

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Vanuatu: Tropical cyclone Vania

DREF operation n° MDRVU001
GLIDE n° **TC-2011-000009-VUT**
TC-2011-000015-VUT
6 February 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 90,322 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 families (some 14,035 beneficiaries) for three months. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: In a period of two weeks, Vanuatu has been affected by two successive tropical cyclones: Tropical Cyclone (TC) Vania and Tropical Cyclone Yasi. Between 12 and 15 January, the meteorological service (MET) station at Tanna airport recorded 282mm of rainfall and measured winds from 15 to 25 knots. Tanna airport is on the west coast of Tanna and is, therefore, protected from the worst winds, which were estimated to gust in excess of 55 knots, according to information received through consultation with the Tanna MET office.

The weather system associated with TC Vania was large and very slow-moving affecting the Tafea region for up to three days. TC Vania passed between Erromango and Tanna as a category 1 tropical cyclone, before backtracking to the west and heading south towards Noumea, strengthening to category 2.



Traditional housing built mainly from thatch, bamboo and grass in Vanuatu has taken a severe beating from the tropical cyclones that have struck the country in the short space of two weeks.
(Photo: Vanuatu Red Cross Society)

Initial reports mention widespread damage to fruit, root and cash crops which will cause serious food and income shortages expected to vary for up to three to seven months due to pre-existing local conditions. In addition to food shortages, there are serious concerns of poor water, sanitation and hygiene conditions with cyclone damage to water system infrastructure as well as widespread pre-existing gastro- and respiratory health issues with limited access to medical treatment. Damage to traditional grass-houses¹, particularly roofing is also widespread, with some localities sustaining particularly heavy destruction. On 30 January, TC Yasi passed through the Banks Island group in Torba province in Vanuatu, creating even

¹ Traditional houses built from local materials such as bamboo, grass and thatch

further damage.

The total population estimated affected is 32,540 people. The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is preparing to support 2,500 households (14,035 beneficiaries) in Tafea province through the distribution of relief supplies such as water storage containers, water purification tablets, soap and mosquito nets. The operational budget supported under this DREF also takes into account the high costs of travel and transportation in the Pacific region.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 30 April 2011. A final report will be made available by 31 July 2011, three months after the end of the operation.

[<click here for the DREF budget; contact details; or a map of the affected areas>](#)

The situation

In a period of two weeks, Vanuatu has been affected by two successive tropical cyclones. First, TC Vania, as a category 1, impacted Tafea province in southern Vanuatu as it moved between Erromango and Tanna islands. The prolonged winds and rains, causing considerable damage to several staple and cash crops, destroyed livelihoods, houses, water system infrastructure, schools, and roads.

As a result, the government of Vanuatu and Vanuatu's national disaster committee is coordinating a response to TC Vania which impacted Vanuatu's southern island groups on 12-13 January 2011. The second cyclone, TC Yasi was declared on 30 January 2011 and upgraded to a category 2 on 31 January. On 30 January, TC Yasi passed through the Banks island group in Torba province in Vanuatu, bringing heavy rain, damaging winds and 3-4 metre-high storm surge waves. The Banks island group includes Gaua island, where the Gaua volcano displaced the total population of the western side of Gaua (404 people) in November 2009.



**Gardens in Tanna completely destroyed.
(Photo: Vanuatu Red Cross Society)**

Coordination and partnerships

VRCS is coordinating closely with the Vanuatu government in deploying joint assessment teams and sharing information. The VRCS disaster management office (DMO) attends the national disaster coordination meetings and the VRCS secretary general is meeting regularly with government representatives to coordinate response activities at the national level, supported by French Red Cross, which has a delegation in-country. IFRC is liaising directly with VRCS on the need for support and coordinating closely with partner national societies in the region to assist in mobilizing personnel and relief items.

Further support to VRCS in undertaking the needs assessments and potential relief work is being provided by French Red Cross in Vanuatu, and IFRC through its global disaster management resources, including the regional office in Suva and Asia Pacific disaster management unit, located in Kuala Lumpur.

Australian Red Cross is providing water and sanitation training at the request of the national society and is on standby to mobilize relief items, if needed for the operation. New Zealand Red Cross is also on standby on the possibility of deploying relief items for distribution.

VRCS is also attending water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) coordination meetings to ensure a consistent response to addressing water and sanitation needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The VRCS disaster management office (DMO) has liaised with government officials to conduct the initial damage survey, and mobilized volunteers into assessment and relief teams.

The representative from French Red Cross is supporting VRCS to identify their capacities and needs. The AP zone disaster management unit is in coordination with IFRC regional office in Suva and the partner national societies in the Pacific (including Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross and the South Pacific Regional Intervention Platform - PIROPS) in order to identify the required support for the Vanuatu national society. IFRC's Pacific regional office is also liaising with UN OCHA.

To date, at the request of VRCS, French Red Cross has mobilized a water and sanitation specialist from PIROPS and is preparing to mobilize further relief items, pending the outcome of assessments.

The current plan of action outlined by VRCS is to focus on immediate water and sanitation needs of the most vulnerable in Tafea in the period until existing water supplies can be rehabilitated, in coordination with UNICEF and the WASH cluster. In addition and if requested by the Vanuatu government, VRCS will assist in food distribution.

The needs

Many of those affected have experienced significant damage to their homes and household belongings. Main needs identified include food, water and hygiene needs. There has been minor damage reported to the communal water supply systems and increased levels of turbidity in the source water on the islands.

The effect on water supplies varies across the islands due to the different water sources: shallow wells, surface water supply, streams, coastal spring waters and bore holes. There is a risk of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, especially from low-lying areas like Middle Bush in Tanna islands until water, sanitation and hygiene needs are addressed.

The proposed operation

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water-related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water and hygiene items to 2,500 households in Tafea province for three months.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct assessment on water and sanitation needs
- Conduct emergency training for volunteers in Tafea on the use of water purification tablets and basic hygiene awareness, as determined by the assessment
- Print information material related to the use of chlorine tablets for distribution
- Procure and distribute jerry cans with water purification tablets and soap for emergency household water treatment, safe storage and hygiene until pre-existing water supplies can be rehabilitated, using trained volunteers and in coordination with the WASH cluster
- Distribute mosquito nets in Erromango
- Support the emergency rehabilitation of damaged water supply sources such as cleaning wells and emergency repairs.
- Monitor and evaluate the distributions and effective use of chlorine tablets by target households

Relief distributions (basic food and non-food items)

Outcome: The essential household needs of 2,500 households are met within three months in Tafea province through the distribution of food and non food-items (i.e. mosquito nets and hygiene kits), as determined by the assessment findings

Outputs and activities planned:

- Support ongoing needs and capacity assessments
- Train volunteers on 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.
- Replenish pre-positioned relief stocks
- Provide essential volunteer resources to support the Vanuatu NDMO in the distribution of food
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC'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 IFRC'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:

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

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06-Feb-11

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	3,529	3,529
Water & Sanitation	5,058	5,058
Utensils & Tools	19,740	19,740
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	2,468	2,468
Total Supplies	30,794	30,794
Computer & Telecom	790	790
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	197	197
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	987	987
Distribution & Monitoring	29,547	29,547
Total Transport & Storage	29,547	29,547
National Society Staff	12,215	12,215
Total Personnel	12,215	12,215
Workshops & Training	1,481	1,481
Total Workshops & Training	1,481	1,481
Travel	6,420	6,420
Information & Public Relations	1,885	1,885
Office Costs	494	494
Professional Fees	987	987
Total General Expenditure	9,786	9,786
Programme Support	5,513	5,513
Total Programme Support	5,513	5,513
TOTAL BUDGET	90,322	90,322



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