

Information bulletin

Vanuatu : Tropical cyclone Donna

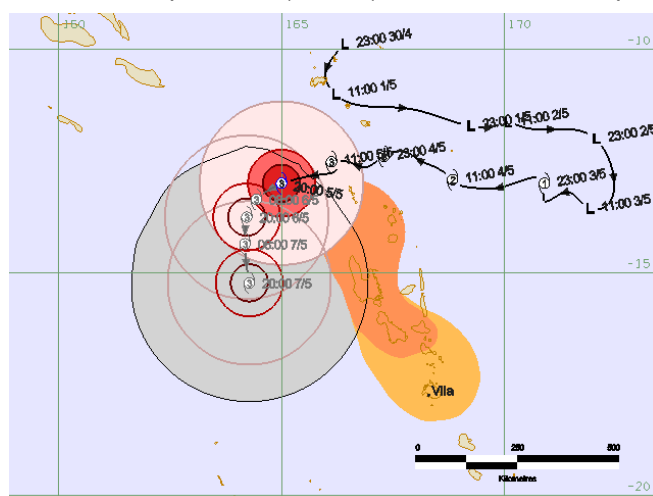
Glide n° TC-2017-000045-VUT	Date of issue: 5 May 2017
Date of disaster: Imminent	Point of contact: Jaqueline De Gaillande, CEO
Host National Society: Vanuatu Red Cross Society	
Partner organizations involved in the operation: Australia Red Cross Society, French Red Cross Society, New Zealand Red Cross Society, IFRC	
Categorization of disaster¹: Yellow	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Vanuatu Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is assessing the evolving situation for a potential DREF Request depending upon the track of the tropical cyclone Donna and its impact.

The situation

On 3 May 2017 (Wednesday), Fiji Meteorological services provided an early alert for a tropical disturbance (TD21F) which was forming north of Vanuatu. The tropical disturbance developed into Tropical Cyclone Donna (TC Donna), a Category 1 system, around Wednesday midnight. TC Donna had intensified further and remains as a Category 3 system in the evening of 5 May local time. It was located about 175 KM west of Torres and 300 KM west northwest of Gaua (Torba Province) in Northern Vanuatu. The system is moving southwest slowly.

TC Donna is forecasted to be tracking southward along Vanuatu's west coast over the next 2-3 days. However, the path and the strength of TC Donna is dynamic and is still subject to change. Provinces of Torba, Sanma, Malampa and Penama are expected to have very rough seas, heavy swells and heavy rainfall and might experience flash and coastal floods. The following is a map issued by Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo Hazards Department (VGMD) that forecasted the path of TC Donna.



Tropical Cyclone Forecast Track Map Number 24 issued at 10:15 pm VUT Friday, 5 May 2017

(Source: <http://www.vmgd.gov.vu/vmgd/index.php/forecast-division/tropical-cyclone/track>)

1. Based on the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Response Framework. This categorization implies that the response intervention is within the capacity of the National Society of an affected country to manage with resources available in-country. If requested, the IFRC Country Office may provide any necessary technical or management support to the National Society, and if required, the IFRC Regional Office may support the mobilization of regional disaster response tools, with Geneva supporting the allocation of Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF).

The Government of Vanuatu has raised the alert levels across the northern provinces, informing people to be prepared by securing their homes and valuables, keeping stock of food and water, cutting down dangerous trees, charging phones, and having torches and an evacuation kit ready. Public alerts are being issued over radio and via mass text messages sent out by Telecom Vanuatu and Digicel.

Action by the Authorities

The Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office is coordinating the response and has activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (National EOC) on a 24/7 basis. The coordination consists of all key humanitarian actors including the Joint Police Operation Centre activation for support if required.

All Vanuatu humanitarian coordination groups ('clusters') have been activated, and have individually met for initial preparedness briefings (Logistics, Telecommunications, Food Security, Health, Education, Shelter, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). Provincial Emergency Operations Centres in Torba, Penama, Sanma and Malampa have been activated and are coordinating with the National Emergency Operations Centre.

Inter-agency meetings were held on 3 and 4 May, which included a briefing to actors and partners on the current situation and the preparedness plans to ensure a coordinated effort towards the response. The NDMO indicated that in case of an emergency, the response to TC Donna will be Government led. The Government will continue to monitor the situation and review the relevance of request for international support based on the situation.

The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) have activated their preparedness plan and identified staff available for possible deployments over the weekend. The PHT team have also been requested to get in contact with local partners, cluster leads and line Ministries. The PHT are also looking through the draft Country Preparedness Package for Vanuatu to ensure the preparedness levels.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

VRCS is on standby at Headquarters by continuously monitoring TC Donna system and communicating with the branches. The National Society is attending different meetings organized by NDMO including WASH cluster, shelter cluster and Vanuatu Humanitarian Team.

The VRCS have also conducted two operation meetings/briefings. The meetings are conducted twice a day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Additionally, VRCS also held partners' coordination meeting with FRC, ARC and NZRC.

VRCS have updated the NDMO at EOC on its capacity for emergency response such as distribution of non – food item (NFI), provision of services through the VRCS volunteers and a water treatment unit available for water distribution. Emergency Response Team (ERT) trained volunteers list is in place and was also shared with NDMO.

In its effort of engaging with the other partners, VRCS also shared its organigram for EOC for TC Donna with partners. The National Society is also having daily updates on the VRCS Website and Facebook.



Vanuatu Red Cross staff preparing emergency communication systems for TC Donna
(Photo: ARC Twitter @redcross.au)

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Vanuatu Red Cross Society**
 - Jaqueline De Gaillande, Chief Executive Officer; phone: (678) 27258; ceo@redcrossvanuatu.com
- **In IFRC CCST Suva**
 - Stephanie Zoll, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator; phone: (679) 9980561; Stephanie.ZOLL@ifrc.org
 - Kathryn Clarkson, Head of Country Cluster Support Team – Pacific; phone: (679) 9992485; kathryn.clarkson@ifrc.org
- **In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur**
 - Martin Faller, deputy director, martin.faller@ifrc.org
 - Nelson Castano, head of disaster and crisis prevention, response and recovery (DCPRR), nelson.castano@ifrc.org
 - Sanna Salmela-Eckstein, operations coordinator, mobile: +6012 207 6534, sanna.salmela@ifrc.org
 - Patrick Fuller, Communications Manager; mobile: +60 12 230 8451; email: patrick.fuller@ifrc.org
 - Clarence Sim, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Manager; email: clarence.sim@ifrc.org



Click here

1. 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 (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.**
