



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Post Emergency Recovery – Anglicans Make a Difference in Vanuatu

In May ABM launched an emergency appeal following Tropical Cyclone Donna, which had battered the islands of Vanuatu and left a trail of damage in parts of the country.

Anglicans around the country supported the appeal which allowed ABM to partner with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) to provide relief and recovery effort in the Torba Province.

In late May initial supplies were provided to the National Disaster Management Office including 1400 kgs of carbohydrate and protein foods, additional food donated by a local supplier, 80 cartons of distilled water as well as donations from Port Vila Anglican parishioners such as clothing and kitchen utensils.

On the way to delivering the relief items, the ACOM ship visited other islands and it was through this journey that the full destructive force of Tropical Cyclone Donna was revealed.

One team member said, "The whole of the Torres group (of islands) was brown in colour, the gardens are badly damaged and people have been traumatised and are in despair. They need counselling, especially people on Toga, Tegua and Hiu Islands."

Communities are now in the process of rebuilding their churches and repairing some damages to school buildings. However, local contacts report the concern remains for safe food and water.

The National Disaster Management Office has deployed a Detailed Damage Assessment team to Torres, to identify longer term needs and recovery activities.

ACOM will continue to work with this government department to ensure those in affected communities receive the help they need into the future.

ABM's Fundraising Manager, Christopher Brooks said, "ABM would like to thank all of its supporters who gave to this emergency appeal and extended care to those in need in Vanuatu."

"We are blessed to be able to offer support quickly in times of crisis through ABM's Global Rapid Response Fund and even greater support can be extended through the generosity of our donors when we launch additional emergency appeals."

To find out more about the Global Rapid Response Fund and the relief effort in Vanuatu visit www.abmission.org.

ENDS

Contact Elizabeth Baker, ABM Media Consultant at media@abm.asn.au for more information.

The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.