

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Cook Islands: Tropical Cyclones

DREF operation n° MDRCK002
GLIDE n° TC-2010-00024-COK
Update n° 1
19 February 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the International Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:

12 February 2010 to 19 February 2010

Summary: Following three tropical cyclones, including cyclone Pat (a "category 3" cyclone), CHF 150,000 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Cook Islands Red Cross Society's relief operation.

The Cook Islands Red Cross Society staff and volunteers have been deployed to Aitutaki, which was the most badly affected island. Support to the Cook Islands Red Cross Society with regard to assessment and the operation has been provided by an Australian Red Cross water and sanitation delegate. A needs assessment has been completed, which indicates that there are 317 affected households; and the greatest needs at this time are shelter, food and access to safe water.



Aitutaki residents survey the remains of their home and crops.

Photo credit: International Federation

Relief stocks are being mobilized and distribution is underway. Preparations are also underway for health promotion training and psychosocial support programmes. At the time of this report, the budget has been updated to reflect the operational plans as defined after the assessment.

ECHO has replenished 80 per cent of the DREF allocation (EUR 81,824; CHF 119, 953; USD 111, 139) made to the Cook Islands Red Cross Society to support their response to the tropical cyclones. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here to view the DREF budget; and here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

While cyclone Pat has dissipated, the Asia Pacific centre for emergency and disaster information warns that conditions in the Northern Cook Islands remain rife for tropical storm production. There is a continuing risk of more cyclone activity in the northern Cook Islands.

Aitutaki has an estimated population of 1,671. Initial reports estimated that 90 per cent of the houses on the northern side of the island experienced significant damage to roofing. Preliminary assessments have been conducted by the Cook Islands Red Cross Society (CIRCS). The airport, hospital and most major buildings on Aitutaki have sustained only minor damage and are still functional. The government is currently trying to restore communications and power on the island.

It is estimated that 80 people have been displaced and are living with host families or are in temporary accommodation.

The main source of water on the island is rain water. Due to the unavailability of potable water on the island have, a water purifier is now in operation and water is being distributed. There is widespread damage to trees, crops and other vegetation.

Coordination and partnerships

CIRCS has been meeting regularly with government officials to coordinate closely on response. The national society is working in partnership with the ministry of health and the ministry of education to achieve some of the objectives detailed below.

CIRCS, with the assistance from New Zealand Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, the International Federation and the New Zealand Government has mobilized tents, tarpaulins, displaced families, shelter provision, hygiene kits, water containers and tents.



A CIRCS staff member with infant clothing for distribution on Aitutaki
Photo credit: International Federation

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CIRCS mobilized assessment teams that have now completed assessments of all villages and households affected on the island. The assessment team is also working on data input for the geographic information system (GIS); so to be able to produce maps showing household needs and vulnerable groups.

CIRCS has located two containers to be used as warehouses and has set up a distribution base on Aitutaki to receive relief stocks and mobilize distribution teams. Stocks have been transferred from Rarotonga to Aitutaki, and additional stocks have been received from the Australian Red Cross, the New Zealand Red Cross and others in the community. All stocks will be in Aitutaki within the next 24 hours. However, further procurement is still in progress.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: The distribution of 100 kitchen sets, blankets and sheltering materials to 1,671 beneficiaries (334 families)
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to ongoing needs and capacity assessments • Train volunteers on International Federation distribution procedures • Development beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user • Replenishment of pre-positioned relief stocks

The initial needs assessment and a summary of the results is presented in the Preliminary Assessment Data document in [Annex 2](#). Based on the results the most urgent needs are shelter, power and communications. In addition, access to safe water supplies and food are also needed. In responding to these needs the CIRCS has mobilized their pre-positioned relief stocks. The national society has also received additional assistance from the New Zealand government through the New Zealand Red Cross. This assistance included: 100 water containers, 100 tarpaulins, 50 first aid kits, five satellite phones, candles and rain coats

CIRCS volunteers have been provided with refresher training sessions on standard relief distribution practices and have been active in providing targeted assistance since the 14 February 2010 to those most in need: women, children, the disabled and those with medical needs. To date, 461 tarpaulins, 14 tents, 219 mosquito nets, 144 water containers, 20 shelter kits and 187 hygiene kits have been distributed. With assistance from the business sector, further stocks, including blankets and tarpaulins, will be transported from Rarotonga to Aitutaki during the next twenty four hours.

Emergency health

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of 500 mosquito nets to 1,671 beneficiaries (334 families). The psychological support needs of beneficiaries are addressed.

Activities planned:

- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries of waterborne and water related diseases
- Conduct training for Red Cross staff and volunteers for the provision of psychological support in emergencies
- Disseminate the risk of waterborne and water related diseases and PSP activities in affected communities
- Red Cross teams have distributed water purification tablets.

A Red Cross counselor is consulting with the ministry of health and the ministry of education regarding the appropriate approach.

In the interim, a nurse volunteer who is providing support from CIRCS has been deployed to work with the Cook Islands ministry of health on the island of Aitutaki. CIRCS' volunteer is assisting with psychosocial support and the preparation for health awareness activities. In support of the awareness programme mosquito nets and information leaflets outlining dengue prevention techniques have been transported to Aitutaki in preparation for the planned training programme to start in the coming days.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: Reduce the risk of waterborne and water related diseases through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 1,671 beneficiaries (334 families).

Activities planned:

- Assess the existing coverage with a view to ensuring availability of an adequate water supply
- Provide potable water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion for 1,671 people
- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries, in particular hygiene promotion

At the request of CIRCS, the Australian Red Cross deployed a water and sanitation delegate to assist with conducting the initial assessments with the assistance of CIRCS volunteers and the ministry of health. This is so as specific issues relating to, access to safe water, sanitation and solid waste issues could be identified.

In Rarotonga, the CIRCS sent 600 bottles of water, each bottle at 1.5l, to Aitutaki on 16 February to be distributed to families most in need. Based on the initial assessments, which have indicated limited access to safe water supplies the Australian Red Cross in consultation with CIRCS deployed NOMAD, a portable water treatment unit to Rarotonga. This unit has been set up and is now providing potable drinking water for an interim period a while longer term solution to returning regular safe water supplies is being addressed. In addition, 200 hygiene kits have been transported to Aitutaki and will be distributed in the next few days.

Furthermore, a CIRCS public health nurse volunteer is preparing a hygiene promotion plan that will accompany the provision of potable water ensuring comprehensive assistance and awareness is provided to the affected population.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map follows; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Cook Islands : Tropical Cyclones

MDRCK002

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter	24,845	29,845	5,000
Water & Sanitation		10,000	10,000
Other Supplies & Services		5,000	5,000
Total Relief Needs	24,845	44,845	20,000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computers & Telecom Equipment	22,000	22,000	0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse	5,000	5,000	0
Transport & Vehicles Costs	28,000	28,000	0
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	30,000	5,000	-25,000
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	18,000	23,000	5,000
Information & Public Relations	3,000	3,000	0
Office running costs	5,000	5,000	0
Communication Costs	5,000	5,000	0
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR (6.5% of total)	9,155	9,155	0
Total Operational Needs	125,155	105,155	-20,000
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	150,000	150,000	0

Preliminary Assessment Data

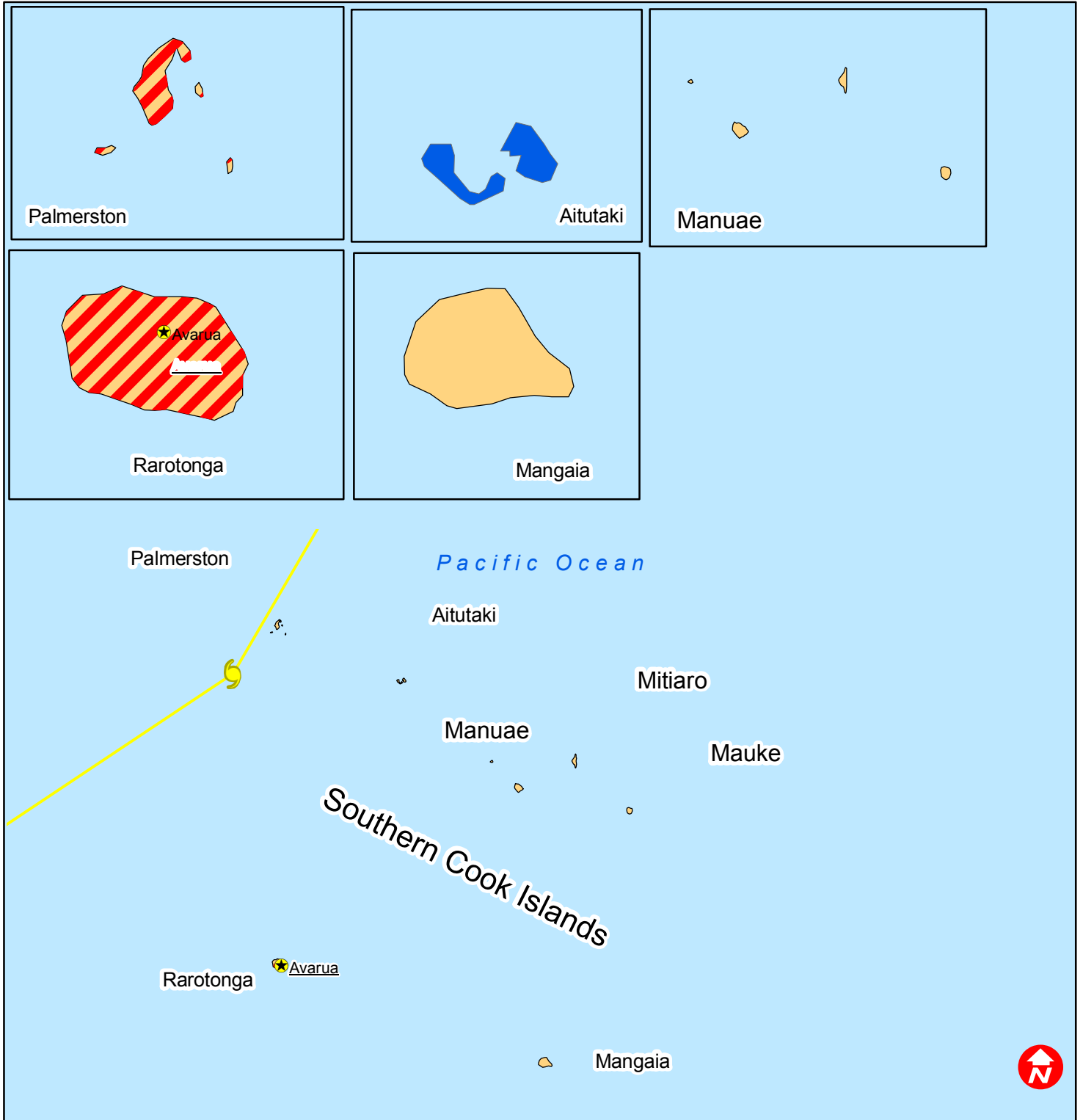
ANNEX 2

Immediate Needs by Village

Village	Number of Households Affected	Tarp/ Rope	Water Containers	Buckets	Bed Linen	Lighting	Cooking Sets	Medical	Water	Food
Amuri	29	26	15	12	15	23	15	4	15	15
Arutanga	13	11	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	2
Nikaupara	21	20	7	3	3	3	2	1	8	6
Reureu	9	8	4	1	3	1	1	0	3	1
Tautu	123	64	73	55	45	65	40	27	80	71
Ureia	19	17	7	7	8	7	5	0	9	10
Vaipae	81	44	44	42	33	30	24	47	33	33
Vaipeka	22	7	4	4	3	1	2	6	5	3
Total	317	197	155	126	112	131	91	86	156	141



Cook Islands: Floods



- Tropical storm
- Tropical depression
- Storm category 2
- Storm category 1
- Capitals
- Affected areas by the force wind
- Most affected area