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Pacific MCO Vanuatu Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

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for every child

Reporting Period: 1 March to 2 March 2023

Highlights

- Tropical Cyclone Judy made landfall on Vanuatu on 1st March and has affected the entire country. While reports are still coming in, one of the most affected areas is Efate island, where the capital Port Vila is, causing damage to buildings, power lines, and infrastructure.
- The cyclone began as a Category 2 when it entered Vanuatu and upgraded to Category 4.
- Another low-pressure system is developing in the Coral Sea and became a Tropical Cyclone (TC Kevin) on 2 March. The direction it is travelling follows the route of TC Judy.
- Up to 50,000 children may be affected, according to early estimates.

UNICEF Response

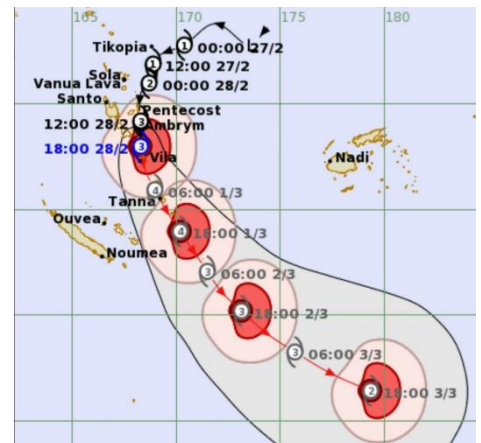
- UNICEF is standing ready to initiate the response under the National Coordination Mechanisms.
- Staff are on the ground in Vanuatu and ready to be deployed where necessary, and emergency pre-positioned supplies such as tents, dignity kits, tarpaulin, and emergency health kits are in stock and ready to be delivered to assist over 20,000 people.
- UNICEF is working closely with national authorities to prepare for any potential response efforts.
- UNICEF has identified several partners who have the capacity to assist with the response.

Situation

- TC Judy made landfall on the island of Efate, home to the capital Port Vila, earlier on 1st March. The capital was battered by hurricane-force winds, and there are early reports of damage to buildings, power lines, and other infrastructure.
- The cyclone has been upgraded to a Category 4 storm and has recently passed the southernmost islands of the country. Tanna island has been heavily affected by previous cyclones. There is very limited communication to outer islands as of afternoon of 2 March.
- Another tropical cyclone called Kevin is now developing over the Coral Sea as Category 1. This is expected to move east, then curve southeast near Vanuatu tomorrow as Category 3. This cyclone is expected to follow a similar path to TC Judy.
- The NDMO called an inter-cluster and interagency meeting on 2nd March 2023 and activated the cluster system. Clusters are expected to draft cluster response plans based on the limited information available. A key challenge is the incoming cyclone “Kevin” expected to reach Vanuatu on Friday around noon, which will significantly hamper any needs assessment and early response.

Situation in Numbers

 **50,000**
children in need of
humanitarian assistance*
*Estimated number based on UNICEF analysis.



The trajectory of Tropical Cyclone Judy crossed over Vanuatu

Humanitarian needs:

- According to the first estimate, 100% of the population have been affected with wind below 80 km/h and about 50% with wind between 80 to 200 km/h. The main affected provinces are Shefa and Tafea. The damages are severe to extreme, and a second potential Category 3 cyclone is expected in the next 1 to 2 days. Up to 50,000 children may be affected. UNICEF Vanuatu Field Office also predicts that some schools will be affected, although all remain closed for the time being. Staff are ready to be deployed where necessary, emergency pre-positioned supplies are ready to be delivered to assist over 20,000 people.

External Media

- UNICEF on the ground
https://twitter.com/UNICEFPacific/status/1630760335509716994?cxt=HHwWhIDU_dH4z6EtAAAA

Next SitRep

- 6 - March -2023

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