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# International Appeal operations update Pacific: Tropical Cyclone Pam

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

International appeal n° MDR55001	GLIDE n° <a href="#">TC-2015-000020-VUT</a>
Operations update n° 1 10 April 2015	Timeframe covered by this update: 14 to 27 March 2015
Operation start date: 13 March 2015	Operation end date: 31 March 2017
Appeal budget: CHF 5,741,776	Appeal coverage: CHF 2,594,249 (45%)
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) loan: CHF 575,000	
Number of people being assisted: 14,000	

*While the operation is taking a regional approach, this update focuses mainly on the relief actions and recovery assessments in Vanuatu, with some brief updates from the other four countries.*

## Summary:

Tropical Cyclone Pam slammed the east and southern parts of Vanuatu, including Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, on Friday 13 March 2015, with a Category V strength – the highest level rating for a severe tropical cyclone. The eye of the cyclone passed 25 km south-west of Tanna, one of Vanuatu's southernmost islands, with winds reaching an estimated sustained speed of 250 kph and gusts of 320 kph. Vanuatu's president declared a state of emergency across all six provinces as half of the country's population, spread over 22 islands, has been affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam. A formal appeal for international assistance was issued.



*Vanuatu Red Cross Society's volunteers are actively supporting the distribution of non-food items to the affected population in vanuatu. Photo: IFRC*

The extent of the damage in the country and the short-term effect on the people is clear. Primary needs are water, shelter and food; with health and hygiene promotion following closely. Many water sources have been damaged and homes - both informal and semi-permanent - have been damaged or destroyed. According to the latest government statistics, 166,000 people are estimated to be in food need. There have been 11 confirmed deaths while 26 people were referred from remote islands to the capital of Port Vila for health/trauma reasons. Longer-term needs are becoming clearer as detailed assessments continue alongside relief efforts. The needs will predominantly be around food security, shelter and water supply. Hygiene promotion and health are also being mentioned as water is still in short supply. The response to the disaster by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has reached some 11,000 people thus far across 13 islands and 3 provinces. Port Vila, the capital of the island state, though having not been as badly hit as some more remote islands, has its fair share of needs. The needs of the most vulnerable in the capital are also being accommodated for by this operation. The Movement has also been instrumental in restoring family links for 12 families.

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has mobilized over 200 volunteers and over 30 staff on the ground, working with the humanitarian effort to run evacuation centres, distribute relief aid and continue to assess the impacts and needs in all affected areas. The VRCS is one of the few indigenous organizations with a reach down to community level across the country, and a mandate to support the government at both national and local levels to ensure that short term as well as long term humanitarian efforts are coordinated and as effective as possible.

Contributions, in cash and/or in kind, towards this appeal have so far been received from the American Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, the Danish Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross, the New Zealand Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross; with the governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom, among others, contributing directly or through their respective National Societies. More pledges are in the pipeline or being processed. <[donor response list](#)>

Meanwhile the National Societies of Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu are actively involved in mobilizing and distributing some relief items, coordinating with their respective National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), taking stock of inventories, and conducting hygiene promotion activities. Assessments data are coming in from the branches, and being analyzed for appropriate response. The response in these countries will be reported in the next operations update.

## Coordination and partnerships

In response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has the principal lead role for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement response. From the region there has been extensive support to the VRCS. The Tonga Red Cross Society and the Fiji Red Cross Society have deployed regional disaster response team (RDRT) members, The Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross support VRCS with technical experts, while the French Red Cross, who has had a long term presence on the ground, increased its human resource capacity to support the VRCS in the response. The International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) mobilized and deployed a field assessment coordination team (FACT). All together the Movement has deployed 30 additional international delegates since the beginning of the operation.

Prior to Tropical Cyclone Pam, there were a number of humanitarian and development actors active in Vanuatu, currently convened in the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT). These include the VRCS, Government representation via the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and NGO's such as ADRA, CARE, Oxfam, Samaritans Purse, Save the Children and World Vision. The relief efforts are streamlined through the VHT as well as through the UN cluster system that was activated and set up immediately following the government's plea for international assistance.

The VRCS has a unique relationship with the Vanuatu government. The mandate of the VRCS is set up under the national law (Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act, established in 1982), and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the VRCS to provide humanitarian support to the government under what is called the "auxiliary status". As such, VRCS supports the work of the authorities. The humanitarian work that VRCS undertakes in coordination with the government continues past the immediate response period of the disaster. The National Society, with the volunteers who live in the communities, is present to support the long-term recovery and to help people rebuild their lives. This network of VRCS volunteers is important as volunteers come from affected communities and understand local needs.

The VRCS has the lead in the planning process, supported by IFRC (in Sheppard Islands, Paama, Efate outer islands and Port Vila) and French Red Cross (in Tanna and North Efate). Logistically, the IFRC is responsible for providing the bulk of the distribution goods, for both the French Red Cross as well as the IFRC supported distributions. The French Red Cross has supplies for approximately 300 households. These are either in Vanuatu or to be transported from New Caledonia. The remaining relief items for 3,500 households were supplied by the IFRC system, either through procurement or goods received from the Australian and New Zealand governments, who brought these goods into the country in the context of Civil-Military support.

The IFRC FACT was activated in response for Tropical Cyclone Pam, with the deployment of up to 20 members of whom nine were incorporated to FACT<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, An allocation from [DREF](#) was made for CHF 132,996 on 13 March 2015 to allow for the initial response to be initiated. This was followed up on 16 March with an [Emergency Appeal](#) for CHF 3.9 million, which was incorporated into this [International Appeal](#) operation. The IFRC has also fulfilled its role in the UN cluster system with the deployment of the shelter cluster coordinator support by a shelter cluster information manager.

Specifically for the Port Vila relief effort, the Red Cross has been instrumental in identifying the 3w's –who does what, where- for the urban and peri urban areas. The relevant authorities gave permission to VRCS to start distributions in three selected areas in the country's capital on 20 March 2015. The Red Cross coordinated with and also provided material support to Save the Children and ADRA in the voluntary return process of people in evacuation centres.

For its own internal coordination as well as to ensure coherent communication and information sharing with non-Movement partners, an internal coordination mechanism was established. For this, the IFRC Asia Pacific Zone (APZ) office in Kuala Lumpur deployed an interim country representative to Vanuatu, who together with the VRCS CEO, the French Red Cross head of mission and the FACT team leader formed the central coordination team. The FACT information management (IM) person is instrumental in the coherent sharing of information with various government partners as well as the UN and other relief partners on a regular basis.

The relief operations is expected to be completed by early April 2015. The recovery effort is being updated and expected to be reflected in the International Appeal revision during the second quarter of 2015.

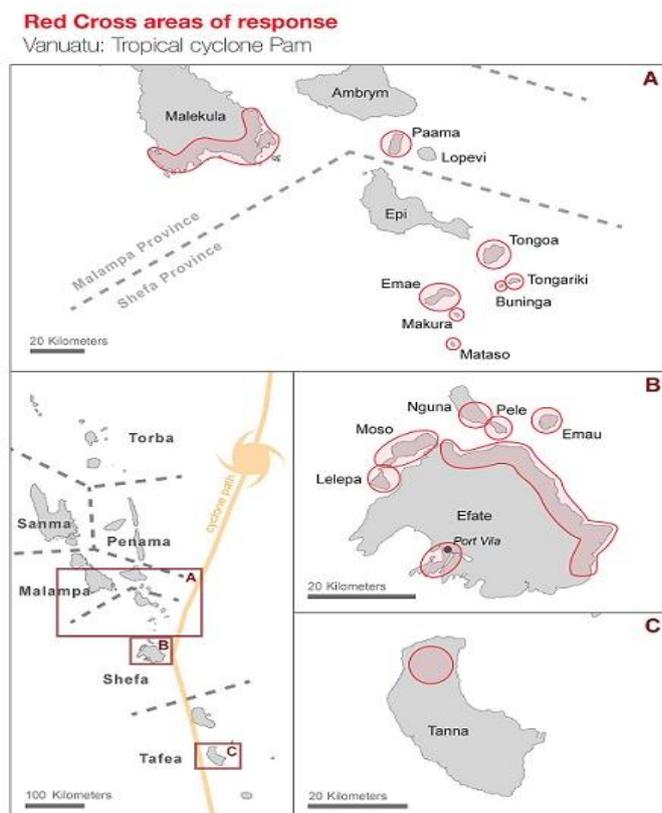
## Operational implementation

**This update focuses mainly on the relief actions and recovery assessments for Vanuatu, with some updates from the four countries on assessment and relief actions.**

### *Inter- and Intra Movement Coordination in Vanuatu*

VRCS, with support from the Australian Red Cross (ARC), French Red Cross (FRC), and the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC), has pre-Tropical Cyclone Pam, been implementing programmes focused on disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), community based health and first aid (CBHFA) and participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST). These efforts have contributed to the lower number of casualties. More emphasis on both institutional and community response preparedness could further strengthen the overall disaster preparedness of Vanuatu.

Tropical Cyclone Pam has also triggered the onset of huge surge capacity of the UN system and all the clusters to which the VRCS and partners are contributing. Furthermore, the French, Australian and New Zealand military contribute heavily to the relief effort under the FRANZ partnership. Military transport assets, storage capacity as well as water treatment capacity has been brought in.



<sup>1</sup> At the peak of the response (19 to 31 March 2015) there were about 20 members of the surge team. These comprised one acting country representative, nine FACT members, two RDRT (peer exchange) members, two logistics ERU members (British Red Cross), three bilateral technical persons attached to the surge team and three IFRC Secretariat personnel attached to the surge team.

## Assessments

In **Vanuatu**, assessments data has been obtained from NDMO and UN-led cluster assessments, in which the Red Cross played a significant role. Water quality analysis in Mele is ongoing to verify if the water network is supporting safe water supply. Nomad treatment unit is expected to be redeployed if the needs arise. Nomad unit in North Tanna is operational, which minimizes the needs for water in the area. A significant number of people is also relying on rain water catchment for drinking water. The government is coordinating the food distribution in the affected areas. The immediate needs included potable water, shelter and food.

The government of **Kiribati** reported that on Tamana, 65 houses were totally damaged and 41 houses flooded, with 407 people affected (142 women and 138 children). As well, 51 water wells were severely damaged and requiring rehabilitation. Six under-5 children have been reported with diarrhea and vomiting. Water, safe storage containers, and proper sanitation are some of the key priorities. Many residents living on the coastal areas have moved inland and created a new settlement. Many are defecating openly in the bushes or the open seas. Assessments are still underway on Arorae. The immediate needs included water, water containers, pit latrines, and kitchen utensils.

In **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, assessments have been carried out in Talasea, Mosa, Hoskins, Ceneka and Biialla. The assessments indicated that more than 100 houses were damaged by flash floods, with close to 9,000 people affected or displaced. The immediate needs identified are tarpaulins, water containers, mosquito nets, blankets, and hygiene promotion (particularly for children, elderly and people with disability).

In **Solomon Islands**, assessments have been conducted in Malaita and Temotu provinces. The data is currently being entered and so far the information coming in from 16 villages in Temotu Province reports a total of 91 houses damaged. Although water is available and accessible by the majority of the affected population, there are concerns of water contamination. More than 50 per cent of garden crops were damaged. The government of Solomon Islands is responding to the immediate food needs with a first wave of food distributions, and this is shortly to be followed by a second distribution of seeds to start rebuilding the gardens. The immediate needs identified are food and shelter repair (tarpaulins and other repair materials and tools). The government has prioritized food distributions since the onset of the disaster.

Assessments in **Tuvalu** covered Nui Island (19 March 2015) and Nukefetau Island (20 March 2015).

- In Nui Island, 40 per cent of the total population (550) is displaced and living in three shelters (Vaipuna school, Falesae Church and Luitale Hall) or with host families. One third of them are children. The affected areas include Manutalake (70 households), Alamoni (116 households). Sanitation facilities in the shelters are inoperable. Vegetation was significantly affected, and food security is identified as a concern with only two weeks of food supply left. Water is also identified as high priority as four of the five water cisterns were damaged, along with water storage tanks. The immediate needs identified are food, blankets, mats/mattresses, cooking utensils, soap, flashlights, stoves, water containers. Construction of pit latrines will contribute to minimizing health-related risks. There were 17 diarrhea cases 11 skin infection cases, 2 trauma cases and one death due to natural causes registered. Psychological impact on the affected community has not been determined yet. Temporary shelters assistance should also be prioritized to enable the affected families to ensure protection and resume their livelihoods.
- In Nukefetau, of the total displaced population of 583 (which is also the entire population), 76 people are seeking shelters in Kilogafoou Falekaupule and Talialofa Falekaupule. Of these, 39 are women and 15 are children. Pulaka crops are being harvested by the affected community. However the Tropical Cyclone Pam left a long term impact on the overall agriculture. Fishing activities were disrupted due to low availability of fuel. With limited supply of canned foods, food shortage is anticipated. The water systems are not damaged. However, there is concern on the water quality and quantity. Latrines are functioning. There were seven diarrhea cases and five acute respiratory infection (ARI) cases reported, along with psychological impact on the affected community, particularly children. The immediate needs identified are food, water purifiers, blankets, mats/mattresses, cooking utensils, soap, flashlights, stoves, water containers, debris clearing equipment and fuel. Disrupted road access will continue to challenge the relief response. There is no mobile network on the island and communities rely on the *Radio Tuvalu* for any information on humanitarian assistance. Some communities are concerned of future climate change impact and residents of these communities are contemplating the possibility of migrating.

### Relief actions

In Vanuatu, relief distribution and potable water supply by the Red Cross commenced on 20 March 2015. As of 27 March 2015, approximately. More than 12,800 people (2,868 households) had been reached across 15 islands in three provinces. These are:

- Malampa province:
  - Paama island - 250 households
- Shefa province:
  - Sheppard Islands (six islands: Tongoa, Buninga, Tongariki, Emae, Mataso, Makira) - 520 households
  - Outer Efate Islands (five islands: Moso, Lelepa, Nguna, Pele, Emao) - 309 households
  - Efate island (north west rural and Port Vila) - 1,166 households
- Tafea province:
  - Tanna island (rural north west and north) - 623 households



*VRCS volunteers supporting the distributions of non-food items in Vanuatu. Photo: IFRC*

As can be expected within an island state that has been heavily damaged by the highest category tropical cyclone, the infrastructure is a best at minimal levels of operation. In this case particularly boating, which is the main means of transport in the initial stages. The few boats that were operational in the first two weeks after Tropical Cyclone Pam hit, were in heavy demand. The Red Cross however managed to get a number of chartered operators and no-cost transport options, including civil-military and privately owned luxury yachts to be dedicated to relief tasks.

As part of the emergency preparedness, a system of evacuation centres was activated in and around Port Vila. In total 43 centres were initially established and sheltered approximately 4,000 evacuees. The centres were predominantly school buildings and churches. By 15 March 2015, the Red Cross

was active in ten of these evacuation centres, supporting an average of 337 household on a daily basis with first aid, emergency shelter and food.

By 20 March 2015, seven of the ten centres were closed and the Red Cross continued to support the remaining three centres up to 23 March 2015, when all centres were closed. Those who sought shelter in the centres were supported with tarpaulins to facilitate their return. ADRA and Save the Children were active in the other 33 centres. Following the closure of the centres, the Gender and Protection Cluster convened an internally displaced persons (IDP) working group that has now taken the lead in the residual case load of approximately 300 people who are gathered in two remaining facilities that are managed by faith-based local organizations. The Red Cross supported ADRA and Save the Children with 1,600 tarpaulins for distribution to the returnees.

A gender and diversity pocket guide and poster have been developed by the IFRC in English and Bislama and will be tested in Vanuatu by the VRCS. The Pacific Disability Forum, UN Women and the Protection Cluster provided feedback on the content of the tools. The tools are being printed and will be distributed to VRCS staff and volunteers in Vanuatu with the aim of creating awareness about gender and diversity sensitive assessments and programming. The use of the tools will be reviewed within two months of dissemination to determine how they can be improved.

<b>Water, sanitation, &amp; hygiene promotion</b>		
<b>Outcome 4: Risk of waterborne, water-related and vector-borne diseases in targeted communities reduced.</b>		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>Output 4.1:</b> Access to safe water by target population in affected communities increased.	4.1.1 Setup of temporary water distribution points in affected communities.	43,000 liters in North Tanna island and the suburb of Mele in Vanuatu
	4.1.2 Distribute safe water in affected communities.	
	4.1.3 Collaborate with the relief sector in providing safe water storage containers to target households	Refer to <a href="#">Annex 1</a>
	4.1.4 Rehabilitate/construct water points in affected communities.	
<b>Output 4.2:</b> Access to adequate sanitation facilities by target population in affected communities increased.	4.2.1 Mobilize community members to undertake environmental sanitation activities.	
	4.2.2 Rehabilitate/construct sanitation facilities in affected communities.	
<b>Output 4.3:</b> Knowledge, attitude and practice on safe water, sanitation and hygiene by target population in five countries increased.	4.3.1. Collaborate with the relief sector in providing hygiene kits and hygiene promotion for the usage of safe water storage containers to target households.	Refer to <a href="#">Annex 1</a>
	4.3.2. Recruit and train new or mobilize existing health volunteers to participate in hygiene promotion activities, in coordination with the health team.	
	4.3.3. Conduct general assessments and field reports on activities undertaken in target communities	
	4.3.4. Conduct hygiene promotion activities in target communities, in collaboration with the health team and other sectors.	
	4.3.5. Reproduce and distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials to complement hygiene promotion activities in target communities.	
	4.3.6 Regional training on water and sanitation and hygiene promotion in emergencies.	

**Progress:**

In Tamana, Kiribati, the Kiribati Red Cross Society (KRCS) conducted hygiene training using components of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) approach. The KRCS disaster management officer was supported in this activity by three nurses and one medical assistant. Hygiene promotion was also delivered to a group of community members during hygiene kits distribution. The KRCS disaster management officer is currently travelling on Arorae with four ERT volunteers to conduct further assessments as well as to distribute non-food items to affected families.

<b>Shelter and settlements (and households items)</b>		
<b>Outcome 5: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met.</b>		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>Output 5.1:</b> Essential household items are provided to the target population.	5.1.1. Mobilize volunteers and provide orientation on distribution protocols.	
	5.1.2. Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiaries for distributions.	
	5.1.3. Distribute non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and water containers) to some 7,000 households.	Refer to <a href="#">Annex 1</a>
	5.1.4. Monitor and report on distributions.	

<b>Output 5.2:</b> Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population.	5.2.1. Identify volunteers and staff to support the operation, and provide them with orientation on revalidation process and distribution protocols.	
	5.2.2. Select and register households that will receive emergency shelter assistance.	
	5.2.3. Distribute tarpaulins and shelter tool kits to some 4,000 households.	Refer to <a href="#">Annex 1</a>
	5.2.4. Undertake monitoring and provide technical advice to ensure that assisted households have correctly installed the tarpaulins provided.	

**Progress:**

On 25 March 2015, three VRCS volunteer teams were mobilized for the distribution of tarpaulins in the Port Vila community of Fres Wota, Vanuatu. Each household received either one or two tarpaulins based on assessed needs. Now, shelter assistance has been completed in Fres Wota and the teams will move to other affected areas in the southern part of the city. On Tanna Island, shelter assistance for the affected households in the three communities (Green Hill, Imafen and Laketam) will be followed by distributions of other relief supplies. Distribution of shelter and relief items was also carried out in the north of Efate Island as well as to the islands offshore of Efate Island (Emao, Pele, Nguna, Moso, Lelepa). For detailed information on the distribution, refer to [Annex 1](#).

**Community preparedness, climate change and risk reduction****Outcome 9: Communities' resilience to disasters is protected.**

Outputs	Activities planned	Implementation
<b>Output 9.2</b> Legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response are strengthened	9.2.1. Support efforts aimed at strengthening the national legal framework for international disaster assistance	<a href="#">IDRL story</a> produced

**Progress:**

An IFRC disaster law delegate, deployed from the IFRC Pacific regional office, is working out of the NDMO and has been supporting the government of Vanuatu and the humanitarian system, through the VHT clusters, to develop and draft standard operating procedures (SOPs) on international disaster response, laws, rules and principle (IDRL) related issues. This initially started off as a piecemeal approach to provide policy guidance on unsolicited goods, customs and foreign medical teams, but has now evolved to provide more comprehensive SOPs on all international disaster response issues, incorporating issues such as quarantine and bio security and to ensure alignment with the IDRL Guidelines. There is potential to ensure incorporation of such arrangements into national legal arrangements in the long run. Policy support is also being provided to the shelter cluster to draft a strategy on shelter issues.

**Restoring Family Links (RFL)****Outcome 10: Restoring Family Links (RFL) needs emerging from Cyclone Pam are assessed and cases are being followed up within a month.**

Outputs	Activities planned	Implementation
<b>Output 10.1:</b> VRCS is supported to conduct an assessment of RFL needs and implement first-stage responses on behalf of people who have lost contact with family.	10.1.1 Conduct RFL needs assessment and assess current capacity of VCRC to provide RFL	
	10.1.2 Assess RFL related activities and provide advice on processes and systems undertaken by the relevant Movement components and the authorities.	
	10.1.3 Assess ongoing needs in RFL capacity development of VRCS	

**Progress:**

In Vanuatu, an RFL delegate deployed through ICRC and Australian Red Cross has supported the efforts of the VRCS in restoring family links whenever people are separated from their loved ones as a result of Tropical Cyclone Pam. Regular contact with authorities confirmed that the nearly complete restoration of communications infrastructure has progressively allowed families not only to restore links but to maintain them. Where gaps still exist, such as parts of Tanna Island, the RFL delegate has liaised with the VRCS branches to undertake active tracing. *Safe and well* calls have been offered to Vila Central Hospital where individuals were evacuated to. The RFL delegate has also worked closely with Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) to avoid duplication when offering safe and well calls. TSF has agreed to offer this service on Tanna and Erromango islands, while the Movement covers the Shepherd islands, Emau, Pele, Nguna, Moso, and Lelepa, as well as parts of Efaté Island. Fifty seven per cent of individuals registered as separated have been restored their link with their families. Of the total 327 enquiries received, 140 have been closed, of which 26 were handled by the Red Cross.

**Overall challenges and constraints:**

- Logistics arrangement for relief items and personnel continues to influence the efficiency and effectiveness of the response in which transportation is costly and infrequent. In the coming weeks, this challenge is expected to intensify with increased demands from the NDMO and the various clusters.
- Although funding for the Appeal is promising, balancing the direct and operational costs requires greater advocacy among donors and partners. Due to the smaller operating structure in four of the five National Societies supported by the Appeal, there is an urgency to recruit some key personnel to ensure smooth implementation and monitoring as well as performance accountability. Continuous technical support is also much needed for governance and institutional development.
- Clearing work of debris resulted from the aftermath is slow due to limited resources in Vanuatu. This will likely hamper the shelter reconstruction activities planned for the recovery phase.

**FACT**

The FACT, positioned in Vanuatu, has assigned geographic areas for the remaining relief distributions which are expected to be completed by early April 2015. Further in-depth assessments are ongoing as relief effort rolls out. The IFRC country representative and FACT team leader will remain in Port Vila and participate in cluster coordination meetings until the end of the initial relief phase. Information shared during these meetings will be cross-referenced against the FACT findings. These will further contribute to the revision of the EPoA for the Appeal. Post distribution follow-up visits are being planned, with opportunities to include Communication and RFL activities.

**Recovery assessments and trainings**

In order to plan for the next phase of the operation in Vanuatu, both for Red Cross activities as well as how these fit in with what other implementers are planning, a number of recovery and longer term needs assessments will be undertaken. These will be implemented between 1 and 15 April 2015. The findings will provide guidance to the planning process to ensure coordinated and coherent actions by all humanitarian actors, including the Movement in Vanuatu. Some of the upcoming assessments are listed below.

**1. Government and UNDAC multi-Cluster multi-sector recovery assessment:**

The NDMO, together with the Cluster coordinators, has agreed on a multi-sector recovery assessment at community level. This assessment is expected to start on 1 April 2015 and will assess all affected areas through key informants and random sampling spot-checks. The fieldwork is planned for one week, after which the results will be processed and turned into actionable activities by 15 April 2015. The Red Cross will be part of this assessment, including strategy setting, input on assessment definition and field work. The detailed results of this assessment will guide the activities in the predefined geographic area for the various Red Cross partners implementing recovery actions.

**2. REACH shelter and wash household level assessment**

The Shelter Cluster requested for a REACH team (<http://www.reach-initiative.org/>) on 30 March 2015 to guide and assist the cluster and government in a household level recovery assessment. The timing for this assessment was agreed with Government, clusters and Red Cross partners to ensure a coordinated approach. The assessment will also include WASH elements as well as some areas where the two sectors overlap. It will be implemented through random sampling of households in the entire affected area. The data from these assessments is expected to be available for analysis by the 15 April 2015.

### 3. **Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and gap assessment**

In the coming two weeks of in April, as relief distributions are being finalized, the Red Cross will commence post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of areas serviced with relief distributions. Any gaps identified through the assessment will be covered with a targeted 'mob-up' relief distribution, and longer term needs will be brought forward to the above mentioned recovery assessments. A plan for PDM is being developed in detail and entails the following timeline:

- Sheppard Islands: 30 March to 5 April
- Paama and Epi Islands: 1 to 3 April
- Taana Islands: 6 April
- Efate Islands: 6 April

Reference documents  
Click [here](#) for the  
International Appeal and EPoA

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

**Annex 1: Summary of distribution as of 27 March 2015**

Location	Water Storage	Purifier tablets	Tarpaulins	Kitchen sets	Sleeping mats	Lanterns	Blankets	Shelter toolkits	Hygiene kits	Mosquito nets	Total HH reached	Remarks
<b>Vanuatu</b>	965	-	6,108	706	1,240	527	731	949	670	-	<b>14,000</b>	Distribution ongoing
<b>Kiribati</b>	85	-	70	59	-	-	-	-	78	87	<b>87</b>	Distribution ongoing
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	1,799	-	1,194	93	-	-	2,723	-	-	2,557	<b>2,234</b>	Distribution ongoing
<b>Solomon Islands</b>												Relief items have been transported, distribution will commence soon
<b>Tuvalu</b>	-	3	80	30	-	-	100	5	30	3 box of mosquito coils	-	Relief items received from Samoa Red Cross Society, distribution ongoing