Summary
This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of some CHF 3.9 million on a preliminary basis to enable the IFRC to support the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) to deliver assistance and support to some 60,000 people (10,000 households). The operation focuses on the sectors of assessments and coordination, relief, shelter and settlements, water and sanitation, emergency health and restoring family links. The overall budget includes CHF 1.69 million for the deployment of emergency response units (ERUs) and a shelter cluster coordination team. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this point of the evolving operation, and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments.

The detailed Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) will be made available soon.

The disaster and the response to date

11 March 2015: Tropical Cyclone Pam moving in the South Pacific Ocean east of Solomon Islands, heading south towards the east of Vanuatu. In preparation, the VRCS completed an inventory of its preparedness stocks and alerted emergency response team (ERT) volunteers. VRCS participated in Cluster Coordination Meetings with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office.


14 March: The VRCS team undertook an ocular survey around Port Vila to assess the immediate impact and the status of evacuation centres. They also assisted in the registration of people sheltered in the centres and distributed basic relief supplies.

15 March: IFRC Pacific Regional Office (PRO) organized a teleconference for Movement partners present in the region, to better coordinate the response. IFRC FACT and ERU deployed.

16 March: A DREF Update issued. An Emergency Appeal launched for CHF 3.9 million.
The operational strategy

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection
Based on the information that has emerged so far, the humanitarian needs wrought by Tropical Cyclone Pam are massive. They cover all sectors including relief, shelter, emergency health, water and sanitation and livelihoods. Shelter is clearly a priority as thousands of families have been displaced after their houses were damaged or destroyed. A detailed needs assessment will be undertaken by VRCS with support of IFRC's FACT. The assessments will inform the revision of this plan and appeal.

Risk assessment
Most roads are flooded or blocked by debris. Teouma bridge has been badly damaged and affected by a flash flood, blocking access to the most affected areas of Efate province. Estimated 80% of power lines are down throughout Port Vila and may not be fully restored until a few weeks with only one cellular communications tower remains operational. This could hamper the humanitarian response and information sharing.

Logistical challenges could delay efforts to meet the needs of affected populations, especially those living on remote and faraway islands. The logistical challenges will be significant, particularly in terms of communications, transportation, and needs assessment. More emergency supplies are needed urgently as the pre-positioned stocks in-country are likely to have been damaged.

Selection of beneficiaries
The prioritized beneficiaries include the sick and people with special needs, the elderly, female headed households and women and children that are the most vulnerable categories during disasters. These groups will be considered according to level of impact and more priority will be given to those who have lost their houses.

Further assessments will identify others who are vulnerable in this particular context, especially when taking coping mechanisms, socio-economic status and geographically remoteness into account.

Operational strategy
The operation focuses on the sectors of assessments and coordination, relief, shelter and settlements, water and sanitation, emergency health and restoring family links. Please see the sections below for the specific details.

Proposed sectors of intervention

Coordination and partnerships
The Vanuatu Red Cross Society is leading the Movement’s coordination with the government and other actors.

The IFRC is coordinating the Movement’s international assistance in close liaison with the leadership of VNRC. An IFRC Country Team leader has been appointed to support VRCS with the management of all IFRC’s international support and global response mechanisms. A five-person Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) has been deployed to complement the regionally deployed assets. IFRC is actively participating in meetings of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). IFRC’s shelter cluster coordinator is supporting the authorities in the coordination of the overall emergency shelter response and providing technical advice to all shelter actors including VRCS.

The IFRC PRO is maintaining close coordination with UNOCHA and other regional partners based in Suva, Fiji. It is also responding to humanitarian needs in Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands in coordination with affected national societies and national societies of Fiji, Samoa, Australia and New Zealand. VRCS and IFRC are coordinating with the ICRC with regard to providing services for restoring family links (RFL).

In order to fulfil the IFRC’s commitment to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee cluster mechanism, the IFRC has made a provision for the deployment of a Shelter Coordination Team. In this regard, IFRC has initiated dialogue with a number of Global Shelter Cluster partners in preparation for the deployment of a Shelter Cluster assessment team should a request come in the coming hours/days, as well as the deployment of additional technical capacity as required. Even though it will be supported via this appeal, the Shelter Coordination Team would be independent of the IFRC-VRCS operation.
## Areas common to all sectors (Assessments and Coordination)

**Outcome 1:** Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.

**Output 1.1:** Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries.

**Activities planned:**
- Conduct needs assessment
- Update sectoral plans in the EPoA

## Relief

**Outcome 2:** Essential household needs of 7,000 affected families met within three months.

**Output 2.1:** Affected families have access to essential non-food items to meet immediate needs.

**Activities planned:**
- Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiaries for distributions.
- Mobilize and transport non-food items to affected areas.
- Distribute non-food items including blankets, water containers, kitchen sets and hygiene supplies.
- Monitor and report distributions

## Shelter and settlements

**Outcome 3:** The immediate shelter needs of 4,000 cyclone-affected families are met within four months.

**Output 3.1:** Emergency shelter assistance is provided to families affected by the typhoon, following the guidelines provided by the shelter cluster in country.

**Activities planned:**
- Mobilized volunteers are provided with orientation on assessment and beneficiary selection and validation processes and distribution protocols with proper personal protective equipment
- Provision of appropriate training for staff and volunteers to be involved in distribution of emergency shelter materials
- Mobilization and procurement of the most appropriate emergency shelter materials
- Distribution of emergency shelter materials to the identified beneficiaries
- Provision of technical assistance to the beneficiaries on the safe and most effective use of the shelter materials provided
- Monitoring and evaluation of the distribution and use of the shelter materials provided (including beneficiary satisfaction)

## Health and Hygiene promotion

**Outcome 4:** Immediate health and psychosocial risks of 7,000 affected families reduced.

**Output 4.1:** Community-based disease prevention and health promotion are provided to the affected population.

**Activities planned:**
- Mobilization of VRCS and community health volunteers
- Undertake surveys to determine baseline and end-line levels of awareness on priority infectious diseases in affected communities
- Produce and distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials relevant for disease prevention and health promotion, and distribute to families in target communities alongside awareness/education campaigns
- Mobilize disaster affected families and communities for the dissemination of relevant disease prevention, health and hygiene messages, and conduct activities to promote health

**Output 4.2:** Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases.
Activities planned:
- In coordination with health cluster, Ministry of Health and WHO, deploy a basic health care unit, with stationary and/or mobile clinics
- Undertake assessments for mobile outreach in affected communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water; Sanitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 5:</strong> Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 5.1:</strong> Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities planned:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In coordination with the WASH cluster, conduct initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In coordination with national WASH cluster, continuously monitor the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Coordinate with other water and sanitation actors on target group needs and appropriate response.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Activities planned: |
| - Subject to assessment results deploy one WatSan kit 5 or parts thereof. |
| - In coordination with national WASH cluster, distribute safe water to targeted affected population. |
| - In coordination with national WASH cluster, conduct sessions on safe household water storage and treatment with follow up monitoring on use of distributed items. |

**Output 5.2:** Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to the target population.

Activities planned:
- In coordination with national WASH cluster, conduct assessments to determine the sanitation needs for the targeted communities.
- Select design for toilets based on consultation with targeted communities with considerations for safety, access for children and disabled, anal cleansing practices, national standards, and menstrual hygiene as well as environmental impact and sustainability.
- Construct or rehabilitate toilets in targeted communities.
- Support the national WASH cluster and health authorities to ensure that toilets are clean and maintained, equip them with hand-washing facilities, anal cleansing material or water and menstrual hygiene disposals, and ensure they remain functional.

**Output 5.3:** Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.

Activities planned:
- In coordination with national WASH cluster, undertake needs assessment to define hygiene issues and assess capacity to address problems related to the same.
- Select target groups, key messages, and methods of communicating with beneficiaries (mass media and interpersonal communication).
- Develop a hygiene communication plan, and train volunteers to implement activities from the communication plan.
- Design/Print IEC materials.
- Assess progress and evaluate results.

**Output 5.4:** Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.

Activities planned:
- In coordination with national WASH cluster, mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on assessment and beneficiary validation processes and distribution protocols with proper personal protective equipment.
- Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiaries for distributions.
- Distribute hygiene kits.
- Distribute 10-litre jerry cans.
- Work with the national WASH cluster to determine whether additional distributions are required and whether changes should be made.
- Monitor use of hygiene kits and water treatment products and user's satisfaction through household.
surveys and household water quality tests

**Restoring Family Links (RFL)**

Outcome 6: Restoring Family Links (RFL) needs emerging from Cyclone Pam are assessed and cases are being followed up within a month.

Output 6.1: VRCS is supported to conduct an assessment of RFL needs and implement first-stage responses on behalf of people who have lost contact with family.

Activities planned:
- Conduct RFL needs assessment and assess current capacity of VCRC to provide RFL.
- Assess RFL related activities and provide advice on processes and systems undertaken by relevant the Movement and the authorities.
- Assess ongoing needs in RFL capacity development of VRCS

**National Society capacity building**

Outcome 7: National society capacity to deliver sustainable services is strengthened.

Output 7.1: VRCS volunteer, staff and institutional capacity to deliver sustainable services is increased through provision of training

Activities planned:
- Disaster management capacity development
- Information management capacity development
- Logistics capacity development
- Technical skills training for staff and volunteers by each ERU deployed

Output 7.2: VRCS capacity for timely and effective disaster response in health, water and sanitation is strengthened through provision of equipment

Activities implemented planned:
- Technical skills training for staff and volunteers by each ERU
- Essential office equipment for 6 provincial branches
- Rehabilitate damaged branch offices/ pre-positioned storage
- Vehicles for emergency response operations

**Programme support services**

- **Communications**: Communications will be an important element in this operation in order to ensure that target audience, including the media and donors, is aware of the situation and needs on the ground. Materials such as photos and key messages are being issued via the IFRC Newswire.
- **Gender and diversity**: All interventions will take into account gender and diversity. For instance, targeting and selecting female-headed households, pregnant or lactating women, and men and boys made vulnerable by the disaster and who have been forced to migrate for work.
- **Human Resources**: Prior to PAM, IFRC had no in-country presence and support to VRCS was provided by PRO. There is a need to ensure that a structure that will guarantee an effective and efficient technical coordination to the NS in delivering the commitments under this operation. As such, a significant portion of the budget is factoring the need for recruitment and/or deployment of international and national staff as well as mobilization of volunteers. As much as possible, peer-to-peer collaboration among the pacific is encouraged.
- **Logistics**: Procurement will be principally regional. However the coordination for the delivery of the relief items with donors or suppliers internationally will be done by the Zone Logistics Unit. The local procurement of goods, services and transport will be carried out in line with IFRC procurement standards and procedures. Logistics ERU may be considered based on analysis of logistics assessment by FACT.
• **Reporting, monitoring and evaluation:** Monthly monitoring visits in the first six months of operations and quarterly thereafter. Reporting on the operation will be made in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards. One update will be issued within the first month. A Real Time Evaluation (RTE) is being considered, to be initiated within the first three months. A Final Evaluation will be conducted to assess lessons learned, followed by a final report is expected within three months of the end of the operation.

• **Security:** All international staff receive an advanced security briefing prior to deploying to Port Vila. Overall security of the IFRC team is the responsibility of the IFRC Country Representative. There have been no security incidents in country to date.

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**Budget**

See attached [IFRC Secretariat budget (Annex 1)](#) for details. It is important to note that due to the geographical location of Vanuatu in regards to regional shipping centres and the complexities and costs of in-country transport, especially by sea (due to the large distances between islands), the running costs for the operation are significantly elevated in comparison with other operations.

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**Contact Information**

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the National Societies

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:
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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table:
- Alka Kapoor Sharma, head of zone logistics unit, mobile: +60 12 225 1160, email: alka.kapoorsharma@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)
- Peter Ophoff, head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

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.
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<th>Budget Group</th>
<th>Multilateral Response</th>
<th>Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.</th>
<th>Bilateral Response</th>
<th>Appeal Budget CHF</th>
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