

# OXFAM IN VANUATU: CYCLONE PAM RESPONSE



**30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters from across the globe, Oxfam's response to Tropical Cyclone Pam has reached close to 25,000 people in the first six months.

## WHAT OXFAM IS DOING



**Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** — providing clean water, rehabilitation of water sources, distributing hygiene kits and carrying out hygiene education activities.



**Emergency food security and vulnerable livelihoods (EFSVL)** — supporting immediate and medium-term livelihoods recovery in target communities.



**Gender and protection** — ensuring that community members, especially women, young people and people with disabilities, participate in and influence safe and equitable recovery programs.



**Coordination** — leading and coordinating the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT), representing humanitarian agencies in Vanuatu and providing support to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).



## RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

Oxfam has reached at least 24,910 people<sup>1</sup> (12,477 men, 12,433 women) in more than 60 communities on four islands — Efate, Epi Ambrym and Emae — since Tropical Cyclone Pam struck on 13 March 2015. This is 13.3% of the total population affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam. In addition to this, we are supporting local partners who are also working on Tanna and Paama islands.

## OVERVIEW

Saturday 13 September 2015 marked six months since Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu. Tropical Cyclone Pam caused widespread destruction across the eastern and south-eastern islands of the country. The eye of the Category 5 cyclone passed close to Efate Island — the location of Vanuatu's capital Port Vila — affecting about 188,000 people across 22 islands. An estimated 15,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, about 96% of food stocks were decimated and the water supply of 110,000 people was disrupted, destroyed or contaminated.

The response to Tropical Cyclone Pam began immediately after the storm left Vanuatu's borders. In the six months since the event, more than 50 organisations, both local and international, have worked together under the lead of the Vanuatu Government to ensure relief efforts are coordinated and aid is getting to those who need it most. Humanitarian activities have now moved from the response phase into the recovery phase. Oxfam's programming for the next period will reflect this shift in focus, as well as the predicted impacts of El Niño on weather patterns.

1. This is the minimum number of individuals Oxfam's direct response work has reached as at 13 September 2015 according to our detailed beneficiary tables



An Oxfam team unloads a water tank from a truck. Tanks were loaded onto the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior to be transported to Epi Island. Oxfam has partnered with Greenpeace to help with water provision to the outer islands as part of Oxfam's emergency response to Cyclone Pam. Photo: Groovy Banana/OxfamAUS.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In recent months, Oxfam's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team finalised its Tropical Cyclone Pam emergency relief phase activities and focused on initiating a full-scale rehabilitation and recovery program in Shefa province. The islands of Efate (north and east), Epi (south and west) and Emae (west) are the focal areas for this work, covering more than 80 communities and 15 schools. Detailed WASH assessments and community consultations were conducted in all these areas to identify the level of WASH assistance required in schools, communities and health centres. This information has been used to initiate Oxfam's recovery phase WASH program, including:

- a sanitation subsidy program where participants receive a 50% subsidy on latrine construction or rehabilitation costs;
- distributions of essential sanitation materials;
- construction or rehabilitation of community hand dug wells, rainwater catchments and water supply systems, which are gravity fed and solar pumped.

Oxfam also recently started conducting Water Safety and Security Planning (WSSP) sessions, as endorsed by the Vanuatu Government, World Health Organisation (WHO), and UNICEF. These sessions are designed to train local water committees on planning for water quality (safety) and quantity (security) resilience, while mobilising community-led water and sanitation system rehabilitation works. This work is of particular importance in the face of the El Niño drought already affecting the region.

### DONATIONS IN ACTION:

- 265,800 litres of clean water delivered to 3,474 beneficiaries through water trucking activities on Efate Island.
- 13,809 people accessing clean water through water system rehabilitation.
- 20,928 people on Efate and Ambrym Islands receiving hygiene kits.
- 3,406 people have learned good hygiene practices through watching a theatrical performance by Oxfam's partner Wan SmolBag.
- At least 700 people across ten communities — including two schools and a dispensary — provided with large-scale gravity-fed water supply system reconstruction.
- 10,000 people attended hygiene awareness sessions and received information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
- Eight one-week-long community-based Water Safety and Security Planning sessions completed on Efate, Epi and Emae islands.

## CASE STUDY: EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP REDUCING “WATER WORRIES”

Many people in villages in north-east Efate don't have access to quality reliable water. Village members often have only spring water access which is often a two hour walk away, and they lack knowledge about sanitation and hygiene practices. Oxfam's WASH program being implemented as part of the Cyclone Pam response is making progress in changing this situation.

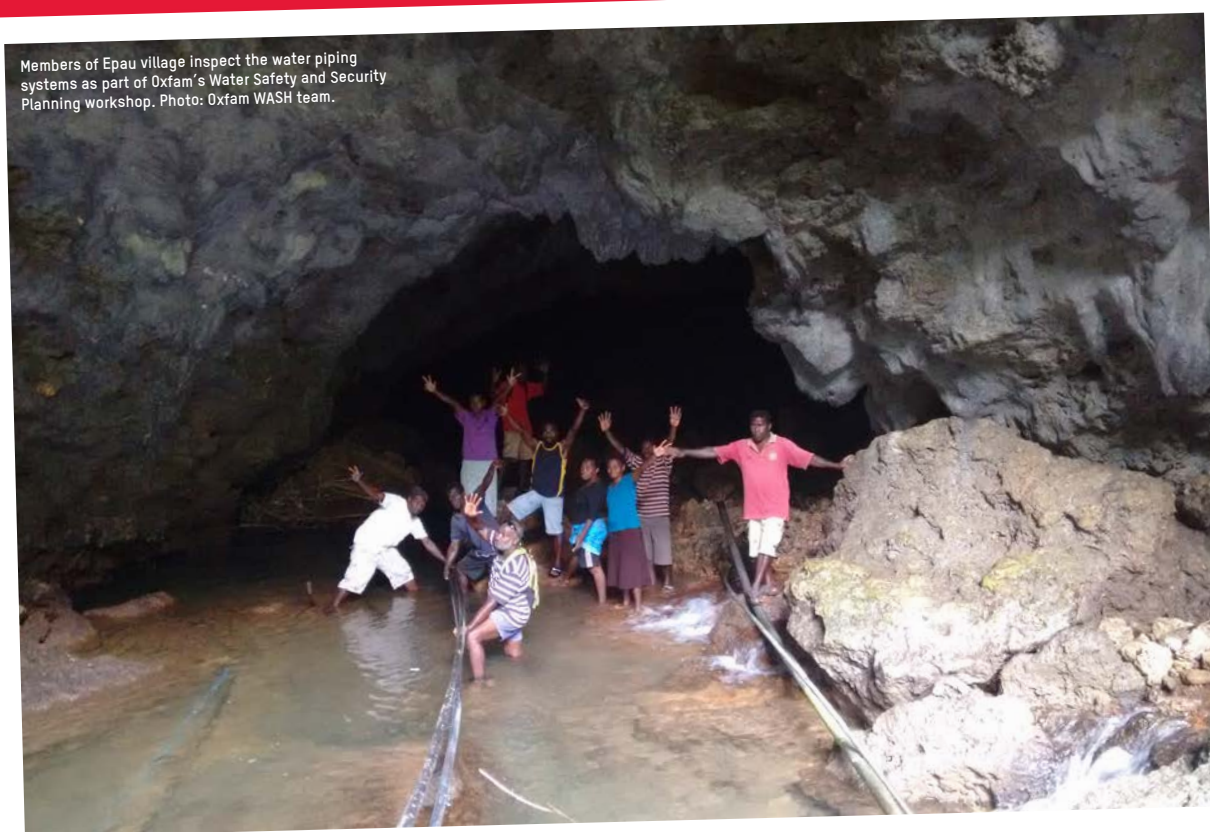
Kalpeau Joseph from Epau village is the Area Secretary for East Efate and he takes his leadership duties very seriously, as demonstrated before and after Tropical Cyclone Pam. Helping communities have access to safe water has always been one of his main priorities and he has tried to ensure that pipes, taps and tanks are maintained by the various water committees and community members. Before Tropical Cyclone Pam he knew that the water systems in Epau were going to be vulnerable to a large cyclone, so as part of the warning process he encouraged people to move out of their houses into the local school (evacuation centre) and to also prepare back up water storage. *“I always have concern for all my people and it would be unfair if I leave someone behind,”* he said.

Kalpeau explained how in Epau, water has often been a challenge because the community is settled at the bottom of the hill and the water source is located at the top of the hill. The pipes are always breaking or leaking, causing the water flow to slow down and sometimes even stop. *“Some pipes run along the river downhill and when there is heavy rain, the river current sweeps away the pipes and takes them along down to the bottom of the river and that is when the water stops.”* The village plumber together with other community members would go to the river and try to fix the pipes. In 2013, the community received funding from the New Zealand Government to upgrade their water system. The provision of stronger pipe fittings and cement to seal the tank leaks resulted in a much more reliable water supply. But would the Epau water system be strong enough against a Category 5 cyclone?

Before Cyclone Pam hit, the Vanuatu meteorology authorities called and advised Kalpeau Joseph about the cyclone and requested him to alert as many community members as possible. *“I gathered the village Elders and Chief to the Nakamal [traditional meeting space in Vanuatu] and related the information I received from my son who was working in the meteorology department. Some of them believed me but some did not.”*

Many community members continued with their daily activities instead of taking heed of the warnings. A day before Cyclone Pam, some women were leaving Epau to go to the Port Vila markets to sell their cash crops (root crops and vegetables). Kalpeau urged them not to go to Port Vila but to stay with their families, secure their belongings and to store their food for emergency. *“Some of the women were angry at me and asked me to give them money since they couldn't sell their food”,* but these same women were very grateful after the cyclone as they had this food to eat and that they were safe with their families. *“Some of the mothers came to me in tears thanking me for stopping them from going to the market. Their gardens had been destroyed but at least they had some food to eat after the cyclone.”*

Members of Epau village inspect the water piping systems as part of Oxfam's Water Safety and Security Planning workshop. Photo: Oxfam WASH team.





The strength and force of the wind during the cyclone was something that Kalpeau had never experienced before. He was very afraid for the families who decided to stay back in their houses instead of moving into the evacuation centre (community school). *"I asked a few strong men to help me move the families from their homes into the evacuation centre. We did this but it was frightening. During our movements, we were very scared as the wind rapidly increased and tree branches and fallen roofs were flying passed us. Big trees continued to fall and obstruct our ways but the team managed to make it back safely."*

The morning after the cyclone, there was no running water from any tap. *"We had to go back to the old system of walking many kilometres to the river to get our water."*

Accessing water was one of the main priorities after Cyclone Pam so Kalpeau bought some pipe joints and gave them to the village plumber. The village plumber started to repair some of the pipes just when Oxfam arrived and asked if the village required any support to get the water supply working again. *"One very interesting thing about Oxfam is that they acted on what they said by providing the communities with water pipes to repair water systems. They also provided us with hygiene kits, cash vouchers, and they conducted a plumber's workshop and training on Water Safety and Security Planning (WSSP)." The hygiene kits were said to have really helped the families and the cash vouchers were used to buy gardening tools. The training helped the community members understand how important water quality is as well as learn more about how to fix and maintain water systems.*

As well as this initial training, Oxfam continues to provide ongoing mentoring and covers the cost for half of the WASH materials. The communities provide the rest of the required materials to show their commitment to sustaining the project. The training was facilitated by Oxfam staff in partnership with the Department of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) and included both theoretical and practical sessions, allowing the participants to put their new knowledge and skills into immediate practice.

It is evident how access to essential services and resources like water are inherently linked to the strength of leadership. The WSSP training partnership will continue — with the government and these communities — to rebuild the lives of people recovering from Cyclone Pam and preparing for an El Niño-induced drought.



Members of Epau village participating in Oxfam's Water Safety and Security Planning workshop. Photo: Oxfam WASH team.

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Oxfam in Vanuatu has a long history of working with partners to both support our own programs and build the capacity of local organisations. As part of the response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, Oxfam is supporting our partners Wan Smolbag, Farm Support Association (FSA) and Vanuatu Civil Society Disability Network. Through these partnerships we're ensuring that our response program is timely, sustainable and contextually appropriate. Highlights of our partners' work are:

- 43,323 lunches were provided by Wan Smolbag, at an average of 515 meals per day.
- 175 households across 10 communities received seeds for fast-yielding plants (two or three months) from Wan Smolbag.
- 1,602 people over the course of 2,232 appointments have been treated at Wan Smolbag's health clinic on Efate.
- 160 small-scale farming businesses have received tools, materials and mentoring, from FSA on Efate, Tanna and Paama islands.

## WOMEN ENGAGED IN OXFAM PLUMBING TRAINING

In villages in north-east Efate, most households don't have access to quality reliable water or a toilet. Many villagers have only bush toilets and they lack knowledge about sanitation and hygiene practices.

This is about to change after representatives from eight communities in north-east Efate attended a special three-day training conducted by Oxfam. The training is part of Oxfam's Cyclone Pam Response WASH program and focuses on different types of toilets, plumbing, health and sanitation awareness, and water system maintenance and usage. The workshop was also used to initiate Oxfam's sanitation subsidy program, where Oxfam provides the communities with 50% of the cost of materials required for latrine construction or rehabilitation and communities provide the remaining funding and labour to foster and demonstrate commitment to sustaining the project. The participants enjoyed the training as they learned a lot and are excited to put their new knowledge into action to improve their lifestyles.

Epule Rural Training Centre accommodated 22 participants, 11 female and 11 male. The facilitators were from Oxfam's WASH response team in Vanuatu, in partnership with Rural Water Supply Sanitation (RWSS) and Youth with a Mission (YWAM). The training included both theory and practical sessions, allowing the participants to put their new knowledge and skills into immediate practice.

Participants will now engage with their respective villages, to conduct community assessments of the need for household toilets. Action plans will then be developed, people trained and then toilets built throughout the eight communities. This is an exciting result.

Margrette, a 48-year-old woman from Eton, said *"I no longer need to wait for someone else's idea to be able to construct a latrine. I can do it on my own now after this training."* Another very happy woman, Meriam from Epau, told staff that *"although I am a village plumber, I didn't have knowledge about pipe fitting sizes and where and what each fitting size should be used. After this training I now understand where to use them."*



Women take part in Oxfam's plumbing training in north-east Efate. Photo: Oxfam WASH Team.





Oxfam has been distributing vouchers to families affected by Cyclone Pam. The vouchers can be exchanged at specific local stores and suppliers for items farming and building materials, and other general goods. The aim is to help them rebuild their livelihoods and grow food. Photo: Groovy Banana/OxfamAUS.

## EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABLE LIVELIHOODS (EFSVL)

Assessments carried out in the weeks following Tropical Cyclone Pam identified food supply and income generation as two priority areas for affected communities. The cyclone destroyed the majority of food crops, including those that many communities rely on as cash crops (those they grow to sell for income). Our response has focused on reinvigorating the local economy, and providing supplies and support for communities to increase food production and availability.

Oxfam has been working with different local networks to implement cash-for-work projects throughout the urban and peri-urban Port Vila area, on Efate Island. This program provides a way for families, who may be experiencing severe income stress after the disaster, to earn money in the short term. While it is important the work done through the project contributes to the community, the main aim is to provide participants with some short-term support to pay for extraordinary expenses in the wake of the cyclone.

To help affected families recover their livelihoods and lost assets, Oxfam has implemented a voucher project. Families in target communities are receiving vouchers, which they can exchange at local suppliers for farming and building materials, or for general goods they need. Oxfam has supported households from nine communities on Efate with cash vouchers.

We are also working in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation to distribute seeds to communities on Efate and Epi islands to help kick-start their gardens and diversify the local market. Along with seeds, Oxfam has been working to provide livelihoods kits to people in target communities. These kits include tools for gardening and maintenance to support the rehabilitation of small-scale food gardens and crops. Oxfam has supported households in 17 communities with assorted vegetable seeds and tools on Epi Island, and two communities on Efate Island. In addition to this, Oxfam initiated five vegetable nursery demonstration plots in Eratap community, Efate.

In addition to Oxfam's work directly supporting communities, we are also supporting key local partners. For example, we are providing funds to Farm Support Association to rehabilitate small-scale farming businesses by providing resources such as tools, chickens, seeds and materials, and mentoring to help people restart their businesses.

### Donations in action

- At least 5,218 people on Efate and Epi islands have received seeds.
- 1,523 people received livelihoods kits made up of tools and gardening supplies.
- At least 4,016 individuals have been given vouchers to exchange for tools, equipment and other goods.
- 479 people have taken part in cash-for-work programs.

## **“WE CAN MAKE OUR OWN CHOICE”: VOUCHERS IN CYCLONE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

When Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu, buildings and community infrastructure sustained significant damage, reducing access to basic services such as housing and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Cyclone Pam also destroyed food and cash crops; the main livelihood sources of the 79% of the population who live in rural areas. This constrained people’s ability to access food and generate income for their household for the next few months. Crops crucial to women’s roles in food provision and income-generation such as vegetables, leafy greens and taro and cash crops important to women’s and men’s livelihoods such as coconut and coffee, were damaged or destroyed.

To help address immediate issues and support affected households to recover from the cyclone, Oxfam implemented several initiatives to support livelihood recovery. On the main island of Efate, Oxfam opted for market and cash-based interventions through the provision of vouchers and cash-for-work programs. The vouchers were redeemable at selected suppliers, enabling people to meet their own basic food and non-food priorities rather than receiving generic distributions of standard items.

The first cycle of vouchers was distributed in May — 989 households received vouchers worth 7,000 Vatu redeemable at agriculture and hardware stores, with 800 Vatu for transport (totalling around AUD \$97). Before the distributions, Oxfam staff held awareness sessions on the vouchers with women and men separately. These were designed to encourage joint decision-making within families about how the vouchers would be used to support the different livelihood needs of women and men. At distribution, the vouchers were presented to both spouses to reinforce their joint ownership.

The main items purchased with the vouchers were construction materials such as iron sheeting, and tools (79% of households) and agricultural inputs (65% of households). However, some women felt they did not have much say in the decision over the use of the voucher and reported that as a result, they still had unmet needs.

The second distribution of vouchers was changed in response to this and other feedback. This time, 989 households received 5,000 Vatu vouchers allocated to women and 5,000 Vatu vouchers allocated to men. The shops were expanded to include those that could provide food, kitchen, household and personal items and equipment, in addition to agriculture and hardware stores. These were distributed to communities in north and east Efate in September 2015.



Sisters Margaret (left) and Sarah (right) with their vouchers received from Oxfam at Eton village, Efate Island. Photo: Danielle Roubin/OxfamAUS.



Women's pleasure with the new vouchers was evident at the distribution in Eton village, where Oxfam gathered their views.

Lizzy, a member of the community WASH Committee supported by Oxfam explains why the vouchers have been useful and why separate allocations for women and men are important. *"During the cyclone the wind blew out the door on my house. With the first voucher from Oxfam, my husband and I discussed it and decided to fix the door by buying things like masonite and a handle. We were able to fix the door and it stopped the rain, wind and animals from coming in and spoiling our things in the house. We can lock the door and keep our things safe now."*

*"With this second voucher, we will all be happy. He can use it for his personal needs and I can for mine. Sometimes my needs are not the same as my husband's. We can make our own choice but it's good to make the right choice. I think we will want to buy something so we can look at it and say that it was from Oxfam and remember this program after it has finished, just like the door."*

Likewise, Sarah felt she would be able to benefit more from having a separate allocation in the second voucher.

*"My husband used the first voucher. He went to Port Vila and bought tools that he used. Even though I signed for the voucher, he made the decision and did the shopping. I wasn't involved. He told me that he would buy what he wants. With this voucher, I will use half for what I want: food and things for the kitchen. I feel good now that we can both do our own shopping."*

*"I'm a single mother and don't get much support from others. With the first voucher I bought cement and rope for the house. I will also use this voucher for the house and for my children's needs," Margaret said.*

*"With the first voucher we bought something to fix the cyclone damage to our house like a hammer and nails, and things to help us earn income like a knife and seedlings. We discussed what to buy and he went shopping. This second voucher is different. It looks like Oxfam is helping a lot. I can buy food to help the family as our taro and our garden won't be ready to sell until next year. We will discuss what to buy and agree. This way, everyone can be helped," Monique said.*

*"I bought nails, a saw, a tape measure and lino to rebuild our house. I also bought cabbage and vegetable seedlings, which I am now selling at the Freswota market. I don't know what we will buy with this voucher but we will discuss and decide together," Lilian said.*

As Oxfam processes the payments for the second voucher cycle, the impact for both women and men of having greater choice is emerging. As well as hardware and agricultural inputs and assets, vouchers are being used to buy essential household items such as food, soap, mattresses, kitchen equipment and clothing.

By facilitating greater choice over priorities for recovery support, the vouchers are able to help address the diverse needs of women, men and children after the cyclone. While not altering women's long-term power and control over household spending, they do provide a possible way forward for future disaster response programs on Efate Island that promote greater choice and control for women, men and young people over relief and recovery support. As with the first voucher program in Vanuatu, Oxfam will be keenly monitoring the results of this project and sharing lessons to guide future responses.



Lizzy of Eton village, Efate Island after receiving her voucher from Oxfam. Photo: Danielle Roubin/OxfamAUS.





Epau, Vanuatu: A group of pikinini (children) watch Oxfam activities. Photo: Groovy Banana/OxfamAUS.

## GENDER, INCLUSION AND PROTECTION

Oxfam's focus on gender, inclusion and protection in the Tropical Cyclone Pam response has been to address the basic needs of all community members — including women, young people and people with disabilities — promote women's empowerment and equal decision-making between women and men, and strengthen our own capacity to promote gender equality and disability inclusion in our programs.

Oxfam's rapid gender analysis showed that the needs of women, girls and people with disability are often not addressed without specific effort. Oxfam has implemented initiatives such as accessible latrines, provision of menstrual hygiene materials and information, support to women's income-generating activities and voucher programs tailored to meet the needs of women and girls.

We are learning from both women-only and mixed cash-for-work projects and voucher systems to identify the best ways to safely support women in accessing cash and resources in emergencies. We are sharing these lessons with partners and other organisations working in Vanuatu.

Oxfam is also promoting women's leadership and empowerment as key to resilience. Women have been supported to gain new skills, for example in community sanitation planning, latrine construction and technical aspects of water safety and security management. Oxfam will continue to work with women and men to support women's role and leadership in community committees such as WASH committees, and in community disaster preparedness.

At the national level, Oxfam has helped to amplify the voices and priorities of women, young women and women and men with disability to inform post-cyclone plans and practice. Oxfam partnered with the Department of Women's Affairs, CARE International, UN Women and others to hold a two-day Women in Emergency Response and Recovery Forum. More than 140 participants attended from communities across Vanuatu, women's organisations, disability organisations and humanitarian agencies. Lessons and recommendations were shared with government and non-government agencies and Oxfam will continue to promote these internally and with other organisations. Oxfam also supported members of the Vanuatu Civil Society Disability Network to engage with national stakeholders to promote inclusion of people with disability in recovery projects.

Oxfam is now working on some exciting cyclone recovery initiatives including partnerships with disability organisations and community-based women's groups in Shefa province.

## **“WE CAN GIVE SERVICES BUT WITHOUT ADVOCACY WE WILL NEVER CHANGE THINGS”: NETWORKING FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION IN CYCLONE RESPONSE**

Since 2013, Oxfam in Vanuatu has been supporting the formation and development of the Vanuatu Civil Society Disability Network (VCSDN) through Oxfam’s Governance, Leadership and Accountability Program.

Global evidence suggests that people with disability are the most marginalised in society. This is consistent with the views of Oxfam’s stakeholders in Vanuatu, who identified people with disability as being among the most disadvantaged.<sup>2</sup> People with disabilities comprise up to 12% of Vanuatu’s population. Government data shows that they are less likely to attend school, are more likely to be living in poverty and are less likely to be employed outside the home.<sup>3</sup> People with disability lack access to public buildings and face stigma that often excludes them from community activities. Women and girls with disability are recognised to experience double discrimination and violence.

The VCSDN is a powerful emerging network of local voices that are advocating for real change in the lives of people with disabilities in Vanuatu. The network of 12 organisations includes key actors such as the Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association (DPA) and the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People. Working together, members of the VCSDN amplify the voices and priorities of women, men, boys and girls with disability in national decision-making.

Recognising that Tropical Cyclone Pam was likely to increase the disadvantage experienced by people with disabilities, the network was activated two weeks after the cyclone to advocate for their rights and needs in the national disaster response. Oxfam funded members from other islands to come to Port Vila to participate in the national sectoral clusters to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in water, sanitation and hygiene, food security, shelter, health, gender and protection and in church-based responses.

Members of the VCSDN formed the majority of the Disability Working Group of the Gender and Protection Cluster which led the development of key disability inclusion messages to guide agencies’ response and recovery activities; the development of a referral guide for services for people with disability; input to assessment processes; and radio interviews to promote inclusion of people with disability in response and recovery. Advocacy by VCSDN members ensured that the situation and experiences of people with disability were included in the national Post-Disaster Needs Assessment report, which formed the basis for national recovery planning.

Acting together and individually, VCSDN members were able to raise their issues and assessments directly with government and non-government decision makers. Nelly Caleb, Director of the DPA, was one VCSDN advocate supported by Oxfam. Nelly raised the real-life experiences of DPA’s members, including people with disabilities missing out on food distributions as they couldn’t get to the distribution points, and evacuation centres not having accessible facilities.

*“The Pacific Disability Forum came to Port Vila straight after the cyclone, but after they left nobody was in Port Vila. I was fortunate to get funding from Oxfam to advocate in the clusters to include us in their response activities. I raised the rights of people with disabilities and our key disability inclusion messages in cluster meetings and then got people’s email addresses and sent the documents,” Nelly said.*

*“Through attending cluster meetings, I was able to present our assessments and issues straight to the government and advocate on behalf of people with disability. If I wasn’t at the cluster meetings you would never have heard the voice of people with disabilities.”*

VCSDN meetings during the cyclone response and recovery phases acted as an exclusively civil society space to share information, interpret national processes and strategise together to address challenges. The network provided input on the accessibility of infrastructure recovery projects such as in the tourism and education sector (New Zealand Government) and by the Vanuatu Christian Council.

*“I would like to thank Oxfam and its donors for flying us. It gave us the opportunity to share and learn from others’ strategies and ways to address our challenges,” said Dorian Naliupis, disability advocate representing Sanma Franjipani Association.*

*“Also we learned how to improve our services and what to communicate to our people in terms of disaster preparedness and response. We found new partners or institutions to work with to communicate our findings that can be discussed in National Gender and Protection Cluster meetings. You are our ears and mouth to responsible institutions. Now through VCSDN everyone has contributed a lot.”*

2. Consultations for Oxfam’s Governance, Leadership and Accountability program.

3. UNICEF Pacific and Vanuatu National Statistics Office, 2014, Children, Women and Men with Disabilities in Vanuatu: What do the data say, UNICEF, Suva.



When Oxfam co-organised the national Women in Emergency Response and Recovery Forum with CARE International and UN Women, members of the VCSDN were vocal in sharing their experiences. They provided recommendations for improving future disaster preparedness, response and recovery to meet the needs of women and people with disability.

*"Oxfam also supported me to attend the Women in Emergency Response and Recovery Forum in Port Vila. At the Forum, women with disability could talk out on issues they faced. I was able to help a friend share a story from her heart. When Pam hit and she went to her sister's home for shelter, she couldn't get her wheelchair in the house. It wasn't accessible and she had to stay without her wheelchair. We need stories like this to come out. I have many others," Nelly said.*

Ongoing challenges in disability inclusive disaster assessment and planning processes prompted VCSDN members to develop a joint project to pilot a good practice assessment tool. Evidence from the project will be used to train humanitarian agencies and guide improvements in Vanuatu's humanitarian preparedness and response systems.

While many challenges remain to ensure that people with disability are benefiting from cyclone recovery programs, there is no doubt that the individual and collective efforts of VCSDN members and people with disability themselves, ensured that the voices of people with disability were loud in national planning and decision-making. As Nelly said at the first VCSDN meeting after the cyclone, *"We can give services but without advocacy we will never change things"*.



Vanuatu Civil Society Disability Network (VCSDN) members from Torba, Shefa, Tafea and Sanma Provinces(left to right) Crimson Tula, Arthur Simrai, Jimmy Violet and Nelly Caleb in 'storian' during a meeting break. Photo: Arlene Bax/OxfamAUS.

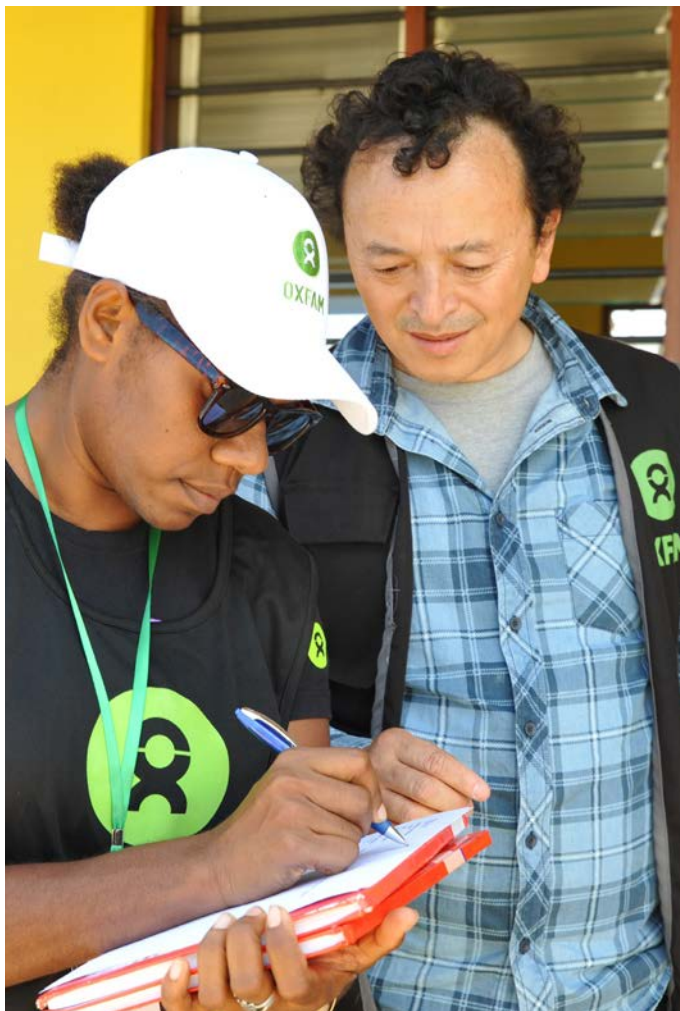
## COORDINATION AND VANUATU HUMANITARIAN TEAM (VHT)

Oxfam has been coordinating the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team since its inception in 2011, supporting humanitarian coordination for both disaster preparedness and response. The VHT is a coordination mechanism of 11 humanitarian agencies based in Vanuatu, including United Nations agencies and the Red Cross. It supports the Vanuatu Government and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), as well as seven government-led clusters in a co-leadership role. However, the number of organisations actively supporting or implementing the humanitarian response has grown to more than 50 since Tropical Cyclone Pam.

As VHT coordinator, Oxfam has been working with all members and the sub-cluster groups to plan and coordinate the work of the myriad of agencies across the country. The VHT has worked to provide relief items and services in the following areas (clusters): WASH, food security and agriculture, health and nutrition, gender and protection, shelter, education. The VHT also supported the NDMO and clusters to monitor and report on the progress of humanitarian activities during this time.

More than 500 humanitarian relief activities are close to finalisation in 38 islands coordinated with the clusters, VHT and the NDMO. The VHT has taken valuable lessons from this emergency response and is currently improving and updating coordination arrangements in the event of a large scale disaster, in advance of the upcoming cyclone season.

In addition to this, Oxfam is managing a \$3 million Australian Government-funded agreement as part of the Tropical Cyclone Pam response, coordinating projects of Oxfam and three major international non-government organisations.



Oxfam's Kethy Cyrus and Praphulla Shrestha coordinate the distribution of hygiene kits at Lycee Bouganville school which was acting as a temporary evacuation centre. Port Vila, Efate Island, Vanuatu. Photo: Philippe Metois/OxfamAUS.

## WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT THIS WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

Oxfam Australia wishes to thanks all affiliates and their supporters for their generous contributions to the Cyclone Pam appeal.

AFFILIATE	APPEALS FUNDING CONTRIBUTION (\$AUD)
OXFAM AUSTRALIA	\$1,991,474.80
OXFAM NEW ZEALAND	\$204,105.45
OXFAM BELGIUM	\$2,688.89
OXFAM CANADA	\$14,392.90
OXFAM GERMANY	\$36,466.53
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN	\$1,621,655.27
OXFAM HONG KONG	\$157,423.12
OXFAM IRELAND	\$18,154
OXFAM ITALIA	\$12,278.14
OXFAM AMERICA	\$64,294.69