



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

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Cyclone PAM: Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Daily Briefing Date 26 March 2015 1:00pm

Food Security and Agriculture Cluster

Lead Organisations: DARD, SPC/GIZ, FAO

Urgent Needs:

- Import of seeds (specific shortfalls in cucumber, beans and squash) to address shortfall in locally available stocks. Require ~400,000USD
- Purchase of farming tools require ~3 million USD
- Long term rebuilding and restructuring of the Ministry (MLFFB) ~5 million USD
- Urgent long-term food needs, ~5million USD per month; 15 million USD for 3 months

Response (high priority actions)

- International procurement of non-perishable emergency food stocks complete WFP: 200MT rice, German Government: 137MT rice, Red Cross: 108MT, Adra: 25MT rice
- Food distribution completed for Efate offshore (5) and Shepherd Islands by 23 March
- Shipping underway to PENAMA (Pentecost, Maewo), TORBA (Merelava) (4,900 households)
- Distribution complete in Ambrym (1,500 households) on 26 March
- Distribution underway in MALAMPA (Paama), SHEFA (Epi and Lanem) (1,600 households)
- Distribution of rice is underway in Port Vila (all 5 municipal wards) and Peri-urban areas (5,700 households)
- Dispatch of High Energy Biscuits on 25 March to complement food packages in locations with water stress where cooking rice would impact on drinking water (Erromango, Tanna and Aniwa) (approximately 6,000 households). Further dispatches are planned for Tongoa, Emae, Buninga, Tongariki, Makira, and Mataso (approximately 680 households)
- Assessment on fisheries damage and of fish preservation and fishing facilities and adjusting further technical assistance (SPC)



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- Sending out key messages and information on food distribution (radio, pamphlet)
- Evaluation of availability of surplus fresh produce from less impacted islands has been undertaken including Fiji taro, island taro, cassava, kumula, yams, as well as for fishing by-catch. Transport and logistics options for these are being investigated.
- Assessments on plant diseases and animal diseases
- Identification of food security status of areas not considered a priority in initial assessments is underway today (e.g. Malekula)
- Availability and distribution of crop planting materials is being assessed

Gaps & Constraints (beneficiary needs)

- Reliable statistics on number of households at the Area Council and village level
- Transport of food and seeds from inter island and on the island
- Storage of fresh produce (e.g. fish)
- Volunteers for distribution supervision (short on people who have time to supervise the food distribution process in the islands –in Efate area council and Northern islands)
- Information on number of people received food packages is not clearly being reported in a systematic way
- Volunteers needed for seed re-packaging for Monday 30 March