Shelter Cluster Vanuatu

TC HAROLD LESSONS LEARNT WORKSHOP, 14-15 JULY 2020

(INTER-CLUSTER WORKSHOP FACILITATED BY NDMO)
The total estimated housing damage is **21,000 HH**.

When distributed, available relief supplies will cover the emergency shelter needs of a total of **20,230 HH** (12,980 HH completed, 4,170 HH planned, supplies to support 3,080 HH with NDMO not yet reported). Refer to Shelter Cluster Vanuatu TC Harold sitrep 13 for more details.

Technical support has been provided to **3,164 HH** in the form of safe-shelter awareness, trainings and workshops in Sanma and Penama Provinces.

The existing Shelter Cluster Guidelines made it easy to identify standard contents for emergency shelter assistance, shelter repair toolkits etc, helping agencies to quickly shift from international sourcing to local procurement of some specified items.

**Please note:** The Shelter Cluster has not conducted a lessons learnt workshop yet, since the response hasn't concluded. However, the information in this presentation is consolidated from inputs from Shelter Cluster partners till 13th July 2020.
What went well?

- Even though the response was slower than usual given the context of COVID-19, 62% of the affected have now received assistance from Shelter Cluster partners.
- The TC Harold response was well coordinated with the Shelter Cluster partners, the Provincial Emergency Operations Centers in the worst affected provinces (Sanma, Malampa & Penama) and the Shelter Cluster Coordination Team.
- Overall, the Shelter Cluster, and relevant EOCs & PEOCs were able to provide the information needed to identify gaps in distribution, that enabled agencies to assist and support each other to cover gaps identified with the available resources.
- Access to existing Cluster-approved IEC materials made it easy to share key information with communities during distributions.
- Community engagement, participation
- Logistic support from NDMO
What went well?

Shelter Cluster agencies and partners 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, 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.
A technical guidance document has been produced for the use, reuse, repair and disposal of tarpaulins via a Technical Working Group chaired by PWD and co-chaired by CARE Vanuatu in consultation with the following agencies:

- Vanuatu Red Cross Society
- IFRC
- IOM
- World Vision
Below are a few Critical Challenges faced by the Shelter Cluster Partners:

- Coordination down to provinces, Area Councils and communities
- Consignment of relief supplies should be direct to Cluster Lead instead of to NDMO. Access and allocation procedures to this stock was unclear.
- Logistics challenges due to bad weather
- Not enough Human Resources to support in this response.
- Not all agencies reported available stocks and assistance provided, back to the Cluster coordination team, making it difficult to analyse capacity, gaps, and duplication in assistance (NDMO)
- Time for beneficiaries to receive shelter relief items. High demand, slow response.
- Definition of ‘household’ is not clear or well defined and does not reflect distribution of Shelter assistance.
- Low stocks of standard IFRC tarps to be distributed.
- Due to limited access to international stock, procurement of kits contents was largely done locally and there were a lot challenges in this. Greater coordination would have allowed for a more efficient domestic procurement process and reduced risk of stripping the market of certain products.
- There were more requests for tents than tarpaulins
- There needs to be more awareness on preparedness and more effort in emergency response
- There is a lot of movement of the people (So it was hard to keep track of actual number affected)
- Cost of land transportation is high
- Accessibility to some communities is a challenge (especially rural communities)
How did COVID-19 impact on the cluster’s work?

What ‘adapations’ were required because of COVID-19 including physical distancing, hygiene and WASH etc?

Listed below are the impacts of COVID-19 to the emergency response of shelter cluster partners:

▪ Limited external support due to travel restrictions. External support had to be done remotely due to COVID.
▪ Local agencies had to strengthen and stretch their Human Resources since no foreigners could come into Vanuatu.
▪ It was difficult to follow the standard distribution criteria for shelter items because of the lack of relief materials available in country.
▪ 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.
John at the Sarakata Evacuation Center, receiving his shelter kit, wash and cuttings from ADRA, just before leaving the evacuation center to return to his home in Pepsi, Luganville, Santo.

CARE team traveling by helicopter to remote communities in South Pentecost. Team Leader: Resilience Manager Julia Marango. May 2020

Vanuatu Red Cross Volunteers. Shelter distribution and awareness in West Santo.
Useful Links

Shelter Cluster Vanuatu website

https://www.sheltercluster.org/pacific/vanuatu

Technical guidance for use, reuse, repair and disposal of tarpaulins


Technical Guidelines for Shelter Preparedness and Response to Natural Hazards in Vanuatu:


Environmental Checklist for Shelter Response:

Tangkyu Tumas