

Latest Pacific Economic Monitor looks at disaster impacts

By Ashlee Betteridge
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The latest edition of the [Pacific Economic Monitor](#) (PEM), launched at the 2015 Pacific Update held in Suva, Fiji, last week, highlights the impact of disasters on Pacific development.

The PEM warns that the impacts of severe weather events are impeding growth in the Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu, yet average growth in the region is still projected to accelerate to 9.9% this year, largely on the back of exports from the PNG LNG project. A more modest growth rate of 5% is projected for 2016.

The Monitor features an update on the impact of Cyclone Pam on the Vanuatu economy by Devpolicy's Matthew Dornan and Tess Newton Cain, which argues that recovery of the tourism sector is vital and that significant resources will be needed to finance the reconstruction, particularly of infrastructure.

The PEM also looks more broadly at disaster in the Pacific, and suggests there is a need for investment in more resilient infrastructure and early warning systems, and also for improved availability of funding to create opportunities for 'build-back-better' recovery post-disaster.

On broader trends in the region, the Monitor notes that tourism is generally tracking well, with increases in arrivals from New Zealand and a pick-up in numbers from Australia.

[Download the PEM here](#). You can also hear ADB's Christopher Edmonds discussing the key findings in [this interview](#) with Radio Australia's Pacific Beat.

About the author/s

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Ashlee Betteridge was the Manager of the Development Policy Centre until April 2021. She was previously a Research Officer at the centre from 2013-2017. A former journalist, she holds a Master of Public Policy (Development Policy) from ANU and has development experience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. She now has her own consultancy, Better Things Consulting, and works across several large projects with managing contractors.

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