



Highlights

IOM teams conducting displacement tracking for cyclone affected populations in Epau community, Vanuatu. © IOM/ Peter Murorera 2023

■ Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) estimates that 251,346 people were affected by Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin which made landfall between 1-3 March 2023.

■ Co-leading the Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management cluster with NDMO, IOM continues to provide technical support, assess the displacement situation, and coordinate referrals through the national clusters using displacement tracking data.

■ IOM is working closely with the NDMO and cluster partners to deliver shelter and non-food items (S/NFIs) targeting vulnerable, displacement-affected households.

Situation Overview

Cyclones Judy and Kevin impacted Vanuatu on 1st and 3rd March, respectively. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in Vanuatu estimates that 251,346 people were affected by Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin, across five identified priority areas. The most impacted Priority 1 zone, which received sustained Category 3 and 4 winds of between 118 – 211km/hr during both cyclones, includes the islands of Efate in Shefa province, and all islands within Tafea province (Tanna, Aniwa, Futuna, Erromango and Aneityum), totaling 124,000 residents. Response at present is focused within this Priority 1 area. Vanuatu NDMO estimates that approximately 90% of houses within the Priority 1 area are completely or severely damaged, with widespread damage to water sources and supply, and extensive damage to crops.

The Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management (DECM) Cluster (co-led by NDMO and IOM), reports 41 evacuation centres (including schools, churches and halls) remain active on the island of Efate, a decrease from a peak of 51 active centres on this island. Eighteen evacuation centres have been reported in Tafea province and 15 have been reported on islands other than Efate in Shefa province. As of 24 March 2023, a total of 2,117 displaced persons (453 households) were staying in evacuation centres (1,305 individuals from 323 households) and with host families (812 individuals from 130 households) in identified locations in Shefa and Tafea provinces and lack adequate shelter materials to enable them to return to their homes in a safe and dignified manner. Data cleaning and analysis of the NDMO-coordinated rapid assessment continues, as does collection of evacuation centre data from the outer islands, thus these reported numbers are not exhaustive. Public release of official results will provide greater depth of understanding of damage, priority needs and impacted population.

CONTACTS

IOM Vanuatu
 +678 29786

<https://www.iom.int/countries/vanuatu>

✉ drd@iom.int, [Donor Relations Division, IOM HQs](mailto:Donor_Relations_Division@iom.int)
 ✉ cmcintsh@iom.int, jjack@iom.int

IOM RESPONSE



As co-lead of the Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management (DECM) cluster (Pacific-specific version of the global Camp Coordination/Camp Management (CCCM) cluster) with Vanuatu NDMO, IOM continues to work closely with the Government of Vanuatu in providing coordination support including monitoring of evacuation centre populations and regularly sharing information with relevant national clusters on the conditions and needs of displaced persons sheltering in evacuation centres.

Since the cyclones struck Vanuatu, IOM has been assisting the coordination of referrals to clusters including Shelter, Health, Education, Gender and Protection, Food Security and Agriculture, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to address the immediate needs in evacuation centres and affected communities. IOM's coordination support through the DECM cluster has been critical in addressing the immediate needs especially of the most vulnerable persons such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, persons living with disabilities and the elderly, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

IOM will continue to support persons displaced to evacuation centres through the coordination of Non-Food Items (NFIs), food, water, health referrals and improvement to evacuation centres where possible. IOM will also seek to improve conditions for populations within evacuation centres, particularly relating to gender and protection considerations.



The DECM cluster began assessments just a day after Cyclone Kevin.

Through implementing a customized displacement tracking tool, IOM continues to work closely with DECM cluster to provide the government and partners with information on the displacement situation including IDP locations, population, and multi-sectoral needs.

In coordination with Provincial, Area Councils, and Community Disaster Climate Change Committees, the

cluster has reached most parts of Shefa and Tafea provinces using the Daily Monitoring Tools developed as part of the revision of the NDMO's Evacuation Centre Management Guidelines under the '*Sef Ples Blo Yumi Strengthening Evacuation Centre Management for Local Authorities and Communities (Vanuatu)*' project funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Affected households in identified locations lack decent shelter after the cyclones struck Vanuatu. © IOM/ Simon Kafu 2023

In response to the changing mobility context from the time the cyclones made landfall, IOM deployed a Household Intention Survey to 14 evacuation centres to provide a better understanding of the intentions of the displaced persons, barriers preventing safe and dignified return, and support needed to pursue durable solutions to the displacement.

Analysis of the survey data and drafting of the survey report is ongoing. Initial findings from the survey shows that lack of privacy, poor sanitation and hygiene, and limited access to safe and clean drinking water were the main concerns for persons living in evacuation centres, and it remains unclear for selected households in six of the 14 evacuation centres assessed regarding how soon they can repair or rebuild their homes.

Challenges faced by the IDPs to repair or rebuild their homes as well as return to their homes include lack of finances, limited manpower to support with the repair or rebuilding of the house, and lack of essential household items. IOM will continue to coordinate referrals to the relevant clusters including providing direct S/NFI assistance and supporting the improvement of the evacuation centres.

IOM RESPONSE



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

IOM’s current humanitarian priorities include supporting the Government of Vanuatu to deliver relief materials such as shelter kits, and non-food items to affected populations.



Shelter remains one of the immediate needs for the affected communities. © IOM/ Peter Muropera 2023

With the generous financial assistance from the Government of Germany’s Global Emergency Response Program (GERP), IOM is targeting vulnerable households with shelter and non-food item kits, such as kitchen kits, sleeping mats and blankets. IOM’s assistance will also include shelter toolkits and build back safer awareness in target locations of assistance.

A finding from the IOM-led household intention survey shows that the displaced persons are likely to continue staying in the evacuation centres and with host households while they plan to rebuild their homes. Results from the survey also indicate that in most cases, a lack of building tools and materials are preventing households from returning home. In fewer cases, a lack of skills and support to rebuild is prolonging time spent in evacuation centres.

Also observed is a strong trend of displaced households (both within and outside evacuation centres) being rebuilt with damaged building materials or in unsafe areas, making them especially vulnerable to future hazardous events.

Secondary displacement has already occurred after heavy rainfall this week forced people back into evacuation centres in some parts of Greater Port Vila.

To help address these ongoing displacement-related issues and to assist in providing dignified return to safe shelter, IOM plans to provide targeted support to vulnerable displaced households for whom ongoing barriers remain after receiving emergency shelter assistance.



RESILIENCE BUILDING

IOM through a secondment to the UN Resident Coordinators’ Office is providing technical assistance on the UN’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement to help displaced persons find a durable solution to their displacement, better prevent new displacement from future crises, and ensure that those facing displacement receive effective protection and assistance.

The seconded is working closely with all relevant Government agencies, and embedded with the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy, and Disaster Management.

IOM has strong expertise in disaster risk management in the Asia-Pacific region on early recovery interventions to support disaster affected populations, including a significant focus on resilience building, disaster risk reduction and community-level climate change adaptation, and continues to engage with the Government of Vanuatu and partners on recovery planning discussions.



The cyclones damaged several homes and displaced the local population in Vanuatu. © IOM/ Simon Kafu 2023

IOM operations are currently supported by:



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Germany’s Global Emergency Response Program



DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX