

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Solomon Islands: Tropical Cyclone Ului

DREF operation n° MDRSB002  
GLIDE n° TC-2101-0060-SLB  
21 September, 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 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.

CHF 64,954 has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) in conducting rapid assessments and in delivering immediate assistance to beneficiaries through the distribution of non-food relief supplies at areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Ului. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

**Summary:** Tropical Cyclone Ului formed west of Santo Island in Vanuatu around 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on 12 March. The cyclone gained strength as it moved on a westerly course toward the Solomon Islands.

By 15 March, the cyclone intensified into a category four cyclone and sat above the provinces of Makira and Rennell/Bellona bringing storm force winds and heavy rains. Overall, six provinces were affected by the cyclonic conditions which caused flooding, damage to food gardens and structural damage. The other Provinces affected were Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal and Temotu. Initial reports from affected communities suggested up to 3,000 beneficiaries would be in need of assistance. Communication during the cyclone was difficult, and these initial estimates came from a number of sources to SIRCS through affected community volunteers on the ground and through police and health outposts from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Ministry of Health.

The DREF allocation assisted with the deployment of aerial and rapid assessment teams in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone. These assessments determined that: The damage caused was not as bad as expected; and the numbers of people affected were less than initially anticipated.

During this period, the Solomon Islands experienced widespread power failure and communication network breakdowns. SIRCS also experienced near complete failure of its IT and communications systems, making the running of an emergency operations centre and deployment of assessment and distribution teams very difficult. To solve these issues SIRCS worked with partner national societies (PNSs) who, with the DREF allocation, supplied IT and communications specialists.

With DREF assistance, SIRCS was able to communicate more effectively with the field, donors and PNSs and successfully deployed a number of rapid assessment teams and relief items (tarpaulins, water containers, family and hygiene kits) to assist people who were affected. The operation was expected to be implemented over three months; whereupon, it was to be completed by 22 June 2010. However, with logistics support from the Solomon Islands Government and its donor partners, the response operation



Solomon Islands Red Cross Society volunteers distributing non-food items for immediate assistance to beneficiaries.  
Photo credit: Solomon Islands Red Cross Society

was shortened and completed by 30 April 2010. Procurement for re-stock of items was to be undertaken by the end of June, 2010. This deadline was not met, and SIRCS chose to return the funds for the procurement of re-stock items to the International Federation's DREF.

This report, is the final report. Because the national society is returning the funds for the procurement of re-stock items, implementation is essentially complete. Work advance acquittals will be closed by the end of September. As such, an interim financial report is attached to this document; but the end of October will show a final financial report.

The International Federation on behalf of the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society would like to thank all donors and partners for their generous support to DREF.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here for contact details>](#)

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In summary, DREF supported a number of Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) cyclone response activities. These included:

- The deployment of 20 staff and volunteers across four provinces to undertake rapid assessment and the distribution of emergency relief items.
- Logistics and communications support for the deployed teams.
- The deployment of an IFRC finance delegate to support SIRCS in establishing systems to monitor DREF funds effectively by way of transparent processes.
- The procurement, packing, transporting and distribution of essential relief items such as tarpaulins, water containers, family kits and hygiene kits.
- The deployment of IT and communications specialists and the procurement of equipment to repair damaged IT and communications systems.
- The procurement of essential power generating equipment to maintain an emergency operations centre without support from national power lines.
- An evaluation and lessons learned exercise at the conclusion of the operation to feed into SIRCS's ongoing training and capacity development operations.

The following tables outline relief item distribution details and activity timelines as per the original DREF plan:

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

**Objective 1:** To ensure that at least 3,000 (later revised to 1,000), people affected by cyclone Ului receive essential non-food items to meet their immediate needs for up to three months.

During the Ului disaster response, SIRCS responded to four of six affected provinces. (The other two provinces were covered by the NDMO and non-governmental organizations with operations in those areas).

The following tables highlight the number of non-food items distributed with the total number of beneficiaries:

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	
<b>Total</b>	150	103	65	145	12

Number of beneficiaries			
Province	Communities	Household	Total population
Rennell & Bellona	15	151	755
Makira	10	30	150
South Guadalcanal	6	20	100
Honiara water front	2	20	100
<b>Total</b>		321	1,105

Expected Results	Activities
Immediate needs of 1,000 people have been met through distribution of non-food items (tarpaulins, water containers, family and hygiene kits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment and response teams deployed to the affected provinces to assess the situation and identify needs for the Red Cross actions (immediate and longer-term) in order to assist the most-affected individuals;</li> <li>Beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance;</li> <li>Relief supplies mobilized and procured as needed, in accordance with the International Federation's procurement standards;</li> <li>Relief supplies distributed and supply movements from point of dispatch to end user controlled;</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>

### Proposed Timeline

No	Activities	Timeline			Remarks
<b>Objective 1:</b> To ensure that <i>at least 1,000 people affected by cyclone Ului</i> receive essential non-food items to meet their immediate needs <i>for up to three months</i> .					
		Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	
1.1	Deploy assessment and response teams				Finished end of March
1.2	Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance				Finalized prior to rapid assessment briefing
1.3	Mobilize relief supplies and procure items, as needed, in accordance with the 's procurement standards				All except re-stock items were procured
1.4	Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user				Undertaken by the end of April. Relief supplies accompanied assessment teams into the field on board patrol boats and were distributed based on needs identified through assessment data
1.5	Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions				Assessment and distribution reports received from field staff and volunteers. Monitoring report and advice received from Technical Advisors. Lessons Learned exercise held in April.

## Communications and Advocacy

Timely information flow from and between those working in the field and other stakeholders was a challenge.

This also made advocacy on behalf of the affected population difficult. SIRCS engaged in advocacy with donor groups and the Solomon Islands Government in making timely decisions about the deployment of patrol boats and other forms of transportation to deploy assessment teams and relief items to affected areas. Such advocacy successfully gained SIRCS a place in the first aerial assessment team flying over Renell/Bellona and Makira. SIRCS also assisted in gaining donor agency support for the deployment of the Solomon Islands Government patrol boats.



Reaching people in need was a challenge. Photo credit: Solomon Islands Red Cross Society.

## Evaluation/Lessons Learned

A lessons learned session was conducted at the end of the response operation with the aim of reflecting on how the operation was conducted, evaluate the activities, and to identify best ways forward. This is so as future operations will be more coordinated within SIRCS itself; and that SIRCS will work better with NDMO and other actors more efficiently. The Red Cross staff members and volunteers who directly involved in the response attended the lessons learned session.

The session gathered a wide range of lessons to learn from in preparation for future disaster response. Some lessons are:

1. Well equipped national disaster response team (NDRT) responders. NDRTs should have relevant workable equipment and at the right quantities.
2. Pre-packed stocks ready to be dispatched immediately must be available- procurement and packing once a disaster occurs wastes valuable time.
3. Yearly refresher for NDRTs.
4. A good record and proper database of NDRT members and a deployment plan is required to avoid untrained people being deployed to the field.
5. The need for clear roles for all the responders and training in specific roles.
6. The need for clear lines of reporting.
7. Properly set out clear roles for all the responders developed and available
8. Mixed assessment teams worked well in most cases – it was good that there were consistent trainings and briefings in rapid assessment across agencies prior to field work
9. Need to review assessment tools by all assessment agencies and have a way to rapidly analyze data returning from field assessments
10. Good to have gender balance in assessment teams. However, still a need for better assessment techniques in the field to ensure that the needs of all community members are met.
11. A regular financial update on the status of funding must be provided to ensure that the procurement of items for the re-stocking of containers is done properly. And not as experienced where funds were not used up quickly for the purpose.
12. Volunteers need to be continually reminded to rest or they will burn out.
13. SIRCS, the PNSs, the government agencies, non-governmental agencies, international non-governmental agencies, and regional agencies still need to have a better understanding and a thorough orientation of the cultures in Solomon Islands. The many partners and actors that SIRCS worked with need to understand that it is different working in a place with diverse cultures like the Solomon Islands.



Solomon Islands Red Cross Society volunteer carrying out an assessment at Rennell/Bellona. Photo credit: Solomon Islands Red Cross Society.

In general, despite the challenges encountered, team spirit and cooperation was visible during the disaster response.

## 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 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

- 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)

### The International Federation Pacific Regional Office in Suva, Fiji:

- Pacific regional office: Ms. Aurelia Balpe, Head of Regional Office, Suva, phone: +679 331 1855; email: [aurelia.balpe@ifrc.org](mailto:aurelia.balpe@ifrc.org)

### The International Federation Asia Pacific Zone Office in Kuala Lumpur, 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: Mr. Alan Bradbury, Head of Resource mobilization & PMER, email: [alan.bradbury@ifrc.org](mailto:alan.bradbury@ifrc.org), phone: +60 3 9207 5775

For pledges of funding: [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

MDRSB002 - Solomon Island - Tropical Cyclone Ului

Appeal Launch Date: 22nd March 2010

Appeal Timeframe: 22nd March to 22nd June 2010

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/3-2010/9
Budget Timeframe	2010/3-2010/6
Appeal	MDRSB002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>64,954</b>					<b>64,954</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	<i>64,954</i>					<i>64,954</i>
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	<b>64,954</b>					<b>64,954</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	<b>64,954</b>					<b>64,954</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>64,954</b>					<b>64,954</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>100%</b>					<b>100%</b>

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>64,954</b>					<b>64,954</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-48,766</b>					<b>-48,766</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>16,188</b>					<b>16,188</b>

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### III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>64,954</b>					<b>64,954</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	28,590	20,501				20,501	8,089	
Water & Sanitation	10,000						10,000	
Medical & First Aid	2,500						2,500	
Other Supplies & Services		19,738				19,738	-19,738	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>41,090</b>	<b>40,238</b>				<b>40,238</b>	<b>852</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Vehicles	1,700						1,700	
Computers & Telecom	2,000						2,000	
Others Machinery & Equipment	3,500						3,500	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>7,200</b>						<b>7,200</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring	1,200	325				325	875	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,000	2,598				2,598	-1,598	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,923</b>				<b>2,923</b>	<b>-723</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	4,000	1,175				1,175	2,825	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,175</b>				<b>1,175</b>	<b>2,825</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel		695				695	-695	
Office Costs	2,000	147				147	1,853	
Communications	4,500	611				611	3,889	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>1,453</b>				<b>1,453</b>	<b>5,047</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	3,964	2,976				2,976	988	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>3,964</b>	<b>2,976</b>				<b>2,976</b>	<b>988</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>64,954</b>	<b>48,766</b>				<b>48,766</b>	<b>16,189</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>16,189</b>				<b>16,189</b>		