

Humanitarian Innovation Hackathon



1 NO
POVERTY



Key Immediate Needs

The Issue

After a natural disaster hits, humanitarians and affected populations alike look to meeting the six lifesaving, and life-preserving, Key Immediate Needs (KINs).

However, for reasons including communication, time, infrastructure and distribution, meeting KINs is a major challenge.

What are KINs?

- **Shelter:** Building materials e.g. tarpaulin, bamboo, rope etc.
- **Health:** first aid kits.
- **Food:** ration supplements such as high-energy biscuits.
- **Dignity kits:** e.g. soap, towels.
- **Non-food items:** e.g. blankets, household utensils, etc.
- **Water Purification tablets:** means to produce potable water, e.g. puritabs (purification tablets).

Hackathon Challenge A

Humanitarian Mentor: Mark Wall

How might we contribute to the provision of lifesaving and life-preserving KINs to an affected population in the immediate aftermath of a disaster event? In particular, what technologies are available to either pre-position, immediately distribute, or put in place the means to produce any or all of these commodities?

After a natural disaster hits, humanitarians and affected populations alike look to meeting the six lifesaving, and life-preserving, Key Immediate Needs (KINs).

Persona

Think about this challenge from the perspective of the local population, and/or the Humanitarians who come in to assist...

David lives in Aniwa Island, a remote island off the coast of the more populous Tanna Island in the southernmost region of Vanuatu. Cyclone Pam destroyed David's house (and all supplies inside, including most of his family's food), fishing boats/gear and family clean water storage.

Additionally, David's younger brother also acquired a large gash on his head after a branch hit his head while he was out trying to tie down family belongings. It bled a little immediately after the accident, but now the area around the wound is going red and it is not healing properly. David's family have very limited clean towels and blankets so have been using pieces of clothing to cover the wound. David used a local operating telephone and was told supplies would be on their way but he does not know how long it will take. What can David and his community do to access KINs? What could have they done in advance?

Bill is a humanitarian worker who has recently arrived at Vanuatu to assist with the population recovery after Cyclone Pam affected the country. How can Bill work with the community to assist and co-ordinate the responders in meeting the timely delivering of the 6 KINs?



The Warren Centre
& Professor Ron Johnston

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Resources

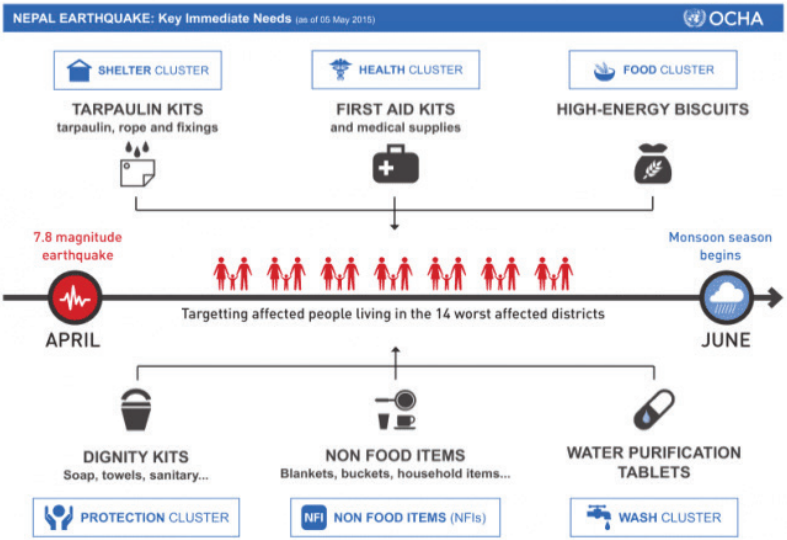
Small Island Developing States:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids>

Major Boost for Disaster Risk Management in Vanuatu:
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/01/09/major-boost-for-disaster-risk-management-in-vanuatu>

Vanuatu 2015, example KIN summary:
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/56488>

Sustainable Development in Vanuatu:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23336Republic_of_Vanuatu_VNR_2019.pdf

Cultures in Vanuatu:
<https://www.everyculture.com/To-Z/Vanuatu.html>



Location Information

Vanuatu, located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, is the world's most at-risk country from natural hazards. Consisting of 13 principal and over 70 smaller islands, and with a population of 250,000 people, the country is classified as a Small Island Developing State (SID) by the UN due to its small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks. Vanuatu continues to address those structural and external challenges while working to achieve the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Vanuatu confronts a staggering array of natural hazards including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, tidal surges, flooding, drought, and bush fire / wildfire. Recently graduating from the ranks of LDCs (Least Developed Countries), Vanuatu is at risk of being set back to square one by the next major disaster. In 2015, for example, Cyclone Pam, with wind gusts of up to 320 km/hr, affected 71% of the population, killed at least 11 people and cost the country 65% of GDP. Recovery (if not response) is still ongoing. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across the gamut of prevention / mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery is understandably a high priority of the Government of Vanuatu (GoV) National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030).

In understanding the community culture, Vanuatu is run by a governmental body (president, prime minister) with often educated men elected as officials. Whilst more people are moving to urban environments, both rural and urban areas reveal a social divide, in which peri-urban (i.e., rural to urban environment transitions) areas are more prone to criminal activity. Whilst police forces exist, unofficial "town chiefs" reside in various locations around the islands to resolve minor issues such as local disputes. The military forces act only occasionally in peacekeeping. Local and international humanitarian organisations exist in providing for the community, especially for electricity and clean water access, economic growth and youth and women's rights. Women have fewer rights than men although their rights are stronger in the northern region.

KIN Application Example

As an example of a KIN application, floods, and landslides severely affected Myanmar in 2015, having destroyed ~38,000 homes (and damaged ~315,000 more) and 1.4 million acres of farmland and affected over 1.6 million people. In keeping with the previous list, priority items based on the demands of the affected population included:

- **NFI**s (e.g., clothes, blankets, education resources),
- **livelihood** items (e.g., money, fishing gear and farming tools),
- **shelter** materials (e.g., Iron sheeting, bamboo, tarpaulins),
- **health** goods and services, and
- **clean / potable** water (purification tablets).

Food, livelihood resources (e.g., seeds, money, fishing tools) and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene)-based resources were the primary demands amongst local families. Over four weeks, the families shifted their interest from acquiring food (within the first two weeks) to acquiring livelihood resources.

