

September 2023

Vanuatu Cyclone Response Update

GMP partner, the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (CCCV), continues to provide support in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin. Receiving guidance from Hilson Toaliu, CCCV National President and an Elder of the Sarabetu Church of Christ, Peter Bryant surveyed community needs and distributed assistance funded by the Global Mission Partners' Vanuatu Cyclone Response.

Peter has visited many communities in the capital of Port Vila and the surrounding villages of Effate Island. He reports the following:

“Almost every structure in the town (Port Vila) was affected in some way, with some of the last people only just leaving the emergency shelters now in June.”

“The most severely affected are the vulnerable people who are often forgotten.”

Peter visited three members of different churches in Port Vila who required emergency help and support after the cyclone damage. One of these visits was to Madeline.

After the devastating cyclones, Madeline has displayed resilience and determination to rebuild her life.

Her husband passed away and some family came to live with her. The house they lived in was already damaged from Tropical Cyclone Pam. So, when Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin hit, the entire structure was demolished. Faced with the challenge of finding a new place to live, Madeline must now pay rent. The emotional and financial burden of losing her home is huge.

Peter reported, “Madeline set to tidying all the timbers to underneath some she-oak trees at the front of the property, with the assistance of her family who were still nearby”. She could not face removing the old bathtub, hand basin and toilet from the foundations that remained.

Madeline wants to build herself a new smaller house. “We gave Madeline a large heavy-duty green tarpaulin for her newly planned house, to protect it during the building stage. The cash allowance and gardening kit will help her with the day-to-day needs she has. Now that she has the extra financial burden of renting,” Peter shared.

Through it all, Madeline remains grateful for the help she received and remains hopeful for a brighter future. “Thank you for your heart in coming and not forgetting me,” Madeline said.

Thank you for supporting people like Madeline through the Vanuatu Cyclone Response.

Response to date

The Rapid Needs Survey funded from the COCOA Emergency Fund has been completed by our partner Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (CCCV). The major areas that were damaged have been fully assessed and visits have been made to these areas. Other areas that were less affected have also been contacted and assessed.

There has been distribution of seeds, planting kits, tarpaulins, medicine and mosquito nets to communities on Tanna, Efate, Pentecost, Ambae and Santo. More than 50% of communities in these areas have received some support from CCCV. A water supply system in Tanna has been repaired through the response. Another water system, that supplies four villages, is also set to be repaired. About 50% of affected communities have received some response, and more work is set to be done in the coming months.

To date, \$22,320 has been given to the Vanuatu Cyclone Response in total, with \$9,470 of that being received since 28 April 2023. Thank you for your generosity. After administration costs, all funds have been sent to CCCV for the Rapid Needs Survey, seeds, freight and distribution of materials. Funds were sent in April, June and August and totalled \$19,232.13.

CCCV will continue to support communities and undertake further activities in line with the needs identified in the Rapid Needs Survey.

Find the appeal at www.gmp.org.au/VanuatuCycloneResponse

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