

Vanuatu Country Update: Tropical Cyclone Harold response

Global Shelter Cluster Annual Online Meeting 2020, 1st -29th Oct 2020



Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



Shelter Cluster Pacific
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Shelter Cluster Vanuatu
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A few reminders before we begin

- Mute your microphone and turn cameras off when not speaking
- When speaking, unmute yourself, put your video on (if you want) and say your name and organization before asking your question
- You can ask questions in the chat or by raising your hand. We will address these during the Q&A at the end.
- Time is short, let's go to the point





Session Outline

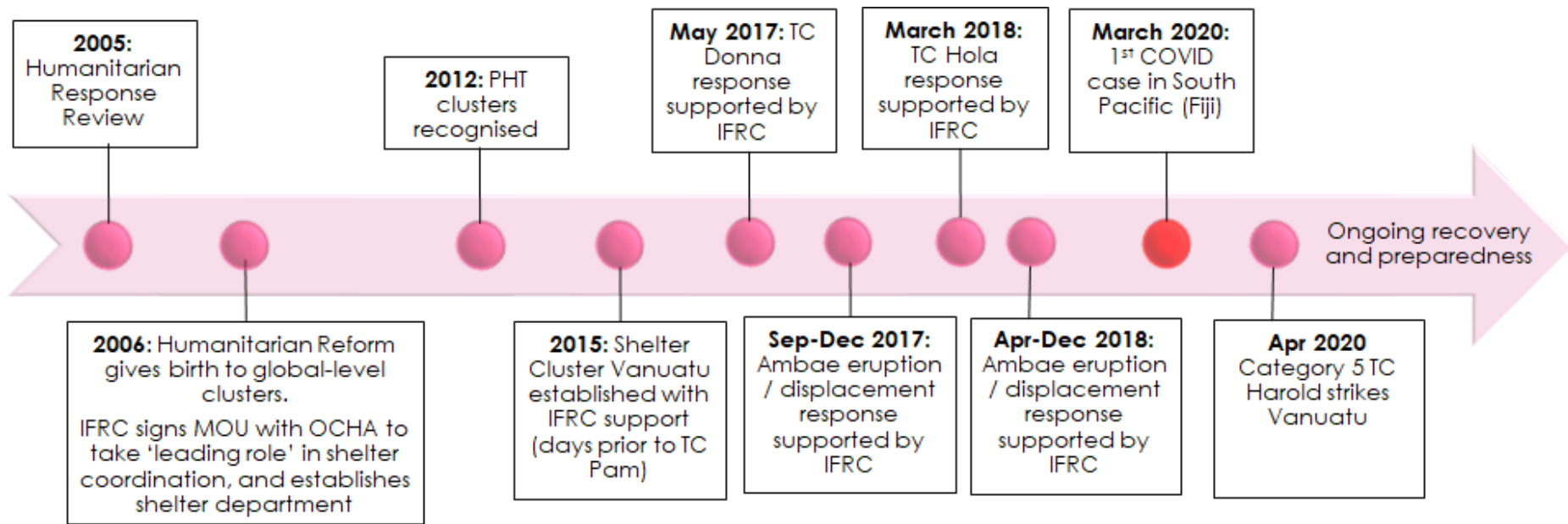
1. **Brief background of the Shelter Cluster in Vanuatu**
2. **Key elements of the context and crisis, and the shelter needs**
 - **COVID context in Vanuatu**
 - **Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold impact**
3. **Shelter strategy, shelter response modalities, and gaps**
4. **Challenges and things that went well**
5. **Q&A**

1: Brief background of the Shelter Cluster in Vanuatu



- Vanuatu Government requested IFRC (as convenor of the Pacific Shelter Cluster under the Pacific Humanitarian Team) to set up the Shelter Cluster for preparedness, 3 weeks before the impact of TC Pam in 2015. During the TC Pam response, the Prime Minister's Office designated Public Works Department (PWD) as Shelter Cluster Lead, with IFRC as co-Lead.
- In 'peacetime', PWD is responsible for construction and maintenance of airports, roads and public buildings (except schools).
- Through response and preparedness, IFRC continues to support PWD in strengthening its capacity as Shelter Cluster Lead, with a focus on mainstreaming this responsibility in the way the Department operates on a day-to-day basis.
- At the request of PWD, coordination of the TC Harold response was supported by the IFRC Pacific shelter team, and the Global Shelter Cluster Focal Point for Coordination.

1: Brief background of the Shelter Cluster in Vanuatu



2: COVID-19 context in Vanuatu



Photo credit: NDMO Vanuatu 2020

The Government of Vanuatu declared a State of Emergency on 26th March for the COVID-19 pandemic. This was extended in response to the impact of TC Harold and to strengthen containment measures including disinfection and quarantining of incoming relief items. The SoE remains in place until 31st December.

2: Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold impact

- On 6th April 2020, TC Harold made landfall in Vanuatu as a category 5 cyclone, causing widespread destruction across the provinces of Sanma, Penama, Malampa as well as the northern islands of Shefa Province.
- Based on findings from assessments conducted by the Provincial Authorities and wind speed analysis, it was estimated that **21,000** houses were either damaged or destroyed.
- Reports received from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and humanitarian agencies highlighted severe damage also to environmental habitats, food gardens and water supply systems.
- Aerial assessments showed extensive damage to infrastructure and public buildings such as health centres, hospitals, government offices, roads, wharves, and airstrips.

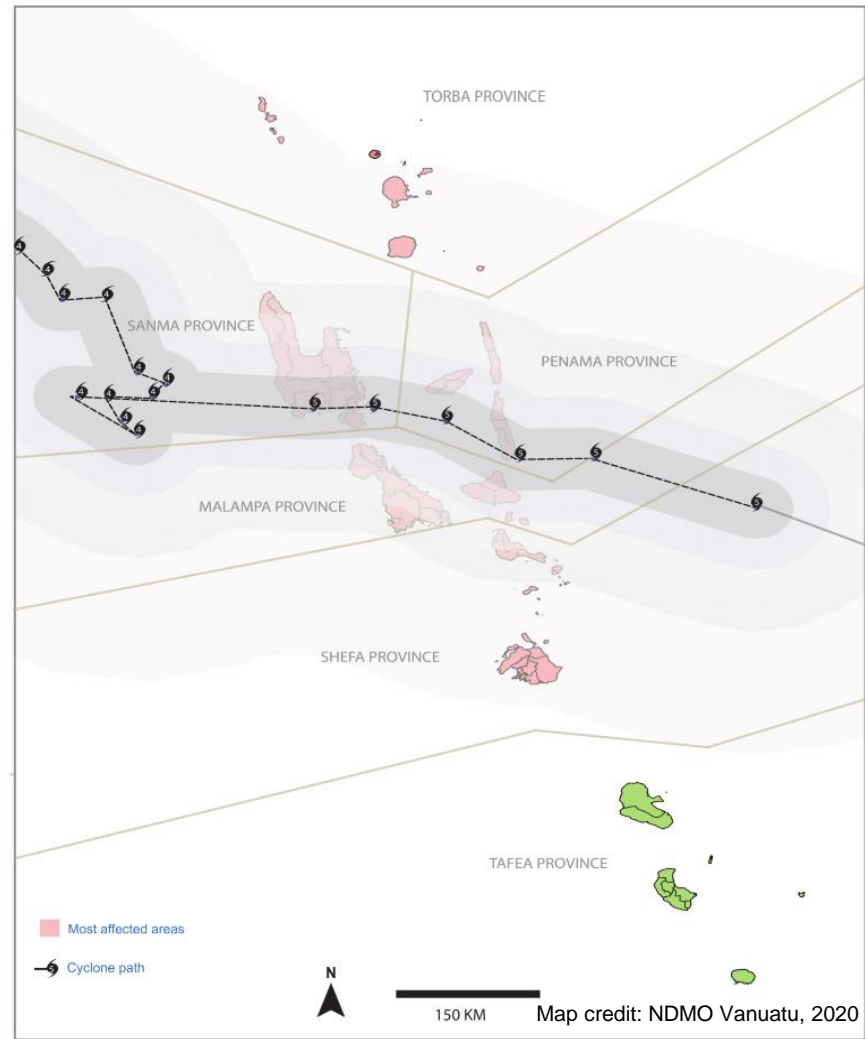




Photo credit: Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) 2020



Photo credit: Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) 2020



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Photo credit: NDMO Vanuatu, 2020



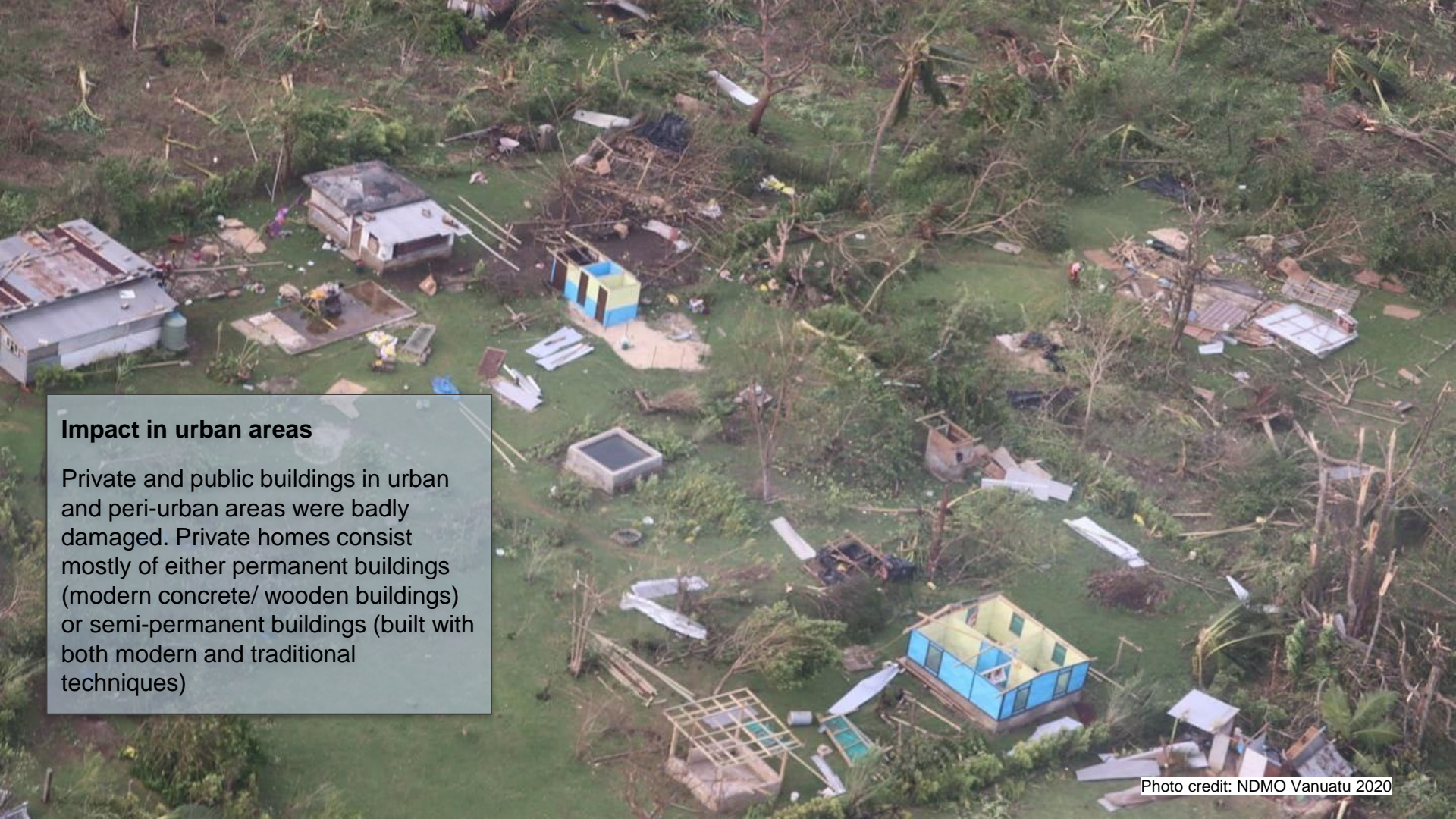
Photo credit: Unity Airlines Vanuatu, 2020



Photo credit: Vanuatu Red Cross 2020



Housing in remote rural communities of Vanuatu is predominantly composed of local materials, with bamboo walls, Natangura palm thatched roof (*Metroxylon warburgii*), and bush rope strappings. There was extensive damage in these areas.

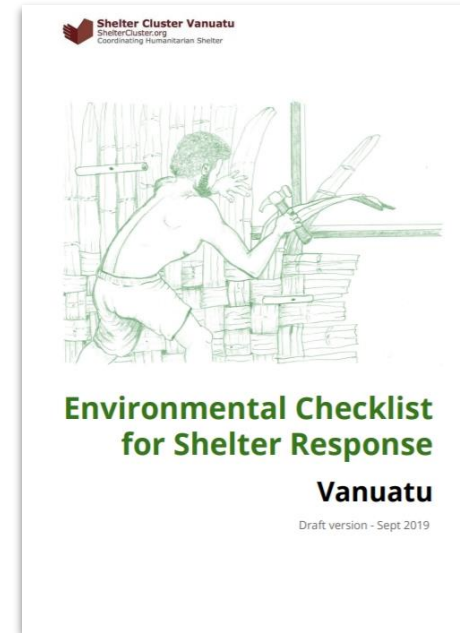
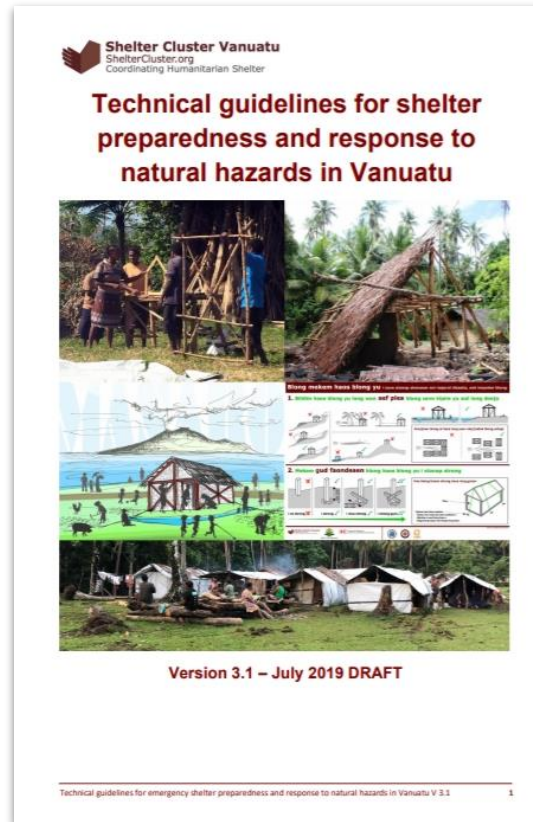
An aerial photograph showing a flooded urban area. Several buildings are partially submerged in green water. Debris, including wooden planks, metal sheets, and branches, is scattered throughout the water. A small blue and yellow building is visible in the center. A larger building with a grey roof is on the left. The surrounding area is covered in dense vegetation, some of which appears to be damaged or uprooted.

Impact in urban areas

Private and public buildings in urban and peri-urban areas were badly damaged. Private homes consist mostly of either permanent buildings (modern concrete/ wooden buildings) or semi-permanent buildings (built with both modern and traditional techniques)

3: The shelter strategy, the shelter response modalities, and the gaps

- Cyclone response is not new in Vanuatu. Response was informed by [technical guidelines](#) established during past responses and revised during preparedness times.
- Gaps and key advocacy messages were highlighted in sitreps issued on a regular basis. 14 sitreps were disseminated during the response.
- [Recovery shelter guidance](#) developed, which promotes supporting social processes of self-recovery.



96% (20,238 HH) of the affected population received emergency shelter assistance from Shelter agencies (shelter materials, essential household items and/or technical support).

This was over a 4 month period from April to August.

4: Some of the challenges



Photo credit: Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN), 2020

4: Some of the challenges

- Remote coordination in support of a relatively new national Shelter Cluster Lead
- Unavailability of reliable damage assessment data
- Not all agencies reported progress to the coordination team (little oversight on work of NDMO)
- Adverse weather and logistical challenges (reduced access, high fuel prices).
- Moderate level of shelter relief items prepositioned.
- Most emergency shelter needs met, but little commitment for anything beyond. Reduced levels of household income this is a major concern heading into the new cyclone season.

4: Additional COVID-19 related challenges

- HR capacity of local partners stretched to the limit due to travel restrictions.
- Strict border controls slowed the movement of internationally procured relief items.
- In-country procurement exhausted the local supply chain.
- Holistic approach to the emergency response, incorporating aspects of WASH, Gender & protection & social distancing was even more crucial at a time when coordination was arguably more challenging.
- While there was community awareness to promote good hygiene practices, social distancing was difficult to implement due to zero reported cases in Vanuatu.



Photo credit: Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN), 2020

4: Things that went well

- A more local response with meetings held in local languages enabling greater local participation.
- PWD accepted and acted in their role as Shelter Cluster Lead.
- Remote coordination support was possible due to long established relationships with Government and partners.
- Shelter agencies and Provincial Authorities were highly collaborative, providing timely 3W information needed to identify gaps. IM support was invaluable.
- Emergency shelter needs appear to have been mostly met.
- Greening of the response, as local NGOs and communities 'made do' with available resources.



Photo credit: ADRA, 2020

4: Things that went well

- Existing technical guidelines and awareness materials were widely used, and freed up the coordination team to focus on development of additional IECs, and recovery shelter guidance.
- Testing of existing tools, i.e. Environmental Checklist for Shelter Response.
- Funding allocated to the Shelter Cluster (through PWD) for early recovery activities.

Hao nao yu save fiksism plastik tapolen blong mekem se I save stap long taem?

Sapos yu lukaotem gud, plastik tapolen bai save stap. I gat tu samting we yu save mekem blong mekem plastik tapolen blong yu I las blong plante yia.
Long ol white tapolen blong IFRC, I gat wan longfala blak laen I stap long hem.
Putum nil long blak laen ia from hemi strong pat blong tapolen.

1 Fiksism tapolen wetem wan nil we I gat bigfala hed

Foldem en blo tapolen taem yu nilim i ko lo yud. Usum plante nil blong nilim. Tapolen i ko lo wud/ timba long wan spesing blong 30cm.

Nilim nil i ko tru long wan plastik we yu foldem o rop, o lowin lid blong plastik. Bifo yu nilim tapolen i ko long wud/ timba. Benem en blong nil blong I hoim taet gud.



2 Foldem gud en blong tapolen

Rolem en blong tapolen wetem ston o wud mo berem wetem graon.

Foldem en blong tapolen mo putum wan ston insaed mo fasem taet wetem rop, bai save hoim taet tapolen strong.

Fasem en blong tapolen wetem wan rop, wei ia tu I save hoim taet tapolen.



YU NO WANTED PLASTIK TAPOLEN I BROK?



No usum nil normo taem yu nilim tapolen i ko long wud/ timba.



Mekem sua yu no stikim hoi tru long tapolen blong fasem rop.

Adapted from Global Shelter Cluster and Vanuatu Red Cross guidance materials.
To provide feedback or for further information contact coord.vanuatu@sheltercluster.org or follow us on Facebook: [@gscvanuatu](https://www.facebook.com/gscvanuatu)

VERSION 1 June 2020

Use, reuse, repair and disposal of tarpaulin IEC, Shelter Cluster Vanuatu 2020

Wanem nao yu save mekem wetem wan olfala plastik tapolen?

Wan olfala plastik tapolen I save stap long taim, sapos yu lukaotem gud. Be sapos plastik tapolen ia I kam olfala, yu still save usum blong mekem sam gudfala samting aot long hem.

Yu save finem sam wei blong mekem olfala plastik tapolen ia, I kam gud blong yu save usum bagegen, hemia hemi samfala wei we yu save usum blong stap usum plastik tapolen taim I olfala.

1. NAMBAWAN

Kipim gud o lukaotem gud

Plastik tapolen I save las blong plenti via sapos yu lukaotem gud. Fiksism gud (see narafala saed blong instruksn) mo klinim, foldem mo storem gud blong avoideem damej blong plastik tapolen mo mekem las.



3. GUD

Usum-bakeken

KLINIM

Ol toti we I stap long plastik tapolen I mas kamaot mo man I mas wasem blong karemaot ol bakterias o eni toti wetem 0.2 pesen (%) blong klorin, 50ml (m) longwe long wan wota sos bambae I nosave spoilem wota blong dring.

KAREMAOT MO SEPERETEM

Sapos plastik bigwan ya I nogud plastik mo inogat use blong hem, man I save karemaot o wivim aot.

MEKEM WAN NARAFALA SAMTING

Yu save usum blong mekem:

- rop o basket
- protekem haos long san
- kavremap flo o trak
- seperetem rum insaed long haos o long nara pies
- kasem mo savem ren wota lo hem
- skrin o fenis
- paus blong yu wei I no save wetwet
- usum blong fiksism nara tapolen



2. STRET

Mekem I kam gud

SOMAPEM

Hemi lokol solusen we I jip be bambae wota I save ran tru long hem nomo. Somapem plastik tapolen wetem ol gudfala tret o rop mo taetern strong taem yu somap long seraoitem.



SKOJEM

Skoj hemi no strong mo I save kam aot kwik taim. Sapos yu usum skoj blong putm aot saed long plastik tapolen, taim san o ren I kasem bai save nogud kwik taim. Be I gat sam skoj o selotep we oli mo strong olsem taim we oli koletem 'butyl'. Skoj ya hemi spesel mo yu save usum blong putum lo plastik tapolen taim I brok.



4. SAPOS I MAS

Sakem aot

BEREM

Berem plastik tapolen I no wan solusen from hem I save stap longtaem long graon kolosap 100 yias olsem.

Sapos I nid blong berem plastik tapolen, yu mas berem longwe long eni wota sos.



Yu save usum olfala tapolen ya tu blong mekem mani aot long hem!

Sapos yu gat inaf plastik tapolen mo inaf pipol blong pem ol ting bambae yu mekem.



Shelter Cluster Partners and Donors:



VERSION 1 June 2020

Use of local natural resources in remote communities:

- Natangura palms used for traditional roof thatch in remote communities on Santo Island were nearly completely destroyed, meaning local families could not commence rebuilding their homes. This was exacerbated by a shortage of tarpaulins early in the response. In response, coconut thatch weaving workshops were delivered by local NGOs, giving new life to what is normally considered to be a 'waste material'.



for further information:

[Report by Vanuatu Climate Action Network \(VCAN\)](#)

[Report by The Butterfly Trust](#)

Photo credit: The Butterfly Trust, 2020



Thank you to the shelter agencies involved in this response including:

CARE Vanuatu, Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS), World Vision, IOM, The Butterfly Trust, Save the Children, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Vanuatu Skills Partnership (TVET), Caritas, Rotary Club, and Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN).



We wish to thank the following donor agencies for their ongoing support:

IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), DFAT Australia (AusAid, Australian Humanitarian Partnership - AHP, Australian Red Cross), MFAT New Zealand, French Government, Shelter Box, CERF, Start Fund/ Start Network, Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Mission, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG), Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP).

Further information

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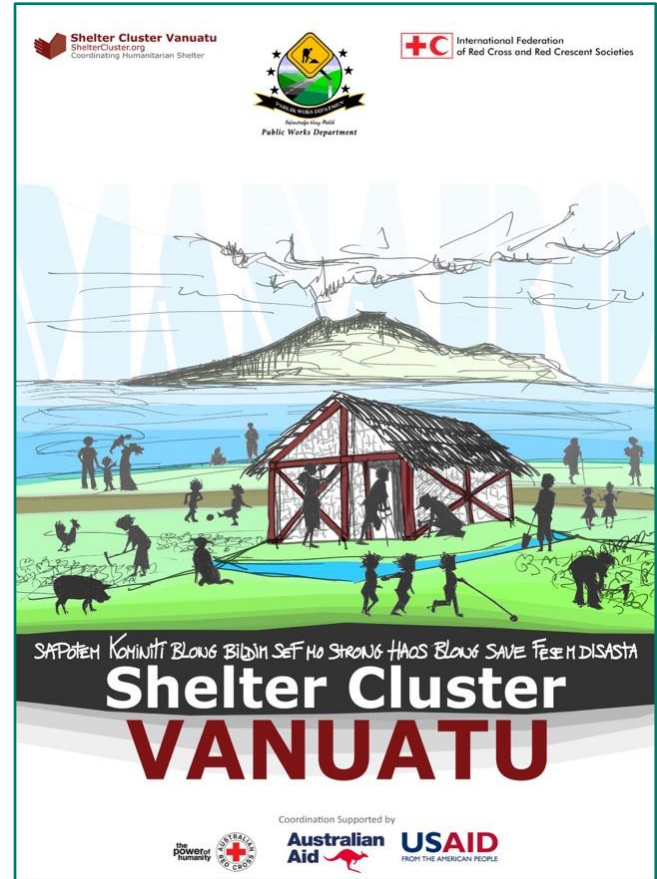
tom.bamforth@sheltercluster.org

Or refer to the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster website at:

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/pacific/vanuatu>

or Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/vanuatusheltercluster/>



Thank you, and thanks also to COVID-19 (not)!
Any questions?

