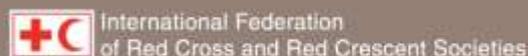


www.ifrc.org  
Saving lives,  
changing minds.

# Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

## Vanuatu: Tropical Cyclone Pam



<b>DREF operation n°:</b> MDRVU002	<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">TC-2015-000020-VUT</a>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 13 March 2015	<b>Date of disaster:</b> 13 March 2015
<b>Manager responsible for this DREF operation:</b> Vuli Gauna, Regional DM Programme Manager, IFRC Pacific Regional Office	<b>Point of contact:</b> Jacqueline De Gaillande, Chief Executive Officer, Vanuatu Red Cross Society
<b>Operation start date:</b> 13 March 2015	<b>Operation end date:</b> 13 May 2015
<b>Operation budget:</b> CHF 132,996	<b>DREF allocated:</b> CHF 132,996
<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 20,000 people	
<b>Host National Society:</b> The Vanuatu Red Cross Society has six staff members in its headquarters, who are now on high alert. The National Society is currently mobilizing its 200 active volunteers and 200 on-call volunteers for potential response.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The National Society is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as the Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross.	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

A powerful tropical cyclone — Tropical Cyclone Pam — has reached Category V strength as it makes way in the South Pacific Ocean. Tropical Cyclone Pam is threatening to cause significant humanitarian needs as it brushes some islands of Vanuatu, and its impact will potentially be felt in other island nations of the region. According to some organizations, as well as Vanuatu, the large diameter of Pam may affect Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

The anticipated path of Cyclone Pam will take it over the capital, Port Vila, as well as over the southern islands, which are also inhabited. Its circulation will affect a wide area, with wave-induced coastal flooding already reported in Tuvalu and Kiribati and Rotuma, Fiji. Other effects are likely to be torrential rains, damaging winds, rough seas, heavy swells, coastal flooding, flash flooding and landslides on higher terrain. The Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has issued a red alert for the northern half of the island chain, including the provinces of Torba and Penama, with yellow alerts for the rest of islands, including the provinces of Sanma, Malampa, Shefa and Tafea.

In consideration of the highly potential impact that Tropical Cyclone Pam may have as it makes way across the region, the respective National Societies of countries on its path have requested support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to be better prepared for disaster response. Based on an analysis of the situation, the IFRC is making an allocation from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Vanuatu Red Cross Society to mount an immediate response when safety conditions allow. The funds will support deployment of rapid assessment teams to quickly determine needs of the affected population, which is crucial in informing the development of a detailed action plan.

It is worth noting that in addition to Tropical Cyclone Pam, Tropical Cyclone Nathan is expected to become a Category I storm and track from the north east coast of Australia, south of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands towards Vanuatu over the next three days.

Based on further information and rapid assessments to be carried out, after the Pam, and when safety conditions allow, additional assistance — including for other counties in the region — may be requested through the IFRC international disaster response mechanisms.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has completed an inventory of its preparedness stocks and alerted emergency response team (ERT) volunteers to be on standby for immediate response. Some staff and volunteers are already in the northern region — Torba — to assist the branch.

Given self-examination of its response capacity, the VRCS has determined that it will need technical support from the IFRC and Partner National Societies present in the region to respond to needs should Tropical Cyclone Pam leave significant humanitarian needs in its wake. Consequently it has requested for surge capacity from the IFRC Pacific Regional Office (PRO) and the New Zealand Red Cross mainly to help in rapid assessments in the aftermath of Pam.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the region

Host National Societies in the Pacific, along with the IFRC PRO and Partner National Societies, have been on high alert since this Tropical Cyclone was sighted and meteorological projections indicated its imminent impact on several countries. The IFRC PRO and the Asia Pacific Zone office have been monitoring the situation closely. The PRO organized a teleconference for concerned partners, to better coordinate the preparedness for response. The PRO continues to provide Host National Societies in the region with relevant up-to-date information from different sectors and sources as well as early warning and preparedness information to facilitate regional support.

The PRO is immediately deploying a disaster management delegate and a shelter delegate to Vanuatu to provide operational support to the VRCS. A communications delegate may also be deployed by the PRO in collaboration with the New Zealand Red Cross subject to discussions with VRCS. On its part, the Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit (DMU) has deployed an operations coordinator to provide additional operational capacity to the PRO.

Meantime, the Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross have indicated that they have resources to support the response.

### Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in-country

#### *Coordinating with the authorities*

The VRCS coordinates closely with the NDMO and already Red Cross volunteers are being mobilized at the request of the NDMO. The NDMO has made radio announcements encouraging communities at risk to cooperate with the Red Cross volunteers and provincial disaster committees (PDC). All VRCS branches are members of their respective provincial disaster committees and are involved in coordination and preparedness planning with the local authorities. The National Society is also represented at the national emergency operations centre, where round-the-clock monitoring of the situation is ongoing, together with other agencies.

#### *Inter-agency coordination*

The VRCS has participated in cluster coordination meetings with the NDMO, including the logistics and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) clusters. During the meetings, National Society staff briefed cluster partners about the National Society's standard operating procedures and contingency plan.

The IFRC PRO is maintaining close coordination with UNOCHA and other regional partners.

## Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

### Needs assessments

While the overall impact of Tropical Cyclone Pam will only be known in its aftermath and the needs it brings will be determined upon completion of rapid needs assessment, based on forecasts it is likely to leave significant needs in its wake. The authorities, the Red Cross and other humanitarian actors will most certainly mount immediate interventions to meet the humanitarian needs that may be wrought by Pam.

This DREF will support deployment of operational support and rapid assessment teams. It will also support the replenishment of shelter relief items. This is in line with VRCS's request for immediate surge capacity as access and logistics/travel may be difficult immediately after Pam. Pre-positioning of key staff and shelter relief items will not only enable a rapid response, if required, but also position the VRCS to quickly determine needs of the affected population, which is crucial in informing the development of a detailed action plan.

Based on further information and rapid assessments to be carried out when safety conditions permit, additional assistance — including for other counties in the region — may be requested through the IFRC international disaster response mechanisms. Based on previous experience, support can be expected in the sectors of emergency health and first aid, emergency water and sanitation, and shelter.

## B. Operational strategy and plan

This DREF allocation aims to position the VRCS and the IFRC system to respond to immediate needs that may be wrought by Tropical Cyclone Pam through deployment and standby of IFRC and NS surge capacity as well as covering costs of mobilizing preparedness stocks to affected areas. **The operation will be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 12 May 2015.** A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

### Overall objective

This DREF operation aims to support the VRCS in responding to immediate needs of communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam and undertaking rapid assessments to inform the development of a detailed action plan.

### Proposed strategy

The initial strategy is to provide surge capacity to VRCS from the IFRC regional and zone offices as well as Partner National Societies present in the region. Once the surge support is in place, rapid assessments will be undertaken to obtain a clearer picture of the situation. This support will enable better response preparedness.

Parallel to this surge support, it can already be projected — based on previous experience — that the main needs will be towards shelter, emergency health and first aid, water, sanitation and hygiene issues. In line with this, preparations are underway to mobilize and dispatch relief items from Australia and New Zealand to Vanuatu.

### Operational support services

#### Human resources

As they will be the first responders, volunteers from VRCS will be required to respond to this imminent disaster. Teams of volunteers have already been put on stand-by in many locations and more will be needed. In terms of staff, it is planned to provide additional surge capacity to some key locations.

The VRCS has determined that it will need technical support from the IFRC and Partner National Societies present in the region to respond to effectively. In addition to deploying international delegates, it is planned to provide surge capacity through peer-exchange arrangements with Sister National Societies in the region.

The following are some of the deployments already planned for Vanuatu:

- 2 disaster management staff members from Sister National Societies
- 1 IFRC disaster management delegate from the PRO
- 1 IFRC shelter delegate from the PRO
- 1 IFRC communications delegate seconded by New Zealand Red Cross

In addition to the above, an operations coordinator from the Asia Pacific DMU has been deployed to Suva, Fiji to provide additional operational capacity to the PRO.

#### Logistics and supply chain

The following is an inventory of preparedness stocks available for Vanuatu:

Items	Quantity
Shelter tool kits	95
Tarpaulins (6m x 4m)	428
Mosquito nets	384
Hygiene kits (family of 5)	89
Kitchen sets (A)	109
Jerry cans (10-litre)	600
Buckets (14-litre, with lid)	201

Additional emergency stocks — of non-food relief items and emergency shelter items including shelter kits — will be mobilized from Australia and New Zealand. Depending on the impact that the Cyclone will have, stocks in the region may need to be replenished.

Considering the distances between locations in this region, logistics costs tend to be extremely high. All movement of human resources will be expensive and therefore takes a large portion of the budget.

## **Information technology and telecommunications**

It is likely that Tropical Cyclone Pam may affect the communication infrastructure of Vanuatu and other countries on its path. Teams being deployed will be equipped with satellite phones and telecommunication costs are factored in the budget of this operation. New Zealand Red Cross supports telecommunication programmes across the region.

## **Communications**

A communications delegate may be deployed by the PRO in collaboration with the New Zealand Red Cross, subject to discussions with VRCS. Remote support will be provided by the IFRC Asia Pacific communication unit through the regional communications and advocacy manager for Southeast Asia Regional Delegation.

## **Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)**

Reporting on the operation will be made in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards. An after-action review will be conducted at the end of the operation. One update will be issued during the operation's timeframe and a final report within three months of the end of the operation. However, if this operation evolves into an Emergency Appeal response, subsequent reporting will be done within the context of that Emergency Appeal.

## **Administration and Finance**

The IFRC, through the department of finance, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. Most National Societies have been supported for many years by the IFRC and are accustomed to these financial procedures.



**ANNEX 1: ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS TABLE TEMPLATE**

<b>ASSUMPTIONS &amp; RISKS</b>	<b>LIST IF SPECIFIC AFFECTED SECTORS OR STATE 'ALL'</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>CAN CONTROL; MITIGATE / INFLUENCE; OR ONLY FACTOR-IN</b>
Access and logistics for travel of assessment teams as well as delivery of materials is not hampered by rough sea and/or bad weather conditions	All	H	H	Factor in response planning
Subsequent storms do not impact upon the same affected areas, distracting resources and implementation schedules	All	M	H	Factor in response planning
The capital of Vanuatu, which hosts the centre of administration and airport, is not incapacitated.	All	M	H	Factor in response planning.

---

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- **Vanuatu Red Cross Society (phone +678 272 58):**
  - Jacqueline De Gaillande, chief executive officer, email: [ceo@redcrossvanuatu.com](mailto:ceo@redcrossvanuatu.com)
  - Augustine Garae, disaster management officer, email: [disaster-redcross@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:disaster-redcross@vanuatu.com.vu)
- **IFRC Pacific regional office, Suva (phone +679 3311 855):**
  - Aurélia Balpe, head of regional office, email: [aurelia.balpe@ifrc.org](mailto:aurelia.balpe@ifrc.org)
  - Vuli Gauna, regional disaster management programme coordinator, email: [vuli.gauna@ifrc.org](mailto:vuli.gauna@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +60 3 9207 5700):**
  - Martin Faller, head of operations, email: [martin.faller@ifrc.org](mailto:martin.faller@ifrc.org)
  - Nicolas Verdy, operations coordinator, mobile: +60 19 620 0357, email: [nicolas.verdy@ifrc.org](mailto:nicolas.verdy@ifrc.org)
  - Peter Ophoff, head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), email: [peter.ophoff@ifrc.org](mailto:peter.ophoff@ifrc.org)
  - Emilia Koski, relationship manager; mobile: +60 12 230 7548, email: [emilia.koski@ifrc.org](mailto:emilia.koski@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Geneva:**
  - Christine South, operations support; phone: +41 22 730 4529, email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)



[Click here](#)

1. DREF budget [below](#)
2. Map [below](#)
3. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

---

## 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**

13/03/2015

MDRVU002 Vanuatu : Tropical Cyclone Pam

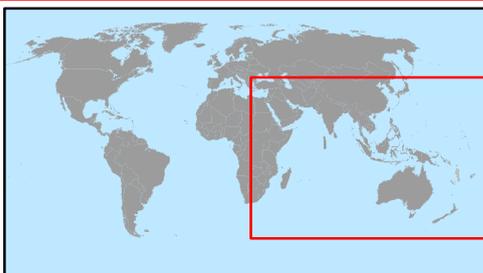
<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	50,569
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>50,569</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	2,250
Transport & Vehicle Costs	24,801
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>27,051</b>
Volunteers	16,043
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>16,043</b>
Travel	25,466
Office Costs	5,000
Communications	700
Financial Charges	50
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>31,216</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	8,117
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>8,117</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>132,996</b>



# Vanuatu: Tropical Cyclone Pam



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, UNISYS, International Federation. MDRVU002.mxd. Map produced by PMER/KUL.



-  CYCLONE-4
-  CYCLONE-5
-  Tropical Cyclone Pam
-  Capitals