



# **TROPICAL CYCLONE LOLA RECOVERY RESILIENT PLAN 2023-2025**





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## 1.1 Foreword

On behalf of the people and Government of Vanuatu, I extend sincere sympathy to those families most affected by TC Lola. The devastation and trauma caused by TC Lola has further compounded by the recent economic, social and environmental impacts of TC Judy & Kevin, TC Harold, high La Nina rainfall, the cyber-attack on Government servers and all on the back of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, these events have threatened the lives and livelihoods of many people across our country. In such difficult circumstances, we again draw strength from our collective resilience and determination to attain the development aspirations we have set for ourselves in Vanuatu 2030 - The People's Plan, our National Sustainable Development Plan.



On behalf of the people and Government of Vanuatu, I extend sincere sympathy to those families most affected by TC Lola. The devastation and trauma caused by TC Lola has further compounded by the recent economic, social and environmental impacts of TC Judy & Kevin, TC Harold, high La Nina rainfall, the cyber-attack on Government servers and all on the back of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, these events have threatened the lives and livelihoods of many people across our country. In such difficult circumstances, we again draw strength from our collective resilience and determination to attain the development aspirations we have set for ourselves in Vanuatu 2030 - The People's Plan, our National Sustainable Development Plan.

In the aftermath of TC Lola's unprecedented arrival outside of cyclone season in the month of October, my cabinet commissioned PMO Corporate Services and DSPPAC to establish the Recovery Operation Centre (ROC). Under the extraneous circumstance of dealing with the third cyclone this year, ROC received direction to develop a Recovery Plan to outline the recovery needs required to rebuild our nation. The Council of Ministers through NRC decision N0.4 has approved this Recovery Plan and I am proud to announce its finalization less than 2 months after TC Lola made landfall.

As Vanuatu is situated in the 'Pacific Ring of Fire' and Cyclone belt and recognized as the most vulnerable country to natural disasters, the Recovery Plan has also identified risks and vulnerabilities to reduce future hazards and the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by the adverse effects of climate change.

My government is determined to shorten the time it takes for planning and implementation of response and recovery. This requires emphasis on resilience building and the preparatory phase of disaster. Thus, Government business planning for each year will have a focus on planning and budgeting for service delivery during normal times and business continuity under extreme disaster conditions. This should see sectors play a leading role in the response and recovery of disasters. To ensure the implementation of these directives, my government is sponsoring the legislation of Recovery and Resilience for the next parliament sitting. The legislation once enacted will support a swift response to recovery phase and enhance people's resilience to future disaster shocks.

I take this opportunity to thank my DG and Director for the strategic and technical oversight in ensuring that the Recovery Plan was developed according to the approved timeframes. The total amount of the recovery needs is just over VUV43, 280,671,271 billion. While Vanuatu, through its ministries, has already started the early recovery efforts, we will continue to rely on the Goodwill and strategic friendships to shoulder the medium to long-term recovery efforts. I thank our Development Partners in anticipation. Finally, I thank the sectors for supporting the call of COM to support the recovery planning process and DSPPAC for your tireless efforts in implementing the decision. Together we can and will recover, rebuild and emerge stronger and more resilient.

God bless.

Hon. Chariot Sa'wai  
Prime Minister



## 2.0 Acronyms

ACNU	Aid Coordination and Negotiation Unit
DOE	Department of Energy
DOL	Department of Labour
DOT	Department of Tourism
DOL	Department of Lands
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster-Risk Reduction
DRCU	Disaster Recovery Coordination Unit
DSPPAC	Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination of the Prime Minister's Office
DUAP	Department of Urban Affairs and Planning
DWA	Department of Women's Affairs
DEPC	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
Go	Government of Vanuatu
HH	Household
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MJCS	Ministry of Justice and Community Services
MoCCA	Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation
MoET	Ministry of Education and Training
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MIPU	Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJCS	Ministry of Justice and Community Services MLNR Ministry of Land and Natural Resources
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
MTTCNVB	Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business
NBV	National Bank of Vanuatu
NDMO	Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office
NDRF	National Disaster Recovery Framework
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Centre
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	National Recovery Committee
NSDP	Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan
OGCIO	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PVMC	Port Vila Municipal Council
PWD	Public Works Department
ROC	Recovery Operations Centre
TC	Tropical Cyclone
VCCI	Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry
VMF	Vanuatu Mobile Force
VMGD	Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department
VNSO	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
VSTS	Vanuatu Sustainable Tourism Strategy
VUVO	Vanuatu Tourism Office
VWC	Vanuatu Women's Centre
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



## 3.0 Purpose of the Recovery Plan

The purpose of the TC Lola Recovery Plan is to guide the Government of Vanuatu in the planning and prioritization of recovery activities and to seek funding and technical support from development partners in areas where the government cannot meet these costs alone. Through the consolidation of the recovery needs identified by sectors, this Recovery Plan comprehensively outlines the path forward to rebuilding back better towards the goals outlined in the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030.



## 4.0 Executive Summary

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Lola passed over the northern and central provinces of Vanuatu between the 23rd and 25th of October 2023. Affected areas categorized were under three priority areas to provide a general understanding on where the Government response would focus as well as to assist the Government on the development of the National Recovery Plan through the targeting of most affect locations.

The total economic value of the recover cost caused by Tropical Cyclone Lola is estimated to be approximately VUV43,280,671,271 billion. The sector that sustained the highest level of damage is the infrastructure sector, which accounts for 92 percent of the total recovery cost, followed by the WASH sector, which accounts for 3 percent of the total recovery cost. The assessment carried out to develop the recovery plan did not capture any information on the loss sustained by people. This document has drawn conclusions from the specific sector recovery costs that the largest level of economic losses caused by TC Lola would be in the infrastructure sector.

This National Recovery Plan will serve as a reference document for all TC Lola recovery needs. It will also guide the Government to identify sectors with recovery needs in specific locations and inform on a more detailed recovery programs, plans, and projects that will be developed and implemented by the responsible government ministries in consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community. This recovery plan can also be used for requesting funding from development partners for recovery project implementation.

The sectors requiring the largest investment for post disaster recovery after TC Lola are as follows:

**Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry:** The current cost of recovery for the agriculture in particular DARD amounts to VUV385,733,996. From an agriculture perspective, TC Lola followed the worst possible path, as it cut across some of the main producing areas of the country previously impacted by the Cyclones of TC Harold in April 2020 and TC Judy & Kevin early 2023, destroying huge numbers of annual and permanent crops.

**Education:** The recovery needs of Education in the priority 1 and 2 impacted areas are valued at VUV325,102,685. The provinces of Penama and Malampa alone constitute 95% of the total damage and recovery cost, in the category of school reconstructions. Rebuilding of schools and WASH facilities are medium to long-term needs, while re-sourcing of learning materials can be done within a short period. It is important to apply Build Back Better principals, along with solid engineering and construction designs embedded into the recovery strategies for sustainable and resilient investments.

**Health:** Tropical Cyclone Lola caused tremendous damage and losses in the health sector in Penama, Malampa and some parts of Torba and Shefa Provinces. The effects varied in severity within the provinces and Torba and Shefa were least affected. The remaining provinces of Sanma and Tafea were unaffected. In all the total percentage of population affected was 20%. Total damage to the health sector was estimate at approximately VT 781,440,000 including the build back better approach.

**Housing:** The housing sector in previous cyclones has consistently recorded the highest monetary cost in terms of damages and recovery needs when compared with all other sectors.<sup>[1]</sup> Assessment data collected by the NDMO estimates<sup>[2]</sup> that approximately 5,750 houses destroyed and approximately 15,700 houses damaged were in Penama, Malampa, Shefa and Torba. Approximately 60% of detached kitchens damaged were across all affected provinces. The recovery needs for housing are planning, policy and repairs for private's houses estimated to be around VUV2,034,500 million.

**Telecommunications:** The damages caused by TC Lola to the telecommunication infrastructure, Government Broadband Network in Penama, Malampa, and Shefa hindered communication and information sharing. The disaster effects covered damaged antennas causing loss of link connectivity, and power breaker tripped off causing all transmission equipment to be offline. Immediate response has been provided to temporarily resolve the link issue. The assessment of damages of public telecommunication by TC Lola is relatively moderate compared to previous cyclones but the need to restore communication remains undisputable for the short term. Therefore, the estimated recovery cost of the telecommunication is amount to VUV9,832,000 million.





**Transport:** The recovery strategy concentrates on reconstruction of roads and bridges, port facilities, and airport infrastructure to ensure that the transport sector can be brought back to normal levels as soon as possible. The short-term priority is to restore connectivity to essential transport subsectors that are essential to the response and recovery operations of other sectors such as Health, Education, Shelter, Food security and Protection. In addition, the function of markets and commercial centres also relies on transport infrastructure. The total recovery needs are estimated to be VUV 40,836,250,000 billion for the transport sector.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** TC Lola caused widespread damage to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector (WASH) in affected provinces of Torba, Penama, Malampa and Shefa. Strong winds damaged water systems because of fallen trees and flying debris. Storm surge and flooding also caused damage. The majority of damage were to rainwater harvesting catchment structures and pipe works, but there was also contamination of shallow wells. Therefore, total Estimated cost for recovery for all affected provinces is approximately VUV 1,051,998,090



## 4.1 Summary of Recovery and Reconstruction Needs

Total recovery needs were estimated to be VUV 43,280,671,271. The Infrastructure Sector under economic pillar has the highest recovery needs with VUV 40,836,250,000. The second highest recovery need is the WASH Sector with VUV 1,051,998,090.<sup>[3]</sup>

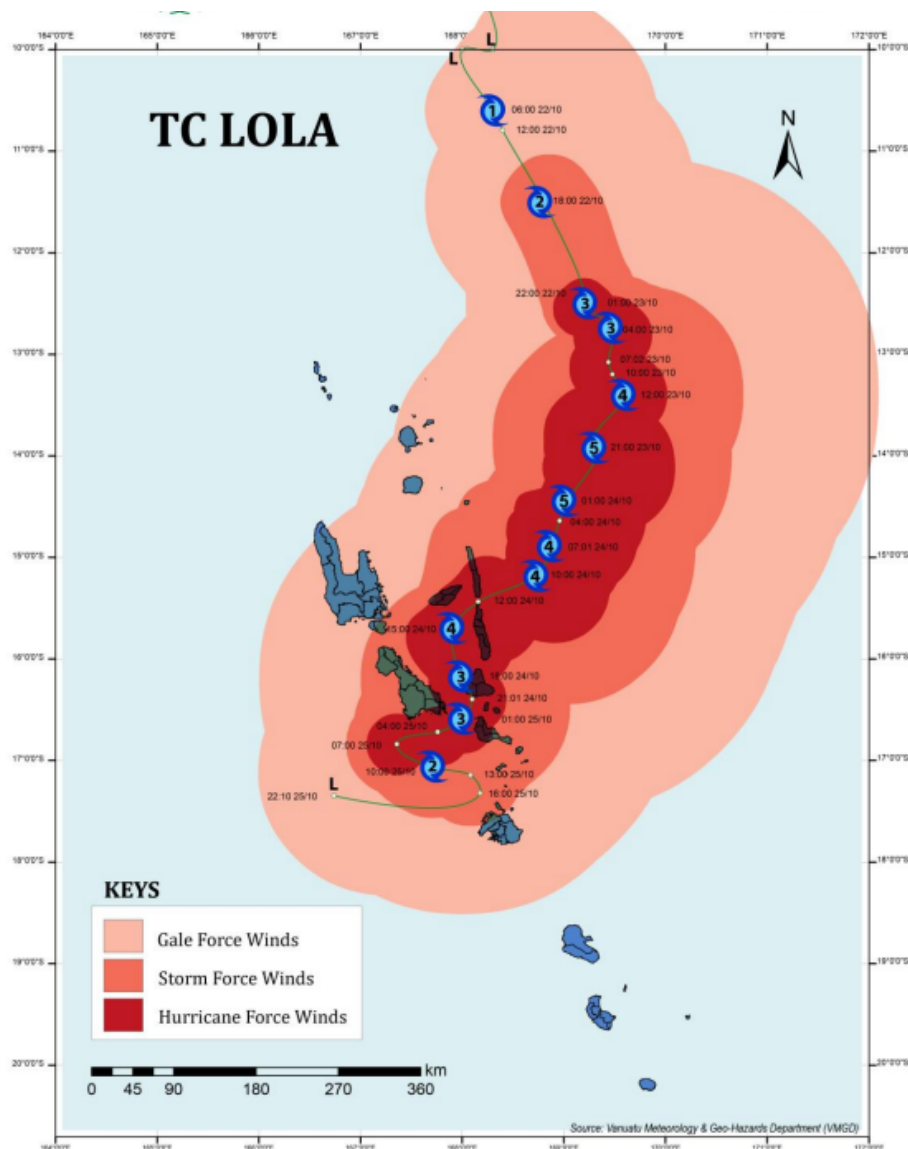
Table 1: Summary of Total Recovery Needs

Sectors	Recovery Needs			
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Total (VUV)
<b>Environment Pillar</b>				<b>1,327,211,726</b>
Crops	95,199,996	-	-	95,199,996
Livestock	36,694,000	-	-	36,694,000
Fisheries	24,200,000	-	-	24,200,000
Forestry	14,970,000	86,000,000	9,550,000	111,720,000
WASH	-	-	-	1,051,998,090
<b>Economic Pillar</b>				<b>40,846,082,000</b>
Telecommunications	-	-	-	9,832,000
Transport (Roads, Airports, Wharfs)	247,250,000	564,000,000	40,025,000,000	40,836,250,000
<b>Society Pillar</b>				<b>1,108,577,185</b>
Education	-	-	-	325,102,685
Health	-	-	-	781,440,000
Housing	-	-	-	2,034,500
<b>Total Recovery Needs</b>				<b>43,280,671,271</b>

## 5.0 Context

TC formed outside of the annual cyclone season and caused partial to full damage in the 5 provinces of Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa and Shefa between the 23rd and 25th of October 2023. Lola was briefly recorded Category 5 (Cat 5) cyclone on the night of 23 October to the early hours of 24th before downgrading into Cat 4 and 3. The winds brought by Lola were estimate up to 230 kph at the Centre of the storm, with destructive hurricane force hitting multiple provinces in the country's north and central provinces.

Figure 1: VMGD TC Lola Post Analysis Track –October 2023



The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) assessment categorized the affected areas into three priority areas with Priority one areas being badly affected.

Lola caused widespread damage and displacement in the Northern provinces of Torba, Sanma, Penama and Malampa with over 110,000 people were affected by the cyclone, and thousands of homes, schools, and other infrastructure were damaged or destroyed. Crops and livestock were also damaged, threatening food security for many communities. Coastal flooding caused by the storm surge inundated homes and businesses. TC Lola also significantly affected houses, with over 25,000 households suffering the destruction of their housing and related damages.

The TC Lola recovery needs assessment to take into consideration the previous Disasters effects, from TC Pam, TC Judy and Kevin, TC Harold and covid 19. All events have followed the same path affecting the same province from Torba, Penama, Malampa, Sanma and Shefa. During the recovery needs, assessment shows clear evidence from data collected for each sector that the wider gaps on the recovery activities from the previous disaster's effects are still significant.

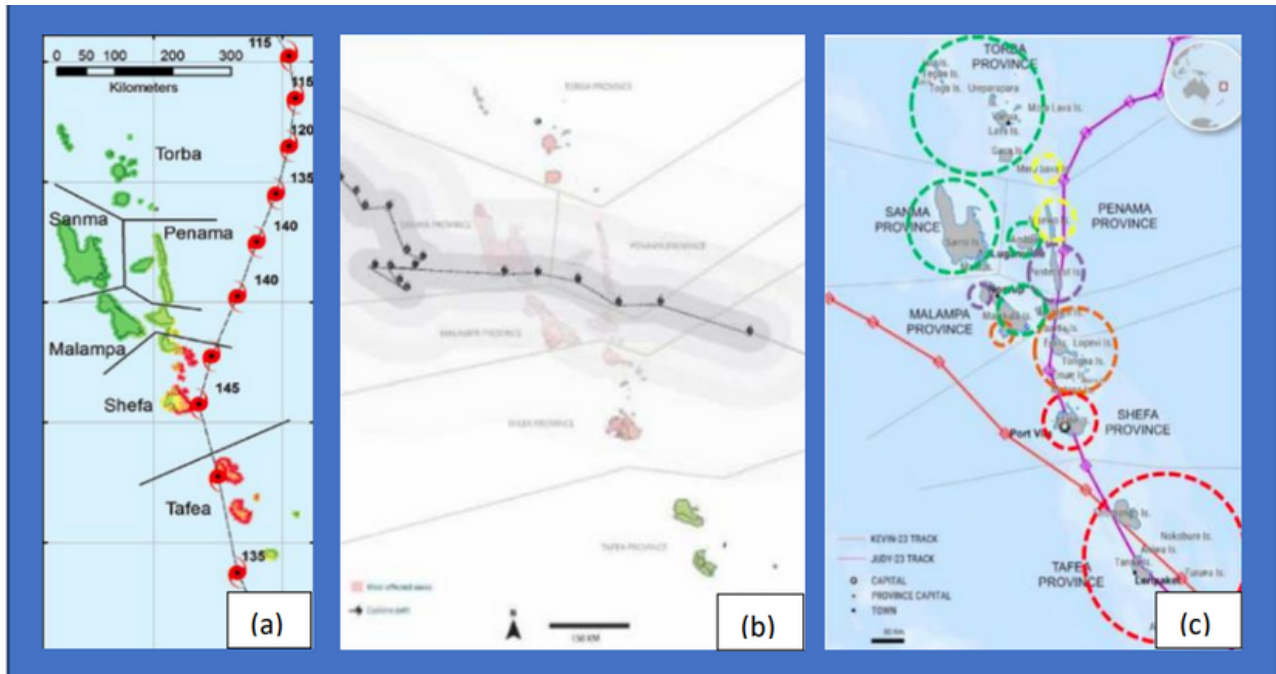


Figure 2: Tropical cyclone tracks extracted from the respective PDNA report: (a) TC Pam with numbers showing maximum estimated wind speeds (in knots) and color's showing modelled wind speeds (e.g. areas in red >200km/h); (b) TC Harold with shading indicating cyclone/wind intensity; and (c) TC Judy and Kevin with NDMO priority areas.



## 6.0 National Sustainable Development Plan

The recovery plan for Tropical cyclone Lola is align well with the Vanuatu 2030 The Peoples Plan (The Plan) policy objectives. The National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) implementation period commence from 2016 to 2030, and it serves as the country's highest-level policy framework. It is founded on culture, traditional knowledge and Christian principles, and builds on Vanuatu's development journey since independence.

The Plan outlines Vanuatu's national development goals and policy objectives in order to translate the National Vision into priorities to be actioned. This provides a sound framework to monitor progress.

The Vanuatu people have articulated an ambitious but achievable vision for a stable, sustainable, and prosperous Vanuatu. With the right policies, investments and collective commitment we can translate our development aspirations into reality.

The Government of Vanuatu's progressive new approach to natural disaster recovery stems due to lessons learnt from TC Pam in 2015 and TC Harold in 2020 whose Recovery assessments took over 5 months to complete and their implementations spanned more than the proposed long-term recovery timeframe of 2-3 years. Early this year Vanuatu was battered by twin cyclones TC Judy and Kevin, a never-seen-before scenario, whose recovery is still pending.

Vanuatu 2030 charts the country's vision and overarching policy framework for achieving a Stable, Sustainable and Prosperous Vanuatu by 2030 and in doing so sets out the national priorities & context for the implementation of global sustainable development goals.

The disaster response phase of government is to manage the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected communities while the government recovery intervention primarily aims at developing a recovery needs either assessment or a disaster Recovery Plan that would tally the long-term recovery needs. The long-term recovery connects with the normal planning cycle of the government and towards achieving the targets of National Development Plan or the People's Plan.





# Society Pillar

The society pillar seeks to ensure we maintain a vibrant cultural identity underpinning a peaceful, just and inclusive society that is supported by responsive and capable institutions, delivering quality services to all citizens.



## 7.1 Education

**Sector Lead:** Ministry of Education and Training

**Contact information:** Marie Keiruan (kmarie@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) is the largest service provider and employer in the country, delivering formal education to over 98,000 pupils in more than 1,200 schools nationwide. These include Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Primary Schools, and Secondary Schools.

However, the frequency of category 4 and 5 tropical cyclones on the archipelago of Vanuatu continues to increase, crippling the achievement of, among other goals, quality education system for all, as visioned in the National Sustainable Development Plan of 2016 to 2030.

The disruption to children's learning due to damaged infrastructures has longer-term impacts that must yet be qualified. Tropical Cyclone Lola is no exception, affecting several school buildings, including learning materials and WASH facilities, in the Provinces of Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa and Shefa.

### Recovery Needs

The recovery priority for the Education Sector is the reconstruction of damaged schools. The recovery strategies were both short and long term. Within two weeks post TC Lola, the Education Cluster focused on providing temporary arrangements to ensure service continuity, whereby examination classes were accommodated in temporary shelters, while non-examination years were issued home school packages. However, rebuilding of schools, WASH facilities and restocking learning materials for the affected schools, especially in the Penama and Malampa Provinces are of the highest priority for the Education Sector.

Table 2: Summary of Health Recovery Costs

Subsector	Recovery Costs	20% Build Back Better	Total (VUV)
Infrastructure	416,000,000	83,200,000	499,200,000
Staff Quaters	171,600,000	34,320,000	205,920,000
Water in HCF	23,800,000	4,760,000	28,560,000
Toilet in HCF	32,600,000	6,520,000	39,120,000
Equipment	7,200,000	1,440,000	8.640.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>651,200,000</b>	<b>130,240,000</b>	<b>781,440,000</b>

Source: Education Online Dashboard - [https://dsppac.gov.vu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=173&Itemid=637](https://dsppac.gov.vu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=173&Itemid=637)

## 7.2 Health

**Sector Lead:** Ministry of Health

**Contact information:** Sandy Moses Sawan (smoses@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Lola made landfall in Vanuatu on 25 October 2023 as a Category 4 storm. This is the third TC to strike Vanuatu in 2023, and the first named storm of the 2023-24 South Pacific Cyclone Season (which normally runs from 1 Nov-30 Apr). TC Lola was the strongest pre-season cyclone in the South Pacific on record. Two provinces, Penama and Malampa have been mainly affected. It is estimated that a total of over 90,000 people have been affected by the cyclone, about 60,000 in Priority areas 1. There have been 1 death and 3 persons injured as a direct result of the cyclone.

Tropical Cyclone Lola have tremendous damage and losses in the health sector with sustained major damage and losses in Penama, Malampa and some parts of Torba and Shefa Provinces. The effects varied in severity within the provinces and Torba and Shefa were least affected. The remaining provinces of Sanma and Tafea were unaffected. In all the total percentage of population affected was 20%

### Recovery Needs

Total damage to the health sector was estimated at approximately VT 781,440,000 including the build back better approach.

In total, about 65,000 people may face disruption in essential healthcare services, access to clean water, proper hygiene & sanitation and inadequate healthy diets and living conditions due to displacement and loss of jobs and livelihood. Infrastructure damage costs also include damage related to water, power and telecommunications. Psychosocial support and psychological first aid provided by development partners, NGOs and MoH to affected populations.

The impact of disruptions to the Health Sector is significant nothing pending recovery for TC Judy & Kevin as well as TC Harold, with the disaster also increasing the health needs of the affected population.

Table 3: Summary of Education Recovery Costs

Province	Schools	Reading & Learning Resources	WASH	Total (VUV)
TORBA	12,483,065	461,500	228,000	13,172,565
PENAMA	121,550,455	6,909,594	2,200,607	130,660,656
MALAMPA	167,401,803	1,998,560	2,208,079	171,608,442
SHEFA	5,261,022	-	4,400,000	9,661,022
<b>Total</b>	<b>306,969,345</b>	<b>9,369,654</b>	<b>9,036,686</b>	<b>325,102,685</b>

Source: Education Online Dashboard - [https://dsppac.gov.vu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=173&Itemid=637](https://dsppac.gov.vu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=173&Itemid=637)



## 7.4 Gender

**Sector Lead:** Department of Women's Affairs

**Contact information:** Smith Pakoasongi (spakoasongi@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The Gender and Protection Cluster lead by the Department of Women with its civil society and non-government partners are working actively; in collaboration with other sectors to ensure that the needs of the vulnerable are being met through the different response and recovery plans indicated.

This cluster has worked actively to develop the knowledge and understanding of gender and protection issues in Vanuatu, whilst also providing the technical support for this process during and after disasters.

The Gender Cluster will continue to support sector initiatives that address relevant gaps to restore the livelihoods of the marginalized population in the affected areas caused by TC Lola. The recovery strategy for the Gender and Protection cluster remains in alignment with its objectives. Raising awareness and advocacy for gender and climate resilience will continue, as well as mainstreaming gender and protection into sectoral plans and programs, for both normal and disaster times.

The Department of Women's Affairs will remain the lead and focal point to coordinate all stakeholders' participation in recovery efforts for the marginalized population that have been affected by TC Lola.

## 7.6 Housing

**Sector Lead:** Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

**Contact information:** Devny toa (tdevny@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The housing sector in previous cyclones has consistently recorded the highest monetary cost in terms of damages and recovery needs when compared with all other sectors<sup>5</sup>. This has created an enormous burden on Ni-Vanuatu households, many who have been impacted by multiple cyclones over the past eight (8) years and have had to rebuild several times.

Assessment data collected by the NDMO estimates<sup>6</sup> that 5,750 houses have been destroyed and approximately 15,700 houses have been damaged in Penama, Malampa, Shefa and Torba. Approximately 60% of detached kitchens have been damaged across all affected provinces. Information on damaged household toilets has been accounted for separately in the WASH chapter. According to the 2020 Census<sup>7</sup>, approximately two thirds of the housing stock in the impacted Area Councils are built with traditional roofing and walling materials, while the other third has a mixture of kappa roofing and concrete walls.

Table 3: Summary of Education Recovery Costs

Province	Total HHs*	% of Houses Destroyed**	Approx Numbers Destroyed	% Houses Damaged**	Approx Numbers Damages	% Kitchens Damaged
TORBA	8,178	39%	3,198	8,178	39%	3,198
PENAMA	7,204	23%	1,657	7,204	23%	1,657
MALAMPA	3,978	20%	796	3,978	20%	796
SHEFA	2,085	5%	104	2,085	5%	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,445</b>		<b>5,746</b>		<b>15,699</b>	

\* 2020 Census with population increase estimate of 7.5% | \*\* NDMO assessment | \*\*\* Data unavailable

## Recovery Strategy and Needs

Vanuatu has profound, long-standing needs to reduce vulnerability in the housing sector. Given the frequency of hazard events and economic constraints, it is likely that many housing units are being damaged repeatedly having never been fully restored from a previous hazard event before the next one occurs. It is critical to use funds in the most effective and efficient way to extend the impact of programming by incorporating resilience into recovery. The recovery strategy and objectives outlined in more detail in the Housing chapter of the TC Judy & Kevin PDNA<sup>41</sup> are equally relevant to TC Lola recovery.

It is assumed that Early Recovery activities outlined in the table below will be carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as outlined in the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster Recovery Guidance document.<sup>41</sup> The contribution of NGOs is critical, especially for providing emergency shelter options and training and technical assistance to support reconstruction. Early recovery housing rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes that provide repair kits and materials for self-recovery should be positively adjusted to prioritize female-headed households as well as people living with disabilities and the elderly.

It is also assumed that households will self-finance reconstruction and that the financing and coordination of medium-to-long-term technical assistance and policy activities are the responsibility of the government with support from development partners.

Table 3: Summary of Education Recovery Costs

Recovery Need	Description	Government Counterpart	Implementing Agency	Source of Funding	Funding Required
In kind/cash/market-based programming	Assist affected people with environmentally friendly/sustainable repair and reconstruction of houses, through the provision of materials (e.g., repair kits, roofing materials etc.) ensuring that basic sanitation services are integrated in the response in close coordination with WASH cluster, in the mid to long term.	Min. Finance DUAP, NDMO DSPPAC DLA Dept. Lands	NGOs	Min. Finance DUAP, NDMO DSPPAC DLA Dept. Lands	
Professional development	Vocational training of community carpenters to support housing programmers.	DLA PWD	NGOs Skills Partnership		
Technical support/cash/in-kind	Technical assistance to those rebuilding their heavily damaged and destroyed houses. (distribution of IEC materials, physical support for elderly, single headed households, persons with disability, by trained carpenters, technical trainings, awareness)	DWA, DUAP Min. Finance	NGOs		
Communities better informed and prepared on safe places and safer shelter	Conduct community outreach programs (example VRCS PASSA, Care SFP) to raise awareness on safer houses construction, shelter disaster preparedness and mapping and preparation of safe shelter places including evacuation centers and as required, strengthen/improve safe places.	DLA PWD	NGOs		
Create donor consultative group	Establish donor group among Key Players and Implementing Agencies involved in housing and housing resilience activities to ensure policy alignment and optimum use of available funding for housing resilience-related activities.	DUAP	Key Players and Implementing Agencies	NA	NA
Building industry analysis	Analysis of the building industry through value chain analysis to understand better the skills gaps, materials availability, and finance options across Vanuatu to propose longer-term solutions to building affordability, resilience, and employment in Vanuatu, including traditional designs.	DUAP DSPPAC Municipal Dept. Lands PWD	Technical consultants		2,500 (confirmed PRIF)





Recovery Need	Description	Government Counterpart	Implementing Agency	Source of Funding	Funding Required
Housing Policy and Updating of Building Codes	The building codes and policy responsibilities in this sector need to be clarified and governance and operational responsibilities assigned. Housing policy should cover both rural and urban housing and address: land tenure; design principals; land use, development control; affordable financing; post-disaster response and recovery.	DUAP DSPPAC Dept. Lands PWD	Technical consultants		30,000 (confirmed PRIF, DFAT)
Owner self-led reconstruction	Owner self-led/self-reliant incremental housing reconstruction in all areas.	DUAP Dept. Water		Households	NA
Improve government capacity in housing sector	Data collection and analysis improvements for area councils across Vanuatu and; Rapid assessment templates revised	DUAP VMGD NDMO NSO			2,000 (required)
Develop credit instruments for housing resilience	Work with commercial lenders to develop market-based credit options accessible by various income levels for improving housing resilience	TBD	Commercial Banks	Bank funds	1,000,000 (required)
Mobilize subsidies for housing resilience building	Mobilize technical assistance and grant funds to incentivize resilience building by homeowners, including combining with commercial credit	TBD	TBD	Climate fund	1,000,000 (required)
				<b>Total</b>	<b>2,034,500</b>

# Environment Pillar

The environment pillar seeks to ensure a pristine natural environment on land and at sea, that continues to serve our food, cultural, economic and ecological needs, and enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural disasters.

## 8.10 Agriculture

**Sector Lead:** Department of Agriculture and Rural development (DARD)  
**Contact information:** Director, Mr Antoine Ravo (aravo@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The overall agriculture sector (Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Forestry Sub-Sectors) is responsible for roughly 20% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) – equivalent to VUV 21.5bn in 2019. However, agriculture is by far the largest source of employment within the country, with up to 80% of the population engaging in or relying on agriculture to some degree. Subsistence farming is crucial for ensuring the nation has sufficient food. Within the sector, crop production accounts for 80%, animal production 7%, forestry 8% and fishing 5%.

Despite farming being practiced so widely, Vanuatu is in actual fact a highly food insecure nation, importing huge quantities of food. Rough estimates from the Food Security & Agriculture Cluster show that these imported foods provide 60-70% of the nation's recommended food energy needs. Apart from beef, the exports of food from Vanuatu are near zero. This results in a large trade imbalance and negative health implications, with the quantities of white rice and sugar contributing to the high prevalence of NCDs. These food insecurity and nutrition problems are aggravated especially in the aftermath of disasters.

The current cost of recovery for the agriculture in particular DARD amounts to VUV95,199,996. From an agriculture perspective, TC Lola followed the worst possible path as it cut across some of the main producing areas of the country previously impacted by the Cyclones of TC Harold in April 2020 and TC Judy & Kevin early 2023, destroying huge numbers of annual and permanent crops.

The cumulative impacts and effects will lead to the following consequences: i) reduced food availability and worsening nutrition; ii) reduced income opportunities for at least the next three years; iii) reduced on farm-processing abilities as needed equipment was damaged; iv) reduced overall demand of food products affecting businesses further down the supply chain (copra industry); v) damages to transport and markets infrastructures leading to poorer access to market; and vi) damages to cash crops that sustain livelihoods of communities in affected areas.

### Recovery Needs

Growing the productive sector, especially agriculture is key to maintaining macroeconomic balance, hence it essential to immediately address the recovery needs of the agriculture sector to ensure Vanuatu's projections for growth through the agriculture sector are maintained. Hence, the following recovery prioritization needs have been identified for the impacted Provinces of Torba, Penama, Malampa and Shefa:

- Distribution of adaptive vegetable seeds and selective planting material for food security and livelihood restoration
- Repair of Nurseries or seed hubs and logistics

Table 4: Summary of Agriculture Recovery Costs

Province	Timeframe	Funding Needed	Existing Funds	Recovery Costs
TORBA	Immediate (0-1 month)	2,078,948	157,894	2,236,842
PENAMA	Immediate (0-1 month)	9,131,584	1,294,736	10,426,320
MALAMPA	Immediate (0-1 month)	11,552,636	1,105,258	12,657,894
SHEFA	Immediate (0-1 month)	3,236,844	473,682	3,710,526
<b>Total</b>		<b>26,000,012</b>	<b>3,031,570</b>	<b>29,031,582</b>

## 8.12 Forestry

**Sector Lead:** Department of Forestry

**Contact information:** Director, Mr Rexton Vira (rvira@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The current cost of recovery for the forestry sub-sector amounts to VUV110,520,000.

The Forest of Vanuatu covers 76% of the total land mass of the country which includes both natural and planted forests occupying a total area of 926,315.13 ha of land. About 23% of these forests are accessible and they occupy a total area of 216,430.57 ha. About 70,000 people or 25% of the total agricultural households in Vanuatu, which is 276,580 people, rely on 23% of the accessible forests for social and economic livelihoods.

Timber and Sandalwood alone accounts for 5% of accessible forests while the remaining accounts for social and economic livelihood needs unaccounted for in the forestry administration which contributes significantly to the welfare of communities in Vanuatu. The main markets for the forestry sector for timber is basically the domestic market, earning an annual revenue of more than VUV 4 million from saw millers, with an estimated production of 5100 cubic meters of wood. About 200 metric tons of sandalwood are exported, generating 41 million in revenue. This export value contributes 1.4% of the country's GDP.

The impacts of Tropical Cyclones Harold 2020, TC JUDY & KEVIN in early 2023, and again TC Lola have caused significant strain on the industry with no ample time for Forests to recover from previous impacts. Therefore, is imperative that investment is required for recovery of the Forestry Sector.

### Recovery Needs

Vanuatu's forestry sector encompasses natural forests and plantation forests, it provides resources for timber, firewood, food and handicraft and provides to which local communities rely on for subsistence and monetary needs. Hence, the following recovery prioritization needs have been identified for the impacted Provinces of Torba, Penama, Malampa and Shefa:

Table 5: Summary of Forestry Recovery Costs

Province	Timeframe	Funding Needed	Existing Funds	Recovery Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments &amp; Inventory on Forest Conservation Areas, Forest Parks and Botanical Gardens</li> </ul>				
TORBA	Immediate (0-1 month)	600,000	-	600,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of Forestry Seedlings</li> </ul>				
PENAMA	Immediate (0-1 month)	1,250,000	50,000	1,300,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist farmer woodlot planting</li> </ul>				
MALAMPA	Immediate (0-1 month)	950,000	850,000	1,800,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry Farmer woodlot Need Assessment</li> </ul>				
SHEFA	Immediate (0-1 month)	1,100,000	-	1,100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,900,000</b>	<b>900,000</b>	<b>4,800,000</b>



## 8.13 Fisheries

**Sector Lead:** Department of Fisheries

**Contact information:** Director, Mr Sompert Geneva (sgereva@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The current cost of recovery for the fisheries sub-sector amounts to VUV23 million.

The Fisheries sector has had no ample time to recover from the cumulative impacts of successive cyclones TC Harold in 2020 and the twin cyclones TC Judy & Kevin early this year. In the short term, the recovery focus should be on ensuring the resumption of fishing and farming activities (through the provision of gears, FADs, solar freezers and the repair of hatcheries, farms and lightly damaged boats).

Setting up of fisher's groups, integrated farming and extending the Tails resource monitor network are key initiatives that the government will lead. Groundwork for national fisheries disaster response policies and cold-chain systems will start within the short term and continue into the long-term recovery.

In the medium and long term, improvements on infrastructure and setting-up of centralized government bodies under the productive sector should be a priority.

Trust funds for disaster relief and response in the productive sector should be established to reduce food insecurities post-disaster. Activities to improve privately owned assets and infrastructure through subsidies, grants, and store houses will also help to build back better the private sector.

### Recovery Needs

Noting the importance of the Fisheries to the economy; Fisheries is equally and fundamentally important for food security, nutrition and livelihoods. Hence the following recovery prioritization needs have been identified for the impacted Provinces of Torba, Penama, Malampa and Shefa:

- Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) procurement for replacement and deployed
- Repair of fishing boats of Fishing supply gears
- Procurement and Support of repairs to Fish markets/ Deployment of Solar Freezers (Cool Chain)

Table 6: Summary of Fisheries Recovery Costs

Province	Timeframe	Funding Needed	Existing Funds	Recovery Costs
TORBA	Immediate (0-1 month)	5,750,000	-	5,750,000
PENAMA	Immediate (0-1 month)	2,875,000	2,875,000	5,750,000
MALAMPA	Immediate (0-1 month)	5,750,000	-	5,750,000
SHEFA	Immediate (0-1 month)	3,875,000	1,875,000	5,750,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,250,000</b>	<b>4,750,000</b>	<b>23,000,000</b>





## 8.14 Livestock

**Sector Lead:** Department of Livestock

**Contact information:** Director, Mr Nambo Moses (nmoses@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The current cost of recovery for the Livestock sub-sector amounts to VUV35,494,000.

According to the National Agriculture Census 2022 data, 45% of Households and 43% of Commercial Farms involved in livestock are located within Priority 1 and 2 areas.

The cyclone has had the following impacts on livestock:

1. Increased vulnerability of livestock to diseases and mortality ii) widespread damage to much of the physical assets (fencing, sheds, butcheries, etc.);
2. reduced production of animal products (eggs, milk, etc.) of surviving livestock and poultry due to lack of feed or bad quality pasture or water; and
3. Emergency livestock destocking in order to address other urgent needs.

Within the agricultural sector as a whole, crop production accounts for 80%, animal production 7%, forestry 8% and fishing 5%.

### Recovery Needs

Noting the importance of the Fisheries to the economy; Fisheries is equally and fundamentally important for food security, nutrition and livelihoods. Hence the following recovery prioritization needs have been identified for the impacted Provinces of Torba, Penama, Malampa and Shefa:

- Kit fencing for key farmers identified for each value chain including logistics.
- Animal restocking for key farmers identified for each value chain including logistics
- Support feed with local commodities purchase and premix

Table 7: Summary of Livestock Recovery Costs

Province	Timeframe	Funding Needed	Existing Funds	Recovery Costs
TORBA	Immediate (0-1 month)	6,373,500	-	6,373,500
PENAMA	Immediate (0-1 month)	5,848,500	525,000	6,373,500
MALAMPA	Immediate (0-1 month)	6,373,500	-	6,373,500
SHEFA	Immediate (0-1 month)	3,236,844	2,661,750	6,373,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,307,250</b>	<b>3,186,750</b>	<b>25,494,000</b>



## 8.15 Biosecurity

**Sector Lead:** Department of Biosecurity

**Contact information:** Director, Mr Armstrong Sam (asam@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

The current cost of recovery for the Livestock sub-sector amounts to VUV5,000,000.

For the period of Response and Recovery for all cyclones, it is essential to ensure all donated goods to be utilized for Response and Recovery have undergone substantial checks by Bio-security. Given it is a period of high vulnerability for the nation whereby a pest or disease can be easily introduced, such as the CRB through donated goods, planting material, used machinery etc.

Given the capacity of the Bio-security Department to regulate these unforeseen threats, it is crucial that protocols for bio-security checks internationally and domestically are adhered to at all times; and that additional support and resourcing be provided through the recovery program to the relevant authorities.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Recovery Needs

Therefore, the following recovery prioritization need for Bio-security been identified for the Recovery period for TC Lola:

- CRB and Pest and Diseases Control of every transfer of planting material, goods and used machinery

Table 8: Summary of Biosecurity Recovery Costs

Province	Timeframe	Funding Needed	Existing Funds	Recovery Costs
TORBA	Immediate (0-1 month)	1,250,000	-	1,250,000
PENAMA	Immediate (0-1 month)	625,000	625,000	1,250,000
MALAMPA	Immediate (0-1 month)	1,250,000	-	1,250,000
SHEFA	Immediate (0-1 month)	625,000	625,000	1,250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,750,000</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

## 8.16 WASH

**Sector Lead:** Department of Water Resources

**Contact information:** Clifford Vusi (vusic@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

TC Lola caused widespread damage to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector (WASH) in affected provinces of Torba, Penama, Malampa and Shefa. Strong winds damaged water systems because of fallen trees and flying debris. Storm surge and flooding caused damage. The majority of damage were to rainwater harvesting catchment structures and pipe works, but there was also contamination of shallow wells.

These can impact can increase the risk of diarrhea, skin infections, and skin irritation. Illnesses due to unsafe water leads to the loss of educational days for children and workdays for adults.

One of the responses to COVID-19 has been to promote handwashing with soap, and rates have increased among the public. However, increased hand washing increases the demand on water usage, and will be difficult to sustain as water becomes scarcer in the dry season.

The main objectives for the recovery of the WASH Sector are:

- To protect the population from illness by providing safe and secure water for drinking, cooking, hygiene promotion and another livelihood development.
- To restore sanitation and water infrastructure that is secure and accessible for women, children, and persons living with disabilities.
- To reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission by promoting key hygiene messaging and ensure that there is sufficient water for handwashing.

The Department of Water Resources (DoWR) is responsible for the protection, management and use of water in Vanuatu, and is directly responsible for rural and provincial water supply and water resources management.

The Department of Public Health (DoPH) is responsible for health, sanitation and hygiene promotion, including WASH in health care facilities, while the Ministry of Education has a similar responsibility in all schools.

**Water** – Vanuatu suffers from water insecurity, with 44% of rural household's dependent upon rainwater for their primary source of water.

Almost all of the islands have water deficits during the annual dry season, and many water storage systems were not functioning at full capacity when TC Lola hit due to impacts of previous cyclones of TC Harold and TC Judy & Kevin.

The four provinces under this (Torba, Penama and Malampa and Shefa) each have a unique composition of water supply systems, including direct gravity fed systems, indirect piped systems, bore holes, shallow dug wells, rain water harvesting and surface water. The most common system in these three provinces is rainwater harvesting.

**Sanitation** – Unimproved pit latrines are the most common method, followed by VIP and water seal in affected areas. Pit latrines and VIP structures are constructed from local materials and can be easily demolished by strong winds. Waste management is the responsibility of individual households in rural areas.

**Hygiene** – With limited water at the household level, and the high price of soap, hand washing is not a priority for many and is an issue that has to be immediately address given increased scarcity of water due to dry season.



## Recovery Needs

Recovery in the WASH Sector will take time and be complicated by impacts on health, education, and housing. Consumption of contaminated water puts consumers at risk of contracting diarrhea, eye infections and skin infections. Water quality testing is crucial to test for contamination of water sources and ensuring safety of drinking water.

Therefore, the following recovery prioritization needs for WASH are::

- Rehabilitation and Upgrade of Water Supply Systems
- Sanitary works
- Toilet works
- Hygiene Services

Table 9: Summary of WASH Recovery Costs

Province	Rehabilitation & Upgrade of Water Supply Systems	Sanitary Works	Toilet Works	Hygiene Services
TORBA	43,030,000	11,400,000	7,600,000	380,000
PENAMA	387,000,000	56,400,000	37,600,000	1,880,000
MALAMPA	136,550,000	20,100,000	13,400,000	670,000
SHEFA	117,000,000	43,500,000	29,000,000	1,450,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>683,580,000</b>	<b>131,400,000</b>	<b>87,600,000</b>	<b>4,380,000</b>

Therefore, total Estimated cost for recovery for all affected provinces is approximately VUV906,960,000.

# Economic Pillar

The economy pillar seeks to ensure we have a stable economy based on equitable, sustainable growth that creates jobs and income earning opportunities accessible to all people in rural and urban areas.



## 9.1 Telecommunication

**Sector Lead:** Prime Minister's Office, Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

**Contact information:** Andre Taga (ataga@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

Thanks to developments in telecommunications, internet use, telephone use, email use, and text message use have all become instrumental parts of our daily lives, especially for smooth running of government services within and across sectors. The damages caused by TC Lola to the telecommunication infrastructure, Government Broadband Network in Penama, Malampa, and Shefa hindered communication and information sharing.

The disaster effects covered damaged antennas causing loss of link connectivity, and power breaker tripped off causing all transmission equipment to be offline. Immediate response has been provided to temporarily resolve the link issue. The assessment of damages of public telecommunication by TC Lola is moderate compared to previous cyclones but the need to restore communication remains undisputable for the short term.

### Recovery Needs

Government and organisations rely on telecommunications to ensure public safety, from those working to prepare people before disaster to those who work to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, and to those who manage post-disaster responses. Therefore, it is crucial to build reliable telecommunication infrastructure, as well as fostering collaboration between government agencies, telecommunication service providers, and local communities. The estimated costs of disaster needs were based on baseline or standard costs.

Table 10: Summary of Telecommunication Recovery Costs

GPN Link Segment	Activity Description	Recovery Costs
Emae - Snake Hill	OGCIO Team to attend Emae tower site to check the breaker tripping issue and resolve it, including replacement of faulty radio unit facing Snake hill tower site.	300,000
Epi - Emae	OGCIO Team to attend Epi tower site to check the GBN link issue up to North and to permanently resolve.	1,522,000
Epi - Ambrym	OGCIO Team to attend Epi tower site to check the GBN link issue up to North and to permanently resolve.	1,522,000
Ambrym - Epi	OGCIO Team to attend Ambrym tower site to check the faulty antennas and the GBN link issue up to North and to permanently resolve.	1,522,000
Ambrym - Pentecost	OGCIO Team to attend Ambrym tower site to check the faulty antennas and the GBN link issue up to Saratamata / Ambae and to permanently resolve.	1,522,000
Pentecost - Ambrym	OGCIO Team to attend Pentecost tower site to check the faulty antennas and the GBN link issue up to Saratamata / Ambae and to permanently resolve.	1,522,000
Pentecost - Ambae	OGCIO Team to attend Pentecost tower site to check the faulty antennas and the GBN link issue up to Saratamata / Ambae and to permanently resolve.	1,522,000
Vanualava - Provincial HQ	Vodafone team to attend to their tower site to check and resolve the issue.	400,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,832,000</b>



## 9.2 Infrastructure

**Sector Lead:** Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities

**Contact information:** Nathan Tabi (ntabi@vanuatu.gov.vu)

### Summary

**The transport sector** is an integral part of the economic and social development of Vanuatu. Transport systems are critical in the operations of both government, support services and private enterprise. They are also pivotal in providing connectivity for households and communities to access essential goods, maintain contact with families and attend social and cultural events. The transport sector can be broken down into 3 main subsectors.

**The aviation sector**, supporting both domestic and international travel, underpins public administration of services for the dispersed populated provinces and the important tourism sector. The country has 29 aerodromes, including three that are internationally certified (Category A): Bauerfield International Airport in Port Vila, Peko International Airport in Luganville, and White-grass International Airport in Tanna. There are 3 certified domestic aerodromes (Category B), which are at Norsup, Longana, and Lonorore, and a further 23 certified remote aerodromes (Category C) serving the domestic routes through all provinces.

**The maritime sector** comprises multipurpose (carrying passengers and cargo) international seaports at Luganville, and Port Vila under the responsibility of the ports authorities. Other maritime infrastructure consists of around 36 small wharves, jetties, and landing stages, of which 22 are public ports and wharves. Marine transport is not only critical to international tourism but is particularly important to domestic passenger and cargo movement within the country. The merchant marine fleet of 77 vessels includes 38 bulk carriers, eight cargo vessels, and 24 refrigerated cargo vessels.

**The public road network** comprises 2,958.6 km across 24 islands with the length of road and types of pavement surfaces for each province recorded in the table below. The sealed network, around 7% of the total, is restricted to Efate, Santo and Malekula. The remaining 93%—the primary network on all other islands, is concrete pavement, unpaved gravel, and earth roads, typically island ring roads that follow the settlement patterns near the coastlines except for the northern Pentecost Road which followed the ridge that separates east from west Pentecost.

The social impact of the disaster on the transportation sector is quite significant. People in the affected provinces would have experienced difficulty in undertaking travel to fulfill their livelihoods and food security in the wake of the disaster. In addition, damage to the transport infrastructure and routes disconnected people from economic opportunities, family, and friends as well as key social services in terms of private or personal travel and affected incomes of commercial transport operators.

Planned and budgeted road and associated infrastructure improvement and extension activities for 2023 have been postponed, with the 2023 budget reprogrammed for road and associated infrastructure repairs. This has affected the communities where this work was planned to take place, in terms of having to continue to use existing roads, tracks etc., as well as opportunities for income generation from casual labour in the community works and other support services including food, accommodation, local quarries etc.

### Recovery Needs

The recovery strategy concentrates on reconstruction of roads and bridges, port facilities, and airport infrastructure to ensure that the transport sector can be brought back to normal levels as soon as possible. The short-term priority is to restore connectivity to essential transport subsectors that are essential to the response and recovery operations of other sectors such as Health, Education, Shelter, Food security and Protection. In addition, the function of markets and commercial centres also relies on transport infrastructure. The total recovery needs are estimated to be VUV 40,836,250 for the transport sector.



Table 11: Summary of Infrastructure Recovery Costs

Infrastructure Type	Immediate	Medium	Long Term	Recovery Costs
Roads	203,500,000	450,000,000	21,000,000,000	1,250,000
Airports	2,150,000	99,000,000	5,065,000,000	1,250,000
Ports, Wharfs and Jetties	25,000,000	15,000,000	13,960,000,000	1,250,000
Logistics	10,000,000	-	-	1,250,000
Assessment	6,600,000	-	-	1,250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,250,000</b>	<b>564,000,000</b>	<b>40,025,000,000</b>	<b>40,836,250,000</b>

The reinstatement of damaged transport assets to the pre-cyclone condition will be a priority during the six-month to one-year time frame. The medium to long-term recovery efforts must adopt the Build Back Better principles governed by sound engineering and construction designed for on-going climate resilience.

The scale of the work required may exceed the capabilities of limited resources, therefore MIPU will likely need additional external assistance from partners for the technical side of recovery operations and using public-private partnerships. Communities play a substantial role in routine road maintenance and community consultations will be a key factor to ensure longer-term sustainability of investments. Consultation with communities must also take place during the pre-construction stage, consisting of engagement with community groups to identify needs, risks, and adaptation measures for all members of the community, including the most vulnerable. Local communities are also likely to be able to provide labour to support the construction phase projects. Roads must be built to be sustainable and climate resilient.



## 9.3 Commerce and Industries

The mission of the industries department was to encourage the growth and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector by facilitating investments, diversification, innovations through R&D, improve business environments and compliance to international industry standards for a better market access of Vanuatu goods through partnership with relevant stakeholders

Different sub-categories within Commerce and Trade have been adversely affected including wholesale, retail, transport, accommodation and food services. Whilst it vital to provide basic necessities such as food, water and shelter as part of rapid response to individual households and communities, it is also important that the government support the local businesses that are heavily affected by the cyclone. Assisting businesses to get back onto their feet, means that they can continue to provide services to the community; provide employment to the community and continuously stimulates economic growth.

While the DOI is still validating their data for TC Lola, total recovery needs for the commerce and industries during TC Judy and Kevin total up to VUV377,436,085.

Key recovery priorities identified includes;

- Awareness and capacity building to enable the DOI to support its clients.
- Establishment and strengthening of microfinance fund to support businesses and their producer networks recover faster during disaster and to established contingency fund.
- Product development support (technical expertise, packaging, & labeling and sourcing).

## 9.4 Cooperatives

According to the Cooperative 2022 Annual Report, the overall number of cooperatives has been increasing over the past last 11 years. The trend over the 11 years period showed that only stronger cooperatives are surviving over this challenging business environment. The officers have taken steps to focusing more on stronger cooperatives with large membership base. COVID-19 has been a major factor to cooperative downfalls in 2020.

There are currently 312 active co-operative societies throughout the country with a total of around 13,000 members. The Office of the Registrar of Cooperative & Ni-Vanuatu Business Development Services was set up to strengthen, develop and regulate cooperatives across the country (MTC, 2020). This was to ensure that products and services provided by cooperatives were competitive for the local market and for export.

During the time this report was finalized, cooperatives have not submitted any data for the TC Lola recovery needs, however for TC Judy and Kevin, Severe damage has been reported in several provinces causing widespread loss of gardens, food security, Loss of Business, Produce & damaged to buildings. The summary of cost of losses and damages provided by provinces severely impacted by the twin cyclones, amounted to VUV35,000,000. The recovery needs are still valid since it was only six months after TC Lola hits Vanuatu.

## 9.5 Tourism

The Vanuatu Sustainable Tourism Policy VSTP (2019-2030) has a vision to protect and celebrate Vanuatu's unique environment, culture, kastom and people through sustainable and responsible tourism. The key goals of the Policy include tourism that enhances, conserves, and protects the environmental and cultural resources of Vanuatu, tourism that brings more equitable income and well-being for Vanuatu and its people and sustainable and responsible tourism products and services developed, supported, and marketed to attract responsible high-value tourists.

During the time this report was finalized, Tourism department was still validating their data for TC Lola, however based on the Rapid Tourism Impact Assessment undertaken in the week following TC Judy and TC Kevin, it shows that 38% of the overall tourism accommodation providers across Vanuatu are non- operational, with 46% of the dining, attractions and tours activities closed for business.

EFATE and TAFEA Provinces as the priority areas due to the severity of the cyclone impact. The rest of SHEFA, MALAMPA AND PENAMA are secondary followed by SANMA and TORBA which have sustained minor damage. Total recovery cost was VUV57,000,000 based on the TC Judy and Kevin data. The figure is still valid since its only 6 months after TC Lola hits Vanuatu.



## 10. Priority Sectors

The most affected sectors from Tropical cyclone Lola fall under the pillars of Environmental and Economic Pillars. The high priority for the government for TC Lola recovery activities for both short-term and long term are Agriculture, Housing, WASH and Road transport.

Given the challenge with scarce resources, it is highly recommended for islands and Area Councils identified as Priority Area 1 and Area 2 by the NDMO should give higher priority across all sectors, as the impact on these communities has been much stronger.

## 11.0 Implementation Arrangement for Recovery

### 11.1 Recovery Programs Coordination Level

The most affected sectors from Tropical cyclone Lola fall under the pillars of Environmental and Economic Pillars. The high priority for the government for TC Lola recovery activities for both short-term and long term are Agriculture, Housing, WASH and Road transport.

Given the challenge with scarce resources, it is highly recommended for islands and Area Councils identified as Priority Area 1 and Area 2 by the NDMO should give higher priority across all sectors, as the impact on these communities has been much stronger.

Under the Government Act (Cap 243, gazette as the National Recovery Committee Order 154 of 2018), responsibility for disaster recovery is delegated to the National Recovery Committee (NRC), whose Secretariat is the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, Prime Minister's Office. The NRC is responsible for oversight and governance of recovery projects funded by donor partners and the Vanuatu Government

The Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) acts as Secretariat to the National Recovery Committee (NRC) and provide the supports to NRC to fulfil its oversight and coordination functions for post disaster recovery. The DSPPAC coordinates government departments in the preparation of post-disaster needs assessments and recovery programs.

Within its overall authority for coordinating the Governments strategic policies, planning and activities, the DSPPAC will also assure that development planning by all sectors is disaster risk informed and that disaster risk indicators are incorporate into the plan and project review mechanisms of the Development Committee of Officials and of the Council of Ministers

To strengthen effective co-ordination, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in 2022 released the revised government ministry corporate and business plan guidelines. These guidelines facilitate vital entry points by which disaster recovery or disaster risk informed actions are embed in ministry plans and budgets going forward

The reformulation of provisions covering disaster management and post-disaster recovery also requires revision of the NSDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2017, to ensure that each of the three pillars in the NSDP and its goals and policy objectives contain indicators and targets for monitoring disaster risk and recovery. The monitoring & evaluation indicators of the Recovery Plan will be aligned and made consistent with the NSDP at the level of strategic outcomes.

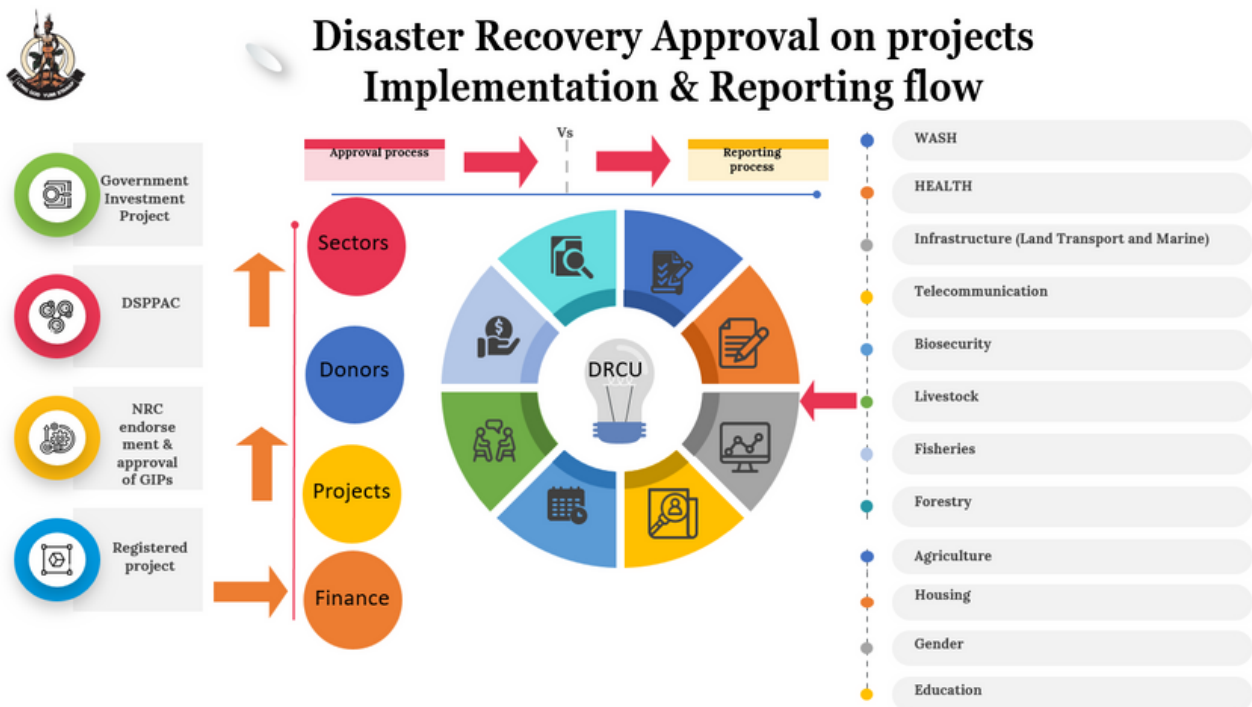
## 11.2 Recovery Resilient Activities Prioritization and Approval

The line ministries will prioritize their respective recovery needs and submit these through the DSPPAC as government Investment projects (GIP). The Sector Analyst for each sector will undertake rigorous screening on the Government Investment Programme (GIP) proposals and submit to Aid Coordination Unit for project registration. The recovery proposal are registered and endorse by the National Recovery Committee (NDC). The NRC approved recovery projects again pass through the Aid Coordination Unit for proper project and funding allocation code under the Department of Finance and Treasury.

The process of project screening is important, because it helps the government to make inform decisions as to whether support can be provided through the Government recurrent budget, or whether the ACU (Aid Coordination Unit) should seek funding from Development Partners.

Recovery projects or activities from the Developments Partners and civil society directly engage with government ministries or Communities need NRC approval prior. This will assist the government through DSPPAC and the NRC to be able to effectively monitor recovery activities.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) from all actors is crucial for the implementation of the recovery programs and ODA can be provided through bilateral means or through multilateral organizations. Assistance can vary in modality, for example, it can come in the form of cash grants or budget support, and be channel through the government's financial system, or it can come in the form of supplies ("aid in kind") where sectors implement recovery programs in partnership with the development partners, private sector, NGOs and Civil Society groups. As many are already operating at the community level Development partners can engage a CSO or a local NGO (non governmental organizations) to implement recovery projects.





## 12.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

DSPPAC, through the M&E Unit and the Disaster Recovery Unit, will closely work with sectors to monitor the roll out of the Recovery Plan. Sectors will be supported to come up with relevant targets and indicators at outcomes level consistent with NSDP M&E framework including the Annual Development Report processes.

DSPPAC will also oversee effective support and collaboration across all levels of government, sectors and communities and that the broader aspirations of the recovery priorities are effectively communicated by DSPPAC with all stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of resilient recovery and risk informed development outcomes.









