

Special coverage

ILO work in Vanuatu

June 2015 Update



International
Labour
Organization

Photo by Dave Hunt / Reuters

Cyclone PAM causes devastating impact on employment and livelihoods

Port Vila – The extremely destructive category 5 cyclone Pam that struck Vanuatu on March 13, 2015 severely affected the provinces of SHEFA, TAFEA, MALAMPA and PENAMA. Not only did it cause enormous losses and damages to physical assets, but also loss of income and livelihoods.

The total economic value of the effects caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam is estimated to be approximately VT 48.5 billion (US\$449.4 million) which is equivalent to 64.1% of the GDP of Vanuatu.

Based upon the Employment, Livelihoods & Social Protection (ELSP) assessment it is estimated that Cyclone Pam has affected directly

and indirectly the livelihoods of about 40,800 households or 195,000 people that live across the four disaster-affected provinces. A total of 504,050 work days and of VT 1.6 billion of personal income have been lost.

Sector	Work Days Lost	Income Lost (1,000VT)	Private (%)	Public (%)
Agriculture	234,749	227,002	100	0
Commerce and industry	170,861	487,192	100	0
Tourism	98,440	892,929	100	0
Total	504,050	1,607,123	100	0

http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/WCMS_368560/lang-en/index.htm

ILO conducts Labour Based Technology (LBT) for gravel road construction and maintenance

To facilitate road maintenance and create jobs in localities, a unique approach to gravel road construction and maintenance was the focus of a two week specialized training for



23 local staff of the Island Based Contractors (IBC) and the Public Works Department (PWD) from Tanna, Vanuatu from 18 – 29 May 2015. Additional support to IBC's in Tanna will be through the provision of Business Development Services (BDS) by the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI) and Labour Law and Working Conditions training by the Department of Labour (DoL) and Vanuatu Council of Trade Unions (VCTU).

<http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/press->

Preparedness for SME's important to reduce loss of income during crisis

The International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted a training for business trainers in Vanuatu on Business Continuity Plans (BCP) on 8 May 2015. The



objective of the training was to capacitate business trainers to support SME's to build back their businesses and livelihoods to limit the losses of their future income. This was achieved through the trainers understanding concepts of business risks and disasters and developing BCP's based on local business cases.

http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/WCMS_375162/lang-en/index.htm

Vanuatu Department of Labour launches Employment Services Vanuatu (ESV) and calls on registrations

The three month pilot will focus on Shefa province and is designed to provide services to formal sector employees who lost jobs as a result of cyclone Pam and want to return to the



workforce, including unemployed young people who are seeking career counselling, training and jobs. "I am very pleased to see one of the recommendations, suggested in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is being implemented", said Hon. Salwai. While this initiative is government lead, I am very grateful for the technical assistance of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as it is in-line with government's recovery and development plans, he added.

http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/WCMS_375161/lang-en/index.htm

ILO training to account for loss of employment and income during future crisis

A training programme to build the capacity of local government, private sector, trade unions and NGO's to better capture employment, livelihoods



and social protection data in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). An ILO expert team worked with the Department of Labour to develop the final report on Employment, Livelihoods and Social Protection which was submitted to the PDNA macro team based at the Prime Minister's Office.

http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/WCMS_377160/lang-en/index.htm

Vanuatu Department of Labour- Recovery phase of Cyclone Pam must achieve maximum employment outcomes

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Department of Labour (DoL) convened a “National Dialogue on Designing and Implementing Emergency Employment & Livelihoods Programmes”. Mr David Lamotte,



the International Labour Organisation’s (ILO) Director for Pacific Island Countries delivered a technical presentation that clarified the type of emergency employment and livelihoods programmes typically implemented during humanitarian, recovery and construction phases.

http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/WCMS_375163/lang--en/index.htm

Safety and health at work also important during recovery: Labour

The Vanuatu Department of Labour and the Tripartite Labour Advisory Council (TLAC), during this recovery stage in Vanuatu, is emphasising that all employment and livelihoods programmes designed and implemented by government, local enterprises, NGOs and international agencies, must adhere to International and National Labour Standards. http://www.dailypost.vu/news/article_124574bb-c758-5b24-a16c-0b1a4996d44d.html

Labour: Relevant programmes necessary for emergency employment for recovery phase

Ensuring relevant emergency employment programmes are designed and implemented by all agencies with close coordination with government and through government is vital.

http://www.dailypost.vu/news/article_4e9a4c42-b335-5316-aca4-bba362513010.html

Vt10 billion needed to recover: Private sector

The private sector needs an estimated Vt10 billion to assist businesses in all sectors across the country to fully recover from Cyclone Pam’s devastation. The cost of recovery, different from total cost is approximately Vt460 million, excluding tourism sector, shipping, manufacturing, construction, land transport and sea transport.

http://www.dailypost.vu/news/article_5946233b-b595-5bf0-ac90-9f489e139f40.html

Need for decent work: Unions

“The workers need to organize industrially, communally and politically. The workers have gone astray from the principle of life. Today, we call on all workers in every sectors of employment undertakings in the government and the private sectors to reflect on where we have come from and how far we have come, plan to bring back the basic tenets which is framed in the International Labor Organization (ILO) concept of “Decent Work”, Kalsakau emphasized.

http://www.dailypost.vu/news/article_8cce430a-4cc4-5380-93b1-4c52c1f01a88.html

ILO contributes to UN Joint Programme in Vanuatu

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries has been contributing to the development of a UN Joint Programme to support recovery efforts in Vanuatu.

http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/WCMS_377159/lang--en/index.htm



ILO Employment Intensive Infrastructure Programme (EIIIP) Specialist, Mr Chris Donnges presenting to Vanuatu PWD and R4D Programme on LBT, 2 weeks before cyclone Pam.



Japanese government/donor representatives in Vanuatu visit LBT field training site and had positive feedback about their assessment.



Jack lamak and Tom Kaitoi from Tanna attended the ILO LBT training in late 1980’s and early 1990’s after cyclone Uma. After more than 25 years they are now owners of IBC’s and have continued to use LBT methods for road construction and maintenance, employing about 60 locals.



Mr Lionel Kaluat, Commissioner of Labour and Chair of TLAC presenting the findings of the ELSP assessment for inclusion in the PDNA to PMO, NDMO and sector analysts.



Julian Schweitzer (ILO official) and Mike Shone (ILO Consultant) having daily briefings with the Commissioner of Labour.

For more information on disaster preparedness and response go to:

<http://www.ilo.org/suva/areas-of-work/disaster-mitigation-and-recovery/lang--en/index.htm>

Edward Bernard

Programme Officer | ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries | bernard@ilo.org