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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Tuvalu: Impending Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°	MDRTV002	Glide n°:	DR-2021-000120-TUV
DREF date of issue:	24 August 2021	Expected timeframe:	Three months
		Expected end date:	30 November 2021
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF¹ 30,155			
Total number of people affected:	10,204 people (5,242 male and 4,962 female) ² 1,755 households	Number of people to be assisted:	10,204 people (5,242 male and 4,962 female) 1,755 households
Provinces affected	Funafuti with Nukufetau (central) and Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu (northern)	Provinces / Regions targeted:	Funafuti with Nukufetau (central) and Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu (northern)
Host National Society presence: Tuvalu Red Cross Society (TRCS) has eight staff, 430 volunteers, eight branches.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Public Works Department (water division), Department of Disaster Management (NDMO), Kaupule of Funafuti, Tuvalu Meteorological Service, Water Scarcity Project, Live and Learn Project.			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Tuvalu is highly reliant on rainfall as the main source of fresh water³. There are no rivers on the islands and groundwater is extremely limited⁴. Rainwater is harvested and stored in household tanks, island community and church tanks, cisterns and a large government cistern. Funafuti's water harvesting system is inherently sensitive to dry spells because it is completely dependent on rainfall. This reflects the timing, frequency, and intensity of rainfall⁵. Groundwater resources where available are brackish and exposed to saltwater intrusion from flooding and rising sea level, and also exposed to contamination from human and animal waste.

Rainfall for the last three months in Tuvalu has been at the lowest 25 per cent in historical record, causing the regional Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Early Action Rainfall (EAR) Watch to place Tuvalu at 'dry warning' level. Despite the national EAR Watch's climate outlook forecasting normal rainfall for the coming months, the likelihood of Tuvalu proceeding to serious or severely dry conditions remains high. Preparedness and early actions are advisable given past and future seasonal data. Tuvalu relies almost solely on rainwater for consumption, indicating that continued monitoring and data collection would be of high value, as the situation can deteriorate rapidly.

¹ CHF= Swiss Franc

² Using 2017 Census data

³ McCubbin, S., Smit, B. & Pearce, T. Where does climate fit? Vulnerability to climate change in the context of multiple stressors in Funafuti, Tuvalu. Glob. Environ. Chang. (2015). doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2014.10.007

⁴ Government of Tuvalu. Second National Communication of Tuvalu. (2015).

According to the Tuvalu Met Services EARWatch⁶: 'During the month of June, Nanumea, Funafuti and Niulakita was at drought [level], while Nui was at drought warning. During the past two months of May and June, Funafuti was at drought [level], Nanumea and Nui were at drought warning, Niulakita was at drought watch. During the past three months of April, May and June, Nanumea was at drought [level], Nui and Niulakita was at drought warning and Funafuti was at drought watch. For the last six months (since January 2021), drought was observed at Nanumea, Nui and Funafuti was at drought warning'.

Government reserves data is only available till May, flagging tanks were at only 38 per cent of their full capacity. Despite this, the government has yet to declare a state of emergency as the nature of drought in Tuvalu is complex and changing. As an active member of the drought committee in Tuvalu, the TRCS monitors the situation closely and began planning EWEA in early July, following the EARwatch information. There was an episode of rainfall in mid-end July, which ended water distribution activities by the government in Funafuti. However, as Tuvalu is almost solely dependent on rainfall, long-term impacts can still take effect despite short-term water relief, especially with current forecasts and, if example, household water tank information is not known.

This potential cycle can continue for months and understanding the water security situation is the first part of the early action planned. More up to date information is therefore required on government reserves along with rainfall data, according to Tuvalu Drought Committee scenario planning.

The Government of Tuvalu manages further drought advisories, which provides information to TRCS on needed preparedness, early action or response activities and data collection. Ongoing review of published EARWatches such as those by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), NIWA and Tuvalu EARwatch feeds into the process. As of 20 August, for example, the BoM Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific's (COSPPac) Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch also confirmed Tuvalu at seriously dry⁷.

Tuvalu Met Service EARWatch stations	June 2021	Last 2 months (May and June 2021)	Last 3 months (April, May, June 2021)	Last 6 months (since January 2021)
Nanumea	Drought	Drought warning	Drought	Drought
Funafuti	Drought	Drought	Drought warning	Drought warning
Niulakita	Drought	Drought watch	Drought warning	Drought warning
Nui	Drought warning	Drought warning	Drought warning	Drought warning

Drought levels for local EARWatch stations in Tuvalu. These are a reliable indication of the overall drought situation across the country (source: Tuvalu EARWatch)

Tuvalu National Drought Committee (DC) was activated on 5 July, who agreed to meet weekly to provide updates on both thresholds (rainfall received and government water reserves). The Ministry of Public Works established seven water distribution points which have been operational since 12 July on Funafuti, where all households are able to collect six buckets of water (approximately 60 liters per household per day). These have now been temporarily ceased. Of note is the variation in average household across the island groups. As a guide on Funafuti, the average household has eight members (according to the 2017 census) and therefore the daily allocation is below the recommended SPHERE standards for water supply, where each person requires a minimum of at least 15 liters per day. Technically, households are entitled to about 120 liters daily, which is the equivalent of 12 buckets per day. As such, understanding current water availability at the household level across the seven affected islands (through water sounding support⁸ by TRCS to government) will be critical to ensure needs are being met during the short, medium and long term. Two desalination units at the Public Works Department are not operational and require spare parts to be operational again. Another desalination unit has arrived in Funafuti, but it has not been assembled yet. According to the agreement, the suppliers must assemble the desalination unit, however due to border closures, they are unable to leave New Caledonia. The Department of Foreign Affairs is working on getting the suppliers to come to Funafuti. Given the nature and likelihood of water scarcity in Tuvalu, to compliment drought awareness messaging on TV, the committee requested to start radio and social media awareness campaigns, which will be led by TRCS under this DREF.

⁶ The EARwatch uses local stations found only in 4 islands of Nanunee, Funafuit, Niulakita and Nui

⁷ https://www.pacificmet.net/sites/default/files/documents/ocof/Tuvalu_OCOF_outlooks_167.pdf The document stating the 'seriously dry' is internal and can be shared upon request. This is a link to some of the current related maps used by COSPPaC showing below normal rainfall outlook on pg 2.

⁸ Water sounding carried out by TRCS: is the process to determine the depth of water in a rainfall water tank to determine how full or empty the tank is. The manual process is undertaken by striking the side of the tank, where the sounds determine the level of full or emptiness.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Tuvalu Red Cross Response Action

TRCS has recently been implementing COVID-19 activities in partnership with the Ministry of Health, mobilizing more than 50 volunteers across Tuvalu, engaging in efforts of risk communication and community engagement such as raising awareness to different target communities, youth groups, primary schools, kindergartens, people living in islets, as well as social media campaigns on radio, TV, and social media on WASH messaging.

While TRCS' volunteers have been trained on ECV⁹ and COVID-19 components to assist the Ministry of Health in the response to the pandemic, TRCS has also been following the regional and national forecasts that indicate the upcoming extended dry period and participating in DC meetings. Since March, Tuvalu has been highlighted in the regional EARWatch as being 'severely dry' with high or medium action needed, with a high likelihood that dry conditions will continue or worsen. Impacts on water supply and agriculture may be significant. Worthy to note, the 2011 drought resulted in widespread sickness due to a decrease in handwashing, low household water reserves that increased pathogen concentrations, and a switch to untreated or less hygienic water sources. As Tuvalu is in its dry season till October, there is an impressed need to consider the early actions that may be required, and the data needed to implement those early actions, in support of the most affected islands that may face water challenges.

According to the NZ National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), as of 3 August, Tuvalu is predicted to have below normal rainfall for the next three months, while in the seasonal forecast, there is 91 per cent chance of below rainfall outlook for August to October with a high confidence rating. Considering these as trigger warnings, TRCS plans to activate and conduct early warning activities and assist six islands in developing draft SOPs to address recent and potential dry periods, in support of local early action.

**NZ National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)
Rainfall outlook table for August – October 2021¹⁰**

ISLAND	PROBABILITY (%)			OUTLOOK	CONFIDENCE
	Below	Normal	Above		
Papua New Guinea	3	12	85	ABOVE	High
Vanuatu South	15	27	58	ABOVE	High
Fiji	21	21	58	ABOVE	High
Vanuatu North	21	25	54	ABOVE	High
Tonga	24	28	48	ABOVE	High
New Caledonia	23	31	46	ABOVE	High
Palau	29	32	39	ABOVE	Moderate
Solomon Islands	32	32	36	ABOVE	Moderate
Niue	29	31	40	AVG - ABOVE	High
Southern Cook Islands	25	37	38	AVG - ABOVE	High
Austral Islands	32	33	35	CLIMATOLOGY	High
Wallis & Futuna	32	34	34	CLIMATOLOGY	Moderate-High
American Samoa	33	37	30	AVG-BELOW	Moderate-High
Marquesas	45	51	4	AVG-BELOW	High
Samoa	42	29	29	BELOW	Moderate-High
Society Islands	42	31	27	BELOW	High
Pitcairn Islands	47	30	23	BELOW	High
Marshall Islands	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Tuamotu Islands	55	27	18	BELOW	High
Kiribati: Line Islands	60	26	14	BELOW	High
FSM	66	23	11	BELOW	High
Guam	73	16	11	BELOW	Moderate-High
Northern Marianas	73	16	11	BELOW	High
Northern Cook Islands	85	8	7	BELOW	High
Tokelau	87	8	5	BELOW	Moderate-High
Kiribati: Phoenix Islands	90	6	4	BELOW	High
Tuvalu	91	5	4	BELOW	High
Kiribati: Gilbert Islands	98	2	0	BELOW	High
Nauru	99	1	0	BELOW	High

As part of the COVID-19 preparedness activities, volunteers have travelled to the outer island to distribute WASH posters and assist the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Live and Learn Tuvalu in distributing soaps, buckets and taps. The TRCS also consults with outer island branches on WASH needs assessments and ways TRCS branches can help island communities. As vaccine roll out is completed, volunteers will continue with WASH-based activities across Funafuti, Nukufetau, Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui and Vaitupu to support drought awareness and preparedness

⁹ Epidemic control for volunteers

¹⁰ https://niwa.co.nz/sites/niwa.co.nz/files/ICU_ASO_2021.pdf published on 3 August

through anticipatory action outlined below, with the aim to collect data and continue to promote health and hygiene to the most vulnerable.

While WASH posters have been distributed as part of the COVID-19 response, the posters have focused on hygiene, such as handwashing, and the importance of clean drinking water and keeping surroundings clean. As part of drought awareness, TRCS will aim to remind people that when dealing with less water, hygiene must still be maintained by promoting handwashing alternatives, given the water challenges communities often face. The TRCS is collaborating with partners to ensure such key messages are aligned and appropriate.

As part of monitoring and evaluation, TRCS aims to conduct a lesson learned workshop to review this phase of preparedness and early action. It is aimed to inform plans, standard operating procedures and review the impact of early action taken by TRCS, and it will be used to inform next stages of early action into response if required.

Overview of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actions in country

TRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and the ICRC in implementing various programmes. During the disaster the IFRC country cluster delegation (CCD) Suva and ICRC have been working together in close coordination to provide technical support to TRCS and share information at regional and sub-regional levels. Movement coordination meetings involving TRCS, IFRC and ICRC are regularly organized.

ICRC is assisting TRCS in its media approach and coverage for COVID19 and WASH related activities and TRCS will disseminate key drought messages ensuring previous COVID19 handwashing messages for example align with a water scarce context using WHO Handwashing alternatives¹¹

IFRC is providing technical support to TRCS in related activities and potential drought response in Funafuti including developing the Emergency Plan of Action for the DREF request and coordinating with TRCS for information sharing with the Movement and external partners. The IFRC CCD in Suva and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) will work in coordination with TRCS to carry out the activities proposed in the EPoA, NDMO will be involved in logical organization as well as leading on the development of the drought SOPs at the island disaster council level, as detailed below.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis:

According to NIWA rainfall outlook for August to October, there is 91 per cent chance for below normal rainfall for Tuvalu. In addition, the Tuvalu Met Services (EARWatch) observes that various parts of Tuvalu are already at drought or drought warning levels.

Under national and local drought monitoring plans for Tuvalu and Funafuti, the government will declare a drought state of emergency if two thresholds relating to rainfall and government water reserves are met. Specifically, when cumulative rainfall recorded in the past three months is below the 10th per centile, when government water reserves are below 50 per cent and when private residential water reserves are below 30 per cent.

However, using the government's declaration as a trigger for early warning and early action (EWEA) may be challenging as data is not readily available or up to date. In anticipation of the deteriorating scenario, TRCS is therefore applying anticipatory action through the DREF for needs based and timely support to potential drought affected communities.

The national society is proactive about anticipatory action as they have experience supporting communities during a severe drought in 2011. The 2010 to 2011 drought demonstrated that government and community storages on the main island of Funafuti can be depleted in less than two weeks, as Tuvalu relies almost exclusively on captured rainfall for its drinking water, supplemented by a limited desalinated supply. Worthy of note is that Tuvalu communities and the government continued to suffer from the impacts of the drought from 2010 to 2011 for almost three years. Some of the impacts were seen as follows:

- Health impacts: due to lack of safe water, diseases spread, especially when hygiene practices are reduced and clean and safe water is unavailable for drinking and bathing. Outbreaks of diarrhoea occurred, and sickness linked to inadequate waste disposal when poorly managed contributed to increased health risks and environmental degradation.

¹¹ [WHO Handwashing alternatives](#)

- Food security issues: severe water shortages led to a loss of crops critical for food security. The land was mostly unsuitable for farming, allowing few crops to grow. The limited crops that could grow in a hostile atoll environment — such as coconut, breadfruit, bananas and pulaka¹² — wilted, became inedible or died as soils of Tuvalu do not hold moisture well and it takes less than a month for crops with shallow roots to become water-stressed. Giant swamp taro, which is a core crop for socio-cultural and food security in atoll islands and is planted in excavated pits reaching the water table, showed a high degree of stress caused by exposure to prolonged water stress and salt-coated soil left by high evaporation of water in the pulaka pits¹³. People were forced to practice negative coping mechanisms using any savings to purchase expensive imported food.
- Social impacts: Droughts also had significant socio-economic impacts, and during extreme events community gatherings were cancelled, and schools and government offices were closed.
- Livelihoods: Tuvalu's economy is dominated by subsistence farming and fishing activities, providing approximately 40 per cent of employment. Whilst Funafuti dominates the job opportunities in the public sector, almost all fishing, agriculture, and handicraft manufacturing take place on the outer islands. Agriculture practices involve the cultivation of trees and crops and raising a limited number of pigs and chickens. Crop production is primarily for subsistence, and home gardening is practiced but constrained by damage caused by roaming animals (pigs and chickens) lack of inputs and water availability¹⁴.

As the above challenges show, vulnerabilities remain for Tuvalu's atoll communities, and must be considered as dry periods occur. As such, TRCS will assess the current context during the household survey, collecting data not just on water access and usage, but more holistically on health, livelihoods and food security. This will ensure data informs any subsequent intervention by TRCS in case the drought situation worsens, that advocacy is evidence based and response options are fully needs driven.

Targeting

Estimated targeted population is based on the 2017 population census, and reach is based on the seven islands that are most affected by periods of extended dry time. It is possible for blanket coverage so full island population figures are provided.

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted

Households to be surveyed include:

Village	# Households	Male	Female	Target Population (based on 2017 census)	# Volunteers Surveying Per Village
Funafuti	955	3,451	3,160	6,611	24
Nukufetau	111	264	267	531	4
Nanumea	122	259	236	495	4
Nanumaga	118	216	168	384	4
Niutao	137	238	261	499	4
Nui	120	246	248	494	4
Vaitupu	192	568	622	1,190	8
TOTAL	1,755	5,242	4,962	10,204	52

Institutional strengthening

Institutional area	Activity	Rationale
Assessment and preparedness/awareness	Conducting of Household water Sounding of water tanks, across seven islands	There is limited data available at the household level, volunteers and community members will be trained to be able to collect water tank level information.

¹² Pulaka, or swamp taro, is a staple crop for Tuvalu, but dry conditions can heavily affect pulaka pits.

¹³ Prolonged impacts on pulaka yield worsens traditional staple diets and leads to abandonment of pulaka cultivation and associated loss of traditional knowledge atoll.

¹⁴ The development of agriculture in Tuvalu faces several fundamental issues and challenges. Among them poor soils and growing conditions, small land areas, water availability few comparative advantages, decline of outer island populations, increasing urbanization, declining interest in traditional agricultural practices, distance to export markets, and poor local market access for those who do wish to produce cash crops. Nevertheless, there is considerable scope for increasing production for local consumption and reversing recent production declines.

	Public Outreach: preparedness and awareness	TRCS also launch drought awareness messaging via IEC materials ¹⁵ , radio and TV and social media.
TRCS and Volunteer support	IFRC to provide technical support to TRCS National Society to support volunteers during drought response	Survey development is cross sectoral, support available from IFRC technical leads (climate, livelihoods, health) Volunteers who are conducting the household level drought impact assessment across seven islands with considering psychological support
TRCS and NDMO capacity building	TRCS support NDMO with development of Island level drought SOPs	NDMO lead activity, with support and expertise from TRCS DM team. IFRC will be able to provide technical advice cross sectoral (climate change, livelihoods, health) as well.

Operational and Institutional Risk Assessment

The key risks foreseen is that of TRCS volunteers and staff acquiring COVID-19 infection during the drought operation, should a community outbreak happen. The TRCS will ensure that all volunteers and staff engaged in the operation have adequate knowledge about the virus, where to access personal protective equipment as necessary and be insured. In addition, they will be re-orientated on personal protective measures, taking into consideration drought and COVID-19 response.

Risk area	Controls
The public complain about our volunteers conduct during the survey and at water distribution points	All volunteers to be used to be briefed using the SMEAC ¹⁶ briefing and to be also briefed on the Code of Conduct, Child Protection Policy and Fundamental Principles before deployment All volunteers deployed to sign the Code of Conduct. All volunteers deployed to use TRCS high visibility vests when on duty.
Negative media coverage related to handling of the response operation	Proactive communication with media and stakeholders Community engagement and accountability Thorough needs analysis, planning, prioritisation and reporting
Scaling activities in areas new to the National Society, outside technical scope	Identify red lines based on a do no harm approach and the existing technical capacity of the National Society
Social unrest and community resistance; stigma against humanitarian workers and volunteers	Gathering and analysis of community perceptions Community engagement and accountability Evidence-based action with community and media stakeholders

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective

The aim of this operation is to gather more water reserves data at household level and to continue dissemination of drought related key messaging to all households across seven islands (1,755 households) through distribution of IEC materials, and delivering an awareness campaign on Radio/TV/social media.

TRCS will also conduct a comprehensive assessment to fully understand the current and continued period of extended dry time, through a household level drought impact assessment as well as supporting NDMO and Island Disaster Committees to develop drought SOPs. This information will provide data to support TRCS in designing an intervention or response required, especially if the situation were to deteriorate.

Based on the outcome of the assessment, TRCS will identify if further early action or response activities are required and will consider support in:

- WASH: strengthen hygiene promotion, including menstrual hygiene management (MHM), community outreach to support implementation of the drought management SOPs i.e., support with water rationing plans which includes a protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) lens, and assist authorities to monitor water distribution points.

¹⁵ The information, education and communication materials are related to drought preparedness and WASH.

¹⁶ Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration, Command

- Health: strengthen health and hygiene awareness including waste management, conduct community outreach on safe drinking water awareness to reduce water borne diseases.
- Livelihood: consider options for supporting home gardening and support to fisherfolk and farmers.
- Education: schools supported to implement drought action plans.
- The second DREF allocation will be sought accordingly.

Historically, Nanumea and Nui have faced some of the worst conditions during drought periods and are selected as primary sites for conducting the operation. As Vaitupu, Nanumaga, Nui and Nukufetau are of similar geography and are surrounding islands to Nanumea, Funafuti and Nui, it is expected that they will also be facing similar situations as historically shown. Nanumea and Nui both have Tuvalu Met Office outposts which have been highly valuable in generating localized data. However, as the other island do not have such outposts or rainwater monitoring systems yet, it is important to understand the situation through direct collection of data.

Operational strategy

The operational strategy will cover various key sectors in addition to community engagement and accountability (CEA), PGI, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, human resources and security.

In order to implement the operation, TRCS will follow all required protocols required to carry out operations across Tuvalu. This includes:

- Continuing to engage with the drought committee to share information and ensure alignment;
- Organizing for NDMO to be part of the team deployed to the islands to ensure credibility and participation;
- Beginning each island intervention with a formal meeting with the island council meeting; and
- Beginning the process with a written letter to the ministry or local government and confirm endorsement and permission to complete the planned activities across Tuvalu.

As TRCS has a consistent and longstanding relationship with NDMO, TRCS will continue to coordinate with relevant departments and ensure logistical arrangements are made appropriately in a timely way.

The team will be comprised of equal numbers of male and female participants, where possible, and will seek to train and re-train groups of Red Cross volunteers that consist of male and female community members. The teams are currently developing their National Society PGI policy with the support of New Zealand Red Cross and will also adhere to IFRC PGI policies and ensure feedback mechanisms are in place during field visits. The team will begin completing activities in Funafuti, as it is the most populated island, and the assessment team aims to reach the full population i.e., all households. Two separate trips will then follow to the Northern Islands (Nanumea, Nanumanga and Nui) and Central Islands (Nui, Nukufetau and Vaitupu) which will take approximately one to three days per island, depending on the shipping schedule.

The team will follow its CEA approach in the following ways:

- Ensure an active feedback mechanism is available using the communication focal points at the branch level to Ensure feedback, especially on the awareness campaign, SOP development and the soundings training
- Ensuring the SOP development is participatory and inclusive
- Upon completion of the data collection and analysis, a validation exercise will be conducted where communities are invited to comment on findings likely online or via phone

The following activity plan has been drafted:

- KoBo data collection refresher training with Red Cross volunteers at the branch level
- Water sounding refresher training with the community,
- Community level drought impact assessment:
 - The assessment will be an initial impact assessment to identify changes and challenges currently being faced in water, health, livelihoods and hygiene.
 - For example, observed changes to basic hygiene practices, changes to food consumption or production, observations of changes to water availability, as well as general experiences and expectations related to the current situation at health clinics and schools.
 - The full survey will be developed by TRCS with the support of the IFRC CCD colleagues in health, livelihoods, climate and disaster preparedness.
 - The in-country data collection teams will be trained to use Kobo to collect the information, by using structured and semi-structured key informant interview questions and focus group discussions.
 - Survey data will be used to establish a community baseline of the impact of the current and predicted dry outlook, in order to identify any support needed.
- SOP development workshop with NDMO and the Island Disaster Committee (IDC)

Data management and collection will be administered by KoBo with paper copies being collected as a back-up. The TRCS team have experience collecting data with KoBo and will ensure all volunteers involved are able to fulfil the data collection requirements. The analysis of the data will be conducted from Funafuti, support by IFRC as required.

Phases of PMER will be undertaken as per usual TRCS processes, for such operations this will include:

- Planning a response scenario should the impact of drought intensify, based on the analysis of the assessment
- Daily team monitoring with the TRCS headquarter to ensure data quality,
- Pre post tests for all trainings to monitor learning and impact for all volunteers on all islands
- A final lesson learned workshop to not only reflect on the intervention, but also generate reflections on drought early warning early action plans, procedures and processes for the future.

The TRCS will continue to follow all safety and security procedures as per head office requirements. The National Society's security framework will be applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management will be applicable. All IFRC must, and TRCS staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Staff and volunteers to be aware of the security situation and briefed on reactions in emergency before deployment in the operational area. Regional security cell will continue with monitoring of the situation and will provide support to the delegation or National Society as requested.

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Rationale/ expected outcomes:

As part of the initial assessment, the household water sounding, community drought impact assessment (including water, sanitation, and hygiene, livelihoods and health) will collect much needed data to begin developing drought early action activities, alongside drought SOP development and delivery of the drought campaign.

The following details rationale for each activity:

- Water sounding refresher training with the community: to empower communities to monitor and manage water use at the household level, supporting informed decision making. Data available can then be used by the community supporting collective action and decision making e.g., for advocacy at the Island Disaster Committee level
- Community level drought impact assessment covering water, sanitation, and hygiene, livelihoods and health aims to gather real-time data related to current experiences of water usage and scarcity, understand rainfall projections and their impact, as well as current needs, challenges, issues in health, food security and livelihoods, how this has changed over the last six months with expectations of the coming three months. This survey is likely to reveal current hardships faced by communities in Tuvalu, however it will be critical to understand those which may be most related to the current dry situation, especially those which have worsened, and are set to continue (and are likely to cause negative coping strategies).
- The SOPs development workshop with NDMO and the Island Disaster Committees: SOP development is a long-standing need which TRCS will support NDMO to fulfil on the outer islands. Supporting the IDC to have plans and guidance will encourage predetermined action and allow enhanced preparedness for drought at the community level.

Risk analysis:

Anticipated risks include complaints about volunteer conduct and / or behaviour. All volunteers will be briefed using the situation, mission, execution, administration, command (SMEAC) briefing daily and all dispatched members must sign the Code of Conduct prior to dispatch into community. Delay of the intervention can also be caused by the delay in the boat transfers to and from the islands.

Population to be assisted:

Figures based on population census, and reach is based on the seven islands that are most affected by periods of extended dry time. It is possible for blanket coverage so full island population figures are provided.

Households to be surveyed include:

Village	# Households	Male	Female	Target Population (based on 2017 census)	# Volunteers Surveying Per Village
Funfafuti	955	3,451	3,160	6,611	24
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Water, sanitation, and hygiene

People targeted: 10,204


Male: 5,242

Female: 4,962

Requirements (CHF): 7,938

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	An estimated 10,204 people (1,755 HHs) indirectly reached with awareness campaign activities etc.															
		WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities															
Activities planned		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP029	Conduct training for TRCS volunteers on how to conduct water sounding at household level.	X															
AP029	Conduct initial sounding for all households on Funafuti in coordination with Public Works Department	X	X														
AP029	Conduct initial sounding for all households on Northern Islands (Nanumea, Nanumanga, Nui) (Nanumea, Nanumanga, Nui) (Nanumea, Nanumanga, Nui)		X	X													
AP029	Conduct initial sounding for all households on Nui and surrounding islands (Vaitupu, Nukufetau)			X	X												

AP029	Complete data collection upload with KoBo Toolbox and carry out needed analysis	X	X	X	X	X												
AP029	Conduct training for TRCS volunteers on how to conduct preliminary WASH needs assessment survey including a refresher session on KoBo Toolbox.	X																
AP029	Conduct preliminary WASH, health and livelihoods household level drought impact assessment (occurs during same community visit as water sounding activity)	X	X															
AP029	Distribute drought posters to all households across seven islands	X	X															



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 10,204
Male: 5,242
Female: 4,962
Requirements (CHF): 17,751

Needs analysis:

As Tuvalu relies almost exclusively on captured rainfall for its drinking water, water scarcity could give impact on people such as in health, food security, social impact and livelihood.

Risk analysis:

Anticipated risks include complaints about volunteer conduct and / or behaviour. All volunteers will be briefed using the SMEAC briefing daily and all dispatched members must sign the Code of Conduct prior to dispatch into community. Delay of the intervention can also be caused by the delay in the boat transfers to and from the islands.

Population to be assisted:

Figures based on population census, and reach is based on the seven islands that are most affected by periods of extended dry time. It is possible for blanket coverage so full island population figures are provided.

P&B Output Code	DRR Outcome 1: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster						<i>An estimated 10,204 people (1,755 HHs) indirectly reached with awareness campaign activities.</i>														
	DRR Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.						<i>7 villages reached with awareness campaign activities (radio, TV, social media etc.) 6 SOPs developed with participation and feedback from the community (CEA)</i>														
	Activities planned Week						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

AP001	Conduct one hour recorded show on Radio Tuvalu and Tuvalu TV to update the public on drought preparedness and to answer possible queries from the public.		X															
AP001	Play key hygiene-related drought awareness messaging on Radio Tuvalu or Tuvalu TV (30 second drought messaging).	X	X	X														
AP001	Publish key drought awareness messaging on TRCS' Facebook page.	X	X	X														
AP084	Draft six island level drought SOPs (linked to WASH) through inclusive CEA approaches.		X	X	X													

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 4,467

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform	<i>An insurance framework for national staff and volunteers with active provider/s</i>															
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	<i>100% of mobilized volunteers are insured</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured	X	X	X	X												
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.	<i>At least 2 lessons learned findings are actionable and can result in changes at the National Society, local, national or international level</i>															
	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.	<i>1 lesson learned workshop report produced</i>															
	Activities planned We	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP058	Conduct lessons learnt workshops									X							

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

*all amounts in Swiss
Francs (CHF)*

DREF OPERATION

MDRTV002 TUVALU: DROUGHT

2021/08/20

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
National Society Staff	2,133
Volunteers	16,016
Personnel	18,149
Workshops & Training	2,054
Workshops & Training	2,054
Information & Public Relations	7,275
Office Costs	178
Other General Expenses	658
General Expenditure	8,112
DIRECT COSTS	28,315
INDIRECT COSTS	1,840
TOTAL BUDGET	30,155

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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.