

DREF operation final report



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
20 July 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 IFRC 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 IFRC's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered: 6 February to 13 April 2011

DREF history:

CHF 90,322 was initially allocated on 6 Feb 2011 from the IFRC's DREF to support the National Society to respond to the needs of 2,500 households.

This Disaster Relief Emergency Fund's (DREF) plan of action was later revised. The changes were as follows:

- Provision of relief supplies as goods in kind bilaterally from Australian Red Cross, including international air freight.
- Provision of local freight for transport by Vanuatu National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO).
- Less than expected number of volunteer days required for assessments and distribution.
- Assessment data confirmed water sources were fit for human consumption, thereby removing the requirement for water treatment.
- Increase in the number of households targeted by Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) from 2,500 to 2,906.



The Vanuatu Red Cross Society's volunteers distributed urgently needed materials after Cyclone Vania in Tafea Province, southern Vanuatu.

Photo: Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Summary: Initially tropical cyclone Vania impacted Tafea province in southern Vanuatu as a category 1 on 12-13 January 2011, but on 19 February another tropical cyclone (named Atu) very quickly intensified into a category 4 that moved slowly south to the east of Vanuatu. This weather system caused further damage to the outer islands of Tafea province. It also stopped all sea freight/transport and many flights were cancelled in the region. Shipments of supplies to regions affected by tropical cyclone Vania were put on hold until tropical cyclone Atu had passed.

The IFRC started coordination with the Pacific partner National Societies before the cyclone hit Vanuatu and a CHF 90,322 DREF was allocated to deliver immediate assistance to 2,500 families for three months. This original plan of action was revised and the target beneficiary was increased up to 2,906 families.

Besides IFRC support, Australian Red Cross provided relief items and freight as goods in kind to the value of CHF 35,260. French Red Cross supported VRCS with a WatSan (water and sanitation) delegate and water quality testing kits to assist in testing the quality of affected water supply sources across Erromango Island and parts of Tanna Island.

Initial reports identified needs for 2,500 families, but after assessments were complete, the number of affected families increased up to 2,906 families (approximately 11,371 people reached). The identified needs were food, agriculture rehabilitation, non-food items, and water and sanitation. The Government of Vanuatu conducted the distribution of food, with the preparatory support of VRCS volunteers.

The IFRC and VRCS coordinated with the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster (WASH), led by UNICEF, who developed a joint plan of action for all agencies to address water and sanitation needs. Assessments conducted by VRCS confirmed that water sources had returned to their pre-cyclone quality and there was no need for emergency household water treatment through water purification tablets. Many water supply systems however were damaged in this as well as previous cyclones and were assessed to determine the extent of repair required. A plan for emergency rehabilitation of the water system infrastructure was agreed with the WASH cluster, to be led by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and supported by VRCS (through funds from DREF and a donation from Oxfam), although the 49 projects were implemented by Rural Water Service (RWS) and the local communities.

The VRCS operation has provided 5,812 jerry cans and 5,992 bars of soap to 2,906 families in the affected areas. Hygiene promotion materials were distributed as non-food items. Additionally VRCS identified communities on Erromango Island who required replacement mosquito nets. The distribution of 362 nets to these communities was coordinated with the Ministry of Health's malaria programme.

Assessments also confirmed that the majority of communities were well informed of the approaching cyclone(s) and had made appropriate preparations.

VRCS volunteers were trained in water testing, assessment and distribution of relief items, and were exposed to the cluster system and the use of beneficiary satisfaction surveys for the first time.

The operation is complete and this narrative is final in terms of activities carried out. A total of CHF 37,639 of unspent funds was returned to DREF at the end of this operation.

DG ECHO, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Netherlands Red Cross have made contributions towards the replenishment of the DREF for the allocation made to this operation. Major donors to DREF include Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian Government, and Swedish Red Cross/Swedish Government. Details of all donors can be found on: http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf.

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

The situation

In just over one month Vanuatu was affected by three successive tropical cyclones. First on 12-13 January, when tropical cyclone Vania as a category 1 impacted Tafea province in southern Vanuatu. The weather system associated with tropical cyclone Vania included prolonged winds and rains causing considerable damage to several staple and cash crops, destroyed livelihoods and damaged homes, water system infrastructure, roads and schools. As a result, the Vanuatu NDMO has been coordinating the response to tropical cyclone Vania. As part of this coordination a WASH cluster group was formed and led by UNICEF.

On 30 January, tropical cyclone Yasi passed through the Banks Island group in Torba province in the north of Vanuatu, bringing heavy rain, damaging winds and 3-4 meter high storm surge waves.

On 20-22 February, tropical cyclone Atu formed in the west of Vanuatu and built into a category 4 cyclone as it passed through the Tafea province in southern Vanuatu. This second cyclone in the south hit outer island communities with a second blow that further damaged what was left of their staple and cash crops. Communications to these island communities were limited and in some cases not possible at all until rapid assessments teams were able to be flown out to the islands. Heavy rain has continued during March and April.

Coordination and partnerships

VRCS coordinated closely with the Vanuatu NDMO and other agencies in deploying joint assessment teams, mobilizing volunteers for food distribution and sharing information. The VRCS team was initially supported in this response by French Red Cross, which has a delegation in-country, and IFRC through its global disaster management resources, including the regional office in Suva and Asia Pacific disaster management unit, located in Kuala Lumpur.

French Red Cross was able to quickly mobilize additional support in the form of a WatSan delegate from New Caledonia who also brought water testing kits. In addition, from 14 February to 18 April, VRCS has also been supported by an IFRC country team representative in Port Vila.

Relief items have been mobilized quickly in a coordinated manner from the regional warehouses of the French Red Cross in New Caledonia and from Australian Red Cross warehouse in Brisbane. The IFRC regional logistics unit has coordinated with both National Societies and replenished some of the stock that has been utilized for this operation.

VRCS primary response has been in support of the WASH cluster response plan, led by UNICEF. Within this plan VRCS completed assessments of the water source quality and water supply infrastructure on Erromango Island, Aniwa Island and parts of Tanna Island: South-West, South and White Sands. Given the challenges of remote access to some of the affected communities, VRCS distributed jerry cans and soap to the affected families in the most difficult locations during the assessment, while other communities received their allocation after the assessment and confirmation of beneficiary numbers.



VRCS staff and volunteer conducting a beneficiary satisfaction survey on Tanna, Tafea Province, southern Vanuatu.
Photo: IFRC

The WASH cluster brought together information from all water supply assessments to prepare a plan for the emergency rehabilitation of water supply systems across the province. The WASH cluster plan is being implemented through a combined programme with UNICEF, ADRA, VRCS, Rural Water Supply and the Tafea Provincial Disaster Committee and should be completed during May 2011. VRCS contributed to the provision of logistics resources, procurement of water infrastructure materials (by way of an AUD 20,000 Oxfam Australia donation) and the chartering of sea freight for transportation of materials.

National Society Capacity Building:

In all locations visited and assessed by VRCS it was identified that communities were well informed of the coming cyclones and had prepared appropriately for them: covering water sources, securing loose items (including the removal of guttering from rain water catchment systems) and gathering in secure buildings.

VRCS local emergency response and first aid volunteers were actively involved in the preparation of their own communities for the cyclones and assisted in the assessments and distributions after the cyclone. Around 50 VRCS volunteers were involved in this operation and have been insured under the DREF coverage.

During the water source quality testing the French Red Cross delegate trained VRCS staff and volunteers on how to complete water quality testing. These staff and volunteers were then deployed to other locations to undertake testing.

As part of the response VRCS staff members were exposed to the cluster system through their participation in the WASH cluster for the first time which should enable them to participate in a proposed logistics cluster in Vanuatu in the future. Additionally, VRCS staff and volunteers were introduced to the conducting of beneficiary satisfaction surveys and lessons learned workshop is planned for June 2011 to build on these experiences.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

VRCS mobilized teams that have completed assessments across Tafea province; Erromango Island, Aniwa Island and Tanna Island (South-West, South and White Sands regions). Assessments completed included: water source quality testing, water supply system damage assessment and community disaster assessments. VRCS covered a population of 2,906 households in their assessments. The information was shared with partners and donors and has helped to have a good coordination in place. In some hard-to-reach places during these assessments, VRCS distributed jerry cans, soap and hygiene promotion material to all affected communities assessed to meet water and sanitation needs.

VRCS mobilized five volunteers for three days in Tafea province to assist in the logistics and preparation of distribution of food supplied as part of the Vanuatu NDMO response activities.

VRCS identified communities in Tafea province who required replacement mosquito nets. After coordination with the Ministry of Health's national malaria program, 362 nets were distributed to two communities on Erromango Island.

VRCS supported the WASH cluster water supply emergency rehabilitation program by way of procurement of water infrastructure materials, sea freight transportation of those materials to all islands in Tafea province and the logistics resource to manage this process, thereby providing approximately 39 per cent of the WASH cluster water supply rehabilitation program budget.

Achievements against outcomes

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<p>Outcome: The risk of water-related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water and hygiene items to 2,906 households in Tafea province for three months.</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply. • Provide potable water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion as determined by the assessment to 2,906 households in Tafea province. • Distribute WASH safety kits to the most affected families: each kit including jerry cans, soap and hygiene promotion material. • Provide resources to support the Rural Water Supply and Ministry of Health in the rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure. • Hygiene promotion activities by trained volunteers and provision of hygiene promotion materials.

Please see below for distribution summary table.

Progress:

- Assessments were completed in all locations that were allocated to VRCS by the WASH cluster. The test results for most water sources passed as safe for human consumption with only a few instances of low contamination of bacteria. Due to these reasons, distribution of water purification tablets was cancelled as there was no longer a requirement for emergency household water treatment.
- Water supply systems were damaged by the cyclone and details of repairs required passed on to the WASH cluster.
- VRCS has provided ongoing logistics support to the WASH cluster program to rehabilitate 49 water systems through assistance in procurement of supplies and chartering of sea freight for supplies to be sent to the affected areas. VRCS also had volunteers accompany the ship to ensure correct deliveries.
- Assessments concluded that many households were without essential hygiene supplies.
- 5,812 jerry cans, 5,992 bars of soap and 362 mosquito nets were distributed to households in Erromango (North, South and Dillons Bay), Aniwa and Tanna (South-West, South, South-East/ White Sands). Messages on good hygiene practices and knowledge were also discussed with households.
- During the assessments, household information was collected. Distribution of jerry cans and soap was made to households in the above region as based on the needs assessments. In some cases the number of households as listed by VRCS was different to those listed by provincial authorities. For example on Aniwa Island the number of households as recorded by VRCS was 45 more than that of provincial authorities. Many of the uncounted households were widow/single mother households which were not included in the provincial authority count, but received WASH kits nevertheless.
- Distribution of WASH kits has differed depending on locality. On Erromango Island, due to logistical difficulties in the region, VRCS distributed directly to households. In Tanna distribution was made in each village to the head of the family or their nominated representative in cooperation with the community.

Challenges:

- In the Tafea province, many logistical difficulties were encountered due to poor weather resulting in many flights cancelled and sea freight delays. Locations such as Dillons Bay on Erromango Island and Aniwa Island were unreachable until Saturday, 26 February at which time VRCS were able to charter a small flight. Some areas in Tanna were completely inaccessible due to poor road conditions exacerbated by the perpetual wet weather. VRCS assessment teams were unable to reach these locations, however, two weeks later, distribution teams were able to ensure that the items made it to them.
- Even in April, projects like the WASH cluster's water system rehabilitation programme are still facing delays due to heavy rain.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome:

The essential household needs of 2,906 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:

- **Support to 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.**
- **Replenishment of 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.**

Summary of VRCS distributions:

	Households	Population*	<i>* population estimates for some regions</i>			
Erromango	299	1726				
North Erromango	180	1039				
South & Dillons Bay	119	687				
Total Tanna	2446	10071				
South West Tanna	128	1300				
South Tanna	439	2062				
SE Tanna/White Sands	1879	6709				
Aniwa	161	527				
TOTAL	2906	11371				
Jerry Cans						
	Received	Required	Despatched	Distributed	In stock	
VRCS DP Stock	600				608	<i>in stock Port Vila</i>
Australian Red Cross	4996				0	<i>4 missing in shipment</i>
PIROPS	1200				0	
Tanna		4892	4892	4892	0	<i>In stock in Tanna</i>
Erromango North		432	525	432	93	<i>In stock in Ipota</i>
South & Dillons Bay		238	318	238	80	<i>In stock in Dillons Bay</i>
Aniwa		322	432	322	110	<i>In stock in Aniwa</i>
Total	6796	5812	6167	5812	891	<i>21 unaccounted for</i>
Soap						
	Received	Required	Despatched	Distributed	In stock	
Purchased locally (in 3 batches)	6008				16	<i>In stock in Vila</i>
Tanna		5000	5000	5000	0	
Erromango North		432	432	288	0	
South & Dillons Bay		238	238	238	0	
Aniwa		322	322	322	0	
Total	6008	5992	5992	5992	16	
Mosquito Nets						
	Received	Required	Despatched	Distributed	In stock	
Australian Red Cross	700				338	<i>In stock Port Vila</i>
Erromango North		162	162	162		
Erromango South		200	200	200		
Total	700	362	362	362	338	

- The number of people reached increased from the original 2,500 families to 2,906 due to more accurate information available from the assessments.
- A total of 35 volunteers have been trained in assessment, distribution and monitoring activities.
- There were approximately 11,371 beneficiaries in the affected region, based on population information and needs captured during the assessments.
- For distribution, all goods were transported accompanied by VRCS volunteers. Distribution was managed in the field by either VRCS staff or local ERT trained volunteers. All volunteers active in the distribution were trained by VRCS prior to the distribution.
- VRCS was able to replenish their disaster preparedness stock of 600 jerry cans which were used in the first phase of distribution under this DREF. VRCS also used excess jerry cans to build disaster preparedness stock in the affected islands.
- VRCS mobilized volunteers in Tafea province to assist local authorities in the preparation of distribution of food items from 26 Feb – 4 March.
- An evaluation of this operation has already started with beneficiary satisfaction surveys, and a workshop will be held in June to:
 - examine if the DREF operation has achieved its goal, objectives and expected results

- assess key achievements, challenges and areas of success, as well as areas for improvement within the operation and make recommendations to replicate or improve future disasters response
- identify lessons learned and good practices for sharing.

Challenges:

- Logistics and especially communication issues with some islands continued to be a challenge throughout the response effort.
- Weather-related delays due to cancelled flights and impassable roads continued to be obstacles, since heavy rain continued during February, March and April.

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 \(NGO's\) 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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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/2-2011/6
Budget Timeframe	2011/2-2011/6
Appeal	MDRVU001
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
A. Budget	90,322					90,322
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	90,322					90,322
C4. Other Income	90,322					90,322
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	90,322					90,322
D. Total Funding = B + C	90,322					90,322
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	90,322					90,322
E. Expenditure	-52,683					-52,683
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	37,639					37,639

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRVU001 - Vanuatu - Tropical Cyclone Vania

Appeal Launch Date: 04 feb 11

Appeal Timeframe: 04 feb 11 to 04 may 11

Final Report

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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	
BUDGET (C)	90,322						90,322	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	3,528							3,528
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	5,057							5,057
Utensils & Tools	19,740	3,240				3,240		16,500
Other Supplies & Services	2,468	976				976		1,492
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	30,793	4,216				4,216		26,578
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	790							790
Office & Household Equipment	197							197
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	987							987
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage		112				112		-112
Distribution & Monitoring	29,547	26,921				26,921		2,626
Logistics Services		188				188		-188
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	29,547	27,220				27,220		2,327
Personnel								
International Staff		50				50		-50
National Society Staff	12,215							12,215
Volunteers		6,696				6,696		-6,696
Total Personnel	12,215	6,746				6,746		5,469
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Professional Fees	987	104				104		883
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	987	104				104		883
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,481							1,481
Total Workshops & Training	1,481							1,481
General Expenditure								
Travel	6,420	6,684				6,684		-264
Information & Public Relation	1,885	1,976				1,976		-91
Office Costs	494	1,392				1,392		-898
Communications		697				697		-697
Financial Charges		432				432		-432
Total General Expenditure	8,799	11,181				11,181		-2,382
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	5,513	3,215				3,215		2,297
Total Indirect Costs	5,513	3,215				3,215		2,297
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	90,322	52,683				52,683		37,639
VARIANCE (C - D)		37,639				37,639		