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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Tuvalu: Tropical Cyclone Pam



DREF operation n° MDRTV001	
Date of issue: 16 March 2015	Date of disaster: 11 March 2015
Manager responsible for this DREF operation: Laura Holbeck Regional Programme Coordinator, IFRC Pacific Regional Office	Point of contact: Olioliiga Iosua Secretary General, Tuvalu Red Cross Society (in formation)
Operation start date: 16 March 2015	Operation end date: 16 June 2015
Operation budget: CHF 81,873	DREF allocated: CHF 81,873
Number of people to be assisted: 3,000 people (500 households)	
Host National Society: The Tuvalu Red Cross Society (TRCS) — which is a National Society in formation — has two staff members in its headquarters, who are responding to this disaster from the capital, Funafuti. On the islands, the TRCS branch representatives are responding to the disaster with their island disaster committees.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The National Society is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as the New Zealand Red Cross.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Tropical Cyclone Pam continues to make way in the South Pacific Ocean after battering Vanuatu on Friday 13 March 2015 with Category V strength, causing massive humanitarian needs across all of the provinces in Vanuatu, including Port Vila. Described as the strongest storm to make landfall since Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November 2013, Pam is turning out to be one of the worst cyclones to affect the Pacific in recent history.

While Vanuatu is the nation most affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam, the weather system's circulation over a wide area and its slow moving nature caused wave-induced coastal flooding in other countries, including Tuvalu. Between 10 and 11 March 2015, Tropical Cyclone Pam created prolonged sea swells and storm surges that reached Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau and Nukulaelae atolls of Tuvalu. In some islands several houses were inundated, crops damaged, and saltwater intrusion occurred as waves washed through. The situation prompted the authorities to declare a state of emergency.

According to reports received from the Tuvalu Red Cross Society (TRCS) on 15 March 2015, water in Nui atoll remains smelly and likely unsafe for drinking. Wind warning remains in place for Funafuti, the capital, while reports from outer islands have indicated that winds and seas have subsided. TRCS continues to monitor the situation. It is worth noting that Tropical Storm Bavi, which is crossing the northern Pacific, is also influencing weather and swells. Furthermore, Tropical Cyclone Nathan is also active in the region.

In consideration of the impact that Tropical Cyclone Pam has had in Tuvalu, the TRCS has requested support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to respond to widespread damage caused by coastal flooding across its remote islands. Based on an analysis of the situation, the IFRC is making an allocation from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Tuvalu Red Cross Society, which is a National Society in formation, to mount an immediate response. The funds will support assessment teams to quickly determine needs of the affected population, which is crucial in informing the development of a detailed action plan. Funds will also support water and sanitation as well as emergency health needs.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Tuvalu Red Cross Society (TRCS) is still going through the formal process for fulfilling the 10 conditions for recognition by the ICRC upon which it can be registered as a member of the IFRC. However, TRCS is well advanced in the process, is recognized through a Red Cross Act was passed in 2013 and the organization has normal programme relationships with the IFRC and several other partners. The response it is undertaking underlines the commitment to deliver on its humanitarian responsibilities as auxiliary to Tuvalu public authorities. The intervention provides an opportunity for TRCS to recruit volunteers through units/branches across the territory and gain practical experience in enhancing institutional preparedness for future similar responses.

To date, TRCS has completed an inventory of its preparedness stocks and its branch members and outer island representatives are currently working closely with their respective island disaster management committees in immediate response to the disaster. The National Society has undertaken distribution of items, including blankets and tarpaulins. On 15 March 2015, teams comprising government representatives and 10 TRCS staff and volunteers left in the three boats to undertake assessments.

Meantime, after examining its response capacity, the TRCS has requested for technical support from the IFRC and Partner National Societies present in the region to respond to needs brought by the weather systems. The National Society's only desalination unit is not working and needs to be repaired. The desalination unit would have been useful in providing safe drinking in islands where saltwater intrusion has been reported.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the region

Host National Societies in the Pacific, along with the IFRC Pacific Regional Office (PRO) and Partner National Societies, have been on high alert since this Tropical Cyclone was sighted and meteorological projections indicated its imminent impact on several countries. The IFRC PRO and the Asia Pacific Zone office continue to monitor the situation closely. On Sunday, 15 March 2015, the PRO organized a teleconference for partners present in the region, to better coordinate the response.

The PRO has offered to deploy a disaster management delegate to Tuvalu to provide operational support to the TRCS, in line with the National Society's request. New Zealand Red Cross will provide the resources for the disaster management delegate — salary outside of this operation — whose cost of deployment to support TRCS is covered.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in-country

Coordinating with the authorities

The TRCS coordinates closely with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), with its branches also working closely with their respective island councils. On 10 March 2015, a TRCS staff appeared on Radio Tuvalu together with officials from NDMO, Tuvalu Meteorological Services (TMS) to provide early warning messages and preparedness information about the approaching tropical cyclone. TRCS participated in an emergency meeting of the National Disaster Committee, convened on 12 March 2015, during which the authorities declared a state of emergency.

Inter-agency coordination

The IFRC PRO is maintaining close coordination with UNOCHA and other regional partners in Suva, Fiji.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs assessments

Storm surges of 3-5 metres crossed many narrow islands, causing extensive damage to roads, health infrastructure and houses. Tuvalu consists of eight islands across thousands of kilometres and travel/communication between these islands can be expected to be a challenge in this operation. As such, TRCS needs financial support to mobilize items and deploy staff/volunteers to outer islands so as to deliver assistance in this operation.

Initial assessments have indicated that beneficiary needs are mostly related to relief items, emergency shelter, emergency health, and water and sanitation emergency health. This operation will therefore support TRCS to meet the immediate needs of target households through the provision of essential household non-food items and emergency shelter materials. The criteria for selecting beneficiaries will take into account gender and other considerations.

B. Operational strategy and plan

This operational plan is fully in line with IFRC policies, procedures, and commitments, and seeks to provide immediate support to families most affected by the weather systems and related events in Tuvalu. At this stage, the TRCS will respond only to immediate needs and has not planned a post-relief intervention.

This DREF allocation aims to address the immediate needs of 500 households through the provision of essential household non-food items and emergency shelter materials. In order to deliver the assistance, operational support and assessment teams will be mobilized and deployed with support of the DREF allocation.

The operation will be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 15 June 2015. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

Overall objective

This DREF operation will support immediate needs of 500 households through the provision of essential household non-food items and emergency shelter materials.

Proposed strategy

The TRCS does not have sufficient disaster preparedness stocks in-country and plans have advanced to dispatch some relief items from the Fiji Red Cross Society, in Suva, to Tuvalu. This DREF allocation will support replenishment of preparedness stocks advanced from Fiji and/or through the IFRC zone logistics unit as well as mobilization of non-food relief and emergency shelter items for distribution. The DREF allocation will also support the cost of freight and transportation to affected areas.

Operational support services

Human resources

As they are the first responders and already located on these isolated islands, volunteers from TRCS are already responding to the disaster in coordination with island disaster committees. The TRCS has determined that it will need technical support from the IFRC and Partner National Societies present in the region to respond effectively.

Deployment of staff and volunteers will be crucial for effective delivery of assistance. As well as supporting the deployments, this DREF allocation will cover insurance for volunteers who will be involved in the response. Mobilization of volunteers will consider gender balance.

The IFRC PRO will deploy some regional resources to provide surge capacity to TRCS in line with the National Society's request. Specifically, the PRO will deploy a disaster management delegate to provide operational support to the TRCS. Salary of the delegate is not covered by DREF but the cost of deployment to support TRCS is covered.

Logistics and supply chain

As mentioned earlier, Tuvalu consists of eight islands across thousands of kilometres and travel/communication between these islands can be expected to be a challenge in this operation. Considering the distances between islands, logistics costs tend to be high. Movement of supplies and human resources (surge, staff and volunteers) will, therefore, take a considerable portion of the budget.

Information technology and telecommunications

New Zealand Red Cross supports telecommunication programmes across the region. Should support be required in this area, New Zealand Red Cross will be approached to assist.

Communications

Remote support will be provided by the IFRC Asia Pacific communication unit through the regional communications and advocacy manager for Southeast Asia Regional Delegation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

Reporting on the operation will be made in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards. A regional after-action review will be conducted at the end of the broader Tropical Cyclone Pam operation (outside of this DREF operation). However a post-action survey is planned at the end of operation. One update will be issued during the operation's timeframe and a final report within three months of the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

The IFRC, through the department of finance, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. Most National Societies have been supported for many years by the IFRC and are accustomed to these financial procedures.

ANNEX 1: ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS TABLE TEMPLATE

ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS	LIST IF SPECIFIC AFFECTED SECTORS OR STATE 'ALL'	Likelihood	Impact	CAN CONTROL; MITIGATE / INFLUENCE; OR ONLY FACTOR-IN
Access and logistics for travel of assessment teams as well as delivery of materials is not hampered by rough sea and/or bad weather conditions	All	H	H	Factor in response planning
Subsequent storms do not impact upon the same affected areas, distracting resources and implementation schedules	All	M	H	Factor in response planning

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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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 (NGOs) 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**.

DREF OPERATION

16/03/2015

MDRTV001 Tuvalu : Tropical Cyclone Pam

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	25,255
Clothing & Textiles	9,471
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,951
Utensils & Tools	4,457
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	48,134
Distribution & Monitoring	6,314
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	6,314
Volunteers	9,686
Total PERSONNEL	9,686
Travel	11,190
Office Costs	631
Communications	871
Financial Charges	50
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	12,742
Programme and Services Support Recovery	4,997
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,997
TOTAL BUDGET	81,873