

Tropical Cyclone Harold

Vanuatu National Health Situation

Report #4 - 27 April 2020



HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 3 deaths, 85 injuries and 37 referrals have been reported to NHEOC as a direct impact of TC Harold.
- ❖ There have been reports of increases in communicable diseases. NPH has reported 3 confirmed dengue cases from Santo. NPH has also reported 5 deaths for which test results are pending.
- ❖ 49 Health Facility Assessments have been completed; these indicate widespread and severe damage particularly in Sanma and Penama.
- ❖ 20 Emergency Medical Teams or specialist health teams have been deployed to the three most affected provinces; a total of 2,333 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.

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 27 April 2020 at 9.00am Port Vila time

| Province | Sanma | Penama | Malampa | All |
|---|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------------------|
| Estimated number of persons in affected areas ^a | 53,344 | 32,055 | 40,917 | 159,474[^] |
| 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 | 56 ^d | 29 | tbc | 85 |
| Referrals/medevacs ^e to provincial or regional referral hospital as a direct result of cyclone | 14 | 3 | tbc | 17 |
| Referrals/medevacs ^e to VCH as a direct result of cyclone | 12 | 8 | tbc | 20 |

tbc = to be confirmed; ^a from NDMO estimates as of Situation Update 02 (08 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 antenatal and paediatric cases; ^e 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:

- *Vector-borne diseases*: 3 confirmed dengue cases at Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH); 1 confirmed malaria case in Penama (likely imported from Sanma); 8 malaria cases in Torba.
- *Respiratory diseases*: Influenza-like illness commonly reported or seen at health facilities in Sanma.
- *Water-borne diseases*: Watery diarrhoea commonly seen at health facilities in Sanma, with increases noted in Malampa. Some reports of increases in skin diseases.

- *Other*: 5 deaths at NPH suspected to be caused by leptospirosis (results pending); reports of conjunctivitis in Sanma and also Penama (both before and after the cyclone).

Cold chains were assessed to have been damaged in 20 of the 41 facilities assessed (9 in Sanma, 10 in Pentecost, 1 on Ambae). 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 49 health facilities in areas in the three provinces most affected by the cyclone (Table 2, 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. **Note that results are for facilities surveyed in affected areas of each province, and not for the entire province.** More detailed analyses of these data are planned.

Table 2. Results of 49 Health Facilities Assessments by proportion (and number) of health facilities surveyed in affected areas. Red = ≥50%, Orange = 25-49%*

| Province | Sanma | Penama | Malampa | All |
|--|----------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Health Facility Assessments completed for facilities in affected areas | 30 | 12 | 7 | 49 |
| Buildings moderately or severely damaged | 67% (20) | 75% (9) | 29% (2) | 63% (31) |
| Medical equipment moderately or severely damaged | 40% (12) | 50% (6) | 29% (2) | 41% (20) |
| Medical supplies moderately or severely damaged | 37% (11) | 42% (5) | 29% (2) | 37% (18) |
| Facility access very difficult or with obstacles | 43% (13) | 58% (7) | 29% (2) | 45% (22) |
| Referral system not functioning | 27% (8) | 33% (4) | 14% (1) | 27% (13) |
| Water supply insufficient or interrupted (not enough) | 47% (14) | 67% (8) | 14% (1) | 47% (23) |
| Water cloudy, pipes broken or contamination sources nearby | 67% (20) | 75% (9) | 29% (2) | 63% (31) |
| No functioning toilets | 27% (8) | 33% (4) | 0% (0) | 24% (12) |
| No power after cyclone | 33% (10) | 33% (4) | 0% (0) | 29% (14) |
| Reports (or rumours) of increase in illness | 7% (2) | 17% (2) | 14% (1) | 10% (5) |
| Have patients that suffer chronic diseases who are not able to receive treatment | 27% (8) | 50% (6) | 29% (2) | 33% (16) |
| Priority Health Facilities Assessments to be completed in affected areas (hospitals, health centres, dispensaries) | 7 | 0 | 3 | 10 |

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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS

To date, a total of 20 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 or specialist teams, as of 27 April 2020 at 9.00am Port Vila time

| Province | Sanma | Penama | Malampa | All |
|---|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| Number of EMTs or specialist health teams deployed | 9 | 6 | 5 | 20 |
| Total number of health specialists deployed (in pool) | 29 | 32 | 18 | 79 |
| Total number of patients seen | 912 | 702 | 719 | 2,333 |

OTHER HEALTH OPERATIONS UPDATES

Table 3 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 |
|---|--|
| Environmental health/ community engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) officers have been dispatched in public health teams and health volunteers are being utilised. A plan for WASH activities in health facilities and improvement of sanitation facilities is under development. Water receptacles that can harbour dengue mosquitoes are being treated in and around dengue cases in Santo and entomological monitoring has been initiated. |
| Risk communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Saeklon ki helt mesej</i> booklet developed and in use 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. NCD screening and management plus health education provided in communities in Penama. |
| Psychosocial support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMTs have trained health staff and volunteers in Psychological First Aid. EMTs include a psychologist for integrated outreach where possible. Psychosocial support training has been completed for team leaders and managers in Sanma. Gender and protection issues have been identified, particularly in Malampa. |
| 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 planned to commence in Santo. Additional bed nets sent to Melsisi in Penama. Emergency vector control (space spraying) started in and around dengue case locations. |
| RMNCAH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four inter-agency health kits, four midwifery kits, and stocks of Vitamin A and multiple micronutrients sent to affected areas. Fixed clinic is operational in Sanma with 171 patients seen based on clinic records. Mother and Child Health Clinics in Peleru, Nambel, Nambauk, Mavuleb, Usa, Enken, Rata and Perol. Maternal services established at Melsisi with normal services at Pangl and Ludumsivi. |
| Immunization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health facility assessments used to determine vaccine availability and cold chain. Cold chains restored at 6 priority facilities. |
| Nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition supplements have been provided for dispatch with the EMTs, to be coordinated through the Food and Nutrition cluster. |
| Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCD screening and management of patients ongoing in communities in Penama, with health education covering nutrition, prevention and management of NCDs etc. Specialist deployments and trainings will be guided by needs assessment. |

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
- 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: 27 April 2020, 05.00pm
Next SitRep Expected*: 30 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 49 Health Facilities Assessments, as received by 27 April 2020.

Sanma Province

| 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 n | Water cloudy | 1 | Yes | No | No |
| Sanma | Tangoa | SAN04 | Tangoa | Aidpost | Severe | No | No | Easy | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or n | Broken water pipes | 0 | No | No | No |
| Sanma | Malo | SAN02 | Avunatari | Health Centre | Moderate | Mild | Mild | Easy | Yes | Available | Available | Adequate wat | No sources of conta | 7 | Yes | No | No |
| Sanma | Malo | SAN02 | Tabunveresake | Aidpost | Moderate | Mild | No | Easy | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or n | Water cloudy | 0 | | Yes | |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN04 | Vaturei (Iarailand) | Dispensary | Mild | No | No | Easy | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | Adequate wat | No sources of conta | 2 | | No | No |
| Sanma | Araki | SAN04 | Araki (Tanopeta) | Aidpost | Severe | Moderate | No | Easy | | Unavailable | Unavailable | | Water cloudy | 2 | No | No | Yes |
| 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 | Yes | No | No |
| Sanma | Malo | SAN02 | Rustron | Dispensary | Severe | Severe | Severe | With obstacles | Yes | Unavailable | Available | Interruptions i | Water cloudy | 0 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN05 | Tasiriki | Health Centre | No | No | No | Easy | Yes | Available | Available | Interruptions i | Water cloudy | 2 | Yes | No | No |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN04 | Wailapa (Isu) | Dispensary | Severe | No | No | Easy | Yes | Available | Available | Adequate wat | No sources of conta | 4 | No | No | |
| Sanma | Malo | SAN02 | Banaviti | Dispensary | Mild | No | No | With obstacles | No | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or n | Water cloudy | 0 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN05 | Valpei | Aidpost | Severe | Severe | Severe | Very difficult | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or n | Broken water pipes | 1 | No | No | No |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN05 | Sulemauri | Dispensary | Severe | Severe | Severe | Very difficult | No | Unavailable | Available | Insufficient wa | Broken water pipes | 0 | No | 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 | Foreginal | Aidpost | Severe | Moderate | Moderate | With obstacles | No | Unavailable | Unavailable | Adequate wat | | 0 | | No | No |
| 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 n | Broken water pipes | 1 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN05 | Wusi (Ioseph Mar | Dispensary | Moderate | No | No | Very difficult | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | Insufficient wa | Broken water pipes | 1 | No | 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 | 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 wat | No sources of conta | 3 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN08 | Saramauri | Health Centre | No | No | No | With obstacles | No | | Available | Adequate wat | Water cloudy | 2 | Yes | No | No |
| Sanma | Santo | SAN08 | Paparama | Dispensary | Mild | Mild | No | With obstacles | No | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or n | No sources of conta | 0 | Yes | 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 | Yes | No | No |

Penama Province

| 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? |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN10 | Baie Barrier | Dispensary | Mild | No | No | Easy | Do not know | Unavailable | Unavailable | Adequate water | Sources of contamination | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN10 | Pangi | Health Centre | Moderate | Severe | Mild | With obstacles | No | Unavailable | Unavailable | Interruptions in | Broken water pipes | 4 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN09 | Ranmawat | Dispensary | Severe | Severe | Severe | Easy | No | Unavailable | Unavailable | Interruptions in | Broken water pipes | 2 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN09 | Melsisi | Health Centre | Severe | Severe | Severe | Very difficult | No | Unavailable | Unavailable | Interruptions in | Broken water pipes | 0 | Yes | No | No |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN10 | Point Cross | Dispensary | Severe | No | No | With obstacles | Yes | Unavailable | Available | Interruptions in | No sources of contamination | 1 | No | No | No |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN08 | Namaram | Dispensary | Severe | Severe | Severe | With obstacles | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | Adequate water | Broken water pipes | 1 | No | No | |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN08 | Enkul | Dispensary | Moderate | No | No | Easy | No | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or no | Broken water pipes | 1 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN08 | Ila | Aidpost | Severe | Severe | Severe | Very difficult | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or no | Water cloudy | 0 | No | No | No |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN08 | Ledungsivi | Health Centre | Severe | Mild | Severe | Easy | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | Insufficient water | No sources of contamination | 3 | No | Yes | Yes |
| Penama | Pentecost | PEN08 | Bwatnapni | Dispensary | No | No | No | Easy | Yes | Available | Unavailable | Interruptions in | Broken water pipes | 1 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Penama | Maewo | PEN06 | Asanvari | Dispensary | Moderate | Severe | No | Very difficult | | Unavailable | Unavailable | Adequate water | | | Yes | | |
| Penama | Ambae | PEN04 | Sakau | Dispensary | Mild | Mild | Mild | Very difficult | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | No water or no | Broken water pipes | 0 | Yes | No | No |

Malampa Province

| 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? |
| Malampa | Ambrym | MAL10 | Nebul | Health Centre | Severe | Moderate | Moderate | Very difficult | No | Available | Available | Adequate water | Broken water pipes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Malampa | Ambrym | MAL10 | Olal | Dispensary | Severe | Severe | Severe | Very difficult | Yes | Unavailable | Unavailable | Insufficient water | Broken water pipes | 1 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Malampa | Ambrym | MAL09 | Willit | Aidpost | Mild | No | No | Easy | Yes | | | Insufficient water | | 1 | Yes | No | No |
| Malampa | Ambrym | MAL10 | Lolibulo | Aidpost | No | No | No | Easy | Yes | Available | Available | Adequate water | No sources of contamination | 1 | | No | No |
| Malampa | Ambrym | MAL11 | Baiap | Health Centre | No | No | No | Easy | Yes | | | Adequate water | No sources of contamination | | Yes | No | No |
| Malampa | Ambrym | MAL10 | Tefon | Aidpost | Mild | No | No | Easy | Yes | | | No water or no | | 1 | Yes | No | No |
| Malampa | Ambrym | MAL11 | Port Vato (Melum | Dispensary | No | No | Mild | Easy | Yes | | | Adequate water | No sources of contamination | 1 | Yes | No | No |