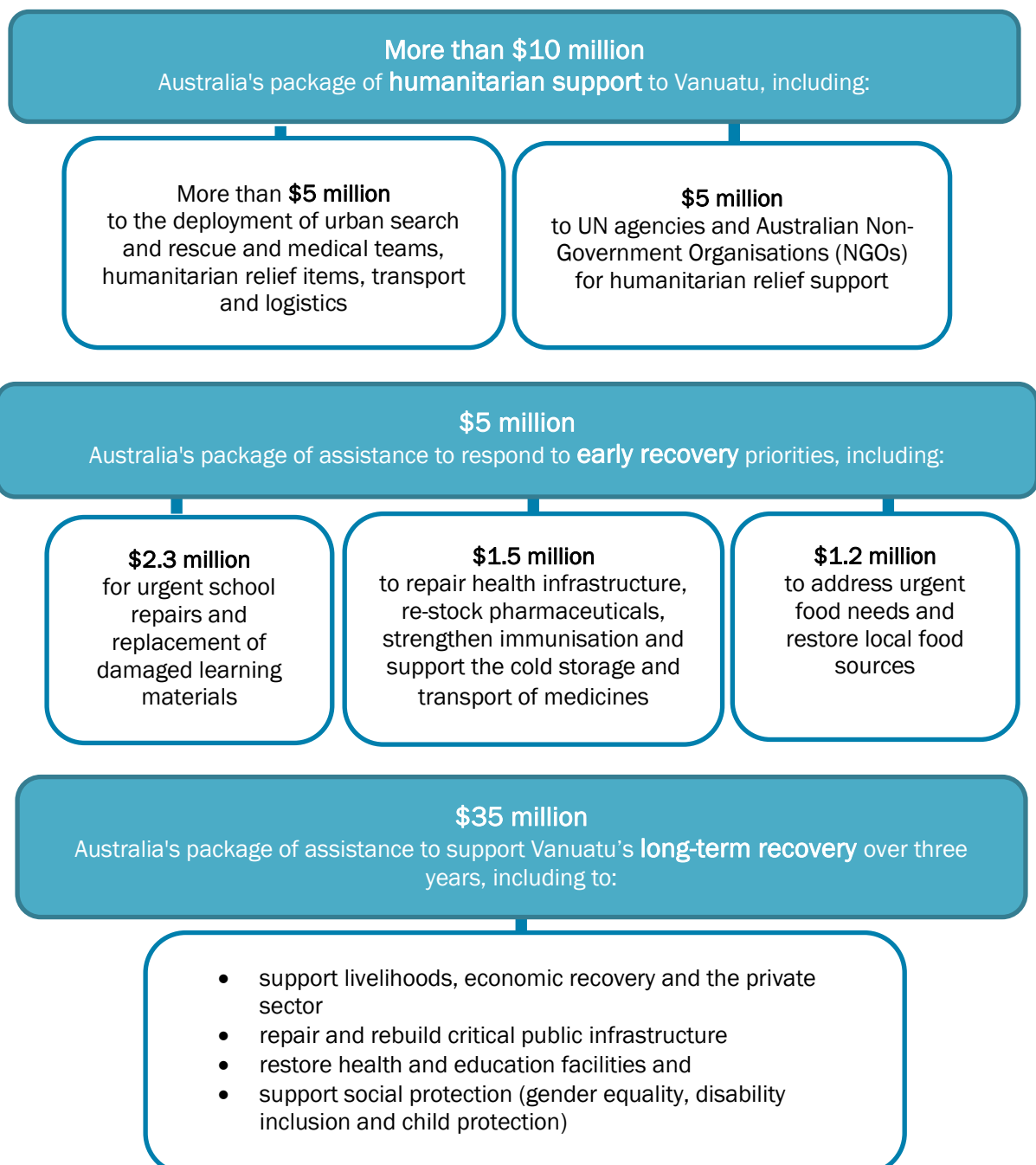




Australian support to Vanuatu following Tropical Cyclone Pam – Fact Sheet

Key Figures: Australian Government response



Situation Overview

Between 12 and 14 March 2015, Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu as a category five cyclone, causing 11 deaths and severe damage to housing, health centres, schools and other critical infrastructure. The cyclone has affected the livelihoods of around 195,000 people across four disaster-affected provinces – Tafea, Shefa, Malampa and Penama. Vanuatu's key industries of tourism and agriculture were also damaged.

The recovery process will take a number of years and require strong support from all donors. The World Bank's Post Disaster Needs Assessment, endorsed by the Vanuatu Government, estimated total damage and loss from Tropical Cyclone Pam at around \$600 million or 64 per cent of GDP. Recovery costs are assessed as \$426 million.

In June 2015, the Vanuatu Government released its recovery plan, *Strengthening ni-Vanuatu Resilience – National Recovery and Economic Strengthening Program Plan*. The Recovery Plan outlines the Government's priorities for recovery and reconstruction over the next two years (2015-17). Australian-funded projects will be coordinated through the Recovery Plan and aligned with Vanuatu Government policies and priorities.

Australian Government Response

Australia has been the largest international contributor to the cyclone response, committing \$50 million for humanitarian support as well as early and long-term recovery needs.

Australian personnel arrived in Vanuatu to provide **humanitarian support** within 36 hours of the cyclone's impact. In consultation with the Vanuatu Government, Australia deployed Australian Defence Force assets, urban search and rescue and medical teams and more than 500 personnel to repair key infrastructure, restore basic services and deliver 182 tonnes of emergency relief supplies. Our humanitarian support, valued at more than \$10 million, included transport and logistics, water and sanitation, health and hygiene, child protection, food security, livelihoods and shelter. These were provided through the UN, Australian Red Cross, Save the Children Australia, World Vision and Care Australia.

Australia invested \$5 million in Vanuatu's **early recovery** needs. Our funding repaired schools and replaced damaged learning material. Funding to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation helped repair health infrastructure, re-stock pharmaceutical supplies, and strengthen immunisation and cold storage facilities. Australia supported the World Food Programme to address urgent food needs and Care Australia to re-establish food security in affected communities.

Australia continues to work closely with the Vanuatu Government and humanitarian partners to implement our three-year, \$35 million **long-term recovery** program. This includes work with the private sector on ways to boost the economy, for example, through the tourism sector which provides jobs and income for many ni-Vanuatu.

Key outcomes

Since the Cyclone, working with Vanuatu partners, Australia has delivered the following outcomes:

Health services and infrastructure

- An Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) treated 1,341 patients at Port Vila Central Hospital; provided medical assistance on five islands, and undertook 26 aero-medical evacuations from outer islands to Port Vila immediately following the cyclone.

- . An Australian Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team helped with urgent repairs to Port Vila Central Hospital immediately following the cyclone.
- . Australian funding to Australian NGOs helped deliver immediate water, sanitation and hygiene needs to over 30,000 people.
- . Australian funding helped United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) provide over 50,000 people with access to safe water; and distribute sanitation and hygiene supplies to over 40,000 people.
- . Early recovery funding helped key health facilities return to normal functioning after the cyclone. They included Port Vila Central Hospital, Lenakel Hospital on Tanna, as well as health centres and dispensaries across Shefa and Tafea provinces.
- . With our support, over 24,000 children were immunised to prevent disease outbreaks.
- . Australia supported the World Health Organization to increase disease surveillance and coordinate damage assessments of 71 health facilities. This included deployment of 20 foreign medical teams to provide emergency care, enabling critical health services in affected areas to continue.
- . As part of the Vanuatu Government's long-term recovery program, Australia is funding the reconstruction of key health infrastructure and replacement of essential equipment targeting the provinces of Tafea, Shefa, Malampa, Torba and Penama.

Education

- . Australian funding helped UNICEF deliver learning material and school supplies to over 17,000 children, and provide 5,017 children with trauma support.
- . An Australian Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team helped with urgent repairs to 27 schools immediately following the cyclone.
- . Australian support funded school repairs and replacement of damaged learning materials and equipment in 143 schools in Shefa and Tafea. This has benefited more than 19,000 students and enabled children to get back to school sooner.
- . Australia is supporting the reconstruction of primary schools and equipment for the Province of Tafea as part of Vanuatu's long-term recovery program.

Food Security and Livelihoods

- . Australia was the largest donor to the World Food Programme, directly funding the distribution of almost 500 tonnes of rice to over 32,000 people.
- . The Australian Defence Force transported 182 tonnes of emergency relief supplies for DFAT and humanitarian partners to Vanuatu immediately after the cyclone.
- . Australian funding to Australian NGOs (World Vision, Save the Children and Care) helped provide water and sanitation, health and hygiene, child protection, food security, livelihoods and shelter assistance. This included the delivery of:
 - shelter kits and solar lights benefiting 21,000 people;
 - tools and seeds to 500 households to help replant crops;
 - rehabilitation of community water sources and storage facilities; and
 - repairs to 1550 houses and provision of cyclone-resilient building materials.
- . With Australian support, the Australian Red Cross, helped 30,000 people with first aid and relief supplies, restored family links, and helped build the response capacity of the Vanuatu Red Cross.

- As part of the Vanuatu Government's long term recovery program, Australia is also supporting:
 - Food security in the Islands of Tafea, Shefa, Malampa and Penama provinces focusing on food security in the form of fish.
 - Recovery and rehabilitation in the agriculture and forestry sector and reviving economic activity through capacity building for farmers through seed distribution and planting.
 - Increasing food production opportunities focusing on capacity building and technical assistance to train and restock farms and improve livestock production and livestock capacity.

Tourism

- Australia is supporting Vanuatu's long-term recovery through support to a Tourism Marketing Campaign, targeting tourism markets of Australia and New Caledonia.
- Australia is also supporting tourism on the island of Tanna through the reconstruction of damaged bungalows.

Water

- Australia is supporting reconstruction of basic water infrastructure (Rain Water Harvesting and Gravity Feed Systems) for the provinces of Tafea, Shefa, Malampa, Penama, Torba and Sanma.

Gender and Social inclusion

- Strengthening gender and social inclusion in Vanuatu's recovery from TC Pam for the provinces of Tafea, Shefa, Malampa, Penama, Sanma and Torba. The project will mainstream gender and protection across all recovery projects.

Public Buildings

- Australia is supporting the repair and reconstruction of government buildings in the provinces of Tafea and Shefa.

What can members of the public do to help?

Vanuatu still needs support. Australians can help Vanuatu's long-term recovery by donating directly to Australian NGOs which continue to help Vanuatu recover from Tropical Cyclone Pam.

Our implementing partners are:

Australian Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org.au>

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): <http://www.unicef.org.au>

World Food Programme: <http://www.wfp.org>

World Health Organisation: <http://www.who.int/en/>

Save the Children: <https://www.savethechildren.org.au>

Care: <https://www.care.org.au>

World Vision: <http://www.worldvision.com.au>

Oxfam: <https://www.oxfam.org.au/>

A comprehensive list of these Australian NGOs can be found at <http://www.acfid.asn.au/aid-issues/humanitarian-response/vanuatu-cyclone-pam>.

Further information

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade humanitarian preparedness and response:
<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/investment-priorities/building-resilience/humanitarian-preparedness-and-response/Pages/humanitarian-preparedness-and-response.aspx>

A copy of the Vanuatu Government's post-disaster needs assessment can be found at:
https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/.../Vanuatu_PDNA_Web.pdf

A copy of the Vanuatu Government's The Recovery plan is available at:
http://www.nab.vu/sites/all/files/projects/draft_recovery_plan_dco-com_version_final_4_dispatch.pdf.

Australian Department of Defence's Operation Pacific Assist 2015:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/Operations/Vanuatu/>

United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA):
<https://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&emergID=16569>

Vanuatu Relief Web: <http://reliefweb.int/country/vut>