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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Mauritius, Tropical Storm BERGUITTA



DREF n° MDRMU002	Glide n°: TC-2018-000007-MUS
For DREF; Date of issue: 24 January 2018	Date of disaster: 19 January 2018
Operation start date: 19 January 2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 19 April 2018
Project Manager/Budget Manager IFRC: Marshal Mukuware, DM Delegate, Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Cluster Overall responsible for compliance, monitoring and reporting of the operation	Point of contact: Navin Mahadoo, Ag Director General and DM/DRR Coordinator
Category allocated to the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
DREF allocated: CHF 89,109	
Total number of people affected: 10,000 persons (2,000 households)	Number of people to be assisted: 3,600 people (600 ¹ households)
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, and branches): The Red Cross of Mauritius with 300 volunteers, 15 staff on two islands and 6 branches.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), French Red Cross, PIROI – Regional Intervention Platform for Indian Ocean,	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre	

A. Situation analysis

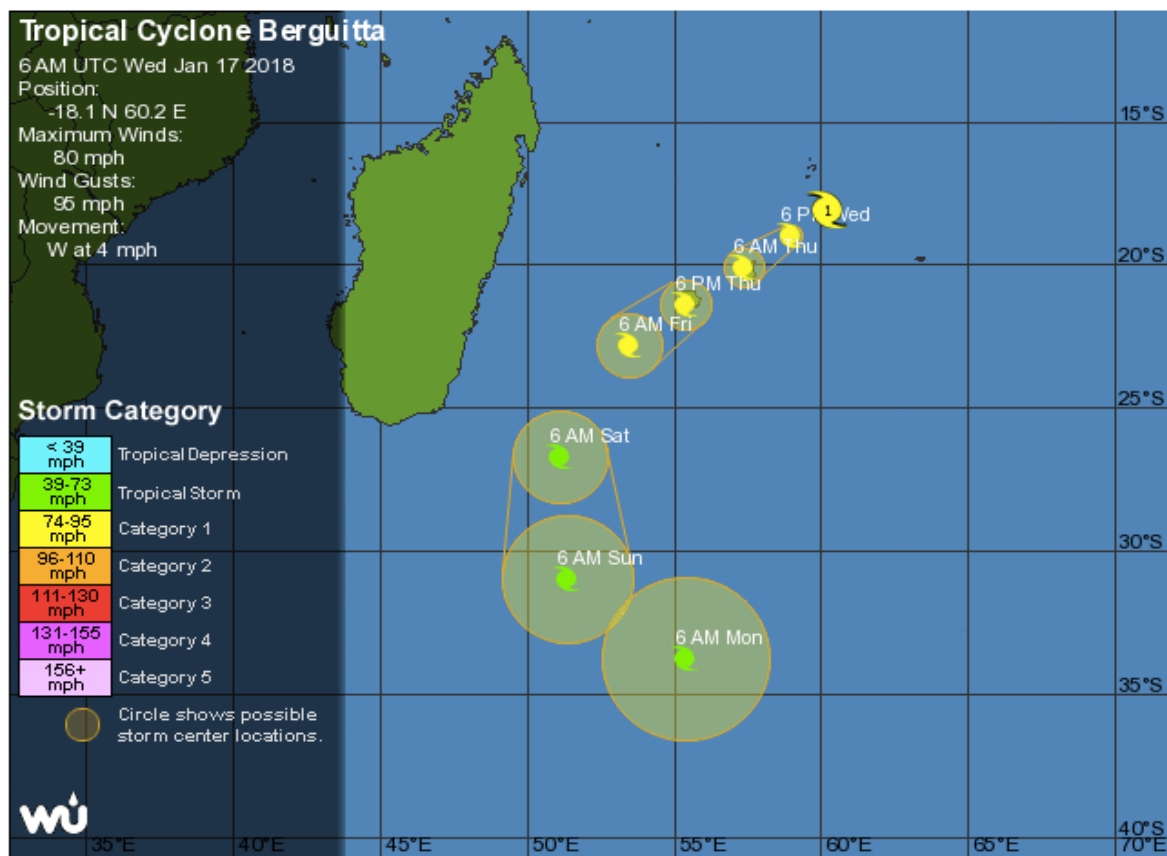
Description of the disaster

Since the first week of January 2018, Mauritius has been experiencing heavy rainfall over the island (over 2,000mm) within one week. On Saturday 13 January 2018, a cyclone warning Class 1 was issued for the Rodrigues due to the presence of a tropical disturbance near the island. The tropical disturbance was centred 230km north-east of Rodrigues moving west-southwest direction at about 15km per hour and was expected to increase in intensity with winds exceeding 110km per hour. On 14 January, the cyclone warning was upgraded to Class 3 for Rodrigues island which based on the trajectory of the cyclone, was going to be most affected. The winds were moving at a speed of 50km per hour with gusts of up to 120km per hour.

On Monday 15 January 2018, a cyclone warning class I was issued for Mauritius and on Tuesday 16 January 2018 a cyclone warning class II was issued as the Cyclone intensified and continued to move in a general west south westerly track at about 10 km/hr. Active bands passed over the island on the night of Wednesday 17 January 2018 as active cloud bands continued to affect the island.

The cyclone was projected to make landfall at 12:00 hours on Thursday January 19, 2018. However, the cyclone was downgraded to a tropical storm projected to make landfall as a category 1 tropical storm. On 19 January, Tropical Cyclone BERGUITTA, continued its south westerly direction and passed at about 70 Km from the south of Mauritius. BERGUITTA reduced its intensity and finally passed near Mauritius as a Severe Tropical Storm.

¹ Average number of people per household is at 6



Trajectory of Cyclone Berguitta on 17 January 2018



Flooding after the storm made landfall/Source of photos: Local media

The tropical storm affected at least 10,000 families with approximately 3,600 people evacuated and accommodated in 57 of the 171 evacuation centres opened by the government in anticipation of the cyclone making landfall.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society.

By 16 January 2018, the Mauritius Red Cross Society had taken actions including mobilizing the Disaster Management Coordinator (DMC) for the National Emergency Operations Command (NEOC), established a line of communication with IFRC and the PIROI (Regional Intervention Platform of the Indian Ocean), shared a draft of this DREF operation EPoA with PIROI and IFRC, as well as other relevant partners and shared Sit-Reps with all Branch Directors to ensure communication and state of readiness.

It should be noted that Mauritius Red Cross Headquarters and all its Branch Directors were on standby, including all BDRTs (Branch Disaster Response Team). MRCS regularly attends all NEOC meetings relating to Cyclone Berguita alert.

The Mauritius Red Cross Society (MRCS) is a humanitarian institution in the areas of Health and Care including first aid, promotion of humanitarian principles and values, disaster risk management, vulnerability and capacity assessment at community level. The MRCS is composed of six local branches and committees (including Rodrigues, an outer island) guaranteeing a strong local and community anchorage.

MRCS has presence across the island, with volunteers integrated into the community. The NS enjoys strong recognition from the local population, business community and the local authorities.

The MRCS has been involved in national preparation, including through participation in coordination meetings and drafting of the national contingency plan and it is worth noting that MRCS has in the past, also responded to several post cyclone and floods situations. MRCS has been requested to support affected population leaving evacuation centres with food vouchers and hygiene items. As such, some 50 volunteers have been deployed for 5 days to conduct these assessments.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC supports MRCS through its Eastern Africa and Indian Islands Cluster office in Nairobi. IFRC has been closely monitoring the situation with MRCS and been in discussions with PIROI since the alert was issued. The IFRC provides technical support to MRCS through trainings to staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness and response. The Regional Intervention Platform for Indian Ocean (PIROI) supports the Indian Ocean Islands National Societies in disaster preparedness and response through the PIROI programme which is a partnership of the Indian Oceans Islands, Tanzania and Mozambique National Societies. The MRCS just signed a MoU with the Italian Red Cross in view of upgrading its ambulance service and increase the capacity of its volunteers. The ICRC's Regional Delegation for the Indian Ocean Islands is based in Mauritius and provides support to MRCS.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

At national level, the National Emergency Operations Command (NEOC) of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) is activated to Level 1. This multi-agency forum brings together all departments, Ministries and the private sector, including NGOs which are mobilized as per the National Disaster Scheme and Standard Operating Procedures.

The government of Mauritius is supporting all families leaving the evacuation centres with CHF 5 per person. The Ministry of Social Security has begun a needs assessment and is expected to share the lists of the most vulnerable people requiring immediate assistance following the impact of the storm. The MRCS will use the following as part of its selection criteria; extent of damage to houses, women headed households, households headed by the elderly, vulnerable households hosting disabled people as well as child headed families. The lists will be shared with MRCS and will be used for the selection of beneficiaries of this DREF operation. In addition, the results of this assessment will allow, if necessary, for the revision of the operational plan of this DREF operation.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

As a precautionary measure, the government established evacuation centres as the cyclone approached Mauritius. The government also evacuated families that lived in locations where the cyclone was projected to make its landfall. A total of 3,600 people have been evacuated from their homes and are sheltered in different evacuation centres established by the government. The urgent needs of the evacuated people are food, as well as clean and safe drinking water. Most of the evacuated population were living in poor housing facilities in illegal settlements.

BERGUITTA brought over 500 mm of water in one day with gust of 120 km/hr, damaging houses/shelters which are poorly built. The affected home owners will need assistance to reconstruct their homes.

Whilst most structures have not been destroyed, there are significant damages to the roofs and some houses are flooded with the water damaging household items including food and bedding. The immediate needs of the affected families include shelter, food items and hygiene items. The families require assistance to purchase food for consumption as well as mattresses and bed linen because their properties have been destroyed by the floods. To reduce the risk of water borne diseases, there is a need to support the affected population with disinfection and cleaning equipment to clean their homes before moving back in.

Targeting

According to data available, 3,600 people had been evacuated as a precautionary measure since they were living in poor shelter facilities and locations at risk of being affected, would the cyclone make landfall. Following post-storm meetings with NEOC, MRCS was given the assignment to prioritize the evacuated and most vulnerable population with assistance. Note that the proportion of affected persons is likely to increase from the announced 10,000 persons, following the assessment which is currently being conducted by 50 MRCS volunteers. However, the National Society has agreed to only support a total of 600 households (3,600 persons), who will be selected through a two-step process, the first being their registration by the Ministry of Social Security. The ministry will submit the lists to MRCS. After this registration, National Society will then proceed with the beneficiary selection process, targeting the agreed most vulnerable 600 households (3,600 people) as per the below selection criteria:

- Rural population from the country's poorest districts which have already suffered from natural disasters of major magnitude and have been affected by tropical storm BERGUITTA;
- Population from urban areas and peri-urban areas which have suffered from the impact this tropical storm, considering the growing urban poverty;
- Population located in marginal areas which have suffered from the impact of this tropical storm and are not receiving humanitarian aid;

Amongst these groups, attention will be given to the most vulnerable, to pregnant women or women heads of households, youth and child headed households, people suffering from chronic illnesses as well as people with disabilities and the elderly. Also, it should be noted that of the selected 600 households, 200 households will benefit from hygiene-related support while only 100 will be selected for shelter related support. All 600 families will receive food-related support.

In the design of the response activities, MRCS will consider the specific situation of each area, damage, identified needs and the support that is being provided to the affected populations because of the presence or absence of stakeholders.

Scenario planning

The cyclone warning was lifted on January 18, 2018 and as of January 19, 2018, life is returning to normal in Mauritius with ports and airports fully operational, public transportation and local businesses open. Schools will be resuming on the 22nd of January 2018, while 20 and 21 January were declared National Cleaning Days to allow the people in evacuation centres to start returning to their homes.

As such, there is no anticipation that there will be any risk of increased damages or another storm affecting the island. MRCS is planning to conduct assessments and verifications among the affected population to register beneficiaries for support.

Operation Risk Assessment

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime or violence, active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. This includes situation monitoring and implementation of minimum security standards. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security). Attention must also be paid to safety related risks, such as road accidents. Contingency plans must be in place to be capable to manage emergencies adequately.

In addition, a one-day assessment training will be conducted for the volunteers to ensure correct targeting and registration for shelter and hygiene related assistance. During this training, NS will also include a session on safety and safe use of the shelter materials and will brief volunteers on how to disseminate information and messages during the distribution of iron sheets to the registered beneficiaries. MRCS staff will then follow up during monitoring visits to ensure these materials are being used safely.

To note, of the overall 600 targeted households, only 100 households, whose homes have been destroyed by the storm will benefit from the distribution of shelter items, while 200 will receive the vouchers for hygiene material.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

This DREF operation aims to support the MRCS in responding to the immediate needs of 600 households affected by Tropical Storm Berguita, by providing vouchers for food, bed linen and disinfection equipment for the cleaning of affected houses/shelters.

MRCS has been mandated, by government, to assist vulnerable families leaving the evacuation centres, while other government partners cover other needs. The NS will therefore conduct rapid needs assessments to verify the needs as well as identify the most vulnerable 600 households among the lists provided to the National Society by the local authorities. MRCS will therefore implement the following activities:

- Distribute a once off food voucher to enable affected population to meet urgent food needs
- Distribute a once off voucher to enable the affected population to purchase disinfection and cleaning materials
- Distribute 2 mattresses per family
- Distribute bed linen to affected households and
- Distribute iron sheets to affected households to reinforce and repair their damaged homes

Cash Transfer Design

The NS considered several national supermarkets to support the distributions. MRCS has selected and partnered with the biggest retail chain on the Island with 20 branches across the Island. The selection of Winners was based on various factors i.e. capacity to immediately deliver the assistance during the emergency phase, accessibility of the supermarkets to the affected population and standardized pricing. The NS met with the traders and recommendations were made to use Winners supermarket in the response. The selection and agreement with Winners Supermarket was reached ahead of the projected landfall of the cyclone for the aforementioned reasons. The NS and the Supermarket have designed a voucher with unique features including an embossed stamp. The vouchers will be printed by the NS and distributed to the retail chains. The number of vouchers to be distributed will be determined by the final number of beneficiaries selected and registered and a purchase order corresponding to the number of beneficiaries will be sent to the supermarket and a reconciliation will be done at the end of the month.

The vouchers are conditional and will be used to redeem specific food items with the beneficiaries having the option of choosing between the following items: Rice, Milk, Sugar, dry grains, canned tuna, canned sardines, children`s cereal (nestum), cheese, oil, salt, tea, peanut butter, oats. The beneficiaries are not allowed to use the voucher to purchase alcohol or cigarettes.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 3,600 people (600 households)

Requirements (CHF) 41,395

Needs analysis: The affected population lost most of their food items due to the flooding of their homes. While there was no major infrastructure damage to their homes the identified needs for the families as they leave evacuation, centres returning to their homes is food for consumption and bed linen.

Population to be assisted: 3,600 people i.e. 600 households will be targeted by MRCS. The targeted families will receive a conditional food voucher to be redeemed at a retail chain in Mauritius. The value of the voucher has been calculated based on the market price for the essential and basic food items required. The retailer was selected based on the cost of commodity as well as capacity of the trader. The selected retailer has 20 branches on the island and is easily accessible by the targeted beneficiaries as well as having sufficient capacity to provide the basic commodities targeted by the assistance.

Following the redemption of the food items, the retailer and MRCS will reconcile the redeemed vouchers to determine the amount to pay the retailer.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods								# of people reached with food assistance or cash										
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities								# of people reached with food assistance or cash										
	Activities planned Month		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP008	600 households affected by the tropical storm receive families in evacuation centres receive food vouchers																		



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 1,200 people (200 households)

Requirements (CHF) 2,800

Needs analysis: The people in evacuation centres need safe and clean water for consumption as the tropical storm has affected most of the water sources. The private sector has been providing the population in evacuation centres with bottled water. As people return to their homes there, is an urgent need to ensure that the homes are cleaned and disinfected to reduce the risk of an outbreak of water borne diseases.

Budget

The required amount for this DREF operation is CHF 89,109 as detailed in attached budget.

		Multilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
	Budget Group		
500	Shelter - Relief	14,000	14,000
501	Shelter - Transitional	0	0
502	Construction - Housing	0	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0	0
505	Construction - Materials	0	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	17,200	17,200
520	Food	0	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
540	Medical & First Aid	0	0
550	Teaching Materials	0	0
560	Ustensils & Tools	0	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0	0
578	Cash Disbursements	36,700	36,700
	Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	67,900	67,900
580	Land & Buildings	0	0
581	Vehicles	0	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
587	Medical Equipment	0	0
589	Other Machiney & Equipment	0	0
	Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0
590	Storage, Warehousing	0	0
592	Distribution & Monitoring	0	0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,550	4,550
594	Logistics Services	0	0
	Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	4,550	4,550
600	International Staff	0	0
661	National Staff	0	0
662	National Society Staff	0	0
667	Volunteers	4,300	4,300
669	Other Staff Benefits	0	0
	Total PERSONNEL	4,300	4,300
670	Consultants	0	0
750	Professional Fees	0	0
	Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0
680	Workshops & Training	1,100	1,100
	Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	1,100	1,100
700	Travel	5,000	5,000
710	Information & Public Relations	0	0
730	Office Costs	420	420
740	Communications	400	400
760	Financial Charges	0	0
790	Other General Expenses	0	0

799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0	0
	Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	5,820	5,820
		0	0
830	Partner National Societies	0	0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
	Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0
599	Programme and Services Support Recovery	5,439	5,439
	Total INDIRECT COSTS	5,439	5,439
	TOTAL BUDGET	89,109	89,109
	Available Resources		
	Multilateral Contributions		0
	Bilateral Contributions		0
	TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0
	NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	89,109	89,109

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.



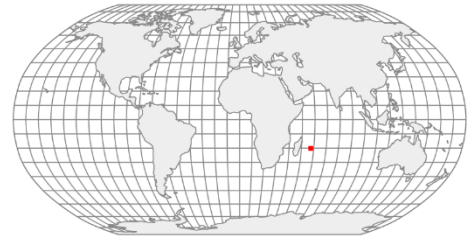
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
 Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
 الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



Mauritius: Tropical Cyclone

22 January 2018 • TC-2018-000007-MUS



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: IFRC, GADM. Map produced by: IFRC Africa Regional Office, Nairobi.

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