

VANUATU VOLCANO EMERGENCY



The Vanuatu Government has ordered a full-scale evacuation of the island of Ambae in the north of the country. The massive Manaro Volcano has been undergoing a series of violent eruptions over the past five days.

Flying rocks and volcanic gas are being recorded in the immediate 6.5 km vicinity, while hazardous ash falls and acid rains are affecting most of the island. Over 8,000 people have moved to evacuation centres along the coast but will now have to leave the island. Both the police and the National Disaster Management Office are working to provide the necessary transport to relocate people to the nearby islands of Santo, Pentecost, Malekula and Maewo.

Local authorities and churches are actively involved in assuring community safety, with ABM's partner The Anglican Church of Melanesia providing evacuation shelters and basic provisions at St. Patrick's College, Torgil and Tumsisiro. The Church's headquarters is based on Santo where they can continue to provide relief aid for the evacuees.

There are already challenges from overcrowding in some evacuation centres, where water and sanitation facilities are being stretched beyond capacity. It will be a long road to recovery in terms of food security, as the acid rains have caused extensive damage to household garden crops. In many communities around Vanuatu, subsistence farming is often the primary means of food production, so any disruption to this growth can be devastating for families.

The Provincial operation team for the Penma province, of which the island of Ambae is part, is currently liaising with local business people on the island to assist with food and water supplies for displaced people. However, the situation is now dire with the whole island to be evacuated.

ABM is seeking to raise \$10,000 to assist victims of the volcanic eruptions.

ABM will be working closely with the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu, and your gift will provide essential supplies of food and water for those in need.

To keep up-to date with the latest emergency news or to donate to ABM's Vanuatu Volcano Emergency Response please call on 1300 302 663, email info@abm.asn.au or visit www.abmission.org/vanuatu-volcano-emergency

Please pray for the affected communities and for all who are providing aid.

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Donations can be made online at: www.abmission.org/vanuatu-volcano-emergency

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I would like to help ABM support:

VANUATU VOLCANO EMERGENCY APPEAL

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Anglican Board of Mission - Australia, Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230.

OR

Donations may also be made by EFT to BSB 032008 and Acc# 130754. Please put your SURNAME and VU009 in the message in order for us to identify your contribution.

Note: Please email your details to finance.officer@abm.asn.au so we can issue a receipt if you donate by using EFT.



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