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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Vanuatu: Tropical Cyclone Donna



DREF Operation n° MDRVU004	Glide n° TC-2017-000045-VUT
Date of issue: 19 May 2017	Date of disaster: 5 May 2017
Manager responsible for this operation: Daniell Cowley, partnerships and resource development coordinator, IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) Suva	Point of contact: Jacqueline de Gaillande, CEO Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 3 May 2017	Operation end date: 31 August 2017
Overall operation budget: CHF 55,934	Expected timeframe: 4 months
Number of people affected: 10,290	Number of people to be assisted: 1,006
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is one of the leading humanitarian actors in Vanuatu. It has its headquarters in Port Vila, Shefa province, and works through six branches in the provinces of Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, Shefa and Tafea where six pre-positioned depots are also located. VRCS has 43 staff and 508 active volunteers, 87 of which are Emergency Response Team (ERT) trained. Directly involved in this operation are: 8 staff, 30 volunteers, 10 disaster committee members, and 6 international delegates. In addition, the branch in Sanma (closest to Torba) has been activated and has a pre-positioned depot with sufficient stock to cater for 300 households.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): VRCS is working with the following RCRC partners: Australian Red Cross; French Red Cross; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Country Cluster Support Team – Pacific, and IFRC as the co-lead of the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster; and the New Zealand Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu through the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (National EOC) and has been coordinating the response. The Joint Police Operations Centre (JPOC) has also been activated and the Vanuatu Police Force and Vanuatu Mobile Force on standby to support operations. Provincial Governments have activated their respective Provincial Disaster Committees.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 2 May 2017, the Fiji Meteorological Service provided an early alert for a tropical disturbance (TD21F) forming to the north of Vanuatu. Over the ensuing 24 hours TD21F continued to strengthen and by midnight on 3 May 2017 had developed into Tropical Cyclone Donna (TC Donna), a Category 1 system. Moving in a westerly direction, TC Donna passed north of the Vanuatu group as a Category 3 cyclone within 50-100km of the Torres Islands in Torba Province.

The system continued west before turning south and passing to the west of Sanma, Malampa and Shefa Provinces. TC Donna was later classified as a Category 5 cyclone by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department as it tracked southwards towards New Caledonia sustaining wind speeds of over 215km/hr. The NDMO issued an all clear on 9 May 2017. TC Donna continued towards New Caledonia and was downgraded to a Tropical Low on 11 May 2017.

The main impact of TC Donna has been felt in the Torba Province, especially the Torres Island group which has an estimated population of 1,022 and comprises the islands of Hiu, Metoma (an uninhabited islet), Tegua, Ngwel (an uninhabited islet), Linua, Loh and Toga. In Situation Report 02 issued on 5 May 2017, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu NDMO reported a Red Alert in place for Torba province with destructive winds and flash flooding. The cyclone knocked out the Torres island group's only cellphone tower and caused widespread damage. On 6 May 2017, the NDMO contacted the islands, using the Torres Islands Red Cross VHF radio, and established that while there were no reported injuries, there had been widespread destruction of buildings and crops.

Situation Report 03 of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu NDMO issued on 6 May 2017 reported a significant number of houses destroyed and the majority of houses damaged across the islands of Torres. There has also been damage to schools, churches, water tanks and water sources. Most toilets have been destroyed and crops have been damaged. Authorities in the Torres Islands reported that there was enough food to last for approximately two weeks, however water sources were contaminated.

The cyclone has also caused damage in the more populated Banks group of islands (also within the Torba Province), with strong winds and localised flooding reported, causing destruction of crops.

A shelter cluster team assessment report, dated 14 May 2017, identifies the total number of households in Torres to be 190 (population: 1,006). Based on the advice and experience of VRCS in the region, VRCS proposes that, for the purposes of planning the NFI distribution and to enable flexibility within the response, this figure be rounded to 200 households.

During TC Donna, 60 evacuation centres were activated across Vanuatu, sheltering around 2,700 people. These evacuation facilities included schools, churches, caves, private houses, community buildings and other public buildings which were identified pre-disaster. All evacuees have since left the evacuation centres and returned to their homes as of 11 May 2017.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

Following its experience of Cyclone Pam in 2014, VRCS has made significant investment in developing its capacity and experience in disaster response. Almost 100 volunteers have received emergency response training and stocks of emergency relief supplies are pre-positioned in six depots/warehouses throughout the country. In its recovery operation following Cyclone Pam, VRCS focused on building the resilience of local communities to be better prepared to face future disasters. This included establishing and training community disaster committees.

VRCS has been well prepared for TC Donna. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated on 3 May 2017 and a DMIS entry posted on 4 May 2017. Upon confirmation of the development of TC Donna, staff and volunteers in national headquarters and branches were placed on high alert to prepare for the storm and support the evacuation of vulnerable communities as required. A total 300 volunteers were on standby to respond to TC Donna many of whom are trained ERT members.

In addition, VRCS is a key actor in the government's disaster response plans and together with in-country Movement partners has been sharing information and coordinating closely with the national disaster management authorities. VRCS updated NDMO on its capacity for emergency response such as the distribution of non-food items (NFI), provision of services through VRCS volunteers and a water treatment unit available for water distribution. A list of ERT trained volunteers was also shared with the NDMO. Further to this, representatives of VRCS have attended different inter-agency meetings organized by the NDMO including those of the WASH, health, logistics and shelter clusters and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team. Partners' coordination meetings have also been convened by VRCS with the Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross. In its efforts to engage with other partners, VRCS shared its organigram for the EOC and has been updating the VRCS Website and Facebook pages daily.

Throughout the disaster, VRCS has monitored the cyclone in close collaboration with the NDMO and the collection of data from the field has been coordinated by the NDMO through its extensive network of volunteers in communities, the Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs), which VRCS have been training in Torba Province since 2010. Volunteers from eight CDCCCs supported the rapid assessments. VRCS has also been in regular contact with the IFRC Pacific CCST Disaster Risk Management Unit in Suva, Fiji.

Since the onset of the disaster, NDMO alerts have been relayed to VRCS branches in all six provinces, particularly Torba, so that the information could reach the most remote communities. The VRCS Branch in Tanna mobilized volunteers for a briefing on how to conduct a first community disaster assessment and complete the associated form while a VRCS team worked with local authorities to clean the water tanks at six evacuation centres on Efate (including three in Port Vila), adding chlorine to the water to make it safe to drink.

In addition, the VRCS EOC has been in close contact with the Disaster Operations Centre at the NDMO, and other Ministries through sector clusters coordinated by the NDMO (e.g. WASH, Health, Shelter, Logistics). VRCS has coordinated its response with the Torba Provincial Emergency Operations Centre chaired by the Secretary General for Torba Province, and at a stakeholder coordination meeting convened by the NDMO to develop assessment and distribution plans, stakeholders agreed that all distribution activities should be channelled through VRCS.

Following discussion and meetings with the NDMO, it was also confirmed that VRCS will support the government with the assessments in Torba Province given that VRCS has a local presence and capacity in the form of 15 ERT trained volunteers. An assessment team consisting of 8 representatives from the NDMO, Vanuatu Police Force, VRCS, Gender & Protection Cluster, Food Security Cluster, Shelter Cluster and Water Sanitation Hygiene Cluster departed for Santo and Torba Provinces on 12 May 2017 to undertake these assessments.

On 12 May 2017, the VRCS assessment team travelled to Torres and as at 15 May 2017 had distributed 175 water containers and 395 handwashing and bathing soaps to the affected communities. Hygiene promotion materials were also taken to conduct promote hygiene awareness in the communities. The Torres Community Disaster Committee of 10 members who are also VRCS volunteers were part of the distribution team on each island and were trained by two VRCS staff on the ground to carry out the hygiene promotion activities.

On 16 May 2017, the following relief items were dispatched by chartered boat from Port Vila:

Item	Quantity
Shelter toolkits	175
Tarpaulins	175
Hygiene kits	180
Jerry cans (20L)	100

The remaining NFIs have been prepared and are expected to be dispatched from Port Vila in the week commencing 22 May 2017.

In summary, VRCS aims to assist a total of 200 households in the Torres group through the distribution of:

Item	Quantity per HH	Total for distribution
Shelter toolkits	1	200
Kitchen sets	1	200
Hygiene kits	1	200
Tarpaulin	2	400
Blankets	2	400
Jerry cans (10L)	2	400
Jerry cans (20L)	1	100
Sleeping mats	2	400

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

VRCS works with IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through their regional structures, as well as with VRCS' in-country partner French Red Cross (FRC) with whom VRCS have a long-term engagement in Torba.

Movement Coordination

VRCS have held partners' coordination meetings with the Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross. IFRC will continue to provide support to VRCS on coordination relating to this DREF operation with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Vanuatu NDMO is coordinating the response and activated the National EOC during TC Donna on a 24/7 basis. The coordination has consisted of all key humanitarian actors including the Joint Police Operation Centre where required. The Vanuatu Police Force and Vanuatu Mobile Force have also been on standby to support operations, and Provincial Disaster Committees were activated by their respective Provincial Governments.

All Vanuatu humanitarian coordination groups ('clusters') were activated, and individually met for initial preparedness briefings (Logistics, Telecommunications, Food Security, Health, Education, Shelter, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). Provincial Emergency Operations Centres in Torba, Penama, Sanma and Malampa were also activated in coordination with the National EOC. For the initial assessment and response to the Torres Islands, the following coordination hierarchy was put in place:

1. National Emergency Operations Centre, Port Vila;
2. Secondary hub at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre in Luganville, Santo;
3. Onsite Coordination Centre, Loh Island, Torres.

Inter-agency meetings were held on 3 and 4 May, which included a briefing to actors and partners on the current situation and preparedness plans to ensure a coordinated effort towards the response. The NDMO indicated that in the case of

an emergency, the response to TC Donna would be Government led. The Government would continue to monitor the situation and review any need to request international support.

The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) also activated their preparedness plan and identified staff available for possible deployments in the initial days of the disaster. The PHT team were requested to get in contact with local partners, cluster leads and line Ministries, and reviewed the draft Country Preparedness Package for Vanuatu to ensure preparedness levels.

Following the passing of TC Donna and with support from France, Australia and New Zealand (FRANZ), the NDMO arranged the following flights which departed Port Vila on 12 May 2017 to support response & relief activities:

- A reconnaissance flight of Santo (Sanma Province) and Malakula (Malampa Province).
- An outbound flight for the assessment team to undertake assessments and gather information in Santo and Torres over a 3-day period (12-15 May 2017).
- A relief supply flight consisting of jerry cans, seeds, shelter kits, petrol and oil to be delivered to Torres and distributed by the WASH team with the Area Secretary Council. A helicopter was also arranged to assist with the transportation of personnel and relief supplies to the surrounding islands.
- An incoming flight for the returning assessment team members which transported further relief supplies (tents for schools, educational materials and fishing gear) to Torres on the outbound leg.

Information obtained by the assessment team will be used by the NDMO to draft a 'phase 2' relief plan. This plan is expected to be presented to clusters and partner agencies at an inter-agency meeting on 16 May 2017. The plan will outline the support/relief supplies needed so that clusters and partner agencies can consider how they can help.

In the interim, clusters are continuing to make initial remote assessments, prepare response plans and gather information on the resources available for response. Further to this, the NDMO is considering the need for a long-term recovery plan for community infrastructures (such as schools) damaged during TC Donna.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

To date, there have not been any official disaster assessment reports released. However, initial rapid assessments relayed from provincial representatives and Branch volunteers working closely with disaster committees in the affected provinces indicate approximately 200 affected households requiring assistance in the Torres group. These figures are expected to be clarified in the coming days based on assessment data and mission reports compiled from assessments undertaken over 12-14 May 2017 by deployed inter-agency assessment teams comprising representatives of the NDMO and VRCS. From the shelter perspective, beneficiaries will be selected in accordance with the level of damage to their households. Other vulnerabilities will also be considered once the assessment data has been fully analysed and released.

Risk Assessment

The primary risk to the operation is the remote location of the Torres Islands and potential for adverse weather conditions to affect the:

- ability of the assessment teams to reach all locations, collect and verify actual needs assessment data;
- timely distribution of NFIs to the affected households and communities.

VRCS is taking steps to mitigate these risks, including:

- Working through pre-established disaster committees that VRCS has been training for over 10 years;
- Maintaining close coordination with local authorities to facilitate a good communication flow.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The objective of the DREF operation is two-fold:

1. To assist the most affected population of the Northern Islands of Vanuatu with:
 - a blanket distribution of basic shelter and WASH NFIs;
 - the provision of clean, safe water.
2. To replenish NFIs distributed in the response in preparation for any future disaster response.

Proposed strategy

To achieve this objective VRCS proposes to:

- Conduct a detailed needs assessment and analysis of the damage to households and water infrastructure in the affected communities;
- Distribute NFIs to the most affected population of the Torres Islands group in the Torba Province.

The remote location of the Torres Islands and adverse weather conditions in the wake of TC Donna has hindered the ability of the assessment teams to access and undertake detailed assessments to confirm overall needs in the affected communities of the Torres Islands. For this reason, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu has used this time to organise resources available to be deployed based on preliminary rapid assessment data.

A stakeholder coordination meeting attended by representatives from all clusters was convened by the NDMO to develop assessment and distribution plans as TC Donna passed through the Torba Province. Stakeholders agreed to channel distribution activities through VRCS and identified the following contributions to be provided to the affected populations:

Organisation	Contribution to disaster
UNICEF	Water purification tablets (6000 pieces)
VRCS	Jerry can 10 L (1 per household)
VRCS	Soap (2 per household – purchased locally by VRCS)
VRCS	Shelter relief items (refer shelter and settlements section)
VRCS	Hygiene kit and hygiene promotion posters (6 x20)
GOVERNMENT through FOOD SEC CLUSTER	Seeds (180 packs)
GOVERNMENT through FOOD SEC CLUSTER	Fishing strings
GOVERNMENT funded by DFAT ¹	Plane
GOVERNMENT funded by DFAT	Helicopter
GOVERNMENT funded by DFAT	Charter
<i>Paid by each partner</i>	<i>Operational cost for mission (DSA², Accommodation etc.)</i>

From this coordination meeting, it was determined that the response mission would be organized in two phases:

Phase 1 – Rapid assessment and WASH intervention

A team composed of 1 WASH Officer (VRCS), 1 staff member from the Ministry of Water (MoW), the Provincial Liaison Officer (NDMO), 1 staff member of the Public Works Department (Shelter Cluster Lead), a member of the Food Security Cluster, a Distribution Officer (VRCS) would travel from Port-Vila to Loh Island (Torres) by aeroplane departing Friday 12 May and, with the help of the Torres Area Council Secretary (ACS), undertake a rapid assessment over a period of 3 days.

The WASH team composed of the VRCS WASH Officer and a representative from MoW, supported by the ACS, would conduct assessments by helicopter and ensure the availability of a safe water supply in each of the four main Torres Islands. In addition, the WASH team would organize the distribution of water tablets, jerry cans and soap as well as conduct assessments and pass on key hygiene messages (e.g. boiling water, hand washing etc.).

During this deployment, the NDMO Provincial Liaison Officer and the VRCS Distribution Officer would stay in Torres and prepare the grounds for distribution.

Phase 2 - Distribution

A team composed of a Distribution Coordinator (VRCS) paired with the NDMO Officer, a Hygiene Promotion Officer (VRCS), a Shelter Awareness Officer (VRCS), Wash specialists from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

¹ Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

² Daily subsistence allowance

(MoLNR), a Communication Officer (FRC) and 2 volunteers from VRCS would go to Torres by plane (Port-Vila - Santo) and charter boat (Santo - Torres) to organize the distribution of NFIs and conduct hygiene and shelter awareness activities.

All response activities would be closely implemented with, and facilitated by, volunteers from the VRCS trained CDCCs, local authorities (ACS), and communities.

Operational support services

Human resources

Technical experts from the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, VRCS and the Clusters will be mobilized to provide support and expertise during the response mission. The following team was identified for the first mission:

- 1 NDMO Coordination Officer, 2 VRCS Staff (WASH and Assessment), 1 Agricultural expert from the Food Security Cluster, 1 WASH expert from the Ministry of Land & Natural Resources, and 1 expert from the Gender & Protection Cluster;

In addition:

- 30 volunteers from the Torba Province and 10 Disaster Committee members are assisting the implementation of this Plan of Action;
- 1 Communications Manager from IFRC CCST Pacific Suva was deployed for a one-week period to assist with coordination;
- Support with the planning and implementation of WASH initiatives has been provided by the French Red Cross.
- The IFRC CCST Pacific Shelter Officer was deployed for a four-day mission to assist with shelter cluster coordination and will remain available to support the completion of in-country shelter activities.

These supports have been coordinated by the IFRC office in Suva in close collaboration and communication with VRCS. 6 Australian Red Cross (ARC) delegates and 1 New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) delegate were also in-country during TC Donna and provided support with early interventions, shelter cluster coordination and activation.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including, procurement, customs clearance, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

Affected community locations in the Torres group are difficult to access with irregular sea-shipping services and small airstrips and airplanes reaching only a few islands. Typically, local fiberglass 'banana boats' are used between the islands within the groups with limited carrying capacity and frequently turbulent seas. There are no roads in the Torres Islands and very limited logistics infrastructure available. However, VRCS is working closely with the Vanuatu Logistics Cluster to identify the best solutions to reach and support affected communities. A range of options for the transportation of NFIs from Santo to Torres are being explored, including the Vanuatu Government chartering a cargo ship, along with other National Logistics Cluster members.

VRCS has NFIs stored in a newly built warehouse in Santo, that was officially opened earlier this year under the TC Pam operation. The NFIs in the Santo warehouse have been identified as the most logical to reach affected communities in Torres and have been prioritized by the Logistics Cluster and VRCS for first dispatch. VRCS also has a small number of NFIs stored in Sola, Vanua Lava islands in the Banks Island group that can be accessed. Both the Santo and Sola storage sites can be supplemented and restocked from VRCS NFI stores in the capital, Port Vila. VRCS preference is to replace distributed NFIs from IFRC through the Asia-Pacific Regional Logistics Unit (RLU). It is estimated that sea freight from the IFRC Asia-Pacific warehouse in Kuala Lumpur (KL) to Port Vila will take 45-55 days on sea (port to port). The Kuala Lumpur warehouse has all items identified available for immediate dispatch, except for sleeping mats, which VRCS will procure locally.

VRCS have a small logistics team and logistics volunteers – who were trained during the TC Pam operation by the IFRC Logistics delegate – and can provide administrative and logistics support to the operation. Further during the TC Pam operation, the IFRC warehouse management software Logic was implemented and is currently in use for supply chain management within the VRCS logistics system. VRCS logisticians in Port Vila will oversee local freighting, customs clearances for international replenishments and the local procurement of goods and services in line with VRCS procurement practices.

The IFRC Logistics Delegate based in the CCST Pacific office in Suva will assist and advise VRCS, supported by the Asia-Pacific RLU in Kuala Lumpur.

Information technologies (IT)

During TC Donna, access to the most affected areas was disrupted and communication by phone was the only means of receiving rapid assessment reports from the affected island groups. Phone calls to and from the IFRC office in Suva were also required for support.

Communications

To provide in-country support to VRCS, the IFRC CCST Pacific Communications Manager based in Suva was deployed for a one-week period to work with the VRCS Communications team and assist media and communications coordination. Through the work of the Communications team, talking points were prepared to guide the interviews and consistency of messages shared with international and local media.

VRCS has used social media to provide updates on the weather and disaster response for general viewers and followers of the [VRCS Facebook page](#). The [VRCS website](#) has also been used to update the public on the actions taken by the VRCS teams and disseminate important preparedness messages.

Security

There are no security issues identified in respect of this response.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The respective divisions of the VRCS headquarters in Port Vila, such as disaster risk management, WASH, accounting and management, will guide and monitor the Plan of Action. Support for communications and coordination will continue to be provided by the IFRC CCST Pacific's DRM Manager.

Reporting on the emergency plan of action will be carried out according to IFRC minimum standards. Monitoring visits to the affected communities and interviews with beneficiaries, volunteers and others participating in the response will also be conducted to assess progress at regular intervals and guide any required adjustments to the proposed response. At the conclusion of the operation a lessons learned workshop will be carried out by VRCS staff, volunteer and relevant stakeholders.

Administration and Finance

VRCS headquarters has a finance team that will support the logistician/administrator in the field with all activities necessary to ensure the proper use of resource. The logistician/administrator will coordinate with the Operations Manager for any expenditure or purchase that takes place during the operation, and resources will be utilized in accordance with standard VRCS and DREF guidelines and procedures. A Finance Officer from the IFRC CCST Pacific will also be made available to visit during the timeframe of the DREF and assist with monitoring and resolving any financial issues.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis:

While overall needs are still to be confirmed by assessment teams deployed to the field on 12 May 2017, preliminary reports state that there has been substantial damage to water supplies in the Torba Province and that WASH and Health assistance is a priority. Water sources are contaminated and the quantity is scarce to cater for the affected population. A gravity-fed system on Hui Island has been destroyed and people are relying on water from the tank and an underground well which have also been contaminated.

Torres Island sanitation facilities have been destroyed posing a high risk for water-borne and vector-borne diseases. The WASH cluster is assessing these risks and will determine how to respond.

Population to be assisted:

The VRCS team in collaboration with local authorities has cleaned the water tanks at six evacuation centres on Efate, including three in Port Vila, and has added chlorine to the water to make it safe to drink. The priority for WASH assistance however, is in the Torba Province. Accordingly, VRCS proposes to target 200 HH in Torres for:

- Access to safe drinking water and WASH NFIs;
- Hygiene promotion.

Outcome 1: Adverse effects on the health of the affected population are reduced through access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion activities													
Indicator 1: No of persons that have received hygiene promotion and health messages													
Indicator 2: No. of HH assisted through the distribution of WASH NFIs													
Output 1.1: Hygiene promotions have been conducted in target HH and communities in coordination with the MoH.													
Indicator 1: No. of people served by comprehensive hygiene promotion in affected areas													
Indicator 2: No. of HH reached through hygiene promotion (at least one family member has participated in hygiene promotion activities)													
Indicator 3: No. of HH benefitting from IEC activities													
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Printing of VRCS WASH IEC materials								X	X				
Distribution of VRCS WASH IEC materials (integrated with NFI distribution)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Output 1.2: Contaminated water sources are tested and treated													
Indicator 1: No of water sources treated													
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Treatment of rainwater tanks for safe drinking water		X	X	X	X								
Water source testing		X	X	X									
Outcome 1.3: Affected HH have access to WASH NFIs													
Indicator 1: No of HH with access to WASH NFIs													
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Distribution of WASH NFIs to target HH				X	X	X							

In summary, WASH priorities in the Plan of Action include the:

- Rapid assessment of damages caused by TC Donna;
- Treatment of rainwater tanks with chlorine (completed in 6 evacuation centres of Efate, Port Vila during TC Donna);
- Completion of water quality tests including the preparation of a Bill of Quantities (BoQ) for the NDMO;
- Distribution of water tablets, soap and Jerry cans (10L and 20L);
- Provision of hygiene awareness messaging and access to WASH NFIs in the affected communities.

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Needs assessment:

Initial damage assessment data prepared by VRCS on 17 May 2017 indicates that a total of 177 houses in Torres have been damaged or destroyed as a result of TC Donna. The following table was compiled by the Area Council Secretary for Torres with the assistance of VRCS staff and volunteers:

Island	Total # of HH	# of houses damaged	# of houses destroyed
Hiu	50	24	26
Toga	65	47	18
Tegua	19	13	6
Loh	41	25	16
Metoma	2	1	1
Total	177	110	67

Population to be assisted:

In accordance with the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster Response Plan for TC Donna, 9 May 2017, drafted following the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster meeting on that same day:

- VRCS has agreed to carry out the first round of distributions of shelter NFIs to affected families in the Torres Islands.
- Considering that the VRCS assessment indicates that 177 sleeping houses sustained either total or partial damage, and that TC Donna passed relatively close to the Torres Islands group, the Shelter Cluster has recommended carrying out a blanket distribution (distribution to 100% of the population), of shelter NFIs. This recommendation also considers the remoteness of the islands, the high cost of transportation, and ineffectiveness of emergency shelter NFIs if they are received too late, i.e.: if delivered during a second-round of distributions due to needs not being met during the first round of distributions. Considering the challenges and high cost associated with transporting tools and materials, (which are considerably larger challenges for communities in the Torres Islands even during peacetime), blanket coverage during the first distribution would be of significant benefit to the community.

In line with Sphere standards, it is proposed to provide one shelter tool kit and 2 tarpaulins to families with damaged and destroyed houses which will allow them to achieve a minimum covered area of 3.5m² per person.

In addition, it is anticipated to distribute kitchen sets to up to 200 households in Torres Islands.

To ensure that the proposed shelter NFIs will be appropriate for the affected communities, two sample shelter tool kits, tarpaulins and kitchen kits were sent with the first assessment team for discussion with affected communities.

The distribution of additional shelter NFIs to other islands in the Torba Province, or in northern Santo will be decided only after receiving and analysing further assessment information.

Cluster partners other than Red Cross presently have 1,250 shelter tool kits in stock in Port Vila. In total, partners have 4,500 tarpaulins; 2,000 kitchen sets and 10,000 blankets pre-positioned in country.

Outcome 1: Communities affected by TC Donna are supported to restore their homes through an owner-driven early recovery approach													
Indicator 1: No. of communities supported with shelter NFIs which contribute to owner-driven early recovery													
Output 1.1: Emergency shelter assistance (including NFIs and awareness on recommended usage) which promotes early recovery shelter activities is provided for up to 200 of the most vulnerable TC Donna-affected households in the Torres Islands within the next 3 months													
Indicator 1: No. of households assisted with shelter NFIs which promotes early recovery (toolkits and other NFIs)													
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Conduct inter-sectoral rapid assessment in Torres, coordinated with cluster leads and the Torres Area Council Secretary		x	x										
Analyse assessment data and select beneficiaries based on needs, capacities and vulnerabilities			x										
Establish distribution plan (distribution team) and coordinate shipping of shelter NFIs to affected areas			x	x	x								
Provide awareness sessions at distribution sites (before distribution) on recommended usage of shelter NFIs				x	x								
Carry out distributions of shelter NFIs with the support of VRCS and NDMO volunteers				x	x	x							
Replenishment of shelter NFIs							x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Coordination of the Vanuatu Shelter Cluster:

A member of the IFRC CCST Pacific shelter team has deployed to Vanuatu from 14-18 May 2017 to support Shelter Cluster Lead Public Works Department and partners including VRCS with the coordination of the shelter cluster.

Budget

DREF OPERATION

19/05/2017

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Budget Group	DREF grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	12,173
Clothing & Textiles	6,062
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3,474
Teaching Materials	1,379
Ustensils & Tools	6,904
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	29,992
Storage, Warehousing	1,011
Distribution & Monitoring	6,387
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,757
Logistics Services	1,608
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,763
National Society Staff	2,091
Volunteers	597
Total PERSONNEL	2,688
Travel	7,113
Information & Public Relations	460
Office Costs	505
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,078
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	3,414
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,414
TOTAL BUDGET	55,934

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 (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.**