

Republic of Vanuatu

Investment Project Financing (IPF)

**Vanuatu Contingent Emergency Response Project
(CERP)**

CERP MANUAL: ANNEX 1

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

June 2026

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Environmental and Social Context	4
3	CERP Activities	7
4	Relevant Legislation and Country Systems.....	10
5	Supplemental Mitigation Measures	13
5.1	Mitigation Measures by Activity Category.....	13
5.2	Risk Management for Cross Cutting Issues.....	24
5.3	Risk Management for Prospective Activities	26
6	Institutional Arrangements and Resources	30
7	Procedures to Address Environmental and Social Issues	31
8	Consultation and Disclosure.....	31
9	Monitoring and Reporting.....	31
10	Incident Management and Reporting.....	31
	Annex-1: Guiding notes to address E&S risk associated with Fuel Imports, Unloading, Storage, Transport, and Distribution under Contingent Emergency Response Project (CERP) Beyond the Routine Country Systems in Vanuatu	33
	Annex 2 - Temporary Land Access Screening and Consent Form	35

1 Introduction

The World Bank is providing support to governments for preparedness planning to enable an optimal response to a broad range of natural, human-induced, or socioeconomic crises and disasters, drawing on undisbursed and uncommitted financing from across the country portfolio. Such events, which are becoming more frequent, place a significant burden on governments and implementing agencies, particularly when an immediate response is imperative to address their devastating impacts. Given this, the Bank is supporting the Government of Vanuatu (GoV) access to a suite of instruments available under the Crisis Preparedness and Response Toolkit to prepare and respond swiftly to crises. The Contingent Emergency Response Project (CERP) is amongst the instruments made available to GoV. The CERP is a six-year engagement and may include multiple activations for the same and different crises. The implementation period for each individual crisis response under a CERP activation is expected to be less than 12 months.

The CERP is designed to provide rapid access to the undisbursed and uncommitted balances of the International Development Association investment projects in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency as defined in the CERP Manual, to which this ESMP is an Annex. The GoV can request for the activation of the CERP for an eligible crisis with the supporting documents as outlined in the CERP Manual demonstrating that a crisis or emergency has occurred. The activation request will include a specific Crisis Response Plan. The CERP ensures that the country can swiftly mobilize resources to address immediate needs, mitigate impacts, and support recovery efforts, thereby enhancing resilience and reducing the long-term socio-economic consequences of such events.

This Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been adopted by the GoV so that the Government and the relevant implementing agencies have the information, capacity and resources in place to mobilize as quickly as possible, once the CERP has been activated.

This ESMP sets out the environmental and social (E&S) risk mitigation measures applicable to each category of activities on the Positive List (Section 3) of eligible expenditures in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)¹ and the country systems. It must be implemented by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for all activities financed under the CERP and must be updated upon each activation to reflect the specific context of the crisis.

The identified mitigation measures are based on applicable national legislation, the relevant World Bank Environment and Social Standards (ESS) requirements, and the World Bank Group Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines² (EHSG), ensuring a comprehensive approach to managing E&S risks throughout project implementation. A Separate Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) includes all stakeholder engagement requirements and the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that applies to all activities, in accordance with ESS10.

On activation of the CERP and receipt of funds, the Implementing Agencies will proceed immediately to implement the specified Activities. This ESMP sets out a range of mitigation measures that will address the E&S risks and impacts of the Activities in accordance with the ESF. The Implementing Agency is not required to implement all measures set out in this ESMP and in certain circumstances, may choose to implement an alternative or additional measures if, during implementation, these would be more effective in addressing the E&S risks and impacts of the Activity. The Implementing Agency will follow the national law requirements for each Activity set out in Section 4, and the standard operating procedures and guidelines of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and cluster working groups, supplemented or adjusted as appropriate by the measures set out in Section 5.

¹ www.worldbank.org/esf

² www.ifc.org/ehsguidelines

Together, through application of appropriate mitigation measures, the Activities will be implemented in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).

This ESMP contains the following:

- **Section 1** sets out the background for the adoption of the CERP by the Government, and the way in which the ESMP will be used by the Government and Implementing Agencies.
- **Section 2** sets out a general description of the baseline E&S conditions in the country, the type of emergencies that may arise, why the Activities identified in Section 3 may be required and some of the challenges that may be encountered.
- **Section 3** sets out the specific Activities which can be implemented under a CERP activation.
- **Section 4** sets out a summary of the national legal and policy framework relating to the Activities.
- **Section 5** sets out supplemental E&S mitigation measures that will be implemented as appropriate.
- **Section 6** relates to institutional arrangements.
- **Section 7** sets out the procedures that will be used to address E&S risks and impacts of the specific Activity.
- **Section 8** describes the consultation and disclosure.
- **Section 9** describes the incident management and reporting.

2 Environmental and Social Context

Geography

Vanuatu is an archipelagic South Pacific nation with over 83 islands (approximately 65 inhabited) and over 200 islets. The total land mass covers 12,189 square kilometres. The terrain of the 65 inhabited islands is primarily mountainous, featuring steep, rugged volcanic peaks covered in dense tropical rainforests, with very little flat land restricted to narrow coastal plains. In addition, a large proportion of the critical transport, energy, tourism, water and health infrastructure is concentrated in low-lying coastal areas exposed to cyclones, flooding, and storm surges.

Demography

Vanuatu's population stands at approximately 328,000,³ roughly 99% of whom are Ni-Vanuatu. The majority of Ni-Vanuatu (around 70%) reside in rural villages, relying primarily on subsistence farming. Urban migration has meant the population is concentrated in two main urban centres: the capital, Port Vila on Efate (approximately 56,000 residents), and Luganville on Espiritu Santo (approximately 18,000 residents). Land outside of the urban areas (97%) is held under communal customary tenure. The government owns the remaining land. Rural and small island communities are vulnerable due to

³ <https://data360.worldbank.org/en/economy/VUT>

geographic isolation, limited access to services, subsistence livelihoods and dependency on natural systems that are vulnerable to disasters (coastal fisheries, small scale agriculture, forests).

Disaster Risk Management

Vanuatu's geographical position renders it one of the most susceptible countries to meteorological and geophysical hazards with the compounding effects of climate change:

- **Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.** Geologically, Vanuatu is situated along the highly volatile Pacific "Ring of Fire," sitting directly on the boundary of the Pacific and Indo-Australian tectonic plates. This positioning results in high structural instability, subjecting the country to frequent earthquakes and active volcanic eruptions. The latest catastrophic earthquake was in December 2024.
- **Storms and Cyclonic Hazards:** Vanuatu is located at the centre of the Pacific's 'cyclone belt' and the nation experiences frequent, severe Category 4 and 5 Tropical Cyclones (e.g., TC Winston, TC Pam) between November and April, driving catastrophic wind damage, flooding, storm surges and landslides. Rivers like the Sarakata River on Espiritu Santo —the nation's most flood-prone region—and the Teouma River on Efate island pose substantial threats to rapidly expanding, low-lying urban and peri-urban settlements.
- **Slow-Onset Factors including Climate Change:** Sea-level rise and coastal erosion threaten low-lying urban areas and villages, creating structural challenges for long-term project viability. The Vanuatu Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy⁴ identifies the following climate change-related hazards: (i) by 2040, daily temperatures will increase from 1995 levels by 1.2°C; (ii) sea level rise will continue and accelerate; (iii) extreme weather events, including cyclones and storms, will increase in intensity but not necessarily in frequency; (iv) dry periods will last longer; and (v) extreme rainfall will be more frequent and intense. The associated consequences could include coastal inundation, damage to infrastructure, and loss of coastal land, among others.

Vanuatu's disaster preparedness and response is anchored in a strong institutional and policy framework at the central and sub-national levels. The system is led by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management (MoCC), operating under the Disaster Risk Management Act 2019 and supported by the National Disaster Plan and Provincial Disaster Plans. Crises such as global fuel and food price shocks and broader economic downturns are handled by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), working with the line ministries closest to the affected sectors.

Biodiversity

According to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP⁵), Vanuatu's biodiversity remains poorly known, with detailed studies of only a few genera and few studies of the biota of smaller or less accessible islands. Typical of archipelago island environments, conditions have favoured

⁴ Secretariate of the Pacific Community (SPC) 2015 (amended 2022). Ministry of Climate Change and Adaptation. Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Second Edition. 2022-20230.

⁵ Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. 2018. Vanuatu National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030.

relatively rapid subspeciation and speciation. Frequent disturbance due to the passage of tropical cyclones or volcanic activity has also had a profound effect on the distribution and abundance of species, especially on smaller islands. Overall, due to the relatively young geological history, biodiversity is lower compared to neighbouring countries like New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea⁶.

The greatest threats to terrestrial biodiversity result from human activities. Human settlements are generally found concentrated in the coastal lowlands; consequently, Vanuatu's biodiversity is most at risk in these locations. Further, forest degradation is a long-term trend from shifting agriculture and logging. Invasive species such as "tabata" big leaf vine (*Merremia peltata*) and mile-a-minute (*Mikania micrantha*) smother native forests. Large scale events such as cyclones affect forest biodiversity by providing opportunities for illegal logging and forest conversion during clean up and recovery phases and naturally suitable conditions for the expansion of invasive weeds.

The coastlines of the Vanuatu archipelago contain complex ecological systems of seagrass beds, mangroves, estuaries and fringing reefs, which leads to high diversity and supports species with different habitat needs through their life cycles such as predatory fish, migratory wading birds, turtles and dugongs. Many coastal communities rely on fisheries for subsistence and income. Major threats to marine biodiversity and fisheries in Vanuatu include cyclones, bleaching events, climate change (storm events and longer term changes in sea level, baseline temperature and pH/acidity), overfishing / exploitation of certain species, destructive fisheries practices, pollution and sedimentation from urbanization and land clearances and coastal development (reclamation, structures, barriers, seawalls etc.)⁶.
Error! Bookmark not defined.

Economy

The vast majority of the population relies on the primary sector for survival, with approximately 80 percent of Ni-Vanuatu engaged in subsistence agriculture and fishing⁷. The country's formal merchandise export baseline is dominated by a few key primary commodities: kava, copra (dried coconut flesh), organic beef, cocoa, and timber. Fishing, offshore financial services, and tourism (with about 60,000 visitors in 2005), are other mainstays of the economy⁸. Because it is a small, highly open island economy, Vanuatu struggles with structural challenges, including long distances to main global markets, poor inter-island transport infrastructure, and a steep trade deficit. Furthermore, its economy remains exceptionally fragile and volatile due to frequent exposure to natural disasters, such as severe tropical cyclones and active volcanic disruptions, which regularly necessitate reliance on international foreign aid.

Waste Management

There is one sanitary landfill near Port Vila, Bouffa Landfill, but all other city, town and country locations use non-engineered dumps for waste disposal. Bouffa Landfill has a designated cell for the disposal of asbestos. Urban areas of Luganville and Port Vila have kerbside collections of waste. All other waste is transported directly to landfills / authorized dumpsites (as include in the Waste Management Act) by commercial operators or private vehicles. Following major natural disasters, the volume of disaster waste (rubble, green waste, and demolished concrete) routinely overwhelms municipal systems. Past earthquakes and cyclones have shown that dumping disaster debris directly into facilities causes rapid exhaustion of landfill / dump lifespans.

⁶ www.environment.gov.vu/index.php/biodiversity-conservation/biodiversity

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Vanuatu

⁸ <https://www.gov.vu/index.php/about/about-vanuatu>

Medical Supplies and Waste Management

Medical supplies are coordinated by the procurement department of the Ministry of Health under national laws and policies designed to manage cost and quality. High temperature medical waste incinerators are located at main hospitals: Port Vila Central Hospital (Shefa Province); Northern Districts Hospital (Sanma Province); Lenakel Hospital (Tafea Province); Norsup Hospital (Malampa Province) and Lolowai Hospital (Penama Province)⁹. Waste in remote areas are transferred to hospitals or burnt in-situ.

Social Vulnerability

The percentage of people living below the national poverty line in Vanuatu is approximately 16%, with 97% of those living in rural areas¹⁰. Vanuatu has an Adaptive Social Protection Policy, approved by the Council of Ministers in 2024. While there are ongoing efforts to establish a social protection system, the country still lacks a formal safety net to assist people in hardship, apart from a social security system for formal workers through the Vanuatu National Provident Fund. Vanuatu has relied on informal, community-based, safety nets and humanitarian assistance to deal with disasters in the past mainly delivered ad hoc by development partners in small scale. Disasters exacerbate vulnerabilities, leading to increased violence against women and limited access to essential services. For example, a Rapid Gender Analysis by CARE after TC Harold in 2020 found that women were disproportionately affected, particularly in relation to shelter, food security, nutrition, health, and protection¹⁰.

3 CERP Activities

Table 1_presents the Positive List of eligible expenditures from which the Government will select the activities and items to be financed under the CERP, as indicated in the Crisis Response Plan. Only activities included in this list will be eligible when a crisis occurs and the CERP is activated.

Table.7.Positive.List.of.Eligible.Expenditures

Category A: Emergency Livelihood Support: Provision for emergency direct financial assistance to service providers through measures to reduce price shocks of goods and essential services on impacted households. This may include targeted support to critical services including inter-island shipping and utilities, or other crisis-affected providers determined to be essential public services as defined in the CERC Manual.
Category B: Emergency Supplies and Equipment: • Early recovery-related services, such as cleaning and removal of debris from affected infrastructure, structures, and rights-of-way (e.g. urban stormwater channels, roadways), including collection and transport to proper disposal sites. • Procurement of basic foodstuffs including perishable and non-perishable items (e.g. rice, canned tuna), subject to compliance with the applicable government and World Bank requirements on eligibility of food expenditures during emergencies.

⁹ https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/PacWaste_Country_Profile_Vanuatu.pdf

¹⁰ <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099111324115517835>

- Procurement, transportation and distribution of root crops, including purchase of crops from farmers and inter-island logistics from non-affected to affected areas in line with procedures of existing government emergency processes.
- Purchase of agricultural inputs and materials such as seeds, farming tool kits and livestock feed, excluding the purchase of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Purchase, transport and storage of water supply and sanitation equipment such as bottled water, mobile water treatment stations, water bladders, portable water filters, water purification tablets, slab latrines, community mobile toilets, and plastic sheeting.
- Purchase, transport and storage of pharmaceuticals, medicines, and medical supplies, including oral rehydration salt sachets, and essential medical equipment such as ventilators, personal protective equipment, and various diagnostic tools, excluding any equipment containing radioactive materials.
- Procurement of essential equipment to address the shelter and basic needs of affected households such as tents, shelters, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, buckets, mats, personal hygiene kits, household kits, etc.
- Procurement of equipment, temporary facilities, and backup power generation to ensure continuity of essential services including schools, healthcare facilities, government offices, evacuation centres, and community centres.
- Procurement and/or rental of light equipment to restore access to essential services and implement response activities, including water pumps and hand tools such as spades, shovels, hoes, and wheelbarrows.
- Rental of heavy equipment for debris clearance, restoration of access, and emergency response operations.
- Small scale demolition and debris clearance activities, limited in scope to the minimum extent necessary to restore right-of-way and facilitate unobstructed access for rapid emergency response and evacuation operations and restoring access to transport, communications and utilities infrastructure.
- Procurement and/or rental of vehicles and fuel for essential emergency response services and to support operations of national and local authorities, including transportation of fuel required for response and recovery operations.

Category C: Emergency Response, Coordination and Management:

- Activation and operation of emergency coordination arrangements, including National Emergency Operations Centre and Recovery Operation Unit functions, incident management, and coordination meetings; costs related to activities carried out by response and evacuation teams.
- Emergency logistics and transportation costs, including ensuring inter-island transport connectivity; shipping and aviation support for delivery of emergency supplies; transport costs for deployment of response teams; and contracting arrangements for vehicles, boats, and storage warehouses.
- Emergency communications and information management costs including costs related to satellite phones, radios, data connectivity, and information dissemination.
- Backup power generation for public safety and continuity of essential public services, and utilities during the response period, including for health facilities, schools, cold chain,

evacuation centres, and water supply operations. Equipment can include petrol and diesel generators (including fuel for operation) and portable, back-up solar power systems.

- Short-term technical assistance and surge staffing for emergency management and recovery planning; procurement, financial management, monitoring, environmental and social compliance; enumerators to assess impacted households, support for emergency cash transfer operations manuals, refining social registries, and beneficiary registration. Contracts may include international and national individual consultants, local enumerators, and third-party service providers where needed.
- Rapid assessments, including government personnel, consultants, transport costs and supplies to carry out damage and needs assessments, beneficiary assessments and registration, and other analyses related to response and recovery.
- Financing short trainings and capacity building activities for authorities and local teams to increase rapid response capacity, recovery planning and Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.
- Management of temporary facilities, shelters, and evacuation centres, including administration, temporary office rental, staff salaries, and procurement of goods needed for shelter operations (e.g. food, supplies, medicines). This does not include land arrangements and compensation for sheltering operations, or the provision of sanitation and waste management services.
- Subsistence allowances (per diem) and risk allowances for staff and personnel conducting field missions related to emergency response and recovery, including food rations, transportation, and lodging in accordance with the eligibility frameworks established by the Public Service Commission.
- Environmental and social (E&S) measures identified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and the ESCP, as well as costs related to financial management, monitoring and evaluation of the CERP and other operational costs for implementing activities following CERP activation.

Requirements

- Activities are time-bound and must be completed within the 12-month CERP activation.
- Additional crisis-specific details on eligible expenditures to be provided in the Crisis Response Plan (CRP).
- Whether the full cost of fuel for eligible uses is supported, or only the incremental cost, should be specified in the CRP
- Activities will have minimal or no physical footprint.
- All activities must comply with applicable environmental and social requirements set out in the CERP Manual, ESMP, and crisis-specific Crisis Response Plan (CRP).

Prospective Activities

The following response activities were identified as key priorities by the GoV and will be added to the positive list once the additional readiness measures are completed:

Category A Prospective eligible activities. Cash-for-work (CfW) programmes or other types of financial assistance for post-disaster/emergency cleaning, debris clearance from public spaces, and other

response activities that provide work opportunities to communities affected by crises; and (ii) targeted livelihood support through cash transfers to vulnerable households, self-employed workers and/or operators of micro- and small enterprises. As Vanuatu's Adaptive Social Protection systems are not yet fully operational, several readiness conditions must be met prior to any activation of household cash transfer and/or cash-for-work programs to ensure programs meet environmental and social risk management measures and financial management controls. These are documented in Table 4.

Category B Prospective eligible activities. Demolition of damaged structures. These activities were identified by the GoV to be a priority given Vanuatu's exposure to earthquakes and other natural hazards. Demolition and debris clearance beyond clearing rights-of-way may be included in the CERP positive list after the Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) is updated with the mitigation measures in Table 4.

Excluded expenditures

- Construction activities (including repairs or rehabilitation of infrastructure).
- Dredging or other excavations impacting natural systems (e.g. estuaries, ports, shipping channels, riverbeds, or other permanent water bodies).
- Land acquisition including provision of compensation.
- Law enforcement goods and services.
- Staff overtime.
- Personnel costs exclude military personnel and law enforcement representatives.
- Bulk procurement of fuel, and fuel for commercial transport, private vehicle use, or general economic activity.
- Fuel for commercial transport, private vehicle use or general economic activity.
- Procurement of fertiliser and pesticides.

4 Relevant Legislation and Country Systems

Disaster Risk Management Act 2019

The Act defines the national response framework, emergency declarations, and coordination committees. It is complemented by targeted policies and developing legislation to bridge gaps in community resilience, long-term recovery, and displacement. MoCC is the line ministry responsible for emergency response and parent ministry of the NDMO. The NDMO and other Ministries and Departments (Health, Water Resources) have standard operating procedures for disaster preparedness and response, including the management of material environmental and social risks.

Other disaster related legislation, policies and plans: Meteorology, Geological Hazards and Climate Change Act No. 25 of 2016; Vanuatu National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-Induced Displacement (2018); Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2022–2030; National Disaster Risk Financing Policy 2024–2029; National Health Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation 2021 – 2025.

Environmental Protection and Conservation Act 2002 and Amendments and EIA Regulation 2011

The Act is the main legislation for environment risk management and biodiversity conservation. The Act is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. Part 3 of this Act requires all projects, proposals or development activities, that are likely to impact on the

environment or may require license, permit or approval under this law, must produce an Environmental Impact Assessment and / or an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan.

Waste Management Act no 24 of 2014

This Act provides for the protection of the environment through encouragement of effective waste services and operations. It provides definition of waste categorization (e.g., hazardous waste) and authorised dumping sites, as well as outlines the authorities responsible to administer the duties of waste management and waste management operations (including the operation procedures and code of practice for waste management, reporting, and offences relating to waste management).

Public Health Act 1994

This Act has various controls on water supply, sanitation treatment and disposal, stormwater drainage, waste management, littering, public nuisances (odour, exposure to diseases or injury) and building and housing safety amongst other aspects. Abatement notices can be issued by local authorities to cease or remedy harm from nuisance.

The Employment Act of 1983 and amendments (collectively Employment CAP 160) is Vanuatu's main piece of labour legislation. It regulates the establishment of a tripartite Labour Advisory Board, prohibits forced labour and sex discrimination in employment, and regulates terms and conditions of work including working hours and leave entitlements, overtime pay, contractual issues and termination, employment of women and youth, among others. The Act prohibits employment of persons under 15 for industrial work and has other limitations for persons 15 and under 18. The Act integrates relevant aspects of the International Labor Organisation conventions ratified by Vanuatu.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1987 relates to the Employment Act. The Act deals with various aspects of occupational health and safety and requires the employer to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the workers during their employment. Part 2 of this Act strongly calls for the employer to exercise the duty of care for its employees. It also outlines the duty of the employee to its employer while at the worksite in Part 4. Part 7 outlines the substance and articles for use while at work. This includes PPE, instruments and other equipment that must be appropriate and fit for purpose.

Workmen's Compensation Act

This Act provides for the compensation for injuries and death suffered by an employee in the course of their employment.

Building Act 36 of 2013 and Building Code 2025

This legislation provides for a National Building Code to ensure proper quality of construction of buildings or facilities intended for use by the public. Building permits are issued by municipal or provincial councils for demolition. The building code provides standards for demolition and the handling of asbestos.

Health Legislation and Policy

The Ministry of Health is responsible for overseeing all activities associated with the practice of pharmacy and the regulation of medicines, in addition to the implementation of the National Medicines Policy. During an emergency, the Ministry of Health is required, under the policy, to identify access and inform the donors about needs, approve donations and coordinate their receipt and distribution.

The Sale of Medicines (Control) Act [CAP. 48] regulates the retail and wholesale sale of medicines, including narcotics, and controls pricing. It outlines the roles of pharmacists, druggists, medical practitioners, and the Minister responsible for health. The Act also provides for inspection of premises, penalties for violations, and allows the Minister to authorize health services, hospitals, and clinics to sell medicines under certain conditions.

National Gender Equality Policy (NGEP) 2020–2030

The Policy is managed by the Department of Women's Affairs. It targets five strategic areas: leadership and decision-making, economic empowerment, health, education, and protection against gender-based violence (GBV). The policy embeds gender equity into climate planning. It mandates at least a 30% representation of women in government climate taskforces and includes gender quotas in community disaster committees.

5 Supplemental Mitigation Measures

This section has a summary of mitigation measures by each eligible CERP activity included in the positive list of eligible expenditures, and cross cutting mitigation measures to gap-fill the country systems and align with the ESF.

5.1 Mitigation Measures by Activity Category

Table.8.Risk.Mitigation.Measures.by.Activity.Category

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
Category B: Emergency Supplies and Equipment: Essential goods and services needed to meet immediate needs and maintain critical basic services		
Early recovery-related services, such as cleaning and removal of debris from affected infrastructure, structures, and rights-of-way (e.g. urban stormwater channels, roadways), including collection and transport to proper disposal sites. Small scale demolition and debris clearance activities, limited in scope to the minimum extent necessary to restore right-of-way and facilitate unobstructed access for rapid emergency response and evacuation operations and restoring access to transport, communications and utilities infrastructure	Needs will be prioritized by Provincial Disaster Operations Centres, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. CERP will not fund any activities on the exclusion list. Risks: Environmental risks from: waste removal, transportation and disposal; sedimentation from works near waterways and coastlines, noise, dust, fuel spills, and contamination of soil or water resources.	No explosives to be purchased or used in the process of debris clearance. Follow the Vanuatu Asbestos Management Code of Practice¹¹ if asbestos is present, or may be present, in debris. Ensure that all equipment is operated by trained and licensed personnel. Prevent oil leaks and spills, use spill kits effectively, and follow safe refuelling procedures to avoid soil and marine contamination. Restrict operations to approved locations and designated working hours where possible and practical to reduce disturbance to vulnerable

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
	• OHS risks may arise from the use of equipment and manual handling of tools and fuel particularly to workers and operators. • Risks from exposure to Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) present in the debris to workers and community if not handled properly • Community health and safety risks may occur due to unsafe operation of machinery near residential properties or temporary camps.	people in the community. Emergency response situations frequently may necessitate night-time or extended-shift operations. In such cases ensure that at minimum, that adequate site lighting, fatigue management protocols, and heightened community notification measures are in place when operations extend beyond normal hours. Follow in-country systems for waste recycling and disposal in environmentally safe and sound manner and in accordance with the Pacific Island Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline. Error! Bookmark not defined. Follow in-country health and safety requirements and strengthen with the requirements set in WBG EHSG, including identification of hazards; using a hierarchy of controls, training, PPE and regular monitoring of risk. Contractor and sub-contractor management will be undertaken by (a) incorporating the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, ESMP, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors (b) cascading the requirements to sub-contractors and (c) undertake regular monitoring to ensure that the contractors comply and that they require their

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
		subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts.
Procurement of basic foodstuff including perishable and non-perishable items (e.g. rice, canned tuna), subject to compliance with the applicable government and World Bank requirements on eligibility of food expenditures during emergencies.	Procurement will follow the specifics documented in the NDMO Logistics Standard Operating Procedures. Needs will be prioritized by Provincial Disaster Operations Centres, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: • Vulnerable people do not have the means to access food. • Indirect impacts on food safety from pest infestations or food spoilage.	Follow the NDMO standard operating procedures on inventory management, facility management, food safety, security and agricultural cluster procedures supplemented by good international industry practice such as Sphere Standards where necessary. Prioritise short term storage / quick turnaround of inventory and regular inventory audits.
Procurement, transportation and distribution of root crops including purchase of crops from farmers and inter-island logistics from non-affected to affected areas in line with procedures of existing government emergency processes.	Needs will be prioritized by Provincial Disaster Operations Centres with support from the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: • Vulnerable people do not receive access to goods. • Health and safety incidents from storage and transport activities, including road safety. • Impacts on physical environment from transportation	Follow Department of Agriculture, NDMO and cluster SOPs for storage of root crops, inventory management, pest management and crop importation and inter-island transport. Avoid the use of new or novel varieties or species. Prioritise short term storage / quick turnaround of inventory and regular inventory audits. Use existing licensed commercial and public sector transportation operators. Follow in-country health and safety requirements, including road safety.

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
	• New or novel species / varieties become invasive or poor quality. • Pest infestation or crop spoilage from poor storage / inventory management. • Spread of invasives or pests from inter-island transport.	
Purchase of agricultural inputs and materials such as seeds, farming tool kits, livestock feed, excluding the purchase of fertilizers and pesticides.	Needs will be prioritized by Provincial Disaster Operations Centres with support from the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: • Vulnerable people do not receive access to goods. • New or novel species / varieties become invasive. • Seed quality or animal feed is inferior. • Combustion of organic matter incorrectly stored, causing fire. • Seeds or feed are spoilt through incorrect storage and pest infestation. • Occupational health and safety risks during storage.	Follow the NDMO Food Security and Agriculture cluster procedures and supplement with good international industry practice such as the Sphere Standards where necessary. Certified seed procurement from approved sources. Follow in-country health and safety requirements. Prioritise short term storage / quick turnaround of inventory and regular inventory audits.
Purchase, transport and storage of water supply and sanitation equipment such as bottled water,	Needs will be prioritized by Provincial Disaster Operations Centres with support from the Water,	Follow environmental and public health regulations and Department of Water Resources Standard Operating Procedures for

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
mobile water treatment stations, water bladders, portable water filters, water purification tablets, slab latrines, community mobile toilets, and plastic sheeting.	Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, prioritizing affected and vulnerable people and communities. Risks: • Water quality standards of the bottled water not meeting the national standards and resulting in community health and safety risk • Vulnerable people do not have the means to access equipment and facilities. • Indirect impacts from latrine design, siting and use (privacy, safety for women; water quality from temporary sewerage discharges; • Indirectly contribute to waste from packaging, poor quality goods, and end-of-life equipment. • Health and safety incidents from transport activities including road safety risks. • Impacts on physical environment from transportation.	sanitary waste management in the location and use of temporary toilets and the disposal of waste. Gap-fill with the Pacific Island Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline⁹Error! Bookmark not defined. Follow NMDO and WASH cluster operational procedures for equitable access for vulnerable groups and gender-responsive principles for the design and location of facilities. Procurement of the potable water in accordance with the government regulations and ensuring that the water quality is in accordance with the drinking water guidelines. Procurement to prioritise bulk supply of potable water over bottled water where possible to avoid waste. Follow in-country health and safety requirements, including road safety.
Purchase, transport and storage of pharmaceuticals, medicines, and medical supplies, including oral rehydration salt sachets, and essential medical equipment such as ventilators, personal protective equipment, and various	The types of medicine or medical equipment are unknown at this point. Procurement will be implemented through or in coordination with the Health and Nutrition Cluster / Ministry of Health. It	Follow the Ministry of Health and Health and Nutrition Cluster standard operating procedures for procurement, storage, inventory and distribution of medicines and equipment.

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
diagnostic tools, excluding any equipment containing radioactive materials.	may be implemented by governmental agencies, UN agencies or other implementers. Risks: • Vulnerable people do not have the means to access medicine and equipment. • Waste and health impacts from transport issues such as cold chain failures. • Risks from improper disposal of packaging from medical supplies • Hazardous spills, accidental release of pharmaceutical substances, and pollution • OHS risks associated with medical supply logistics include injuries from heavy lifting, exposure to hazardous or infectious materials due to damaged containers or improper packaging, and potential theft of valuable shipments	All medicine, supplies, and equipment (such as ventilators, PPE, cleaning materials, medicine storage or distribution equipment) will comply with relevant technical specifications, including manufacturers' requirements, government regulations, relevant WHO guidelines, and good international industry practice. Follow Ministry of Health and Nutrition waste management protocols for medical waste, to conform to Vanuatu waste regulations, WBG EHS and WHO Guidelines for medical waste. Use existing licensed commercial and public sector transportation operators. Follow in-country health and safety requirements, including road safety.
Procurement of essential equipment to address the shelter and basic needs of affected households such as tents, shelters, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, buckets, mats, personal hygiene kits, household kits, etc.	Procurement will follow the NDMO standard operating procedures. Needs will be prioritized by Provincial DOCs, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: • Vulnerable people do not have the means to access equipment.	Follow NDMO operational procedures for procurement and the equitable distribution to affected and vulnerable households. Where possible, procure durable or quality items that can be utilized by households or communities post-crisis; avoid single use items where possible, to reduce waste. Follow in-country systems for waste recycling and disposal and the Pacific Island Countries

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
	Indirectly contribute to waste from packaging, poor quality goods, and end-of-life equipment.	Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline ¹² . Error! Bookmark not defined.
Procurement of equipment, temporary facilities, and backup power generation to ensure continuity of essential services including schools, healthcare facilities, government offices, evacuation centres, and community centres.	Procurement will follow the NDMO standard operating procedures. Needs will be prioritized by Provincial DOCs. Risks: Indirect fuel spills and occupational health and safety from fuel, inefficient energy use and noise during operation.	Procurement to prioritise energy efficient equipment and equipment with reduced noise emissions where possible. Follow procedures in Annex 1 for any fuel that is procured, stored and distributed.
Procurement and/or rental of light equipment to restore access to essential services and implement response activities, including water pumps and hand tools such as spades, shovels, hoes, and wheelbarrows.	Procurement will follow the NDMO standard operating procedures. Needs will be prioritized by Provincial DOCs, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: Indirect OHS risks may arise from the storage or use of equipment.	Worker health and safety procedures to be followed as per the requirements set in WBG EHSR, including: identification of hazards; using a hierarchy of controls, training, PPE and regular monitoring of risk. Follow in-country health and safety requirements and strengthen with the requirements set in WBG EHSR, including: identification of hazards; using a hierarchy of controls, training, PPE and regular monitoring of risk.
Rental of heavy equipment for debris clearance, restoration of access, and emergency response operations	Procurement will follow the NDMO standard operating procedures. It will not include any works on the exclusion list.	Procurement will require as many safety features as possible for all rented heavy vehicles and machinery (stability control, load monitoring systems, operator safety including

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
	Needs will be prioritized by Provincial DOCs, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: • Waste oil, filters and fluids. • Indirect impacts from the use of heavy machinery such as: land clearance, waste removal, demolition risks, works in waterways, noise, dust, fuel spills, and contamination of soil or water resources. • Indirect OHS risks may arise from the use of heavy equipment, building demolition and manual handling of tools and fuel particularly to workers and operators. • Indirect community health and safety risks may occur due to unsafe operation of machinery near residential properties or temporary camps, as well as improper fuel handling or generator use in populated areas. • Indirect risks of forest clearance.	seat belts, roll protection. Where available, obtain operations and maintenance manuals etc. Unless provided as part of the rental service, procure relevant spill kits, PPE and other environmental protection equipment. Small scale demolition to follow the Building Code, which includes compliance with AS2601 and Vanuatu Code of Practice for Asbestos Management ¹². PIU to ensure planning and oversight of demolition by a trained and certified professional engineer. No explosives to be purchased or used in the process of demolition and debris clearance. Follow in-country systems for waste sorting, recycling and disposal in environmentally safe and sound manner and in accordance with the Pacific Island Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline⁹. Ensure that all equipment (including the rental equipment) is operated by trained and licensed personnel. Prevent oil leaks and spills, use spill kits effectively, and follow safe refuelling procedures to avoid soil and marine contamination.

¹²Or the model code of practice found here: <https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/model-asbestos-management-code-practice.pdf>

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
		Restrict operations to approved locations and designated working hours where possible and practical to reduce disturbance to vulnerable people in the community. Prior to return of vehicles, follow in-country systems for waste recycling and disposal of oil, filters and fluids in environmentally safe and sound manner and in accordance with Pacific Island Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline⁹. Error! Bookmark not defined. Follow procedures in Annex 1 for any fuel that is stored and distributed outside of normal fuel distribution networks. Follow in-country health and safety requirements with the requirements set in WBG EHSG, including: identification of hazards; using a hierarchy of controls, training, PPE and regular monitoring of risk. Prohibit the use of machinery for forest clearance or land preparation.
Procurement and/or rental of vehicles and fuel for essential emergency response services and to support operations of national and local authorities, including transportation of fuel required for response and recovery operations.	Risks: • Indirect risk of vehicle accidents causing harm • Fuel procurement risks include: (a) Spill and Contamination Risk During Unloading (b) Storage-Related Environmental Risk including the land contamination (c) fire and community safety risks	Only licensed drivers can drive vehicles. Follow in-country health and safety requirements including road safety. Prior to return of vehicles, follow in-country systems for waste recycling and disposal of oil, filters and fluids and the Pacific Island

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
		Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline⁹. Follow procedures in Annex 1 for any fuel that is procured, stored and distributed.
Category C: Response and Coordination: Incremental operating expenditures for emergency response and early recovery coordination and implementation		
Emergency logistics and transportation costs, including ensuring inter-island transport connectivity; shipping and aviation support for delivery of emergency supplies; transport costs for deployment of response teams; and contracting arrangements for vehicles, boats, and storage warehouses.	Needs will be prioritized by NDMO and logistics cluster. Risks: • Safety at sea (accidents, drowning) • Vehicle or aviation accidents	Require boat owners and operators to comply with maritime regulations. Check for vessel certification under Maritime Safety Authority of Vanuatu prior to use. Use licensed commercial aviation companies. Provide and use life vests for all workers. Only licensed drivers can drive vehicles and vessels.
Backup power generation for public safety and continuity of essential public services, and utilities during the response period, including for health facilities, schools, cold chain, evacuation centres, and water supply operations. Equipment can include petrol and diesel generators (including fuel for operation) and solar power systems.	Needs will be prioritized by Provincial DOCs, prioritizing public services in affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: • Fuel spills, fire and explosion risks. • Occupational health and safety risks with handling fuel.	Follow procedures in Annex 1 for any fuel that is stored and distributed outside of normal fuel distribution networks. Follow in-country health and safety requirements.

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
Emergency communications and information management costs (e.g., satellite phones, radios, data connectivity, and information dissemination)	Indirect Risk: Inadequate disposal of e-waste.	Include a contractual requirement of the supplier to have a 'take back' policy for e-waste, where possible. Separate, store and dispose of any e-waste in line with country systems.
Rapid assessments, including government personnel, consultants, transport costs and supplies to carry out damage and needs assessments, beneficiary assessments and registration, and other analyses related to response and recovery.	Risks: - Refer to labour issues in the table below. - Occupational health and safety hazards	Refer to supplementary labour risk mitigation in the table below. Follow in-country health and safety requirements with the requirements set in WBG EHSR, including: identification of hazards; using a hierarchy of controls, training, PPE and regular monitoring of risk.
Management of temporary facilities, shelters, and evacuation centres, including administration, temporary office rental, staff salaries, and procurement of goods needed for shelter operations (e.g. food, supplies, medicines).	Needs will be prioritized by NDMO and Provincial DOCs, prioritizing public services in affected and vulnerable communities. This does not include land arrangements and compensation for sheltering operation, or the provision of sanitation and waste management services. Risks: - Refer to labour issues in the table below. - Occupational health and safety hazards	For labour risks, refer to the labour management procedures below. For the management of risk relating to the procurement of food, supplies and medicine, refer to details above in this table. Follow in-country guidelines. This includes, for example, the Vanuatu Gender and Protection Cluster guidance, which includes awareness raising on GBV and referral pathways, establishment of safe spaces for women and girls, and ensuring inclusive and safe access to services within evacuation centres¹³. The

Positive List Category	Key E&S Risks	Supplemental Mitigation Measures
	Social risks such as SEA/SH and spread of communicable diseases and other illnesses	NDMO Evacuation Centre guidelines include measures in particular to ensure the protection of vulnerable groups including women and children in evacuation centres.

5.2 Risk Management for Cross Cutting Issues

Table.9.Supplemental.Mitigation.Measures.for.Cross.Cutting.Issues

GENERAL and CROSS CUTTING ISSUES		
Issue	E&S Risks	Supplementary Mitigation Measures
Labour (international and local)	CERP-funded contracted workers¹⁴, direct workers (e.g. individual consultants) and casual labour will be managed under contracts aligned with ESS2 labour and working conditions standards. All government civil servants and other workers carrying out responsibilities under CERP (including those seconded to the PIU) will be subject to the occupational health and safety requirements of ESS2. Risks - Use of imported labour (international, or from other islands) may create SEA/SH risks for vulnerable people. - Imported labour may be at risk from unsanitary or unsafe working and / or accommodation during emergency conditions.	Labour Management Procedures as per ESS2 are as follows: Non-discrimination and equal opportunity in recruitment and treatment. Freedom from child labour (no workers under the age of 18 for hazardous activities; no workers under 14 for any activity). Freedom from forced or compulsory labour. Zero tolerance of SEA/SH. CERP-funded consultants working in country will be required to sign codes of conduct on SEA/SH. Contracts will have consequences for breaches of the code of conduct. All relevant PPE will be provided to all workers (government civil servants, consultants, community members) performing functions funded by CERP. International CERP-funded consultants who travel to Vanuatu, or local CERP-funded consultants and casual workers who travel away from their

¹⁴ Contracted workers have employment contracts with a firm that is contracted to the Project.

GENERAL and CROSS CUTTING ISSUES		
Issue	E&S Risks	Supplementary Mitigation Measures
	Injuries, accidents, illness or lost time from work while performing activities funded by the CERP.	home base, will be provided with adequate accommodation with potable water and sanitary facilities. Job Safety Analyses will be completed by CERP-funded workers prior to completing tasks outside of the office. The identified OHS procedures in the Job Safety Analysis will be followed. Safety briefings and relevant training will be provided before hazardous work is performed. OHS procedures will be enforced, and appropriate PPE will be used in accordance with task-specific risk levels. Where government civil servants are working in connection with the project, whether full time or part time, they will remain subject to the terms and conditions of their existing public sector employment agreement or arrangement, unless there has been an effective legal transfer of their employment or engagement to the project. All contracted workers and direct workers, including workers employed through CfW activities, and other casual workers have the right to raise work-related grievances (wages, working conditions, safety, discrimination, SEA/SH) without fear of retaliation. Worker grievances must be acknowledged within 5 working days and resolved within 15 working days. Worker grievances may be submitted through the CERP-PIU Project Manager, E&S Focal Point or the Focal Point for any Implementing Agency. All government workers are eligible to raise complaints as per their employment agreements and the legislation of Vanuatu.
Land and assets	Involuntary displacement or resettlement Restrictions on access to assets	Implementation of CERP activities will not involve acquisition of any land (whether temporary or permanent) and restrictions on land use. Any

GENERAL and CROSS CUTTING ISSUES		
Issue	E&S Risks	Supplementary Mitigation Measures
		activities which involve displacement of individuals will not be supported under the CERP. Where temporary use of customary land is required for temporary storage of waste, the screening form in Annex 2 must be completed.
Sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH)	SEA/SH risk at the point of distribution or anywhere community members are exposed to workers.	Civil servants will act in line with the code of conduct set out under the Public Service Act 1998, and in line with rules and guidance on conduct, ethics and disciplinary procedures further detailed in the Public Service Staff Manual, issued under the Act. Harassment, bullying, and other inappropriate behaviours are addressed through these conduct and disciplinary frameworks, supported by broader protections under the Employment Act (including prohibitions on discrimination and requirements for safe working conditions). CERP-funded contracted workers and direct workers, including workers employed through CfW activities, and other casual workers working in country will be required to sign codes of conduct. Contracts will have consequences for breaches of the code of conduct. The SEP outlines the process for addressing and referring grievances received in relation to SEA/SH

5.3 Risk Management for Prospective Activities

Table.0.Supplemental.Mitigation.Measures.for.Prospective.Activities

Mitigation Measures for Prospective Activities		
Prospective Activity	E&S Risks	Supplementary Mitigation Measures
Cash-for-work (CfW) programs or other financial assistance	Key risks:	Any cash for work and/or cash transfer activities will be included in the positive list once the specific operational manual for these activities, with E&S risk management measures materially consistent with ESF

Mitigation Measures for Prospective Activities		
Prospective Activity	E&S Risks	Supplementary Mitigation Measures
related to post disaster / emergency cleaning, debris clearance, and other response activities through contract arrangements with service providers (e.g. contractors, NGOs, community groups) that provide work opportunities to communities affected by crises.	- Occupational health and safety hazards, land access and environmental risks as prescribed in Category B below for debris clearance and demolition. - Unfair or unsafe contracts and working conditions - Community tensions - SEA/SH risks - Cash payment security risks - Underage workers - Vulnerable are excluded or are not able to access benefits	requirements, is prepared and receives No-Objection from the World Bank These programs shall be designed with transparent criteria-based targeting and beneficiary selection, with clear communication around eligibility. A grievance mechanism will be accessible to those who feel they have been unfairly excluded. Payment through digital modalities should be promoted where feasible. Where payment is provided in cash, measures will be designed and implemented to manage security risks. Labour management procedures will be followed (refer to Table 3 above).
Cash transfers to vulnerable households, self-employed workers and/or operators of micro- and small enterprises whose primary source of income is materially disrupted.	Key risks: - Data privacy - Vulnerable are not able to access support - Cash payment security risks - SEA/SH risks - Community-level social tensions and conflict from insufficient information, lack of transparency or perceptions of unfairness	
Demolition and debris clearance beyond clearing rights-of-way	Needs will be prioritized by Provincial Disaster Operations Centres, prioritizing affected and vulnerable communities. Risks: Environmental impacts from the use of heavy machinery such as: land clearance, waste removal, dust, transportation and disposal; sedimentation from	For the activity to be included in the positive list, the ESMP must be revised and cleared by the Bank. The revised ESMP should include: (i) an approved Waste Management Plan for demolition works and debris clearance; (ii) a Temporary Land Access Screening and Consent Form, completed with landowners where temporary waste storage requires use of customary land.

Mitigation Measures for Prospective Activities		
Prospective Activity	E&S Risks	Supplementary Mitigation Measures
	works near waterways and coastlines, noise, dust, fuel spills, and contamination of soil or water resources. • Temporary use of land for debris storage. • OHS risks may arise from the use of heavy equipment, exposure to dust, exposure to unsafe structures, and manual handling of tools and fuel particularly to workers and operators. • Risks from exposure to Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) present in the debris to workers and community if not handled properly • Community health and safety risks may occur due to unsafe operation of machinery near residential properties or temporary camps.	The Waste Management Plan must comply with ESF requirements and set out measures for the environmentally sound management of waste generated by demolition activities. At a minimum, it should estimate the quantity of waste to be generated, describe transportation arrangements, and identify disposal options consistent with the mitigation hierarchy. For temporary debris storage, avoidance criteria should be applied first. Priority should be given to Government-leased land, followed by other suitable options such as road reserves, public easements, or church land. Customary land may be used only where no viable alternative is available. If customary land is proposed, the Temporary Land Access Screening and Consent Form (Annex 2) must be completed with the relevant landowners, and documented consent must be obtained before the land is used. Demolition to be undertaken using manual techniques, no explosives to be purchased or used. Follow the Vanuatu Asbestos Management Code of Practice¹² if asbestos is present, or may be present, in debris. Ensure that all equipment is operated by trained and licensed personnel. Prevent oil leaks and spills, use spill kits effectively, and follow safe refuelling procedures to avoid soil and marine contamination. Restrict operations to approved locations and designated working hours where possible and practical to reduce disturbance to vulnerable people in the community. Emergency response situations frequently may necessitate night-time or extended-shift operations. In such cases ensure that at minimum, that adequate site lighting, fatigue management protocols, and heightened community notification measures are in place when operations extend beyond normal hours.

Mitigation Measures for Prospective Activities		
Prospective Activity	E&S Risks	Supplementary Mitigation Measures
		Follow in-country systems for waste recycling and disposal in environmentally safe and sound manner and in accordance with the Pacific Island Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline. Error! Bookmark not defined. Follow in-country health and safety requirements and strengthen with the requirements set in WBG EHSG, including: identification of hazards; using a hierarchy of controls, training, PPE and regular monitoring of risk. Contractor and sub-contractor management will be undertaken by (a) incorporating the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, ESMP and Waste Management Plan, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors (b) cascading the requirements to sub-contractors and (c) undertake regular monitoring to ensure that the contractors comply and that they require their subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts.

6 Institutional Arrangements and Resources

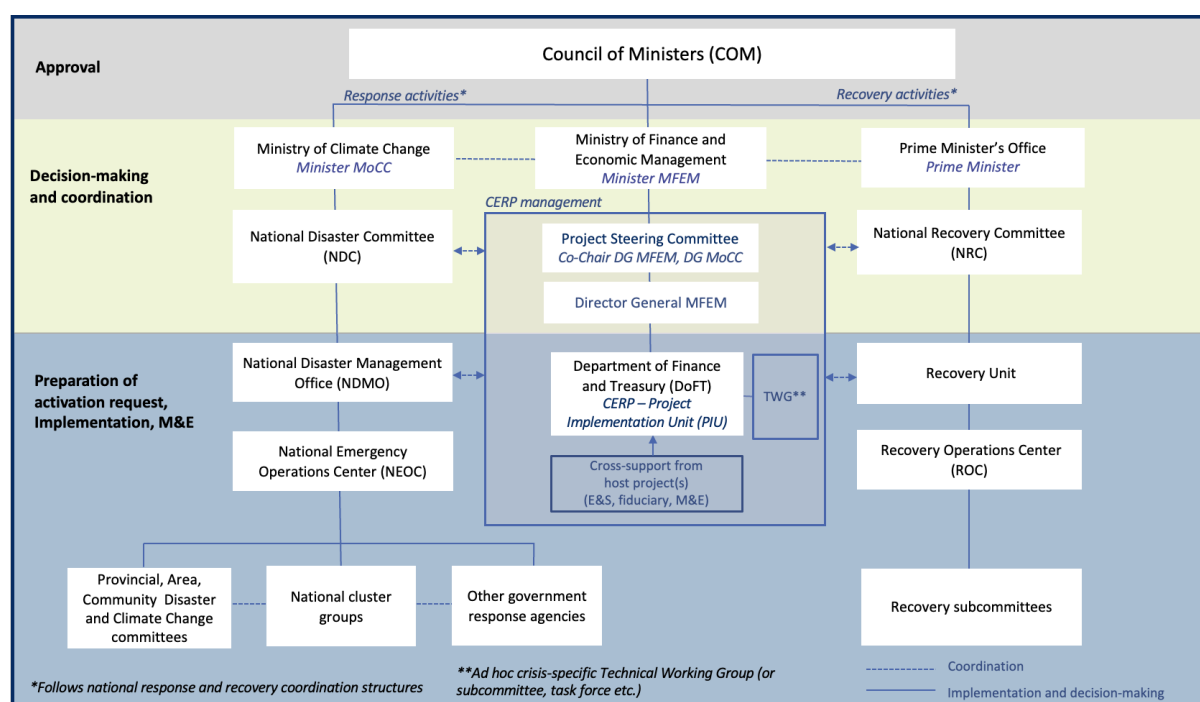
MFEM is responsible for CERP activation and the MFEM Department of Treasury and Finance (DoFT) is responsible for project implementation as the designated CERP-PIU. The Ministry will be supported by the NDMO and the crisis-specific technical working group(s). The PIU provides intersectoral strategic coordination and serves as the counterpart for the World Bank. It will be responsible for CERP fiduciary management, technical monitoring, E&S compliance, and related reporting.

Prior to activation, the MFEM or PIU Manager will appoint an E&S Focal Point who will have the responsibility for Environmental and Social Commitment Plan compliance and ESMP and SEP implementation. This person can also be seconded from another government agency (such as Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Women's Affairs or Ministry of Justice and Community Services) or from a World Bank-funded Project Management Unit. Training, prior to activation, will be provided to ensure the focal point understands their role and responsibilities. The PIU can also procure the services of an environmental or social specialist with CERP funds under Category C.

Each cluster group will be responsible for E&S compliance in their cluster, with oversight from the PIU.

Where necessary, the World Bank E&S team will provide guidance and technical support, including assistance in preparing and implementing E&S instruments and ensuring compliance during emergency response operations.

Figure.7.Organogram.for.the.CERP.Institutional.Arrangements



7 Procedures to Address Environmental and Social Issues

This ESMP sets out the mitigation measures that will be implemented for the Activities. It is recognized that this ESMP cannot specify all the details of the Activities that the GoV will require in the event of an emergency response. These could be in response to a natural or man-made disaster, such as a tropical cyclones, earthquake, flood, conflict, pandemic, or severe economic or financial shocks. The Implementing Agency will depend on the context of the emergency and the type of emergency response decided by the GoV.

At the onset of preparing a CERP Activation Request, MFEM will assign the PIU E&S Focal Point and their responsibility is to identify the geographic location and scale of any livelihood support, physical activities, and distribution networks that will be funded by the CERP and confirm that key E&S risks and impacts will be mitigated in accordance with this ESMP. Mitigation measures and E&S requirements will be incorporated into Crisis Response Plans at the time of activation to ensure their application from the outset of emergency response operations.

Any time the positive list is updated the PIU will screen and assess potential E&S risk and impacts and update the mitigation measures as required.

8 Consultation and Disclosure

The Government has disclosed this ESMP and the SEP. It is acknowledged that in an emergency situation it may not be possible to conduct stakeholder engagement on a specific activity as the priority is to provide a rapid response. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management will communicate the nature of the activity to the technical working groups and relevant government agencies, affected people and key stakeholders and, where possible, enlist their assistance and support to implement the CERP activities. The PIU and technical working groups will also engage with relevant affected people and stakeholders so that they are aware of the grievance mechanism and how it operates.

9 Monitoring and Reporting

The CERP-PIU will be responsible for monitoring results and reporting progress, with support from technical working groups and relevant stakeholders including compliance performance monitoring reports covering environmental, social, health, and safety obligations under eligible activities in accordance with the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan and ESMP. The six-monthly progress reports shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- Status of implementation performance as required under the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan.
- Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out.
- Complaints submitted through the grievance mechanism(s), the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them.
- Status of incidents.

10 Incident Management and Reporting

Any significant E&S incident (including SEA/SH incidents involving CERP-funded consultants, worker safety incident, fuel spills, food safety incidents, or community safety incidents) must be reported to the World Bank within 48 hours of occurrence, as required by the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan. The PIU E&S Focal Point is responsible for incident documentation, investigation,

and corrective action. The SEP outlines grievances mechanisms which should be used in reference in responding to incidents.

Annex-1: Guiding notes to address E&S risk associated with Fuel Imports, Unloading, Storage, Transport, and Distribution under Contingent Emergency Response Project (CERP) Beyond the Routine Country Systems in Vanuatu

1. Scope and Applicability

Fuel purchase and distribution will be prioritized through the existing Vanuatu systems.

This guiding note applies to fuel-related activities financed under the CERP outside of the routine fuel distribution network, including inter-island transport, unloading at jetties or landing beaches, temporary storage (including drums) and distribution to end users. Fuel use shall be strictly limited to activities included in the approved CERP Positive List. The PIU will ensure the fulfilment of the conditions for procuring fuel before submitting contingency emergency plan during activation request.

2. Vanuatu Context – Risk Considerations

Fuel operations in the major ports in each Province is well regulated and dominated by one commercial operator: Pacific Energy.

Distribution of fuel to remote islands of Vanuatu is more difficult due to small and exposed wharves or jetties, limited hazardous material handling infrastructure, reliance on drum-based fuels, proximity of unloading areas to communities and coastal ecosystems (reefs, lagoons, mangroves), and limited emergency response capacity. These contextual factors require increased prevention, preparedness, and simplicity of controls when handling fuel during emergency response conditions.

3. Fuel Import and Unloading at Ports, Jetties, or Beaches

Fuel shall be unloaded only at designated wharves, jetties, or approved landing points identified by the Vanuatu Maritime Authority or Municipal or Provincial Government. Unloading from vessels to shore (including flexible hoses, barges, or drum offloading) shall be conducted under controlled conditions.

Site-specific Fuel Unloading Safety Protocol will be prepared tailoring the existing safety protocols of Pacific Energy, and all Vanuatu regulations, prior to unloading in each location.

Unloading shall be undertaken only by trained operators and vessel crew.

Drip trays, tarpaulins, or portable secondary containment shall be used under hose connections and drums.

Spill kits, absorbent pads, and floating booms (where unloading occurs over water) shall be available on-site before unloading begins through rapid procurement of the required items.

Fuel unloading shall not proceed during rough seas, high winds, or heavy rainfall.

Any spill shall be immediately contained, cleaned, and reported to the PIU and Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation.

Under no circumstances shall fuel be intentionally discharged into marine or coastal waters.

4. Fuel Storage

Fuel shall be stored only at temporary or permanent storage areas approved by local authorities. Storage may include tanks or fuel drums.

Storage areas shall be secured, fenced where feasible, and signed.

Drums shall be stored upright on impermeable surfaces with bunding or secondary containment.

Storage sites shall be located away from coastlines, wells, and flood-prone areas where feasible.

Fire extinguishers and no-smoking signage shall be provided.

Community access to storage areas shall be strictly prohibited.

Follow the regulatory compliance, including any inspections reports provided by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation or Maritime Authority.

5. Fuel Transport and Distribution

Fuel transport shall use licensed vehicles, boats, or landing craft suited to hazardous materials.

Drum handling shall use safe manual handling practices.

Boats and vehicles transporting fuel shall carry spill response materials.

Informal redistribution or siphoning of fuel is prohibited.

At distribution points, crowd control and safety supervision shall be implemented as needed.

Follow the regulatory compliance, including any inspections reports provided by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation or Maritime Authority.

6. Worker Health and Safety

All personnel involved in fuel unloading, storage, transport, or distribution shall receive basic training in fuel handling, fire safety, and spill response.

Appropriate PPE (gloves, boots, protective clothing) shall be provided.

Workers shall not enter confined spaces or handle fuel without supervision.

Any fuel-related accident or injury shall be reported and investigated.

7. Waste Management

Fuel-contaminated materials, including soil, rags, absorbents, and damaged drums, shall be collected and disposed of at a municipal landfill or, for remote areas, in accordance with Vanuatu regulations and the Pacific Island Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}. Reuse of fuel drums for domestic purposes is prohibited.

Annex 2 - Temporary Land Access Screening and Consent Form

This screening form is to be completed prior to the use of any customary land for the debris storage for temporary purposes. Key purposes:

1. Screen whether the proposed site is eligible for the temporary access arrangement
2. Document that community consultation and consent have been properly obtained
3. Establish the terms and restoration obligations of the arrangement. All completed forms must be retained by the CERP-PIU and made available for World Bank review.

Note that this form uses the term "temporary land access" rather than "land donation" to accurately reflect the nature of the arrangement — the customary landholder retains full ownership and use rights, and the land is returned to its prior condition upon departure. No rights over the land are transferred to any project party; in the event that the debris storage will cause adverse impacts on land and natural resources, and/or cause relocation or impacts to cultural heritage the land is not eligible for temporary land access as this would require additional safeguards per the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework.

Debris removal is a direct benefit to affected communities. By allowing temporary staging on their land, landholders and their communities are actively enabling the clearance of disaster debris from their area, restoring safety, access, and the conditions needed for early recovery. This should be communicated clearly to communities as part of the consultation process.

This form must be explained to the landholder and land users verbally in Bislama (and in the local vernacular where relevant) before any signatures or consent records are obtained.

During the period of debris storage, the site will need to be regularly monitored to ensure that site usage is in line with the terms agreed with the customary landowner.

PART A - Site Identification and Eligibility Screening

A1. Site Identification and Eligibility Screening

To be completed before approaching the landholder for consent.

Field	Details
Island / Province and Village / Area name	
Date of screening	
Name and contact details of Field Officer	

A2. Site Selection

Before proceeding, confirm that the following alternatives have been considered and ruled out, such that use of customary land is the only viable alternative.

Alternative site type	Option available

Public land (government-owned)	☐ Yes ☐ No
Road reserve or public easement area	☐ Yes ☐ No
Church, school, or institutional grounds (with consent of institution)	☐ Yes ☐ No
Other non-customary land	☐ Yes ☐ No

A3. Site Eligibility Checklist

All questions below must be answered with No before site can be used for debris storage.

#	Screening Question	Response
1	Will temporary use of the proposed area restrict access to a water source, garden, natural resources or other livelihood asset for the duration of staging?	☐ Yes ☐ No
2	Are there any structures or assets (e.g. tress, crops etc) currently on the site which may be impacted by temporary lay down/storage?	☐ Yes ☐ No
3	Is any clearing of the land required prior to temporary use?	☐ Yes ☐ No
4	Is the proposed area a sacred site, burial ground, or area of cultural significance?	☐ Yes ☐ No
5	Is there an active customary land dispute over the proposed area?	☐ Yes ☐ No
6	Would any person need to physically relocate from the proposed area (even temporarily) for debris to be staged?	☐ Yes ☐ No
7	Does the debris to be staged include materials suspected to contain asbestos, fuel residue, or other hazardous substances?	☐ Yes ☐ No
8	Is the proposed staging period expected to exceed 31 days?	☐ Yes ☐ No

PART B — Land and Customary Authority Identification

To be completed in consultation with the community. Information should be verified through discussion with the land users, and also the chief or nakamal representative as deemed required. Consent needs to be obtained from the land owner/ land user. Where considered required, consent should also be obtained from customary authority (i.e. chief or nakamal representative).

Land Owner and Users

Field	Details
Name(s) of customary landholder(s)	
Name(s) of actual land user(s) (if different from landholder)	

Relationship of user to landholder (e.g., spouse, clan member, tenant)	
Current use of the land	

The proposed area of land should represent a minor portion of the landholder's lands such that it will not significantly disrupt their overall land use or livelihoods.

Customary Authority - where required

Field	Details
Name of recognised chief or nakamal representative	
Role / title	
Village or area of authority	
Contact number (if available)	

PART C — Community Engagement Record

In an emergency, community consultation does not require a formal meeting. A brief, honest conversation with the landholder and land user — conducted in Bislama or the local vernacular, in the presence of witnesses — is sufficient.

Field	Details
Date of consultation	
Location and time of consultation	
Language(s) used	
Method (community meeting / individual discussion / both)	

Confirm that the following information was communicated clearly and in a language understood by those present.

Information item	Communicated?
Purpose of the debris staging (post-disaster recovery, debris collection)	☐ Yes ☐ No
That debris removal is a direct benefit to the community – clearing debris restores safety and access and supports faster recovery. By allowing temporary staging, the landholder is contributing to the community's recovery	☐ Yes ☐ No
Types of debris to be placed on the land	☐ Yes ☐ No
Proposed start date and maximum duration of staging	☐ Yes ☐ No

Commitment to restore the land to its prior condition upon removal	☐ Yes ☐ No
Explanation that refusal will not affect access to disaster relief or other assistance	☐ Yes ☐ No
Explanation of the grievance contact and how to raise a concern	☐ Yes ☐ No
Explanation that no land rights are transferred by this arrangement	☐ Yes ☐ No

PART D — Consent Record

This section records the agreement of the landholder and land user(s) to the temporary use of their land.

Terms of the Temporary Access Arrangement

Term	Detail
Description of land area to be used	
Approximate area (sq. m or local description)	
Types of debris to be staged	
Proposed start date	
Agreed end date (e.g. up to 30 days only)	

Signature — Landholder/land user consent

I/We confirm that:

- We have been fully and freely consulted and informed about this arrangement before agreeing to it.
- We understand we have the right to refuse, and that refusal will not affect our access to disaster assistance or relief.
- We agree to the temporary use of our land as described above on the terms stated.
- We understand that no land rights are transferred to the project or to any government agency by this arrangement.
- We understand how to contact the project grievance focal point if we have any concerns.

Consent may be confirmed through a signature, thumbprint, or other appropriate customary method.

Role:

Name:

Date

Signature