**Cyclone PAM: Food Security and Agriculture Cluster**

**Daily Briefing**

**Date 16 March 2015**

Food Security and AgricultureCluster   
Lead Organisations: DARD, SPC/GIZ, FAO

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| **Major Loss and Damage Reports From Islands** |
| TAFEA (aerial) – 30% coconuts downed, fruit trees stripped  TORBA (sat phone)- bananas and manioc damaged  SHEFA (visual/walkthroughs, aerial)- vegetables destroyed, 10% coconuts downed, fruit trees stripped   * root crops have been damaged which are the staple food (at least 80% of local food source) for the entire population * extensive loss of planting materials and farming tools * total destruction of leafy vegetables (high in protein content) * significant damage to fishing boats and implements (nets and engines) * small livestock -- primarily pigs -- suffering a critical shortage of livestock feed (coconuts, grasses and shrubs) * women have been affected through the loss of weaving materials for food and garden baskets (pandanus, estimated to be completely destroyed and with a recovery period of 12 months) * Access to markets is severely constrained; shops have been damaged or have had to shut down, and imported food supplies are becoming scarce * damage to agriculture infrastructure, including extension offices * debris hampering mobility of farmers to access gardens, lack of maintenance enabling spread of pests and disease. |
| **Critical Activities Underway** |
| 1. FSAC Action Plans, 10 critical activities with budgets, gaps and assigned responsibilities 2. 3 Main Targets of the Plan    1. Emergency Food Supplies (7 activities; urgent)    2. Restore Production (3 activities; urgent)    3. Restore Economic Livlihoods (medium term 5 activities) 3. Each Action assigned a lead focal point and working team with clear outputs 4. Development of shared FSAC Calendar[[1]](#footnote-1), NAB homepage[[2]](#footnote-2), and Google Docs folder[[3]](#footnote-3) (FSAC Secretariat) 5. Mapping of cyclone affected agriculture areas and calcuation of crop damage based on agriculture census (local agriculture GIS expert) 6. Stocktaking of on ground food supplies, seeds, planting materials and quotes from local suppliers (local FSAC members) 7. Coordination with existing mechanisms for pest and disease monitoring and management 8. Development of urgent key messages for farmers with replanting advice (DARD officer) 9. Statistics briefing notes, food security mapping and satellite imagery (coordinated jointly by WFP, SPC, Aus Govt) 10. Next FSAC Meeting Wednesday 18th March 2015, 2:00pm, DARD Classroom. |
| **Urgent Action/Needs/Gaps** |
| * Crop specific damage/loss reports and subsequent development of „hotspot“ maps of damage * Rapid estimation of requirements for imported food, seeds and farming tools * Finance to purchase locally available food stocks, seeds, and tools * Printing of agriculture extension materials overseas and transport to Vanuatu * Finance for operations of FSAC cluster members (fuel for vehicles, food/DSA, mobile phone credit) * Online secretarial work, typing handwritten documents, data entry etc * Import of bushknives/macettes (local stocks are fully depleated) |
| **Human Resource Capacity** |
| FSAC Cluster:   * Eight (8) Locally based agencies * Trained Ag Assessment Team of 25 Pax * 4 International staff (based at FSAC secretariat)   International remote assistance:   * FAO Auckland-Based Coordinator * SPC Suva and Noumea statistics, geospatial and land resources staff * WFP- mapping, statistics and briefing * UNOCHA – information management |
| **FSAC Materials/Finance** |
| * 100,000Euro offer from German Government * Offer of budget reallocation from recent ECHO project * Operational budgets for FSAC from SPC-GIZ (~3,000USD) * Operational budgets for FSAC from FAO (~3,000USD) |
| **Budget Urgently Required** |
| * ~16 Million Vt for emergency food supply for affected rural areas (more robust calculations coming) * ~1 million Vt for purchase of locally available seeds * ~2.5 Million Vt for purchase of locally available farming tools * ~500,000vt for FSAC coordination activities |
| **Key Messages** |
| 1. A large proportion of the Vanuatu population from all provinces will be without local staple food supply by end of March 2015 until at least mid-June when the first harvest from fast-growing food crops is anticipated.  2. Already existing and trained community disaster and climate change committees should be activated and mobilized to take a priority focus on Food Security.  3. As soon as possible the Food Security Cluster in Port Vila @ NDMO needs to know from every possible location in Vanuatu:   * A list of Food Items that have been completely destroyed * A list of Food Items that can still be utilized/harvested (kumala, taro) * An estimate of how long food supplies will last   4. All farmers must act very quickly to save planting materials and START planting anywhere they can. Most importantly focus on planting materials that will rot quickly (kumala vines, banana suckers, taro tubers, island cabbage branches). Then move onto planting materials like manioc. Famers should not worry about making new full gardens, plant anywhere.  5. All communities must immediately begin preserving or storing any available foods using traditional or modern methods. For example: banana Marae, drying, salting, slow cooking meat, burying root crops in the sand, etc.  6. Urgent international assistance is required for food aid supply, seeds, farming equipment, and technical expertise on logistics/food distribution |

1. https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=0bdsntreu2l1g7ek2rb487h08k%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Pacific/Efate [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.nab.vu/projects/food-security-agriculture-response-cyclone-pam [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hQiHQwwNSHK-LzXPlDhBRm1dgbcefOHYjWV1RdtGwGg/edit?usp=sharing\_eid [↑](#footnote-ref-3)