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

**Daily Briefing**

**Date 25 March 2015**

**1:00pm**

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

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| **Urgent Needs:**  |
| * Import of seeds (specific shortfalls in cucumber, beans and squash) and tools 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 ~5 million USD
* Urgent long-term food needs, ~5million USD per month; 15 million USD for 3 months
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| **Response (high priority actions)** |
| * Contacting area council secretaries for coordination of food distribution (Epi, Paama, Ambrym,Pentecost, Maewo, Merelawa)
* Food distribution in PENAMA (Pentecost, Maewo), TORBA (Merelava), MALAMPA (Paama, Ambrym), SHEFA (Epi and Lanem) by Agriculture officers and volunteers (8,600 households)
* Distribution of rice in Port Vila (all 5 municipal wards) and Peri-urban areas (Pango, Mele) and rural Efate commenced 24rd March (North Efate)
* Distribution of High Energy Biscuits to complement food packages in locations with water stress where cooking rice would impact on drinking water (Tongoa, Emae, Buninga, Tongariki, Makira, Mataso, Erromango, Tanna and Aniwa) (approximately 7,400 households)
* Assess fisheries damage with the support SPC/Fisheries team’s on Efate island (5 farms), Santo (50 farms), and Tanna (3 farms) , Pentecost (40 farms), Ambae (40 farms); assessment for short term and long term needs
* Assessment of fish preservation and fishing facilities and adjusting further technical assistance
* German Government has provided through the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs 200 000.- Euros with immediate effect for food aid in Vanuatu
* Sending out key messages and information on food distribution (radio Vanuatu)
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| **Gaps & Constraints (beneficiary needs)** |
| * Availability of crops planting materials not clear yet
* Availability of local foods and root crops from domestic sources
* Information on number of people received food packages is not clearly being reported in a systematic way
* 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)
* Volunteers needed for seed packing
* Locate overseas suppliers for long term food import
* More profound assessments and planning for further long-term planning
* Identify food security status of areas not considered a priority in initial assessments (e.g. Malekula)
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