# PACIFIC RISK PROFILE – VANUATU

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

* [**1877 m**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) maximum height above sea level
* [**12,281 km²**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) land area and [**24**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) people per km²
* [**14 volcanoes and 53%**](https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/home/data.html) of people live within 30km of volcanoes
* [**24%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) population is urban
* [**64%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) of population live with 1km of coast, **94%** live within 5km of coast and **99%** live within 10km of coast
* [**294,691**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) total population
* [**148,379**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) (50.35%) men and [**146,312**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) women (49.65%) in 2020
* [**12%**](https://www.unescap.org/publications/disability-glance-2019) disability prevalence
* [**$3260**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) USD gross domestic product per capita
* [**61%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s labour force participation
* [**28.5%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of managerial positions
* [**41.3%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of wage employment in the non-agriculture sector
* [**60%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) ever partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner.

## HAZARD LIKELIHOOD

(link: [**https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/262-vanuatu**](https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/262-vanuatu))

| **Wildfire** | **Water scarcity** | **Volcano** | **Coastal flood** | **Earthquake** | **Tsunami** | **Landslide** | **Cyclone** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very low likelihood | Very low likelihood | High  likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood |

## ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO DISASTERS

* [**$166.96m**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) USD total average annual loss due to disasters, which is [**20.67%**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) of GDP.

## ADAPTATION COSTS FOR COASTAL PROTECTION

* [**$42-$161m**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) USD adaptation costs for coastal protection per year, which is [**2-8%**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) of projected GDP in 2040.

## RISK INDEX

* [**Vanuatu**](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2020.pdf) is the country with the **highest** **disaster risk** worldwide due to extreme natural events and sea-level rise.
  + Exposure – very high
  + Vulnerability – high
  + Susceptibility – high
  + Lack of coping capacities – high
  + Lack of adaptive capacities – high
* Between 1999 and 2018 [**Vanuatu was ranked 38t**](https://www.germanwatch.org/en/17307)**h** among countries most affected by extreme weather
* Vanuatu’s risk level is [**high**](https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Covid-19/INFORM-Covid-19-Warning-beta-version) when assessing the potential humanitarian impacts of COVID-19 in combination with other pre-existing crisis risks.

## MAJOR DISASTERS 2011-2020

(link: [**https://www.emdat.be/**](https://www.emdat.be/))

* **7** major cyclones
* **354,044** people affected
* **$451.4m** USD total estimated damage
* **67%** of disasters were storms, **22%** were volcano and **11%** were epidemic.

## TC PAM (2015)

(link: [**https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/pda-2015-vanuatu.pdf**](https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/pda-2015-vanuatu.pdf))

* Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu as an extremely destructive Category 5 cyclone, with estimated wind speeds of 250 km/h and wind gusts that peaked at around 320 km/h
* **$449.4m** USD estimated economic value of the impact, of this **$270.9m** USD is attributable to damage and **$178.5m** USD is loss
* **80%** of Vanuatu’s rural population had their livelihoods compromised
* **65,000** people were displaced from their homes
* **17,000** buildings were damaged or destroyed including houses, schools and clinics

## TC HAROLD (2020)

(link: [**https://dsppac.gov.vu/images/roc/pmo001-post-disaster-needs-assessment-volume-a\_hr-single-pages\_\_p41044.pdf**](https://dsppac.gov.vu/images/roc/pmo001-post-disaster-needs-assessment-volume-a_hr-single-pages__p41044.pdf))

* Tropical Cyclone Harold tore across the northern and central islands of Vanuatu with sustained winds up to 270 km per hour
* **129,000** people were affected, which is around **42%** of Vanuatu’s population
* **$617m** USD estimated value of physical damage and loss, which is approximately **61%** of GDP
* Per cent loss by sector: **43%** productive, **41%** social, **11%** infrastructure and **4%** cross-cutting issues.

## CLIMATE PROJECTION

(link: <https://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/15_PACCSAP-Vanuatu-11pp_WEB.pdf>)

* **Rainfall**: Mean annual rainfall could increase or decrease with the model average indicating little change, with more extreme rain events
* **Cyclones**: less frequent but more intense
* **Temperature**: annual mean temperatures and extremely high temperature days will continue to rise
* **Sea level**: expected to continue to rise
* **Ocean acidification**: expected to continue
* **Risk of** **coral bleaching** expected to increase
* **El Niño/La Niña**: El Niño and La Niña events will continue to occur, in both Port Vila and Aneityum, **El Niño** events tend to bring drier conditionsas well as a late start to the wet season and cooler than normal dry seasons. The oppositeoccurs during **La** **Niña** events.