMA Health Facilities.

There have been reports of increases in communicable diseases following TC Harold, some of which are undergoing confirmation or verification. These have included reports of increases in water-borne diseases (diarrhoea and skin diseases), respiratory infections (upper respiratory tract, influenza-like illness), leptospirosis and conjunctivitis. For vector-borne diseases, a dengue case has been reported at Northern Provincial Hospital and malaria cases have been detected in affected areas though it is not yet clear if this constitutes an increase above expected levels. There have been reports that medications for non-communicable diseases are difficult to find. Many people in affected areas are preoccupied with finding food, shelter and medication.

## HEALTH FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Results have been reported for a total of 46 health facilities across the three most affected provinces (Table 1, Appendix 1). Priority was given to conducting assessments in hospitals, health centres and dispensaries, although some aid posts were included; assessments of aid posts and clinics will be conducted as resources allow. More detailed analyses of these data are planned.

*Table 2. Results of 46 Health Facilities Assessments by proportion (and number) of health facilities\*.*

Red = ≥50%, Orange = 25 - 49%

Province	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	All
Health Facility Assessments completed for facilities in affected areas	26	12	7	<b>46</b>
Buildings moderately or severely damaged	63% (17)	75% (9)	29% (2)	61% (28)
Medical equipment moderately or severely damaged	37% (10)	50% (6)	29% (2)	39% (18)
Medical supplies moderately or severely damaged	33% (9)	42% (5)	29% (2)	35% (16)
Facility access very difficult or with obstacles	41% (11)	58% (7)	29% (2)	43% (20)
Referral system not functioning	26% (7)	33% (4)	14% (1)	26% (12)
Water supply insufficient or interrupted (not enough)	44% (12)	67% (8)	14% (1)	46% (21)
Water cloudy, pipes broken or contamination sources nearby	52% (14)	67% (8)	14% (1)	50% (23)
No functioning toilets	30% (8)	33% (4)	0% (0)	26% (12)
No power after cyclone	7% (2)	8% (1)	0% (0)	7% (3)
Reports (or rumours) of increase in illness	7% (2)	17% (2)	14% (1)	11% (5)
Have patients that suffer chronic diseases who are not able to receive treatment	30% (8)	50% (6)	29% (2)	35% (16)
Priority Health Facilities Assessments yet to be completed (hospitals, health centres, dispensaries)	7	0	3	<b>10</b>

tbc = to be confirmed; \*Includes hospitals, health centres, dispensaries, clinics and aid posts unless otherwise stated.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS

To date, a total of 15 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) or specialist health teams have been deployed across the three most affected provinces (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, as of 22 April 2020 at 9.00am Port Vila time*

Province	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	All
Number of EMTs <sup>1</sup> or specialist health teams deployed	9	3	3	15
Total number of health specialists deployed (in pool)	29	17	11	57
Total number of patients seen	974	469	719	2,162

<sup>1</sup>

## OTHER HEALTH OPERATIONS UPDATES

This 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>).

AREA	SITUATION
<b>Environmental health/community engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) officers have been dispatched in public health teams and health volunteers are being utilised. Water receptacles that can harbour dengue mosquitoes are being treated.</li> <li>A plan for WASH activities in health facilities and improvement of sanitation facilities is under development.</li> </ul>

<b>Risk communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Saeklon ki helt mesej</i> booklet developed and in use in Sanma, Malampa and Penama.</li> <li>• Handwashing and personal hygiene awareness activities continued in Penama.</li> <li>• Dengue awareness activities commenced in Sanma.</li> <li>• NCD screening and management plus health education provided in communities in Penama.</li> </ul>
<b>Psychosocial support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMTs have trained health staff and volunteers in Psychological First Aid</li> <li>• EMTs include a psychologist for integrated outreach where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Surveillance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syndromic surveillance system has been enhanced in Sanma, Penama and Malampa.</li> </ul>
<b>Communicable diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An emergency bed net distribution plan has been developed, which will target available bednets to affected areas due to receive replacement nets this year and to emergency evacuation centres. Distributions will commence in Santo.</li> <li>• Availability of medical supplies and equipment under evaluation through the Health Facility Assessments.</li> </ul>
<b>RMNCAH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OST plan and budget completed for affected facilities.</li> <li>• Four inter-agency health kits, four midwifery kits, and stocks of Vitamin A and multiple micronutrients sent to affected areas.</li> <li>• Maternal services established at Melsisi with normal services at Pangi and Ludumsivi.</li> </ul>
<b>Immunization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccine availability and cold chain are being determined through Health Facility Assessments to identify urgent needs.</li> <li>• Cold chain installed at Melsisi and fixed at Pangi and Ledumsivi.</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition supplements have been provided for dispatch with the EMTs, to be coordinated through the Food and Nutrition cluster.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation plan developed to maintain basic NCD services (blood pressure and glucose monitoring, foot inspection, dispensing of required medications) including to ensure people with disabilities and special needs have access.</li> <li>• Specialist deployments and trainings will guided by needs assessment.</li> </ul>

RMNCAH: Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health

#### MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH RESPONSE TO TROPICAL CYCLONE HAROLD

- MOH website: <http://moh.gov.vu/index.php/pages/tc-harold>
- National Health Emergency Operations Center: [nheoc@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto: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:** 22 April 2020, 05.00pm  
**Next SitRep Expected\*:** 24 April 2020

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



## Appendix 1. Overview of results from 46 Health Facilities Assessments as received by 21 April 2020.

Health Facility Information					1. Damages				2. Accessibility	3. Vaccines		5. Water		6. Toilets	7. Power	9. Diseases	
Province	Island	Health zone	Name	Type	Building	Medical Equipment	Medical Supplies	Accessible?	Referral System ok?	Functioning vaccine fridge	Vaccine carriers	Quantity	Quality	Number functioning	Power After Cyclone	Unusual increase?	Chronic dis & limited treatment?
Sanma	Aore	SAN02	Aore	Dispensary	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Available	No water or not enough water for a		1	Yes	No	No
Sanma	Araki	SAN04	Araki (Tanopeta)	Aidpost	Severe	Moderate	No	Easy		Unavailable	Unavailable		Water cloudy	2		No	Yes
Sanma	Malo	SAN02	Avunatari	Health Centre	Moderate	Mild	Mild	Easy	Yes	Available	Available	Adequate wat	No sources of conta	7		No	No
Sanma	Malo	SAN02	Tabunveresake	Aidpost	Moderate	Mild	No	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or n	Water cloudy	0		Yes	
Sanma	Malo	SAN02	Rustron	Dispensary	Severe	Severe	Severe	With obstacles	Yes	Unavailable	Available	Interruptions i	Water cloudy	0		No	Yes
Sanma	Malo	SAN02	Banaviti	Dispensary	Mild	No	No	With obstacles	No	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or n	Water cloudy	0	Yes	No	Yes
Sanma	Malo	SAN02	Atariboe	Dispensary	Mild	Mild	Mild	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or n	Water cloudy	2	Yes	Yes	
Sanma	Santo	SAN04	Vaturei (Iarailand)	Dispensary	Mild	No	No	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Adequate wat	No sources of conta	2		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN04	Tasmalum	Health Centre	Severe	Severe	Severe	With obstacles	No	Unavailable	Available	Adequate wat	Broken water pipes	2		No	Yes
Sanma	Santo	SAN04	Vulesepe	Health Centre	Moderate	No	No	Easy	Yes	Available	Available	Interruptions i	Broken water pipes	3		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN05	Tasiriki	Health Centre	No	No	No	Easy	Yes	Available	Available	Interruptions in	water supply	2			No
Sanma	Santo	SAN04	Wailapa (Isu)	Dispensary	Severe	No	No	Easy	Yes	Available	Available	Adequate wat	No sources of conta	4		No	
Sanma	Santo	SAN05	Valpei	Aidpost	Severe	Severe	Severe	Very difficult	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or not enough water for a		1		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN05	Sulemauri	Dispensary	Severe	Severe	Severe	Very difficult	No	Unavailable	Available	Insufficient wa	Broken water pipes	0		No	Yes
Sanma	Santo	SAN04	Tataikala	Dispensary	Moderate	Moderate	Severe	With obstacles	No	Unavailable	Available	No water or n	Water cloudy	1		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN01	Tutuba	Dispensary	No	No	No	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or not enough water for a		1	Yes	No	Yes
Sanma	Santo	SAN05	Wusi (Joseph Mar)	Dispensary	Moderate	No	No	Very difficult	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Insufficient wa	Broken water pipes	1		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN01	Nambauk	Aidpost	Severe	Severe	Severe	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Insufficient wa	Water cloudy	1	No	No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN03	Selei	Dispensary	Severe	Severe	Severe	Very difficult	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Adequate wat	No sources of conta	3		No	Yes
Sanma	Santo	SAN03	Fanafo	Health Centre	Severe	Mild	No	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Adequate wat	Water cloudy	0	No	No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN06	Tasmate	Dispensary	No	No	No	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Available	Adequate water	supply	3		No	Yes
Sanma	Santo	SAN08	Saramauri	Health Centre	No	No	No	With obstacles	No		Available	Adequate wat	Water cloudy	2		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN08	Paparama	Dispensary	Mild	Mild	No	With obstacles	No	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or n	No sources of conta	0		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN06	Wunpuku	Dispensary	No	No	No	Easy	Yes	Available	Unavailable	Adequate wat	No sources of conta	1		No	No
Sanma	Santo	SAN06	Nokuku	Health Centre	No	No	No	Easy	Yes	Available	Available	Adequate wat	No sources of conta	2		No	No
Sanma	Tangoa	SAN04	Tangoa	Aidpost	Severe	No	No	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or n	Broken water pipes	0		No	No
Penama	Ambae	PEN04	Sakau	Dispensary	Mild	Mild	Mild	Very difficult	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or not enough water for a		0	Yes		No
Penama	Maewo	PEN06	Asanvari	Dispensary	Moderate	Severe	No	Very difficult		Unavailable	Unavailable	Adequate water	supply				
Penama	Pentecost	PEN10	Baie Barrier	Dispensary	Mild	No	No	Easy	Do not know	Unavailable	Unavailable	Adequate wat	Sources of contamin	0		Yes	Yes
Penama	Pentecost	PEN10	Pangi	Health Centre	Moderate	Severe	Mild	With obstacles	No	Unavailable	Unavailable	Interruptions i	Broken water pipes	4		No	Yes
Penama	Pentecost	PEN09	Ranmawat	Dispensary	Severe	Severe	Severe	Easy	No	Unavailable	Unavailable	Interruptions i	Broken water pipes	2	Yes	No	Yes
Penama	Pentecost	PEN09	Melsisi	Health Centre	Severe	Severe	Severe	Very difficult	No	Unavailable	Unavailable	Interruptions i	Broken water pipes	0	Yes	No	
Penama	Pentecost	PEN10	Point Cross	Dispensary	Severe	No	No	With obstacles	Yes	Unavailable	Available	Interruptions i	No sources of conta	1		No	No
Penama	Pentecost	PEN08	Namaram	Dispensary	Severe	Severe	Severe	With obstacles	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Adequate wat	Broken water pipes	1		No	
Penama	Pentecost	PEN08	Enkul	Dispensary	Moderate	No	No	Easy	No	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or n	Broken water pipes	1		No	Yes
Penama	Pentecost	PEN08	Ila	Aidpost	Severe	Severe	Severe	Very difficult	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	No water or n	Water cloudy	0	No	No	No
Penama	Pentecost	PEN08	Ledungsivi	Health Centre	Severe	Mild	Severe	Easy	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Insufficient wa	No sources of conta	3		Yes	Yes
Penama	Pentecost	PEN08	Bwatnapni	Dispensary	No	No	No	Easy	Yes	Available	Unavailable	Interruptions i	Broken water pipes	1		No	Yes
Malampa	Ambrym	MAL10	Nebul	Health Centre	Severe	Moderate	Moderate	Very difficult	No	Available	Available	Adequate wat	Broken water pipes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Malampa	Ambrym	MAL10	Oial	Dispensary	Severe	Severe	Severe	Very difficult	Yes	Unavailable	Unavailable	Insufficient water	storage	1	Yes	No	Yes
Malampa	Ambrym	MAL09	Willit	Aidpost	Mild	No	No	Easy	Yes			Insufficient water	storage	1			
Malampa	Ambrym	MAL10	Lolibulo	Aidpost	No	No	No	Easy	Yes			Adequate wat	No sources of conta	1		No	
Malampa	Ambrym	MAL11	Baiap	Health Centre	No	No	No	Easy	Yes			Adequate water	supply			No	
Malampa	Ambrym	MAL10	Tefon	Aidpost	Mild	No	No	Easy	Yes			No water or not enough water for a		1	Yes	No	
Malampa	Ambrym	MAL11	Port Vato (Melum	Dispensary	No	No	Mild	Easy	Yes			Adequate wat	No sources of conta	1		No	