

Operation Update Report Republic of Palau: Typhoon Surigae

DREF n° MDRPW001	GLIDE n° TC-2021-000040-PLW
Operation update n° 1; 19 July 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 15 April to 15 July 2021
Operation start date: 15 April 2021	Operation timeframe: 5 months; end date: 30 September 2021
Funding requirements (CHF ¹): 300,654	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 309,462
N° of people being assisted: 7,288 people / 1,822 households	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The National Society is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), American Red Cross Society and Australian Red Cross Society (ARCS), and New Zealand Red Cross Society (NZRCS)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Emergency Management Office, Palau National Weather Services, OMEKESANG, State governments, local community groups, IOM Palau office, Australian Embassy in Palau	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

The operation is extended by two months from 31 July 2021 to 30 September 2021 to allow for final distribution activities. Community rapid damage assessment teams (RDAT) and state government actors could not distribute essential household items (EHI) and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) as planned in July. State governments, local youth and communities were occupied with the annual the Belau Games in May and June. State elections also took place in Koror state, where 50% of the targeted population resides. As the Typhoon Surigae response is the first operation led by Palau Red Cross in many years, the National Society needed more time to distribute, monitor and conduct a lesson learned exercise.

The overall budget remains the same, but reallocations have been made to reflect in-kind donations, decreased international freight costs due to the World Food Programme (WFP) flights, and increased local logistics and volunteer costs. Details are provided in the financial section at the end of the report.

Overall targeted population has reduced by 459 households / 1,979 people, from 1,822 households / 7,288 people to 1,363 households / 5,309 people. Detailed needs assessments found less damage than anticipated in Koror and Airai, as initial damage assessments were not complete when the operation was launched. The detailed changes in targeted population are listed in section B. The budget, relief items and activities have been adjusted accordingly.

- **Shelter:** Targeted population reduced to 1,186 households / 4,791 people.
- **Health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) with protection, gender and inclusion (PGI):** Reduced to 1,363 households / 5,309 people.
- **Cash and voucher assistance (CVA):** Increased livelihoods and basic needs support to 1,186 households / 4,791 people.

¹ CHF = Swiss francs

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Tropical disturbance Invest 94W centred on southeast Yap and Palau on 13 April 2021. It was marked as a severe tropical storm 02W on the 14 April and upgraded into Typhoon Surigae on 16 April. Typhoon Surigae was not just the strongest typhoon in the northern hemisphere before May, it was also the most intense on record, according to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Typhoon Surigae passed over the north of Palau, closest to Kayangel state. Up to 136 kilometres per hour of sustained wind speeds caused heavy rainfall and swells, power outages, communication service disruptions, water cuts, fallen debris, road blockages and landslides.

All 16 states across the main island and five outer islands were affected by excessive rain and high winds. The rain and wind blew roofs off houses and damaged critical water and power infrastructure in Anguar, Peleliu, Kayangel, and Koror. The storm produced large waves that were 23 meters (75 feet) high at their peak. It is estimated 1,500 houses were damaged and 150 destroyed, along with belongings and farming investments.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Palau Red Cross Society (PRCS) activated its emergency operation centre (EOC) on 14 April 2021 to ensure coordination and support to the National Emergency Committee (NEC) and the PRCS responders (RDAT). The EOC was disbanded on the 30 June, but response activities under the emergency plan of action (EPOA) continue under the normal PRCS structure.

The actions undertaken by PRCS from activation until today include:

- A 24-hour team to communicate with RDAT on regular weather updates and standard operating procedures.
- RDAT assist with evacuating vulnerable households to safe shelters.
- Support evacuation centre registration and management.
- Provide basic needs to shelter evacuees in Koror.
- Activate phone desk as an alternative hotline for the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) and weather services.
- Relocate essential household items for evacuees.
- Provide psychological first aid to 300 shelter evacuees within the first 48 hours.
- Test and operate satellite phones.
- Publish field reports on IFRC GO platform and issue daily situation reports.
- Prepare assessment forms for Initial Damage Assessment (IDA).
- Mobilize 80-90 trained community RDAT and volunteers from headquarters, who were deployed by NEMO on 17 April to carry out initial damage assessments and distribution to all 16 states.
- Complete assessments in 14 states while distribution of non-food items (NFI).
- Red Cross leads and completes cash voucher assistance (CVA) to 124 households with government endorsement.
- Move stocks of essential household items in the three preposition containers to a centralized storage and distribution site by 25 June.
- Clear and move internationally procured items arriving in the country on chartered flights in May. The flights carried Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) family kits, USAID and IFRC supported supplies.
- Complete logistics development training and technical remote support by Australian Red Cross logistics delegate on 5 July. Five local counterparts received 15 hours training on basic logistics. The delegate also assisted PRCS with the development of their fleet rules and procedures, PRCS stockholding plan, and a plan to repair their storage facilities.
- Complete psychosocial first aid (PFA) training completed for staff and volunteers supported remotely by the health and first aid senior officer of the IFRC country cluster delegation (CCD) in Suva, Fiji and the North Pacific Sub-delegation in Marshall Island.
- Continued verification of CVA data for all states.
- Devise information management training and plan to digitalize all forms for future operations.

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

The IFRC supported the operation through an in-country disaster risk management delegate from the North Pacific sub-delegation, who advised the National Society response. A North Pacific national society development delegate provided

remote oversight from the North Pacific sub-delegation. The IFRC CCD in Suva, together with the ICRC Pacific delegation provided remote technical assistance to the operation through coordinated updates and information to all regional partners and technical support. The IFRC in-country support:

- Provides early warning weather information to PRCS via briefings.
- Provides guidance to PRCS planning and mobilization.
- Coordination of information to partners locally and regionally.
- Provide guidance on information management, reporting and drafting of the EPOA and budget for PRCS.
- Ongoing online briefings with technical teams on a weekly basis using Microsoft Teams.

As an active member of the NEC, PRCS will continue to coordinate logistical support under the leadership of the NEMO in partnership with state governments. The government will continue to coordinate logistics, allowing PRCS to mobilize staff and volunteers to affected areas for assessment and distribution.

The ICRC supports the PRCS communications officer in carrying out National Society information and communication dissemination plans.

Provision of essential household items, volunteer deployment and logistical cost of the operation is covered by USAID funds channelled through the American Red Cross and IFRC CCD in Suva, Fiji. Specifically, the support will cover 2,500 tarpaulins, 2,225 kitchen sets and accompanying volunteer and logistics expenditure. This will complement household items supported through the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and contribute to targeted assistance for the most affected households under category 1 and 2². PRCS is also collaborating with UN Women on support for hygiene kits for the remaining of communities on Koror Island to mitigate health and hygiene risks. In addition, PRCS is working with UNICEF on procuring household water testing kits for the outer islands, given their high risk to water safety issues.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

The NEC coordinates information to the public on the weather conditions, and has sent more than 15 detailed special weather statements and key messages on preparedness and response. The NEC also provided critical coordination of essential services, state level support to assessments and restored services and infrastructure.

The Palau government was involved in the affected areas. The NEC secretariat carried out community engagement activities such as radio announcements, press releases and governor's consultations. Community feedback, complaints and inquiries come through PRCS and NEMO hotlines. For the calls that come through Palau Red Cross Society, call logs and referrals are recorded and reported in the daily situation reports to all partners. Urgent referrals to agencies are done through the NEC and at the director level.

Sector	Response to date
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up/activated MOH Emergency Operations Center. • Activated Surge Capacity Protocol at the BNH Emergency Room.
Infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPW received reports on road blockages due to fallen trees, debris, and land- slides. • Continuous operations on road clearing.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closures • Prepared schools as evacuation shelters.
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEC/NEMO and Palau Red Cross Society (PRCS) provided emergency water to Kayangel State. • PRCS and MOE provided food to individuals in schools and other community centers.
Community/ Residential Dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEC deployed boats carrying bottled water and household relief supplies to Kayangel State. • NEC deployed boats to Kayangel State to assess restoration of utilities and communications.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous operations by PNCC in the restoration of services. • PNCC deployed to Kayangel State to assess and restore communications services.
Utilities (electricity & water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPUC conducted pro-longed operations to restore services throughout the country prioritizing water services first. • PPUC continued extensive clearing of obstructions of power-lines and other fallen electricity equipment to expedite restoration of services.
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IDAs were initiated by the NEC for all sectors to carry out.

Summary of action taken by the Palau government.

² Damage level classification: Category 1 refers to households that suffer from partially damaged property, while property of households in Category 2 are destroyed.

In the wake of the Typhoon Surigae, power outages disrupted the population's landlines. The NEMO phone lines were cut, and all calls were diverted to the Palau Red Cross Society's phone desk. The National Emergency Committee's EOC was forced to split and operate from two locations: the Press Secretariat making announcements at the presidential satellite office, while the weather service and NEMO operated from the Palau National Weather Services office in Airai. Runners, HF radio and cell network communicated messages between the hotline at PRCS, Airai EOC and Meyuns EOC. The NEC is coordinating communication to community leaders and members on matters of public concern and information about relief efforts across agencies.

Assessment information is shared with the NEC, the PRCS, local and international partners as well as 16 state governments. Coordination for an effective response is ongoing with partners supporting the affected communities, as the government continues to prioritize infrastructure repair.

As an observer to the NEC, the IOM has extended their assistance through NEMO by donating NFI to this operation. These NFI complemented the meeting of shelter and WASH needs of the targeted households under the operation.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

In the wake of Typhoon Surigae, initial needs identified as evacuation, shelter management of more than 300 evacuees in 20 evacuation shelters across the Republic of Palau (ROP), provision of essential household and emergency shelter items as well as psychosocial first aid.

Reports of damage to people's farms and properties posed a threat to the health and livelihoods, not only in the outlying six states of the republic, but also in ten states on the big island of Babeldaob. Reports from Kayangel indicated that rainwater systems were inundated. Electricity was out in the hard-hit areas of the country for over three weeks as the PPUC³ focused on restoring electricity to hospital and essential services. Households that lost their weatherheads⁴ took longer to repair. Mosquitoes and vector-borne illnesses were a major concern in areas that took longer to restore electricity.

The needs assessment categorization used by PRCS:

- Damage Level 0 - No damage to occupied housing, but health and WASH risks present in the community
- Damage Level 1 - Partially damaged occupied housing and WASH risks present in the community
- Damage Level 2 - Destroyed occupied housing and kitchen, with health and WASH risks present in the community

In the aftermath of Typhoon Surigae, PRCS's strategy was to support Palau's remote island states, namely Kayangel, Angaur, Peleliu, Sonsorol, and Hatohobei, because of their remoteness and limited access to essential services like power and water, caused by infrastructure damage. This remoteness created additional health and hygiene issues, as these islands were reliant on water provision. In total, 177 households / 518 people in the outer islands were supported with water and basic hygiene and PFA.

Based on early assessments, PRCS and its partners initially planned to support an estimated 1,500 households / 7,500 people in Category 1 and 150 households / 750 people in Category 2 with shelter and household items, health, and WASH interventions. This has now been reduced to 1,062 households / 4,306 people in Category 1 and 124 households / 485 people in Category 2 following detailed assessments. The most impacted families suffering from Category 2 damage and had their homes destroyed will be further supported with multipurpose grants. Households that suffered from Category 1 damage will also receive a multipurpose grant. Please refer to the detailed Damage Assessment information gathered by PRCS.

³ PPUC: The Palau Public Utilities Corporation. PPUC is a public corporation established to manage and operate the electrical power and the water and wastewater systems of the Republic of Palau.

⁴ A weatherhead is a weatherproof service drop entry point where overhead power or telephone wires enter a building, or where wires transition between overhead and underground cables.

States	CATEGORY 0 (No damage)		CATEGORY 1 (Partially damaged)		CATEGORY 2 (destroyed)		HH Not Assessed ⁵	Total HH Assessed	Total Population Assessed
	HH	PP	HH	PP	HH	PP			
AIMELIIK	65	217	35	155	4	4	4	104	376
AIRAI	458	1818	135	519	13	54	47	606	2391
ANGAUR (outer island)	35	62	13	22	0	0	3	48	84
HATOHOBEL (outer island)	12	52	0	0	0	0	0	12	52
KAYANGEL (outer island)	11	17	14	32	2	4	4	27	53
KOROR	833	3436	577	2614	75	322	163	1485	6372
MELEKEOK	56	99	30	68	2	2	9	88	169
NGARAARD	107	213	38	100	9	31	8	154	344
NGARCHELONG	79	249	60	260	8	25	13	147	534
NGARMAU	28	91	42	143	3	7	3	73	241
NGATPANG	27	91	29	109	4	20	6	60	220
NGCHESAR	55	194	3	15	0	0	17	58	209
NGEREMLENGUI	0	0	7	21	1	9	103	8	30
NGIWAL	52	169	42	153	2	2	2	96	324
PELELIU (outer island)	102	327	37	95	1	5	12	140	427
SONSOROL (outer island)	17	60	0	0	0	0	0	17	60
Totals:	1,937	7,095	1,062	4,306	124	485	394	3,123	11,886

Households assessed and categorized according to damage assessment information gathered by PRCS.
Note: HH = households. PP = people.

Based on the preliminary needs assessment, government priorities and National Society capacity, PRCS was the sole agency to continue the response work under these priority activities:

- shelter and household items,
- health including psychosocial first aid (PFA),
- water provision and hygiene,
- and a cash voucher assistance (CVA) pilot to cover basic needs.

Operation Risk Assessment

No major risks are foreseen beyond capacity and communication mitigation that is already underway:

- Misunderstanding of criteria and beneficiaries for CVA – this is being mitigated by ongoing validation of beneficiaries, communication with communities and coordination with government.
- Lack of human resources – the operational plan has been updated to implement the remaining activities within the extended timeframe with current volunteers and staff.
- Inclement weather – PRCS and the government continue to monitor forecasts and early warnings and will respond as necessary.
- Adequate warehousing – small fixes are required to ensure the relief items received as replenishment are stored securely and maintained in adequate quality.
- State government competing priorities conflict with timelines set for activities - ongoing discussions are made and NEMO is assisting to push forward the activities as scheduled.
- Financial management - The DRM delegate in-country continues to guide on DREF requirements.
 - Security risks of the CVA – all disbursements are done through local officials and community responders to minimize stress and risk.
 - Accountability risks – the markets are being monitored on an ongoing basis. Prices remain stable, and items are available.
- Financial risks – personal cheques are the modality of the CVA and ID is required, therefore minimizing risks of fraud.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The operational strategy is to provide the following support according to the damage criteria to the identified households in the detailed needs assessment noted above.

⁵ These households were not home when the teams visited and were unable to be assessed.

Damage Category	Damage description	Sector support to be provided	Details of sector support
Damage Level 0	No damage to occupied housing but health & WASH risks present in the community	Psychological support and hygiene promotion	Hygiene kit, PFA
Damage Level 1	Partially damaged occupied housing & WASH risks present in the community	Essential household items, psychological support and hygiene promotion	Hygiene kit, PFA, tarps, lantern, bucket, blanket, jerry can
Damage Level 2	Destroyed occupied housing & kitchen with health & WASH risks present in the community	Shelter and essential household items psychological support and hygiene promotion	Hygiene kit, PFA, tarps, lantern, bucket, blanket, jerry can, shelter tool kit, and kitchen set

There are some variations in the results of the detailed assessment which refined the numbers of expected affectation from the estimates of the rapid needs assessment. Below highlights the actual households that were damaged / destroyed in comparison to the estimates used to plan the operation.

Damage Category Affected households and population	Category 0		Category 1		Category 2		Total household affected	Total population affected
	Households	People	Households	People	Households	People		
Estimate affected (rapid needs assessment)	2,400 ⁶	9,600	1,500	6,000	150	600	4,050	16,200
Actual affected (detailed needs assessment)	1,937	7,095	1,062	4,306	124	485	3,123	11,886

The differences between the rapid needs assessment and the detailed needs assessment noted above have resulted in some changes to the actual households targeted and reached. The overall targeted population in Category 1 and 2 has reduced from 1,822 households / 7,288 people to 1,363 households / 5,309 people. More people, however, will receive cash voucher assistance. Relief items have been adjusted accordingly, and the budget has been reallocated to reflect these modifications.

Changes to targeted population covered by DREF, based on follow up detailed assessments by PRCS:

Type of support	Target population based on initial assessment						Target population based on follow up assessment						Total final targeted population		% Change in HH targeted
	Category 1		Category 2		Outer island residents		Category 1		Category 2		Outer island residents				
	HH	PP	HH	PP	HH	PP	HH	PP	HH	PP	HH	PP	HH	PP	
Shelter and essential household items	1,500	6,000	150	600			1,062	4,306	124	485	-	-	1,186	4,791	-28%
Health, WASH with PGI mainstreamed approach	1500	6,000	150	600	172	688	1,062	4,306	124	485	177	518	1,363	5,309	-25%
CVA support for livelihoods and basic needs	-	-	150	600			1,062	4,306	124	485	-	-	1,186	4,791	+691%

Note: HH = households, PP = people. PGI = protection, gender and inclusion. % Change quantifies the change from one number to another and expresses the change as an increase or decrease. In this case, the change in no. of households targeted in the initial assessment vs. the detailed assessment is calculated. Percentage change equals the change in value divided by the absolute value of the original value, multiplied by 100.

The operation continues to be underpinned by a commitment to quality programming that involves:

- Continuous and in-depth assessments and analyses to inform the design and programme implementation, and adjustments based on these assessments, as noted above.
- Adherence to PGI measures, with a focus on disability inclusive development and mobilisation of women responders in communities. More details on gender will be provided in the final report, but PGI considerations have informed the items and modality of distributions.
- Establishment of mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication with, and ensure transparency and accountability to, disaster-affected people. Highlighting the nature of communication and information as a life-saving mechanism, such as the hotline, feedback forms and informal community consultations by the RDATs, and the current analysis of distributions through in-kind technical IM support from New Zealand Red Cross.
- Management and delivery of the programme informed by appropriate monitoring and evaluation, through regular situational reports and financial oversight. Australian Red Cross provides remote logistics technical support to build National Society capacities for procurement and warehousing standards.
- Ongoing monitoring and communication on CVA continue with communities and government, including use of feedback mechanisms. This will be complemented with a post distribution monitoring.

⁶ Note that of these total affected – only 172 households on the outer islands were targeted for WASH, health and PGI. The total was targeted for hygiene kits and hygiene promotion in collaboration with other partners.

- A lesson learned review of the support provided through the DREF will assess the usefulness of DREF for the National Society. The impact and timeliness of the response will be assessed using PER⁷ DREF guidance and inform future preparedness.

Items	Total items	Procurement		Source
		Local	International	
Shelter Tool Kits	70	No	Yes	IFRC
Tarpaulins	1,800	No	Yes	IFRC IOM – contribution of 1,500 tarps
Kitchen Sets	150	No	Yes	IFRC
Buckets	1422	No	Yes	IFRC
Blankets	1950	No	Yes	IFRC
Jerry Cans	1,600	No	Yes	IFRC
Hygiene kit	2,750	Yes	Yes	IFRC PRCS – USAID funded 750 kits
Lanterns	150	No	Yes	IFRC
Batteries	150	Yes	No	PRCS
Mosquito Coils	700	Yes	No	PRCS – USAID funded
Family kits	400	No	Yes	DFAT contribution

The following details the relief items that have been procured so far. This will be reviewed and refined for the final report once stock take has been finalized.

No international freight charges occurred as the WFP supported two humanitarian flights, coordinated by the IFRC and WFP. This was critical to the success of the operation, as sea freight would have taken months and the items could not be purchased locally at a reasonable price.

Relief items procured to date.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 4,791 people / 1,186 households

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter assistance.	1,650	1,186

Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter items, materials and/or tools to have a space that meet the minimum living conditions.	1,650	1,186

Output 1.2: Technical support guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive.	1,625	1,186

Progress towards outcomes

In this operation, PRCS coordinated and liaised closely with NEMO in the registration of people in evacuation centres, assessments and provision of emergency shelter and essential household items. Volunteers from national headquarters managed the downtown Koror evacuation shelters, while the outer states were managed by RDATs. Proper lighting and basic food and water were provided to Koror evacuation centres through assistance from the Australian Embassy in Palau. Others were supported by the state government where needed.

Factors of gender, diversity and disability were included in the detailed needs assessment of household items for affected communities. Provision of emergency shelter and essential household items included tarps, shelter support, kitchen sets, blankets and other necessary items. Items distributed according to damage categories were:

- Category 1 partially damaged households received: 1 tarp, 1 lantern, 1 kitchen set, 5 blankets and information, education and communication (IEC) materials.

⁷ Preparedness for Effective Response: <https://go.ifrc.org/preparedness> #operational-learning

- Category 2 destroyed households received: 2 tarps, 1 lantern, 1 kitchen set, 5 blankets, 1 shelter toolkit and IEC materials.
- The households identified as the most vulnerable using prioritization criteria related to the Minimum Standards for PGI received a family kit in lieu of the above essential household items. See PGI section for more details.

The detailed needs assessments identified 1,062 households / 4,306 people in category 1 and 124 households / 485 people in category 2. Therefore, the households supported with shelter and essential household items is 1,186 households / 4,791 people. Details of gender and locations of distributions to be detailed in the final report.



Ngwal state staff, recipient, and PRCS logistics/distribution during distribution of various emergency shelter & WASH relief items and dissemination of technical advice on specifications, uses and contents of the relief items.

Technical advice on building back safer was done through verbal discussion in one-on-one consultations with family members during distribution. The contents, usage and specifications of the tarpaulins, shelter tool kits other shelter relief items / kits were discussed. This also included key messages on shelter preparedness in case of another typhoon.

Additional modalities of sharing key community information are being done through social media and alternative media, such as radio and community sessions, due to the literacy rate of communities and based on best practices from past disasters. Emergency shelter videos and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials were used for biweekly volunteer briefings, part of continuous education for 20 staff and volunteers at the headquarters. IEC materials used focused on emergency shelter fixings, shelter repairs and build back safer (BBS) key messages.

The PRCS will conduct post-distribution monitoring for CVA and assess how many households used the MPCA⁸ for repair. The IFRC will monitor retrofitting and “build back safer” activities throughout the project cycle to provide needed assistance, ensuring safe and habitable shelters are repaired in the most effective, cost-effective, and timely manner.

Note: this activity was completed through additional bilateral financial support from USAID (USD 100,000 or CHF 91,911) and DFAT’s in-kind contribution of 400 family kits. Details will be included in the final report.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 600 people/ 150 households

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households restore and strengthen their livelihoods.	150	124
Output 1.1: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households that received cash grants for basic needs.	150	124*

Progress towards outcomes

A market assessment and cash feasibility analysis were conducted through desk review of recent research, while a small DM team from PRCS assessing the functionality of markets and current prices and confirm available items. Through coordination with the Government, the President of Palau and the Minister of Finance met with the PRCS and IFRC to discuss the package of assistance. PRCS was advised to provide a clear recommendation on the value

⁸ Multipurpose Cash Assistance

of the package for emergency shelter assistance and basic needs provision to the population.

Based on discussions among PRCS, IFRC and the government, an agreement was made to standardize grant values for the necessary items. The grant value was set at USD 1,000 for the 150 households in category 2, and USD 200 for 1,500 households in category 1 as a one-off distribution. The grant values took into consideration the minimum wage in Palau, which is around 3.00 US dollars per hour. Both values were set by the government of Palau. Category 1 households' value was estimated to cover some basic commodities and home repairs based on current local cost of materials and / or household items. Category 2 households' grant value is based on providing necessities for food and essential household items while staying at relatives' homes or communal buildings, while a longer-term strategy is developed by each household.

Based on the detailed assessments, the actual number of Category 2 destroyed are 124 households and Category 1 has 1,062 households, so the actual households to be reached is now 1,186 households. Total households reached to date is 124, with funding from DREF covering 100 households of Category 2 and the remaining 24 households in covered by USAID. To reach the additional targets of the category 1 households, 312 households will be covered by USAID funding, and 750 households will be covered by ROP funding. See financial section for details.

The first disbursement of unconditional / MCA for Category 2 households was completed in the second week of June to cover the 124 households. Each recipient collects personal cheques from the state governors at a distribution point, using identification cards (ID cards) for verification. This ensures accountability and coordination. Preparations are underway for the second disbursement to the Category 1 households. This is planned for the last two weeks of July.

A post distribution monitoring (PDM) questionnaire has been drafted by PRCS with assistance from the IFRC CVA delegate in Suva, while the data and IM team of PRCS is working on digitalizing this survey with assistance from the IM delegate from New Zealand Red Cross. An orientation for the data collection team will ensure they understand the process and use of templates. The IFRC Suva office will support in developing a case study to capture the step-by-step process from assessment to monitoring. Lessons learnt and challenges will be compiled to serve as reference for other Pacific NS. The PDM will also include orientation to staff and volunteers, data collection and cover analysis to reporting.

Although this operation is not a livelihood project, it is envisioned that households will also use cash grants to support their livelihood activity, since agriculture was one of the affected sectors in Palau.



Health

People reached: 11,886 people / 3,123 households

Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households assessed for health needs.	1,822	3,123

Output 4.2: Vector-borne diseases are prevented

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of mosquito coils distributed to vulnerable household.	1,822	350

Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by psychological first aid.	600	300

Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers refresher trained in PFA.	50 volunteers	15 staff

Progress towards outcomes

The health needs assessment was completed through the detailed needs assessment conducted with 3,123 households, providing referrals, where relevant, to other services. Assessments were primarily focused on immediate health impacts of the people both physical and psychological, as well as their overall coping strategies.

The RDATs in states provided psychological first aid (PFA) to all evacuees, while staff posted at the central Koror evacuation centres provided the same to evacuees. Phone lines opened from 15 April until 30 June to provide ongoing PFA, information and clarity on PRCS support to all people calling in for assistance. Details of this support will also

be shared in the final report.

Community members were mobilized by the RDATs in collaboration with their state government to support community clean-up, which contributed to vector control immediately after the typhoon. The distribution of mosquito coils to 350 households complemented by mosquito nets, which were part of 400 DFAT family kits, together with health messaging including COVID-19 prevention messages, reached 1,896 households.

Refresher training for volunteers in PFA support was conducted on 14 to 15 June for 15 staff and volunteers. The PFA continues to be accessible for staff and volunteers, and is assessed by team leaders and highlighted during briefings and de-briefings.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 11,886 (3,123 households)

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context.	1,822	3,123

Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessments/monitoring visits undertaken and shared.	3	2

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with safe water (according to WHO standards).	1,822	11

Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with hygiene promotion activities.	4,050	3,123

Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (essential household items) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with hygiene-related goods.	4,050	3,132

Progress towards outcomes

Initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation was completed in the affected communities. Monitoring of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities was carried out in collaboration with relevant authorities. WASH needs and access to water were highlighted in the assessments, in which 3,123 households were assessed on whether their WASH facilities were damaged. Detailed results will be shared in the final report.

Coordination has been ongoing with other water and sanitation actors on target group needs and appropriate response, for e.g., with the Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC) / Ministry of Health on monitoring water quality and safety practices in affected communities. The National Society also coordinated with PPUC / MOH on conducting household surveys and water quality tests (Pathos) using PRCS volunteers.

Sea water inundated the water supply systems of Kayangel state, making it necessary for the coast guard to supply safe water in tanks and bottles, which were distributed by the RDAT to 11 households last week. Water was less of a need than anticipated as water infrastructure damage was minor, and the authorities were able to restore the water supply systems adequately.

Distribution of water collection buckets, jerry cans and water was completed in all 16 states based on the categories as follows. Details on geographic distributions and gender breakdown will be available in the final report.

- Category 0 with no household damage, but hygiene is a concern. Households received a hygiene kits, IEC materials and PFA as part of the discussion.
- Category 1 with households partially damaged and

- Category 2 with households destroyed completely. Households received a hygiene kit, one bucket, two jerry cans, IEC material and PFA as part of the discussion.

Water collection and storage were provided to complement the water supplied by the PPUC.

Printing of WASH IEC posters predeveloped by PRCS, supported by an IFRC WASH volunteer, were used alongside hygiene related IEC materials. These materials were provided to all households during the detailed needs assessment and therefore reached 3,123 households / 11,886 people.

Up to 3,123 households were reached with hygiene kits for this operation – 2,000 from USAID contribution and 1,123 from PRCS programming with UN Women. Hygiene promotion IEC was given as part of the hygiene kits distribution. Where possible, volunteers and RDATs carried out handwashing demonstrations together with key messages on safe water treatment. The field operations team oriented the distribution teams on the content of hygiene kits and IEC materials when the state RDATs collected their NFIs for distribution. The relevance, satisfaction and use of hygiene kits and water relief items will be completed through post-distribution monitoring planned for August.



Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

People reached: 344 households / 3,077 people

Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS that ensure improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	1	1

Output 1.2: Programmes and operations prevent and respond to forms of violence especially against children

# of established child friendly spaces.	All evacuation centres	N/A
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Progress towards outcomes:

Of the total assessed (3,123 households / 11,886 people) a total of 344 households / 3,077 people were identified as needing targeted support. See details below:

Pregnant Or Breastfeeding	Special Needs	Female-headed Household	Elderly (Over 65 Years)	Young Children (3-5 Years)	Babies (0-2 Years)
93	1086	381	1003	273	241

Since PRCS is the only response agency that is carrying out assistance for Typhoon Surigae, assistance from other partners has been coordinated with local agencies such as Omekesang and Palau Parents Empowered (PPE) to prioritize distribution to those most in need. Omekesang is the agency established nationally in Palau with members who have both physical and intellectual disabilities. PPE is a federal fund organization that looks after head start families. The assistance and resources from partners for this response supported these priority households.

Priority distributions included psychosocial first aid (PFA), shelter and WASH interventions to the identified 344 households, either through distribution of a family kit as part of the DFAT assistance, or NFI as part of the strategy under the DREF-supported response. To ensure that no one is left behind, consolidation of information on all states was critical and verification of data is ongoing, including cross matching all lists from the partners with IDA databases from all 16 states. Unassessed households were members from Omekesang who were not captured through state assessments.

Distribution of family kits donated from DFAT were provided to the most vulnerable households identified with disability, giving priority to those on outer islands as access to items is more difficult. The packaging of the family kits allowed them to be transported by small boats. Family kits were packed in a hard plastic crates with handles and include hand towels, sanitary pads, razors, cob, laundry powder, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, two treated mosquito nets, jerry can, kitchen set, kitchen knife, wooden spoon, blankets, candles, sarong, floor mat, rubber slippers, radio, water purification tablets and school kit.

The PRCS did not see the need to create friendly spaces for children, as closest family and friends generously took good care of the children, and they were not staying in evacuation centres long enough. Special cases were dealt with by the state government and RDATs.

An administration manager is responsible for replying and communicating with recipients on equitable access to disaster response services and plans through phone calls to the office since April this year. Radio talks with NEMO and the weather service addressed confusion and misunderstanding on accessing resources for the people before during and after the typhoon.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1.1: 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.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS is supported to lead the planned operation.</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Current staff and volunteers are appropriately supported to conduct activities safely.</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS has sufficient support services to manage the operation.</i>	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes:

The volunteer insurance list was submitted in the beginning of 2021 and was reviewed and revised. Briefings on volunteers' role and risks as well as ensuring safety standards was done, and psychosocial first aid training was conducted with staff and volunteers, with referrals where needed. The PRCS ensures volunteer safety and well-being are provided for with necessary personal equipment.

The operation funds have ensured PRCS maintained vehicles and fuel adequately, with sufficient administrative support to operate.

The PRCS has satisfactory operations management support (HR) from the disaster risk management (DRM) delegate and logistics support for a local logistics manager.

Through its response to Typhoon Surigae, the National Society has built strong partnerships with the airport rescue and firefighting unit, which allowed the PRCS to use its storage space as a makeshift warehouse for all NFIs, as well served as a distribution point to the states.

International Disaster Response

Outcome 2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS is supported by IFRC and ICRC to start-up and implement the operations.</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Adequate technical remote support is provided to the NS.</i>	Yes	Yes

S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS complies with DREF procedures.</i>	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes

The PRCS was supported by a remote staff on loan from Australian Red Cross to support oversight of all the international procurement and humanitarian flight coordination, ensuring that the NS builds stronger logistics skills and knowledge in required procurement, supply chain and warehousing. Support was provided through remote training with key National Society staff.

Understanding and compliance with the Principles and Rules, Emergency Response Framework and Emergency Appeal and DREF procedures continues. Support is being provided in-country by the DRM delegate on necessary process for DREF acquittals. Unfortunately, the PRCS finance manager was on leave for a couple weeks, which delayed submission of acquittals and is one reason the operation needs to be extended.

Methods have been put in place to allow communities to provide feedback and voice concerns on the response. These have largely been around clarification of the household damage assessment categories and criteria and have been managed through the PRCS hotline. As the distributions of both relief items and cash are done in coordination with the government, regular local community channels and the RDATs (community response teams) keep people informed of operational plans and progress. Community feedback systems, established in collaboration with the government, use feedback forms, phone numbers, and community members (including rumour and / or perception tracking) to act on and ensure accurate expectations, thus maintaining PRCS' reputation.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome 3.1: 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.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Communication products are created on how the RCM is meeting the needs of the affected and advocates for acting on remaining gaps.</i>	Yes	No

Output 3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The operation has good visibility on social media and with local communities.</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS is supported by the in-country delegate to conduct a lesson learned workshop.</i>	150 volunteers 30 staff	Not yet

Progress towards outcomes

The NS produces communications on the operation supported by IFRC and ICRC. The PRCS produced visual awareness materials across the technical sectors noted above; additional communication materials such as videos will be produced.

The lessons learned workshop will follow a participatory approach and utilize the DREF Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) guidance. Support will be provided by DRM from IFRC country cluster delegation (CCD) in Suva and the DREF Capacity Development delegate. Learning and good practices will be shared via the Pacific DM Network, the regional cash groups and case studies will be developed to encourage further CVA within the region.

D. Financial Report

Total funding for this operation includes the DREF of CHF 309,462. In addition, USAID has provided USD 100,000 (CHF 91,911) for shelter and relief, volunteer costs and planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); while a second allocation of USD 100,000 from USAID was provided for cash disbursement to Category 1 damaged households. Australian Red Cross provided a remote staff on loan to support logistics management for two months. New Zealand RC also provided some in-kind support from their IM advisor to analyze distribution data and develop visuals for the final report. In addition, PRCS received in-kind contributions of 400 family kits from DFAT through IFRC CCD and Australian Red Cross coordination. Shelter NFI from IOM (1,500 tarpaulins and 500 of the hygiene kits) through the NEMO office complemented and met the gap in stocks.

Budget reallocations reflect the in-kind donations, increased logistics costs and volunteer costs, and increased CVA disbursement. The revised budget is attached. Specifically, there are changes in the following areas of focus:

- Reduced shelter from CHF 124,275 to CHF 88,380 due to: no international freight required as it was provided by humanitarian charter flights from WFP; less tarps purchased as IOM also provided these to the operation; less blankets as these were provided as part of the family kits donated by DFAT; price changes for solar lamps and blankets, and a small increase in volunteer costs to manage the international in-kind contributions.
- Increased livelihoods and basic needs from CHF 73,694 to CHF 114,727 due to: additional cash (CHF 24,000) for the second CVA disbursement to cover gaps for Category 2 destroyed households and increased volunteer costs for distributions. To support this assistance, USD 338,000 (CHF 310,774) is required. The Republic of Palau pledged USD 150,000 (CHF 137,918) while USD 75,000 (CHF 68,958) was budgeted from the DREF. The USAID contributed USD 88,000 to the CVA, and the gap of 25,000 is covered under this revised DREF.
- Increased health from CHF 20,043 to CHF 26,466 due to: decreased need of mosquito coils (costs covered by USAID), and additional vector and hygiene promotion awareness done in communities.

- Reduced water sanitation and hygiene from CHF 37,383 to CHF 11,188 CHF due to: less jerry cans and buckets required, and hygiene kits costs covered by USAID.
- Increased strengthening National Societies from CHF 32,381 to CHF 40,048 due to additional funding for a local logistics personnel to support local procurement and management of in-kind donations; additional operations management support to provide operational coordination, volunteer support and guidance to national society leadership on operational management. Additional fixes to warehousing also required to maintain logistics storage for the NFI.
- Increased effective international disaster management from CHF 1,454 to CHF 3,331 to cover additional external communications to the public on the CVA disbursement.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous DREF Operations Update](#)
- [DREF Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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- Karla Morizzo, senior officer, DREF; email: karla.morizzo@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support**
- Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org
- **Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**
- Mursidi Unir, acting PMER manager; email: mursidi.unir@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 (NGOs) 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**.

DREF OPERATION

MDRPW001 Republic of Palau : Typhoon Surigae

19/7/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	13,738
Construction - Facilities	6,433
Clothing & Textiles	6,451
Teaching Materials	2,206
Utensils & Tools	7,789
Other Supplies & Services	1,130
Cash Disbursement	91,896
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	129,643
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,946
Logistics Services	849
Logistics, Transport & Storage	12,796
National Society Staff	5,808
Volunteers	87,650
Personnel	93,458
Workshops & Training	9,190
Workshops & Training	9,190
Travel	8,271
Information & Public Relations	4,135
Office Costs	3,492
Communications	1,103
Financial Charges	6,433
Other General Expenses	13,784
General Expenditure	37,218
DIRECT COSTS	282,304
INDIRECT COSTS	18,350
TOTAL BUDGET	300,654

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	94,125
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	122,185
AOF4	Health	19,378
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	11,916
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	42,651
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	3,548
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	6,851
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		300,654

