

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Solomon Islands: Tropical Cyclone Ului

DREF operation n° MDRSB002  
GLIDE n° **TC-2010-0060-SLB**  
Operation Update n° 1  
5 April 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the 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:** 23 March - 2 April 2010.



In response to Tropical Cyclone Ului, Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) teams distributed non-food items including hygiene and family kits and a small number of tarpaulins to affected households across Honiara and Rennell/Bellona the provinces. Photo: SIRCS.

### **Summary:**

CHF 74,976 (USD 70,602 or EUR 52,184) was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 22 March 2010 to support the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) in conducting rapid assessments in the Tropical Cyclone Ului-affected areas and in delivering immediate

assistance to 2,250 beneficiaries through distribution of non-food relief supplies. With assessment reports coming in from the field, it was revealed that the extent of the damage and needs across the cyclone-hit provinces are not as large as initially anticipated. Therefore, this operation anticipates a reduction in the number of beneficiaries to approximately 1,205 and requests that the initial DREF request be scaled down to CHF 64,954. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

SIRCS deployed trained emergency response staff and volunteers with satellite phones and very high frequency (VHF) radios from its headquarters in Honiara as a part of the multi-agency assessment teams led by the national disaster management office to Rennell/Bellona and Makira provinces on 25 March. Relief items including family kits, hygiene kits, tarpaulins and water containers were distributed to affected families in this reporting period, mainly in Honiara and Rennell/Bellona, with further distributions planned in Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces.

The operation is expected to be implemented over three months. The operation will be completed by 22 June 2010; and a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 22 September 2010.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments. Details of all donors can be found [here](#).

[<click here to view revised budget, or here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

Tropical Cyclone Ului formed west of Santo Island in Vanuatu on 12 March and gained strength on 15 March as it moved over the Solomon Islands. The cyclone affected Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal, Temotu, Makira/Uluawa and Rennell/Bellona provinces, while moving slowly to the west towards the coast of Australia. Damage in the Solomon Islands were mainly caused by strong winds, rough seas/storm surges and flooding due to very heavy rains. The deployment of assessment teams was delayed due to bad weather, with initial aerial assessments taking place only over the past weekend. The full extent of damage remains unclear as communications with the provinces were unreliable.

The preliminary information from the national disaster council (NDC) suggested the following damages in the affected provinces:

- 11 houses destroyed and 7 houses damaged, with 70 - 90 per cent of food gardens damaged in Rennell/Bellona province.
- 17 houses destroyed and 80-90 per cent of food gardens damaged in South Makira province.
- 31 houses destroyed and 34 houses damaged in South Guadalcanal, with 80-90 per cent of food gardens damaged.
- One house destroyed and 80-90 per cent of food gardens damaged in Isabel province.
- 58 houses were reportedly destroyed in Malaita province.
- Central Guadalcanal experienced flooding caused by heavy rains.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) mobilized joint assessment and response teams, consisting of representatives from the government agencies, the Solomon Islands Red Cross and nongovernmental organizations. Due to ongoing poor weather conditions in the Solomon Islands, assessment teams were only able to be deployed by boat on 25 March.

Assessment results from Rennell/Bellona and Makira provinces indicate that the biggest impact of the cyclone was on crops and gardens, and the damage to shelter is not as large as expected. Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) teams distributed non-food items including hygiene and family kits and a small number of tarpaulins to 181 affected households across the two provinces to date. The National Society was notified that a small number of households were also impacted by the cyclone, and two volunteers were immediately deployed to conduct an assessment. A total of 18 family kits, 12 hygiene kits and 12 tarpaulins were distributed to the 20 affected households in Honiara on 1 April. Assessments are still ongoing in Malaita, Temotu and Isabel provinces. SIRCS will be deploying further trained personnel to these areas to assist with distributions early next week. SIRCS are estimating that a further 40 households have been affected by the cyclone on the weather coast in Guadalcanal.

## Coordination and partnerships

The SIRCS continues to liaise closely with the NDMO to monitor the situation and to support arrangements for the deployment of assessment teams. In addition, the National Society has been coordinating with non-governmental organizations, including Oxfam, CARE, World Vision and Save the Children.

The Australian Red Cross (ARC) mobilized 1,050 water containers, 200 tarpaulins and 45 first aid kits to the value of AUD 27,250 to support the SIRCS' response operation to Tropical Cyclone Ului as well as their ongoing response effort to the floods in Guadalcanal. The SIRCS response team is also being supported by an in-country ARC disaster management delegate.

The New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) is deploying a delegate to support SIRCS with information technology and telecommunications issues that are currently hampering their response efforts. NZRC has also made NZD 20,000 (CHF 14,997) available to support SIRCS in restocking their containers following the response.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is liaising directly with the SIRCS on the need for support and coordinating closely with partner national societies in the region to assist in mobilizing personnel and relief items.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards objectives

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

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

**Objective 1:** To ensure that at least 1,205 people affected by cyclone Ului receive essential non-food items to meet their immediate needs for up to three months.

##### Activities Planned:

- Immediate needs of 1,205 people have been met through distribution of non-food items (tarpaulins, jerry cans, family and hygiene kits)
- Deploy assessment and response teams to the affected provinces to assess the current situation
- and identify needs for the Red Cross actions (immediate and longer-term) in order to assist the most-affected individuals
- Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended
- assistance
- Mobilize relief supplies and procure relief items locally in accordance with IFRC's procurement
- standards
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

##### Progress and Impact:

SIRCS deployed trained emergency response staff and volunteers with satellite phones and very high frequency (VHF) radios from its headquarters in Honiara as a part of the multi-agency assessment teams led by the NDMO to Rennell/Bellona and Makira provinces on 25 March

Items for 250 family kits and 250 hygiene kits were procured locally and assembled for deployment with emergency assessment teams to Rennell/Bellona and Makira provinces, and 390 water containers and 78 tarps from existing SIRCS stock were also mobilized with assessment teams.

A small assessment team was deployed in response to reports that households in Honiara were also affected by the cyclone, and 12 tarpaulins, 12 family kits and eight hygiene kits were subsequently distributed across 20 households in Honiara.

Other trained emergency response branch staff and volunteers were deployed from the ground as part of inter-agency assessment teams in Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces, while family kits, 90 hygiene kits, 36 tarpaulins and 148 water containers were distributed across the Rennell/Bellona province to 151 households (755 beneficiaries) to date. In addition, 31 family kits, 2 hygiene kits, 6 water containers and 36 tarpaulins have been distributed to 30 households (150 beneficiaries) in Makira.

## 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 \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation'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 International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

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

- Solomon Islands Red Cross: Ms Nancy Jolo, Secretary general, satellite phone: 8816 3185 0301, email: [secgen\\_sirc@solomon.com.sb](mailto:secgen_sirc@solomon.com.sb)
- Pacific regional office: Ms Ruth Lane, Regional disaster management coordinator, Suva, phone: +679 331 1855; email: [ruth.lane@ifrc.org](mailto:ruth.lane@ifrc.org)
- Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia:
  - Mr Jagan Chapagain, Deputy head of Asia Pacific zone, email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org), phone: +6 03 9207 5700
  - Disaster management unit: Ms Elzat Mamutalieva , Operations coordinator, email: [elzat.mamutalieva@ifrc.org](mailto:elzat.mamutalieva@ifrc.org); phone: + 60 3 9207 5727, mobile: +60 19 274 4960
  - Regional logistics unit: Mr Jeremy Francis, Regional logistics coordinator, [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@ifrc.org), mobile: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573
  - Resource mobilization & planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit: Ms Penny Elghady, Resource mobilization & PMER coordinator, email: [penny.elghady@ifrc.org](mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org), phone: +60 3 9207 5771
  - For pledges of funding: [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

*<revised budget below; click here to return to the title page>*

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## MDRSB002- Solomon Islands :Tropical Cyclone Ului

### BUDGET SUMMARY

BUDGET GROUP	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	33,000
Water & Sanitation	5,000
Medical & First Aid	2,500
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>40,500</b>
Vehicles	1,700
Computer & Telecom	3,000
Other Machinery & Equipment	3,500
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>8,200</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	1,200
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,000
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,200</b>
Other Staff benefits	5,000
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Office Costs	2,000
Communications	3,090
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>5,090</b>
Program Support	3,964
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>3,964</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>64,954</b>