Across the Pacific, Red Cross National Societies are recognised and respected humanitarian responders, and as auxiliary to their governments, they provide key support in health, youth, and disaster risk reduction and response for the most vulnerable.

The Pacific region faces increasing risk from disasters and a changing climate, featuring 4 of 15 of countries in the world that are most at-risk to disasters. With communities living across vast, isolated, and hard-to-reach islands, ensuring that the Pacific Red Cross Societies have a continued localised approach and strong volunteer network within communities is a must. The common strength of Pacific National Societies is that they work with communities through their wide-reaching and diverse networks of Red Cross volunteers. However, beyond this, their needs are very diverse and therefore require a certain level of tailor-made support.

For 2020, the areas of priority include national societies legal base, governance, financial sustainability, accountability and transparency, its youth and volunteer base together with the core services. These services include community and commercial first aid, voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, and early actions by communities from early warnings for disasters.

IFRC will continue to represent the Red Cross and civil society on the Pacific Resilience Partnership taskforce to guide the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). IFRC’s role will help to bridge the gap between regional policy and remote communities in the Pacific.

Movement partners active in the Pacific include the Australian Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, American Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, French Red Cross, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). ICRC operates in the region out of Fiji with cooperation in the areas of communication, governance support, and RFL in addition to other traditional ICRC activities.
Addressing disaster and climate change vulnerability

The Pacific is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, facing the social, economic, and environmental impacts of tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, and drought. The impacts of climate change are also being felt, in particular through an increased frequency and intensity of weather-related disasters and rising sea levels.

These small island states face other common challenges including health-related issues, particularly noncommunicable diseases, and very young populations coupled with high unemployment and lack of opportunities.

AREAS OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 200,000

We will support Pacific National Societies both to be better positioned and to take action on building community resilience, including through early warning early action, as well as to have a greater community impact through scaled-up evidence-based climate-smart DRR programmes.

- 2,000 people reached through DRR and community resilience programmes
- 15 Community Disaster Risk Management Committees are established

SHELTER
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 260,000

Red Cross National Societies remain the largest providers of humanitarian shelter assistance in the Pacific region and in 2020 the focus is on supporting community-level responders in high-risk countries in preparing for and responding to emergencies through tailored, context-specific training packages and tools.

- 5,000 people benefit from safe and adequate shelter and settlements
- 1,000 households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance

HEALTH
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 490,000

We will focus on enhancing and extending community-based health and first aid activities, with an emphasis on noncommunicable disease prevention and control and maternal health.

- 17,500 people reached by services to reduce their health risk factors
- 110 community first aid trainings facilitated

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 6,000

Access to safe and secure water and improved sanitation remains an ongoing challenge for many communities across the Pacific region. We will be supporting the roll-out of low-cost, low-tech activities to promote safe and wise water use and basic hygiene, in particular household water storage and treatment.

- 12,000 households reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene

PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 60,000

Strengthening National Society awareness on protection, gender, and inclusion and the systematic adoption of the IFRC minimum standards in disaster preparedness and response.

- 40% of National Societies have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policies

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 1,570,000

An emphasis on supporting legal base and governance development, youth volunteer-led actions, strengthening branches, financial sustainability, widening partnerships, and strategic planning and reporting.

- All Pacific volunteers covered by insurance
- All Pacific National Societies have youth representation in their governance

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 510,000

As convener of the Pacific Shelter Cluster and part of the Pacific Humanitarian Team we will continue to provide leadership and support during times of emergency preparedness and response. We will also continue to support pre-cyclone season preparedness activities and surge optimisation.

- Six national shelter clusters received relevant preparedness and capacity building activities

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 540,000

Our focus is to support National Societies to engage and influence decision-makers and opinion leaders in areas of state-of-the-art disaster and climate-related legislation, policies, and procedures at local, national, and regional levels.

- 11 National Societies have a 50% increase in domestic fundraising compared to 2019
- 3 relevant policy documents adopted by government including elements influenced by National Societies and IFRC

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 550,000

The ability to implement this plan and budget depends on an effective IFRC, which is seen as relevant and credible, and representing and working towards the collective interests as well as providing relevant valued services to the membership.

CONTACTS

For more information on the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies In-country, please contact:

Kathryn Clarkson, Head of IFRC Pacific CCST
PO Box 2507 Government Buildings
Kathryn.clarkson@ifrc.org
Suva, Fiji
Ph: +679 331 1855 | Mobile: +679 999 2485
Fax: +679 331 1406

Statistics

- 4 of the 10 countries in the world most at risk of natural disasters are in the Pacific
- 30% of people in Fiji have been diagnosed with diabetes
- 25% of people in the Pacific live below their national poverty line
- 68% of women in Kiribati have experienced violence in their lifetime