

# 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° 2  
15 April 2010

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

Period covered by this update: **20 February to 14 April 2010.**

Summary: CHF 150,000 (USD 140,434 or EUR 102,280) was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 12 February 2010 to support the Cook Islands Red Cross Society (CIRCS) in delivering assistance to 1,671 beneficiaries over three months.

The distribution of emergency relief items was completed over the reporting period. To date, the operation has provided 69 tents, more than 800 tarpaulins, and food to over 400 families in the affected areas. In addition, 265 people benefitted from psycho-social support. CIRCS's staff and volunteers continue to provide school breakfasts and potable water to more than 500 students in Aitutaki. Health promotion training and psychological support activities are ongoing.

The operation is expected to be completed by 12 May 2010; a Final Report will be made available by 12 July 2010.

ECHO has replenished 80 per cent of the DREF allocation (EUR 81,824; CHF 119,953; USD 111,139) made to CIRCS to support response on account of tropical cyclones. Major donors to 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 contact details or click here to view a map of the affected area>](#)



The Cook Islands Red Cross Society volunteers continue to carry out psychological support activities in the affected areas. Photo Credit: Cook Islands Red Cross Society (CIRCS)

## The situation

In a period of two weeks from January 28, 2010, the 15 atolls which make up the Cook Islands were affected by three successive tropical cyclones. The latest and the strongest of the three was tropical cyclone Pat.

The cyclone, which at its height was classified as a “category three” cyclone, brought destructive winds with gusts of over 100 knots to the island of Aitutaki. Rarotonga and Palmerston experienced gale force winds and rain.

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 roof damage. Initial damage and needs assessments conducted by CIRCS confirmed a total of 335 damaged houses; with 508 households requiring immediate assistance.

A detailed recovery assessment was conducted later by technical experts in government sectors with support from CIRCS finalizing the number of people who were recipients. The detailed assessment revealed more extensive damage to some houses, with walls being more unstable than was initially thought, requiring greater shelter assistance. Many families who experienced severe damage to housing are sheltered in tents or with extended families while awaiting their houses to be repaired or rebuilt.

The main source of water on the island is rain water. Many families have started to collect rainwater again, but supply from this source is still not sufficient to meet the water needs of the community and as such there are many families still need treated water being distributed by CIRCS. (Water distribution is being done in conjunction with the dissemination of health and hygiene awareness information to households by CIRCS volunteers). Debris on the island caused by widespread damage to trees have been effectively cleaned up with support from a chainsaw on-loan service, provided by CIRCS on a sign-in and sign-out basis.

## Coordination and partnerships

CIRCS has been meeting regularly with government officials to coordinate closely on issues concerning response. The national society is also providing continuous support and advice on recovery assessments by working in partnership with the ministry of health, the ministry of education and the ministry of internal affairs; and have achieved many of the objectives detailed below in partnership with these agencies.

The CIRCS, with the assistance of the New Zealand Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross, IFRC and the New Zealand Government/NZAID, ADRA, local businesses and overseas Cook Islands Communities, has mobilized and distributed tents, tarpaulins, family shelter and hygiene kits, clean drinking water (through a new water treatment unit), water containers, bunks and mattresses, ladders and chainsaws and many other supplies.

CIRCS has also received considerable national support from the general public with many people making private donations towards the response operation in Aitutaki. ANZ and Westpac Banks in the Cook Islands are also engaging in partnership through donations.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CIRCS mobilized teams that have completed assessments of all villages and households affected on the island. The assessment teams then loaded data into a geographic information system (GIS) to produce maps that illustrated household needs, vulnerable groups, and relief distribution plans.

The national society is in the process of negotiating with the government of the Cook Islands on identifying suitable land for the Aitutaki branch office. In the interim, a container has been placed on the site used by CIRCS as the base for their response effort. The relief items, provided by the Australian Red Cross and the New Zealand Red Cross, were transferred from the stocks in Rarotonga and distributed to recipients. Following the completion of distribution(s), the replenishment of stocks is underway. All surplus stock has been packed and returned to the national office for storage and distribution to other branches in preparation for future events.



Aitutaki community receiving drinking water, treated and distributed by the Red Cross.

Photo credit: CIRCS

## Progress towards outcomes

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: The distribution of 100 kitchen sets, blankets and sheltering materials to 1,671 people (334 families).**

**Activities planned:**

- Support ongoing needs and capacity assessments
- Train volunteers on IFRC distribution procedures
- Develop 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
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

**Progress:**

- Needs assessment completed and relief supplies distributed according to the needs identified through an established beneficiary registration system.
- To date, the operation has seen the distribution of 69 tents, 886 tarpaulins and 135 blankets;
- Volunteers have been trained in IFRC relief distribution procedures. Additional awareness of these procedures was undertaken with volunteers and governing board members from other islands in the southern Cook Islands on 29-31 March during a lessons learned and capacity building workshop.
- Staff and volunteers worked with logistics systems with a particular focus on tracking incoming and outgoing stocks to maintain accuracy and keep track of supplies.
- Additional stock sent to Aitutaki for distribution has been stored in a container in preparation for future disasters. Surplus stock has been returned to the National Office for distribution to other branches as part of preparedness for future disasters.

### Emergency Health

**Objective: Reduce the risk of waterborne and water related diseases have been reduced through the provision of 500 mosquito nets to 1,671 people (334 families). The psycho-social (or psychological) support needs of recipients 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 (psycho-social support) activities in affected communities

**Progress:**

- Conducted training and disseminated information for the CIRCS volunteers and beneficiaries on prevention of waterborne and water related diseases.
- Mosquito nets and information leaflets have been distributed during the training and awareness raising with the communities for disease prevention.
- Partnership with the ministry of health and environment sector and the community of Aitutaki on hygiene promotion and dengue prevention activities ongoing.
- Psycho-social support (PSP) training was provided to the CIRCS Aitutaki branch volunteers and youth peer educators and PSP support has been provided to 265 beneficiaries in partnership with the ministry of health and the ministry of internal affairs
- Red Cross teams distributed water purification tablets with water storage containers to affected households along with messages on the proper use of the tablets, in partnership with the ministry of health.

**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 of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply
- Provide potable water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion for 334 families.
- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries, in particular hygiene promotion

**Progress:**

- The CIRCS, with support from the Australian Red Cross Water and Sanitation Coordinator, conducted an assessment of water supply on the island with the ministry of health.
- CIRCS sent 600 bottles of water (1.5l) to Aitutaki on 16 February.
- Following the recommendations of the assessment that identified water as a need, the Australian Red Cross supported CIRCS through the deployment of a water treatment unit and equipment to Rarotonga.
- The CIRCS is still treating and supplying fresh drinking water to affected families on the island through the water treatment unit.
- 2,050 collapsible 10L water containers were distributed to affected families along with the treated water.
- 200 hygiene kits were distributed to affected communities and supported by hygiene promotion activities
- Conducted training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries, in hygiene promotion supported by the distribution of hygiene kits to the community members in need

## 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

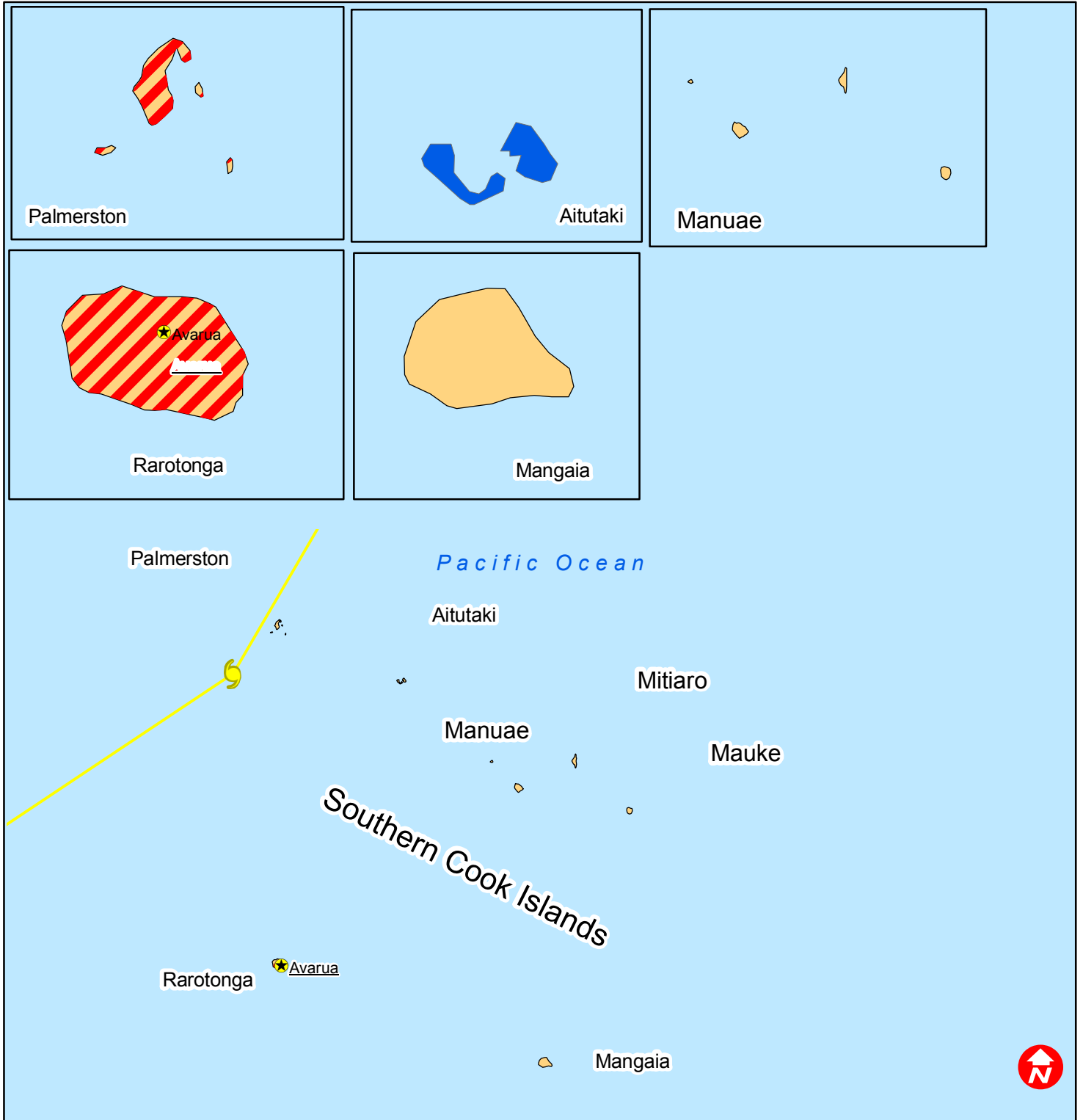
### Cook Islands : Tropical Cyclones

MDRCK002

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



# Cook Islands: Floods



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