On 6th April 2020, TC Harold made landfall in Vanuatu as a category 5 cyclone, causing widespread destruction across Sanma, Penama, Malampa Provinces as well as the northern islands of Shefa Province.

The Vanuatu Shelter Cluster, led by the Public Works Department with coordination support from IFRC, was convened on 6th April 2020. IFRC continues to support the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster remotely from Suva, Fiji.

Shelter Cluster agencies that have been involved in this response through distribution of relief stocks, assessments, trainings/ awareness include:

- CARE Vanuatu, Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS), World Vision, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), The Butterfly Trust, Save the Children, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Vanuatu Skills Partnership (TVET), Caritas, Rotary Club, Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN) and ShelterBox.

The overall summary of the emergency response based on information made available to the Shelter Cluster Coordination Team is as follows:

- **17,248 HH** have received assistance from the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster agencies. This is from the distribution of tarpaulins supported with the distribution of the following items:
  - shelter tool kits/ shelter repair materials including tools and fixings.
  - essential household items such as kitchen sets, sleeping mats, blankets, clothing & solar lamps

- **3,080 HH** worth of shelter relief items that have been consigned to the NDMO from overseas government donations. The distribution of these items has not been reported to the cluster.

This brings the overall potential assistance of the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster in relief item distribution to **20,328 HH**, (also considering the stocks that have been consigned to the NDMO)

The target # of HHs: **21,000 HH** (damage data)

Estimated response gap: c. **672 HH**

Technical Support has been provided to **1,230 HH** (this includes safe shelter awareness, trainings, and coconut thatch workshops).
In the 'Summary of Shelter Cluster Activities' (find the link in the key links below), there are still some significant gaps identified when comparing the best available damage data with the assistance provided. Shelter Cluster agencies are encouraged to investigate the remaining gaps highlighted in this table as some of these HHs may have received assistance from NDMO which were unreported.

Shelter Cluster agencies are also encouraged to continue with recovery activities and support communities with preparedness for the upcoming cyclone season beginning November 2020.

Listed below are a few challenges that were faced by Shelter Cluster agencies during this response:

- Limited external support due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. External support had to be done remotely and as a result of this, local agencies had to strengthen and stretch their Human Resources.
- Reduced number of relief items available due to COVID related restrictions and delay in getting them to the affected communities due to strict border controls.
- Challenging to source relief items in a time effect manner. A lot of agencies had to do a lot of in-country procurement which exhausted the local supply chain.
- Holistic approach to the emergency response, incorporating aspects of WASH, Gender & protection & social distancing was essential.
- While there was community awareness and sharing of key resources to promote hygiene, practicing social distancing was difficult to implement during distributions.
- Accessibility to some communities is a challenge (especially rural communities)