



17,391

Affected Households



80,000

Affected Population



At least 2,545

Displaced Persons



210

Damaged Houses



Over \$700,000

Pledged Funding to IOM



HIGHLIGHTS

- At least **2,545 persons** are displaced as a result of Magnitude 7.3 Earthquake 34km West of Port Vila, Vanuatu.
- The 7-day state of emergency declared on 17th December likely to **extend** to 2 January 2025 to allow rehabilitation of affected business.
- Another earthquake with **6.1 magnitude reported** on 22nd December, but no further damage reported as yet.
- **9 active evacuation centres** and **54 host households** as of 22 December 2024.
- Road accessibility has been **99% restored**, water supply **77% restored** and aviation is fully operational-with Wharf international airport operational but not accessible.
- **IOM surge support has arrived in Port Vila** along with equipment to support DECM cluster operations.
- 1 million USD **CERF funding announcement for Vanuatu Earthquake**. IOM to receive 300,000 USD for Shelter/NFI kits, Displacement Tracking and DECM cluster coordination.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 17 December, at 12:51pm a 7.3 Magnitude Earthquake struck 34km West of Efate. 12 people have been confirmed dead. 210 people have been injured and treated in the Vanuatu National Hospital. The State of Emergency declared on 17th December likely to extend until 2nd January 2025 to allow for rehabilitation of businesses. Significant infrastructure damage was sustained mainly in Port Vila and surrounding areas. Many families and communities have been displaced as their homes incurred damage or as they await structural assessment of their impacted homes. The road accessibility has been 99% restored, water supply 77% restored and aviation is fully operational-with Wharf international airport operational but not accessible. The daily curfew restrictions are still in place from 6pm to 6am.

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IOM RESPONSE

DISPLACEMENT AND EVACUATION CENTRE MANAGEMENT CLUSTER COORDINATION

IOM is the co-lead of the Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management (DECM) cluster (Pacific-specific version of the global Camp Coordination/Camp Management (CCCM) cluster with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

The DECM cluster is active, and IOM is continuing to provide technical assistance. Regular coordination meetings (every two days), and daily reporting to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) are ongoing. IOM is also actively supporting referrals to Shelter, Health, Education, Gender and Protection, Food Security and Agriculture, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) clusters.

DISPLACEMENT DATA COLLECTION

IOM is tracking displacement in Vanuatu following the Earthquake. IOM is using a customized displacement tracking tool that is informed by IOM's global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), that has been adapted to the local context and agreed with the Government of Vanuatu through prior programming. A [Evacuation Centre and Host Household dashboard](#) has

been developed and shared with partners to assist with addressing the immediate needs of displaced populations and the affected communities including vulnerable groups. Assessments teams are currently covering the following areas: Meleamat,, Eratap village, Erangorango, Ocean view, Joy Bible, White sands country club, Crystal blue, Prima, Rangorango, Teouma Bush/ Red ground, Tagabe warehouse dard, Mele house, Pango house, Anambura, Bladina, Ohlen, Feswota, Erakor and Etas.

The DECM cluster has assessed a total of **9 evacuation centers**, **54** host households and **2,545** people are reported as displaced, as of 22nd December 2024. At least **1,980** individuals are displaced in evacuation centres with host families, and scoping mission ongoing for home assessment to assess safety of return.

Further assessment needs to occur to verify the exact number of displaced persons who can no longer sleep in their houses due to structural damage or physical hazards within the community or yard (e.g. open cracks in ground or landslide risk) and those who are experiencing psycho-social trauma.

Immediate needs for displaced populations include:

- **Water:** Atleast 77% of water has been restored. Water trucking is ongoing, including distribution of WASH kits.

- **Food:** Particularly for large host households and evacuation centers.
- **Shelter:** **210** damaged houses, with **10** fully destroyed, 35 severely damaged, and 50 moderately damaged. **1,050** people affected by damaged homes. Tarps and tents needed for displaced households.
- **Hygiene and Sanitation:** Issues with toilets being reported around sanitation and use of bush toilets, poor health and hygiene.
- **Gender and Protection:** Majority of those who are displaced are vulnerable groups including women, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers, children, elderly and people with disabilities. 8 clinics operating, and Save the Children assessing site locations for child friendly spaces. Counseling is ongoing, but more MHPSS support is required.
- **Health:** Some displaced populations require medicine and medical supplies.

endorsed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and the allocation proposal is currently under development. The allocation is divided as follows: \$550,000 to UNICEF for WASH and psychosocial support for children, \$150,000 to UNFPA for protection and health, particularly reproductive health and GBV, and **\$300,000 to IOM** for Shelter/NFI kits, Displacement Tracking and CCCM (DECM in Vanuatu) cluster coordination.

IOM CAPACITY

IOM Vanuatu has **18 personnel** based in Port Vila, and is supported by IOM Fiji Country Office with Coordinating Functions (COCF)- including the IOM Pacific Programme Support Unit. IOM Vanuatu is also supported by the IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Bangkok.

IOM has strong expertise in Disaster Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific region and early recovery interventions to support disaster affected populations, including a significant focus on resilience building, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and community-level Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

IOM Vanuatu has existing programming on DRR and strengthening resilience to climate change and disaster-related human mobility funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Japan and IOM Development Fund.

IOM Vanuatu has prior experience of supporting emergency response, including in response to Cyclone Lola, Twin Cyclones Judy and Kevin, Harold and the Ambae Volcano Eruption.



IOM SURGE SUPPORT ARRIVES IN PORT VILA

On 21st December, **two additional surge support** personnel from IOM Fiji, arrived on World Food Programme (WFP) Charter Flight. Surge support personnel are assisting IOM teams on the ground with emergency response operations, communications, inter-agency and cluster coordination, humanitarian response plans and operations are being discussed.

IOM cargo to support DECM cluster operations also arrived on the WFP flight. Items procured included Starlink units, laptops and solar lights. As of 22nd December, the IOM Starlink is up and running in the NEOC to support DECM cluster operations and assessments teams.

IOM is exploring options for additional surge deployments to support the ongoing response, structural engineering assessment and the transition to recovery.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CERF ALLOCATION FOR VANUATU EARTHQUAKE

On 17th December, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) announced an allocation of 1 million USD for rapid response to the earthquake. This allocation has been preliminarily