



**Australian High Commission**

**Vanuatu**

Monday 27 April 2020

## **Media Release**

### **Australia delivers over 95 tonnes of humanitarian supplies**

Australia has delivered over 95 tonnes worth of humanitarian supplies to assist the Government of Vanuatu in responding to Tropical Cyclone Harold. This is in addition to Australian-funded prepositioned supplies which have already been distributed to affected communities in the Northern Provinces of Vanuatu.

On 26 April, a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-17 Globemaster aircraft delivered a third load of urgent humanitarian provisions including medical supplies, shelter, hygiene and household kits, bed nets, solar lights, birthing kits and water buckets.

“Tropical Cyclone Harold has caused widespread devastation. Many families have lost their homes and health facilities, schools and other infrastructure have been left badly damaged. Australia stands with the people of Vanuatu, especially those in Sanma, Malampa and Penama, as they recover from the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Harold”, said Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, H.E. Sarah deZoeten.

Australia has already committed over 300 million vatu to the Government of Vanuatu’s Tropical Cyclone Harold response. In addition to the provision of humanitarian supplies, Australia is also supporting other sectors such as health, education and policing.

“Australia’s assistance will support partners to provide temporary shelters; protect vulnerable people, especially women and children; and provide emergency supplies as Vanuatu responds to this emergency. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Vanuatu as they start to assess the full scale of this disaster”, said High Commissioner deZoeten

Australia complied with strict COVID-19 protocols in delivering its supplies. Australian Defence Force personnel adopted additional measures including wearing Personal Protective Equipment, providing medical clearances, disinfecting equipment and supplies, and practicing physical distancing.

Australia is coordinating closely with the Government of Vanuatu and other donor partners, including New Zealand and France.

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