

# 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**  
Update n° 2  
12 May 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:** 4 April – 10 May 2010.

**CHF 64,954 (USD 58,343 or EUR 46,320) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries. The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) have contributed EUR 40,000 (CHF 56,078) towards the replenishment of the DREF for the allocation made to this operation. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO.**

**Summary:** Tropical Cyclone Ului formed west of Santo Island in Vanuatu around 23:00 local time (12:00 GMT) on 12 March. The cyclone gained strength as it moved on a westerly course toward the Solomon Islands. By 15 March, the cyclone intensified to a category four as it moved through the Solomon Islands. It brought with it storm force winds and heavy rains, causing flooding and damage in six provinces, including Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal, Temotu, Makira/Uluawa and Rennel/Bellona provinces. Initial aerial assessments conducted in the Rennel/Bellona province indicated that at least 25 per cent of the population had been affected. On the basis of this information from the national disaster management office, rapid assessment teams were deployed to the cyclone-hit areas to further assess the extent of damage to communities, families and infrastructure - and to provide immediate assistance to those affected.

In addition to a number of rapid assessment teams, Solomon Islands Red Cross deployed relief items (tarpaulins, water containers, family and hygiene kits) as well as its water treatment unit to assist the affected populations. The operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 22 June 2010; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 22 September 2010).

[<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 the Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal, Temotu, Makira/Uluawa and Rennel/Bellona provinces, while moving slowly to the west towards the coast of Australia. The damage in the Solomon Islands was mainly caused by strong winds, rough seas/storm surges and flooding due to very heavy rains. Deployment of assessment teams was delayed due to bad weather,

with initial aerial assessments taking place only over the past weekend. The full picture on the extent of damage remained 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 were destroyed, 7 houses and 70 to 90 per cent of food gardens was damaged in Rennell/Bellona Province.
- 17 houses were destroyed and 80-90 per cent of food gardens were damaged in South Makira.
- 31 houses were destroyed and 34 houses were damaged in South Guadalcanal, while 80-90% of food gardens were damaged.
- One house was destroyed and 80-90 per cent of food garden was 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 government agencies, the Solomon Islands Red Cross and nongovernmental organizations. The teams were deployed on 24 March. AusAid supported the deployment of two government patrol boats to Rennell/Bellona and Makira Provinces for assessment and provision of initial relief supply.

## Coordination and partnerships

Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) liaised closely with NDMO to monitor the situation and to support arrangements for the deployment of assessment teams. In addition, the National Society coordinated with nongovernment organizations, including Oxfam, CARE, World Vision and Save the Children. Coordination efforts included the joint briefing /refresher training of Red Cross and Oxfam staff in critical aspects of rapid assessment methodology to ensure as far as possible that teams on the ground worked well together and were following coordinated approaches.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) has liaised directly with SIRCS on the need for support and coordinated closely with Partnering National Societies in the region to assist in mobilizing personnel and relief items. Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross both mobilized required resources at the request of the National Society.

IFRC coordinated with UNOCHA Pacific, exchanging information, updates and assessment reports regularly.

Specifically, NZRC deployed an IT and communications delegate to support SIRC with re-establishing critical IT processes and with local and International procurement of a number of communications resources. IFRC also deployed a finance support staff member to assist with the establishment of systems and processes to support accountability measures regarding the DREF fund. Australian Red Cross assisted the National Society with the procurement and deployment of a number of critical items required for emergency relief and is continuing to assist with the procurement and shipping of items for re-stocking emergency containers.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From 23 March to 30 March, SIRC deployed a total of 12 volunteers across the three provinces known to be most affected (Makira province, Rennell & Bellona province and Guadalcanal province-weather coast) to engage in rapid assessment and distribution of emergency relief items. Eight volunteers and an Australian Red Cross disaster management technical advisor already in-country during the disaster travelled aboard two police patrol boats to Makira and Rennell/Bellona provinces, while four volunteers were deployed to the Guadalcanal province-weather coast on the same date by traveling on an out boat motor canoe.

Because of travel constraints the SIRC response team went equipped with non-food items (NFIs) onboard the patrol boat aiming to provide immediate relief to those requiring assistance. The rapid assessment work carried out SIRC volunteers during the deployment period has managed to visit the following areas in the three target provinces. In Rennell & Bellona province, 30 communities were visited with a total of 555 households, with the estimated total population of 2,410. In Makira province, 36 communities were visited with a total of 778 households and an estimated total population of 3,788. In Guadalcanal province (weather coast) 39 communities were visited with a total of 869 households, and a total population of 3,999.

The logistics team has been actively involved in procuring the non-food relief items from local wholesale suppliers while mobilizing volunteers to conduct stock packing and prepare the necessary disaster response tools. Some additional relief items sent by Australian Red Cross have been cleared by the logistics team in cooperation with the custom department. The logistics team also worked closely with the communication /IT delegate from NZRC to repair the organization's computer system and radios.

## 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:

SIRC deployed trained emergency response staff and volunteers with satellite phones and VHF radios from its headquarters in Honiara as part of multi-agency assessment teams led by NDMO to Rennell/Bellona and Makira Provinces on 25 March. The National Society also locally procured items for 250 family kits and 250 hygiene kits and assembled them for deployment with emergency assessment teams to Rennel/Bellona and Makira provinces. It also mobilized a small assessment team in response to reports that households in Honiara were affected by the cyclone, bringing 390 water containers and 78 tarpaulins with them from existing SIRC stock.

The following tables provide a break down of non-food items delivered and beneficiaries in each of the provinces:

Number of non-foods items distributed					
Province	family kits	hygiene kits	tarpaulins	container	first aid kits
Rennell & Bellona	90	90	36	118	
Makira	29	2	18	6	
South Guadalcanal	11	11	11	19	12
Honiara water front	20	Nil	Nil	2	
Total	150	103	65	145	12

Number of beneficiaries			
Province	Communities	Households	Total population
Rennell & Bellona	18	151	755
Makira	12	30	150
South Guadalcanal	6	20	100
Honiara water front	2	20	100
Total	38	221	1,105

## 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:

- 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)

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# 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>