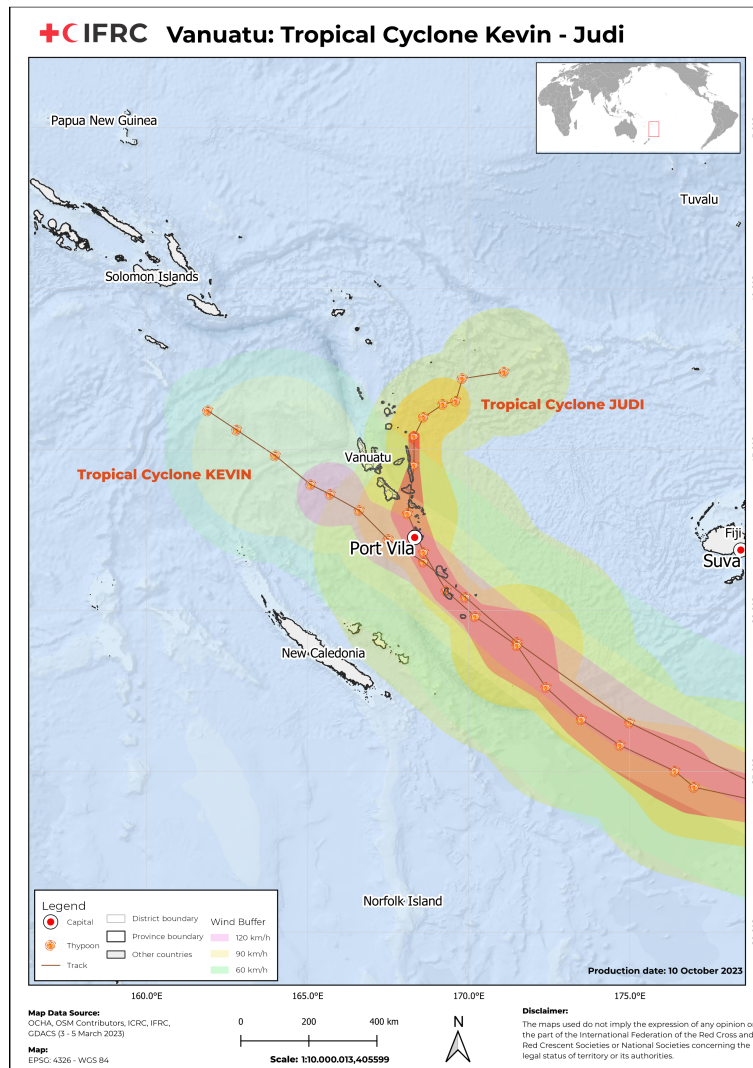




Relief items transported to Shephard Island using banana boat (Photo Credit: VRCS)

Appeal: MDRVU010	Total DREF Allocation CHF 799,389	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Cyclone
Glide Number: TC-2023-000029-VUT; TC-2023-000030-VUT	People Affected: 197,388 people	People Targeted: 20,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 2023-03-08	New Operational end date: 2023-12-31	Total operating timeframe: 9 months
Additional Allocation Re- quested 0	Targeted Areas:	Malampa, Penama, Sanma, Shefa, Tafea, Torba	

Description of the Event



Map of Tropical Cyclone- Kevin and Judy and the affected areas (Source: IFRC IM)

What happened, where and when?

On 27 February 2023, Tropical Depression 08F formed and developed into Tropical Cyclone (TC) Category 1 while heading towards Vanuatu. TC Judy further intensified into Category 4 as it passed over Shefa Province, where Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, is located. TC Judy maintained its strength as it made landfall on Tanna Island at midnight on 1 March 2023.

While TC Judy was moving away from the Vanuatu group, another tropical low formed and entered the Vanuatu Area of Responsibility (AoR) as a TC Category 1 system named Kevin. TC Kevin strengthened to a Category 3 and then a Category 4 system as it moved across the central and southern provinces of Vanuatu. TC Kevin made landfall on Tanna Island on 4 March 2023.

Both TC Judy and Kevin produced destructive hurricane-force winds of 150 kph, with peak gusts up to 220 kph, affecting the central and southern islands. Damaging gale-force winds of 63-87 kph were experienced in the provinces of Penama, Malampa, Shefa, and Tafea. Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms affected central and southern parts of the Northern Islands, with seas becoming very rough throughout Vanuatu waters.

Air Vanuatu canceled all domestic and international flights from 28 February 2023, and commercial flights resumed on 8 March 2023. Schools and other businesses, including banks, were closed until 2 March 2023. Vanuatu Red Cross So



ciety (VRCS) activated its Emergency Operation Center (EOC) on 26 Feb 2023, while TC Judy and TC Kevin moved to wards and passed over the country, allowing staff members to run coordinated readiness actions, prepare for the im pact of the cyclone, and be on standby for an immediate response.□

Notes:

Picture 1: A house destroyed due to the Tropical Cyclone. (Photo: VRCS)

Picture 2: Classrooms damaged in Tanna due to the Tropical Cyclone. (Photo: VRCS)



Picture 1



Picture 2

Scope and Scale

As soon as TC Judy exited the Vanuatu group, government authorities and the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) began assessments to establish the extent of damage caused by the system. The two back-to-back systems ravaged most parts of central and southern provinces, compounding their impact, with TC Judy causing instability, and TC Kevin picking up already weakened vegetation, debris, and infrastructure. As of 4 March 2023, most parts of the capital, Port Vila, and provincial areas were without power.

According to the National Disaster Management Officer (NDMO), about 66 per cent of the Vanuatu population, or 197,388 people (43,623 households), were affected by the twin cyclones at Category 4 level. There is no report of fatalities; however, 22 injuries were reported from the flying debris and were admitted to a hospital in Port Vila. More than 80 per cent of the population was affected by the cyclone at Category 2 and 3 levels. The Government of Vanuatu (GoV) declared a state of emergency on 2 March 2023 in the provinces and districts of Mere Lava, Penama, Ambrym, Paama, Shefa, and Tafea, which was then amended to include the whole country on 5 March 2023. GoV led the damage and needs assessment by deploying rapid assessment teams on 7 March 2023, initially to 39 Area Councils and expanded to all provinces for multisectoral needs assessments.□

A total of 38 evacuation centers in Shefa and Tafea, hosting 983 people (222 households), were activated and provided with essential household items and emergency shelter assistance, while 812 people (130 households) stayed with host households. About 6,384 households had their houses destroyed, and another 12,768 households had their houses partially damaged across Malampa, Shefa, and Tafea provinces.

There was severe damage caused to home gardens and agricultural land from strong winds and heavy rainfall. Farmers growing temporary and seasonal crops were the most affected by crop losses, followed by farmers growing cash crops. The livelihoods of 38,764 people were affected, including micro-entrepreneurs and those in the informal economy.

Assessment reports by the Department of Water Resource (DoWR) indicated that out of 2,507 water supplies that

were assessed in priority areas of Shefa, Malampa, and Tafea provinces, about 19,542 households were affected. All types of rural water systems sustained high levels of damage due to strong winds, flooding, erosion, and landslides. The most significant damage was to the large number of rainwater capture and storage systems, which were mainly on private houses, comprising 50 per cent of the affected communities.

Small communities, villages, and island rural market supplies were also severely damaged by the cyclone and floods caused by heavy rainfall. Several main roads were blocked, and access to outer islands was grounded by both land and sea during the first week after the cyclones. There was damage to seaports and airports; however, the ports were immediately restored and able to facilitate humanitarian supplies coming into the country and provinces.

On remote islands, phone and internet reception were severely disrupted, and people were without access to cyclone warnings through radio or other means of communication. There are two main telecommunications providers in Vanuatu, and after the cyclones passed, one (Vodafone) was completely disabled, with the second (Digicel) having patchy reception and service.

Based on the intensity and degree of damage and humanitarian impact, the Government led the rapid damage assessments with the support of partners and identified five priority areas:

Priority 1 area: Efate and offshore islands, and Tafea Provinces.

Priority 2 area: Shepherd and Epi islands, Southeast Ambrym, Southwest Malekula, and Paama.

Priority 3 area: Northern part of Penama Province and Western part of Malampa Province.

Priority 4 area: Mere-lava and Maewo, Sanma.

Priority 5 area: Sanma Province, Ambae, Malekula, Southwest Ambrym, and Torba Province.

According to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report released by the Government of Vanuatu, an estimated 7,447 people with disabilities live in Priority 1 and 2 affected areas, which require disability-inclusive recovery measures. A comprehensive damage and needs assessment report was published by the Government, which identified macroeconomic and human impacts of the events and estimated recovery needs in all sectors. The report can be found at <https://reliefweb.int/report/vanuatu/vanuatu-tropical-cyclones-judy-and-kevin-post-disaster-needs-assessment-22-june-2023>.

Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	No
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	Yes
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	Yes

Please explain the summary of changes and justification

This operational update, with a reporting timeframe until 30 June 2023, informs operational changes based on the evolution of needs on the ground, actual logistical costs incurred, and the escalation of assistance to affected



people, which increased the number of volunteers mobilized for the response. The funding request remains at CHF 799K. The adjustments/changes are as follows:

1) Due to extensive damage to housing and increased needs during the first weeks of the event, VRCS expanded its reach through the distribution of emergency shelter and household items, including intensifying health and hygiene awareness activities. Cases of diarrhea, leptospirosis, and dengue significantly increased in the aftermath of the cyclones. This increased mobilization and distribution costs, especially transportation costs to outer and remote islands.

2) The plan to source blankets locally was aborted due to the impact of the disaster on the local supply chain and market. Costs rose by 300 per cent from the initial budget to the eventual purchase of blankets internationally.

3) The quantity of relief items replenished remains as initially planned. At the same time, IFRC facilitated VRCS in receiving additional in-kind donations from key partners in the region (ARC, NZRC, and French Red Cross in New Caledonia). The DREF covered distribution costs of these items, leading to increased distribution and transportation costs.

4) Logistics costs have increased significantly for local and international charges due to high demands and limited capacity of transportation providers who, to some extent, were affected by the twin cyclones as well. The significant increase was mainly caused by the need to source relief goods from multiple locations (Kuala Lumpur APRO warehouse, China, and India), instead of from one location as initially planned.

5) Some cost efficiencies have been achieved through integrating several activities with assessment and distribution activities. For example, health/hygiene/shelter awareness was conducted alongside the distribution of relief items.

6) Cash assistance initially planned to support livelihoods recovery, including the provision of vocational training, has been adjusted to focus on the provision of multipurpose cash grants following the results of assessments and coordination with the Government and national Cash Working Group members.

7) Australian Red Cross has supported VRCS bilaterally with ECV, PFA, and CBHFA training. This has enabled the shifting of budget allocation to distribution and mobilization costs.

8) Rainwater harvesting activities have been canceled following the direction of the Department of Water Resource and coordination at the national WASH cluster level.

9) The provision of FA kits has been reduced from 1,000 kits to 32 kits following the de-escalation of the needs for first aid services.

10) Procurement of dignity kits has been deprioritized following the receipt of in-kind donations from VRCS bilateral partners.

11) Savings caused by lower than anticipated costs of some items (solar lanterns, hygiene parcels, sleeping mats) have been reallocated to other overspent budget lines, such as logistics and transportation costs, which were originally under-budgeted.




12) The importance of strengthening the CEA approach has meant increased costs have been incurred in establishing and maintaining a feedback mechanism.

13) Funding and in-kind support from other partners to deploy various profiles of rapid response personnel enabled some efficiencies without compromising the quality of support to VRCS. The budget revision also reflects the inclusion of VRCS staff costs in NHQ and branches, considering all personnel were fully dedicated to the response during the first month after the cyclones.□



Details of the rationale for the adjustments, including the progress of the operations, are elaborated in the sectoral update.

Current National Society Actions

<p>Vaeolens hem i neva wan ansa taem yumi kat wan problem. Yumi sitaon tugeta mo solvem ol problem tru long toktok.</p>	<p>Vaeolens we hem i bes long sex mo jenda hem i isiu blong yumi evriwan. Yumi mas tok agensem.</p>	<p>Oi man oli promotem rispek. Oi man oli no shud enkarejem fasin blong tok nogud long ol woman.</p>
		
<p>Sipos yu nidim help, koleme Polis long fri laen ya: 111</p>	<p>Blong toktok long wan man abaot wanem we yu stap fesem, yu save koleme Vanuatu Women's Centre long fri laen ya: 161</p>	<p>Blong toktok long wan man abaot wanem we yu stap fesem, yu save koleme Vanuatu Women's Centre long fri laen ya: 161</p>

Three out of six designs of IEC materials were developed by VRCS in local language to be used as tool to address protection, gender and inclusion issues, including provision of referral pathway.

<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Initial assessments were conducted in an extremely limited manner as the country faced two severe tropical cyclones in the same week. Power and communication outages hindered the passing of information to HQ from branches; however, branches acted on preparedness plans and contributed to multi-agency assessment teams at the provincial level, led by the Government.</p>
<p>National Society Readiness</p>	<p>VRCS has six branches and 615 volunteers. Currently, there are 361 active volunteers available for response, as well as staff in NHQ and Branches. VRCS has 120 Emergency Response Team (ERT) members, 15 National Emergency Response Team (NERT) members, 5 Pacific Disaster Response Team (PDRT) members, and 100 first aid-trained personnel.</p> <p>Volunteers are trained in DRR, shelter, first aid (FA), health, and hygiene promotion. Warehouses and preparedness containers at national and branch levels have prepositioned materials to support about 2,000 households. A number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items have also been prepositioned through the recent COVID operations.</p> <p>The Vanuatu Red Cross Act of 1982 recognizes VRCS as an independent, autonomous, non-governmental organization, auxiliary to the authorities of the Republic of Vanuatu in the humanitarian field. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, VRCS maintains a strong relationship and collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and is a member of the National Disaster Council.</p> <p>VRCS also works closely with provincial and village disaster and Community Disaster Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs) and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT), through its support to the shelter, WASH, and health clusters.</p> <p>As the co-lead of the Shelter Cluster, VRCS continues to support the gov-</p>



	<p>ernment lead agency, NDMO, during preparedness and response. Remote support from the IFRC CCD Regional Shelter Cluster Coordinator is being provided to the VRCS Shelter focal point for this response.</p> <p>The VRCS Shelter focal point is the co-lead of the local Shelter Cluster. Within a few hours after the passing of TC Judy and before TC Kevin entered the Vanuatu group, VRCS distributed NFIs, including tarpaulins, to an evacuation center (Wan Smolbag Theatre) that was populated by at least 300 displaced people.</p> <p>VRCS is currently implementing a USAID Resilience programme and an EU DevCO Resilience programme and is a member of the Climate Action Committee at the national level. VRCS has a long history of building community resilience to Disaster Risks, working with communities, the Government, and partner actors to enhance preparedness and resilience to key hazards as one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.</p>
<p>National Society EOC</p>	<p>EOCs at the national and provincial levels were activated prior to TC Judy as part of readiness actions, linked to the Meteorological service and the government's weather warning alerts and direction. However, as communication and power outages affected most parts of the country, the EOCs did not work at full capacity.</p> <p>The National Society EOC was affected by the cyclones as power cuts were experienced all over the country, and power activation through a new generator set was prioritized in NHQ. However, communications with branches were still challenging for the first month due to power outages in many parts of the country and were gradually restored over time as the Government continued working on restoring the infrastructure.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Prior to the formation of TC Judy and TC Kevin, the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Suva supported VRCS with preparedness measures and ensured that prepositioned stock levels were in place. The IFRC CCD continued to disseminate updates to the Movement and external partners and coordinated with the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur in accordance with the IFRC Secretariat's Emergency Response Framework.</p> <p>Awareness messaging on social media was posted on Facebook and Twitter from the time TC Judy and Kevin approached the country and continued as VRCS's response on the ground progressed. A press release was immediately issued after TC Judy made landfall, and key media outlets in Australia and New Zealand interviewed the Secretary General of VRCS during the first two months of the aftermath.</p> <p>Photos and videos of the damage caused by TC Judy/Kevin were swiftly shared on both VRCS and IFRC Asia Pacific social media platforms. They were also used by the media in their reporting, with credit given to VRCS and IFRC.</p> <p>An IFRC-DREF was launched on 8 March 2023, enabling VRCS and IFRC to mobilize resources alongside coordination with key regional partners, resulting in the deployment of surge personnel and in-kind donations. IFRC</p>
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	deployed 11 surge personnel with various profiles (PMER, Logistics, Finance, Communication, Operational Management, CVA, Shelter Cluster Coordinator, and IM Coordinator for the Shelter Cluster).
Participating National Societies	There was no PNS presence in the country; however, Australian Red Cross continued to support bilaterally, particularly with health training (ECV, PFA, and CBHFA) and in-kind donations (tarpaulins, shelter toolkits, and solar lanterns). The French Red Cross in New Caledonia donated 100 tarpaulins and 384 hygiene kits within the first week of the response. New Zealand Red Cross has contributed 700 shelter toolkits and 4,200 tarpaulins to support 1,000 affected households and to refill the provincial warehouses as part of prepositioned stocks. IFRC, through the DREF, supported the logistical and distribution costs.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC worked with VRCS on the provision of RFL services and provided the tools and communication pathways for family members seeking to contact people in Vanuatu – especially due to large numbers of Ni-Van Diaspora in Australia and New Zealand.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>Within the first month, the Government focused on restoring damaged infrastructure and managed to restore 91 per cent of power supplies. All communications were completely restored in Tanna and Fituna, while 80 per cent was restored for Erromango, Aniwa, and Anietyum. Following the rapid assessment led by the Government, five priority areas were determined for the assistance of humanitarian organizations.</p> <p>With increases in diarrhea, dengue, and leptospirosis, the Government immediately focused on restoring and reactivating health facilities across the country. WASH teams were deployed to Tanna, Erromango, and Aniwa Futuna, distributing hygiene items and providing clean drinking water through water trucking in North Efate and offshore islands. WASH teams also undertook water testing, followed by appropriate treatments and distribution of water filters for communities with damaged and contaminated water sources.</p> <p>The Ministry of Land distributed 215 collapsible containers, delivered approximately 78,230 liters of water, and installed 83 water filters in affected communities in Moso, Efate, and Tanna, benefiting approximately 729 households.</p> <p>National clusters were activated and led by Government bodies, all under the coordination of NDMO. NDC (National Disaster Committee) meetings take place regularly, and VRCS leaders sit as part of the committee.</p>
	At the country level, VRCS and IFRC participate in meetings of the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT). VRCS and IFRC are involved in relevant government-led cluster information sharing, planning, and analysis at all levels while



UN or other actors

IFRC supports VRCS coordination efforts through representation in other relevant regional clusters, including Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). The key UN agencies active in Vanuatu and supporting the response are UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and WH

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

The National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) in the NDMO continues to coordinate the overall national response with different cells, including Planning, Operations, Communications, Logistics, and Information Management within the NEOC. All 13 national clusters are activated, including the Shelter Cluster, and hold regular coordination meetings in Port Vila to coordinate the delivery of life-saving activities and the government-led emergency response. The humanitarian community that supports the operations and humanitarian aid is channeled through this mechanism.

The VRCS Shelter focal point, with the support of IFRC, co-leads the shelter cluster with NDMO as the lead. IFRC CCD extended remote and in-country support, including the deployment of surge personnel to provide technical coordination and information management. All clusters are led by a Line Ministry and co-led by an appointed humanitarian agency. Surge teams from the UN and other stand-by partners continued to support the NDMO and other line ministries in Vanuatu.

The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) and its regional clusters work with the Vanuatu national clusters, and OCHA supports coordination activities with the NDMO. The PHT comprises UN agencies, INGOs, and the IFRC, and a coordination platform has been established since before the landfall of TC Judy. IFRC also convened coordination with INGOs in the Pacific for cyclone response in Vanuatu. PHT members continued to participate in the daily national cluster meetings organized by cluster leads and the inter-cluster meeting organized by NDMO. Furthermore, regular coordination meetings took place with FRANZ partners on civil-military coordination during the first month of the aftermath.

During this reporting period, PHT members had various meetings with government officials, national cluster leads, various ministries, the NDMO, and humanitarian partners, to discuss issues such as early recovery, cash-based programming, modalities and funding for international food and seed procurement and delivery, and resource mobilization. Mainly for cash assistance, the discussions are still progressing as further clarification of diverging points of view of various stakeholders needs to be addressed. Humanitarian partners in the country are still awaiting the direction and guidance from the Government within the national Cash Working Group to agree on the way forward to support recovery efforts through cash-based intervention. VRCS is an active member of the national Cash Working Group, which is led by the Ministry of Finance.



Needs (Gaps) Identified

Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The twin cyclones affected 25,933 workers, which is 67 per cent in the informal economy, and 9,691 were self-employed, of which 45 per cent were women micro-entrepreneurs. In rural areas, crop losses were significant for farmers growing temporary, seasonal, and cash crops, while 1,444 fishers and aquaculture farmers were affected. The resulting income losses risk increasing poverty and food insecurity in Vanuatu, especially for the most vulnerable. About 84 per cent of people had their home gardens destroyed, and 42 per cent did not have enough food. Employment and livelihoods come as the third-highest priority in recovery needs after the housing sector and transportation. Overall, the impacts were on the already vulnerable population, such as informal workers, self-employed individuals, micro-businesses (including those operated by women), and subsistence workers. This may lead to an escalation in poverty and hardship rates in Vanuatu, particularly in Tafea, where the highest rates of hardship are found and one of the most affected areas. Based on latest development in Gover

Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Due to the impact of dual Cyclones Judy and Kevin in Vanuatu, communities need to receive clear and precise messages on how to prepare for eventual events. Vanuatu is susceptible to tropical cyclones on a yearly basis, so communities should be exposed to risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and recovery. Resilience programming will be strengthened through the current ongoing programs and will continue alongside the early recovery effort in this operation.

VRCS's ongoing resilience programming has prepared 11 communities on Emae Island in identifying and taking action on preparedness measures and readiness actions. Communities were trained in basic response and first aid, including the identification of vulnerable groups, safe centers, and evacuation routes, and they participated in simulations. Preparedness actions included securing houses, water sources, crops, gardens, animals, safe storage of clean water, household emergency kits, and early warning dissemination mechanisms as part of resilience programming.

Environment Sustainability

As part of VRCS's strategic plan, awareness, sustainable development, ecological transition, and partnerships are key priorities that need to be incorporated into the "Green Response." These responses should respect the values and principles that can help minimize the impact of humans on the environment, thus facilitating sustainable development. With the help of active partner agencies and other Partner National Societies, VRCS can identify environmentally friendly products and processes likely to be used in emergencies, interventions following disasters, recovery, disaster risk reduction, and short/long-term developments (relief distribution, CVA, shelter, and livelihoods). A "Green Response" approach is considered in the design and implementation of activities under this operation. In particular, the Environmental Checklist for Shelter Response, which was developed by the Shelter Cluster Vanuatu in 2019 with the contribution of VRCS, is incorporated into the Shelter Cluster guidance for assessments and response.



Shelter Cluster Coordination

VRCS is recognized as the co-lead of the Shelter Cluster by the National Shelter Cluster lead, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). VRCS, with support from IFRC, works closely and coordinates with NDMO during preparedness and response. This is a nationally led response, and the VRCS Shelter focal person, as the co-lead coordinator, is the liaison with the government for the Shelter cluster. IFRC is supporting VRCS for this response in-country and remotely, and additional coordination team members have been mobilized to support coordination, information management, and technical coordination according to the needs and requests from the Government.

The Shelter cluster, along with the other 12 national clusters, was activated for the response, although communication between partners as well as convening of cluster meetings were challenging during the first weeks of the aftermath. The shelter response is coordinated with the NDMO and Shelter cluster partners, avoiding duplications and ensuring the application of agreed standards and guidelines.

Shelter Housing And Settlements

A total of 6,384 households suffered significant damage to their main houses, and 12,768 households experienced partial damage to their houses in Malampa, Shefa, and Tafea provinces. Other shelter damage includes public buildings, houses, temporary shelters, separate kitchen houses, and bush toilets. The rapid assessment carried out in six provinces by VRCS observed that over 90 per cent of the assessed houses have been either damaged (minor/severe) or destroyed in Priority 1 Area designated by NDMO. Furthermore, Port Vila Northern Ward has the highest number of damaged or destroyed houses in Shefa province. From six provinces, Shefa appears to have the highest percentage of households with their cooking capacity affected.

According to IOM's household intention survey in selected evacuation centers, financial constraints have been cited as the main obstacle in rebuilding for those who have started (55 per cent) and those who are yet to commence rebuilding/repairing (42 per cent) of their homes. Housing is considered a priority need by 87 per cent of respondents, and assistance with rebuilding, construction tools, and building materials such as timber and roofing sheets are prerequisites for returning home. The complete destruction of houses has intensified the need for shelter.

In addition, many households have also lost their essential household items due to the cyclones. The lack of essential household items is cited as one of the main barriers faced by those who have not yet rebuilt or repaired their homes in the IOM survey. Therefore, there is also a need to provide household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, and sleeping mats.

Health

The cyclones have caused widespread and substantial damage across Vanuatu, including Tafea and Shefa provinces, which were the worst hit. There were 22 injuries reported and no casualties resulting from the events, worsened by the limited availability/accessibility of routine health services, including damage to health facilities and restricted medical supplies and consumables for acute and chronic diseases. An estimated 59 health facilities sustained some level of damage, compromising the quality of health care service delivery in the affected areas.



Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in emergencies-specific interventions, such as the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), should be supported and implemented in coordination with health actors such as the Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH). Likewise, women and girls and all at-risk groups need access to essential SRH services, including family planning, menstrual hygiene management, and incontinence supplies, especially in evacuation centers. There is a need for life-saving SRH services, such as timely access to safe and quality maternal and newborn care and supplies.

There were people residing in a few evacuation centers, which may create chances for disease outbreaks, including the spread of water and foodborne diseases if safe water access and food preparation are not possible. It is likely that respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19 and influenza will spread in crowded conditions.□

The experience of the cyclone and the significant destruction witnessed, including the loss of homes and livelihoods, may leave many people feeling distressed and atopic. Mental health and well-being are likely to be affected for many of the people of Vanuatu. It is vital that psychosocial support (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) should be integrated into the response and recovery, and first responders should also receive additional or refresher training.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Pre-crisis information reflects that most of the communities in the worst-hit provinces rely on water collection from rivers, which might be polluted during post-cyclones. In Malampa, locations such as Southwest Malekula, Southeast Ambrym, and Paama were found to have damaged or destroyed household toilets, leaving a risk of open defecation if sanitation needs are not addressed. In addition, poor hygiene practices are prevalent in some communities due to a lack of access to water and sanitation facilities for handwashing. Many community toilets lack handwashing stations, and stagnant water and debris in communities increase the risk of vector-borne diseases like dengue fever and malaria.□

VRCS Rapid assessment conducted in 4,175 houses in all provinces as of 25 April shows 1,956 households have water access problems, and there is a lack of sanitation access in 1,469 households. There is a priority to restore access to clean and safe water to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Similarly, hygiene promotional activities on handwashing, safe food handling, waste management, etc., are required in the affected communities. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials in local languages can be developed for hygiene-related awareness activities. Building the capacity of local communities, government agencies, and humanitarian organizations is crucial to ensure a sustainable and effective response to the WASH needs in Vanuatu. This includes training on water and sanitation management, hygiene promotion, and disaster risk reduction.

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

PGI minimum standards will be used to ensure a "do no harm" approach and elaborate on how the mitigation approach will ideally include the establishment of protection referral pathways, training, and sensitization of staff and volunteers to identify and refer protection concerns and safeguarding in the operation (such as signing the Code of Conduct and Child Protection policy) for all staff and volunteers.

There will also be a need to integrate and ensure that all the sectorial assessments and implementation throughout the response are inclusive and prioritize the most vulnerable people, including them in the decision-making



on how VRCS is responding to their needs and that of their communities.

Furthermore, there is a need to ensure accessible and safe, sex-segregated latrines and washing facilities in the evacuation centers for all. There is also a need to make health facilities safer and more accessible for the elderly, pregnant women, and those with physical impairments. Similarly, there is a need to ensure safe spaces for recreation and psychosocial support (both child and women-friendly spaces). Trauma among very young children may lead to cognitive, behavioral, emotional, and developmental difficulties with long-term implications. Gender-based violence and child protection cases may have increased after the cyclones. Women and children are at risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment due to the lack of privacy and security in bathing and sanitation facilities. PGI training and orientation are still required for the volunteers and staff working in the community.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aims to meet the immediate needs of at least 4,000 households that have been affected by TC Judy and TC Kevin through the provision of essential household items, emergency shelter assistance, WASH, and health, including First Aid and Psychosocial support (PSS). This will be accomplished over a period of nine months. The operation incorporates both the actions undertaken for readiness actions and the emergency response activities following the impact of TC Judy and TC Kevin.

Operation strategy rationale

VRCS has determined that the priority target locations for this operation are the most affected areas in all six provinces across the country: Shefa, Tafea, Penama, Malampa, Torba, and Sanma. The targeting areas are based on the priority areas identified by NDMO and inter-cluster/inter-agency coordination. VRCS has focused its response on the most affected and/or isolated areas, including families whose houses were damaged (fully or partially damaged) and unsafe, those who were displaced, and those whose livelihoods were affected. Assistance will be combined with the dissemination of safe shelter messages on the adequate use of shelter materials and fixings, including building back safer, and health/hygiene-related awareness.

During the preparedness for TC Judy and TC Kevin, most of the community used up their cash to stock up on necessities. With the two Category 4 cyclones hitting the country in the same week, many of these household stocks were damaged. Following a market assessment and subject to its functionality, VRCS planned to distribute one-off multipurpose cash grants to at least 1,100 households to meet their basic needs, which may be used to support early recovery, replacement of assets, and the restoration of income generation. Post-distribution monitoring will be conducted after the distribution of household items and cash grants.

A lessons-learned workshop will be conducted at the end of the operation to identify achievements, challenges, and capture recommendations for future operations.

Below is a summary of emergency stocks in the country that were prepositioned prior to the cyclones and distributed immediately after both cyclones passed the country:



- 1,070 Solar lanterns
- 4,500 Tarpaulins
- 725 Sleeping mats
- 2,030 Shelter toolkits
- 2,620 Mosquito nets
- 1,570 Kitchen sets
- 47,400 Jerry cans (10L, foldable)
- 100 Jerry cans (20L, container)
- 3,870 blankets

Replenishment for the distributed relief goods is covered under this DREF operation according to the targets elaborated in the later sections of this report. Relief distribution has been taking place since the aftermath of TC Judy and was conducted alongside the ongoing assessment.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This response will primarily target all provinces of Shefa, Penama, Malampa, Torba, Sanma, and Tafea. In Shefa province, the target areas will include the Shepherd Islands, the northwest, north, and the eastern part of Efate Island, the north Efate outer islands, and Port Vila (northern). In Tafea province, the target areas will encompass south and southwest Tanna, west Erromango, Aniwa, Aneityum, and Futuna. In Malampa province, the focus will be on southwest Malekula, east Ambrym, Paama, and north Ambrym. Pentecost Island will be the primary focus for the response in Penama province, and Mere Lava is prioritized in Torba province.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

VRCS ensures that its responses and programmes are aligned with its own, as well as IFRC's, commitment to taking into account gender and diversity. For example, VRCS focuses on and targets women/child-headed households, pregnant or lactating women, as well as men, women, and children made vulnerable by disasters. This includes families with persons with disabilities, the elderly, those suffering from chronic illnesses, families with children under five years old, families that have not received any or sufficient assistance from the government or other organizations, those belonging to socially vulnerable families, and those who lack the resources to deal with basic humanitarian needs alone.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	5,467	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	4,783		
Men:	4,760	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	4,990	6.00 %	
Total targeted population:	20,000		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action



Back-to-back cyclones may increase the intensity of rainfall and hazards in the affected areas.	NS will ensure to widen the scope of operations while engaging the communities on risk communication and community engagement on the current response to mitigate impact of such meteorological events on communities.
Access to affected provinces might deter the relief activities	A response framework is being established to ensure clear areas of impact and subsequent response

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

There is no major security risk in the area of intervention. However, the security measures will be applied all along the operations timeframe.

The security management as part of this operation will be based on the RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. In addition, the following actions related to security will be implemented:

- These measures include the respect of visibility through the wearing of jackets and regular communication on all the movements.
- Regular briefings will be organized to remind volunteers and staff on their behaviour and Safer Access.
- Coordination will be maintained between the NS and IFRC to ensure that all security measures are respected.



Planned Intervention

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 189,890
		Targeted Persons	5500
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of households who received multi-purpose cash assistance		1100	0

Progress Towards Outcome

Upon coordination within members of the national Cash Working Group (WG), humanitarian assistance to support the recovery of the affected people is advised to cover multipurpose support. The government, through the Ministry of Finance (MoF), has planned to provide cash grants to all affected households, and the registration and verification of beneficiaries are underway. VRCS has adjusted its operational strategy to complement the recovery effort and increase the target of multipurpose cash grants from 500 households to 1,100 households. Further discussions to clarify complementarity, including transfer value between government assistance and other humanitarian partners, are still underway.

Vanuatu is currently in a transition phase from emergency response to recovery. The Council of Ministers (COM) decision to endorse Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as a response modality is underway. Note that cash advocacy has been delivered in several meetings with government bodies during National Disaster Committee (NDC) meetings. It is expected that the green light to commence CVA by humanitarian partners will be given by the Government of Vanuatu in early September 2023. VRCS has started to carry out the groundwork by updating its CVA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), particularly for the delivery mechanism through mobile money, including the implementation flow, feedback mechanism, distribution layout, crowd control mechanism, etc. VRCS has also developed a one-page guidance document consisting of key messages, including the rationale and purpose of VRCS Cash assistance for field personnel.□

Completion of beneficiary selection is expected in early July 2023, followed by the registration of beneficiaries by August 2023. Beneficiary verification will be triangulated through public announcements and endorsement by CDCCC, and a feedback box is provided to allow community feedback on the beneficiary selection. A joint Feasibility Risk Assessment (FRA) of the Cash Working Group is scheduled in July 2023, where VRCS plays a vital role and mobilizes its personnel to contribute to the FRA and market assessment. An orientation has been provided to personnel of all humanitarian partners who contribute to the FRA in June 2023. A comprehensive joint FRA report will be released by the end of July 2023.

VRCS will target 1,100 households living in East Efate (Eton, Forari, Pang-Pang, Epau, Ekipe, Epule, Lamitop) with the following criteria:

- Those whose houses are heavily damaged or destroyed.
- Those whose livelihoods or income generation were affected by the twin cyclones.
- Female-headed households.
- Households with members with disabilities, pregnant mothers, and elderly people.

VRCS has had an agreement with DIGICEL in place since December 2022 through a previous pilot intervention. IFRC has granted exceptional approval to utilize the existing agreement with the amendment required to accommodate the needs of this operation. IEC materials have been drafted and designed, and the existing



feedback mechanism will be utilized during the CVA implementation.

The first batch of basic CVA and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) training was conducted for 9 volunteers (4 females and 5 males). The next round of training will be conducted in July 2023. A total of 25 volunteers are targeted to be trained for basic CVA and CEA. Monitoring will be conducted regularly through exit surveys and post-distribution monitoring, including mitigation measures on fraud and bribery through continued communication on a zero-tolerance policy regarding fraud and corruption in the community. Tools and materials for this purpose are being developed. A distribution layout has been designed, taking into consideration PGI inclusion and the smooth flow of distribution. Socialization from DIGICEL (telecommunication company that provides SIM cards as a Cash delivery mechanism) regarding the application of mobile money to the selected community will be held during the distribution.

	Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Budget	
		CHF 0	
		Targeted Persons	
		5000	
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of households who received cash grant for livelihood recovery support	1000	0	
# of targeted communities provided with vocational training	10	0	
# of CVA refresher training conducted for staff/volunteers	10	0	

Progress Towards Outcome

Cash Voucher Assistance has been decided to focus on multipurpose assistance following the coordination and guidance of the Government for recovery support, complemented by humanitarian agencies. This has resulted in the reallocation of funding from livelihoods to multipurpose cash grants. Therefore, all the key actions and targets under this sector has been deprioritized and focused on Multi-purpose Cash instead.

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	
		CHF 246,731	
		Targeted Persons	
		7500	
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of household provided with emergency shelter assistance	1500	3329	
# of households provided with essential household items assistance	1500	1199	
# of communities whose shelter needs, capacities and gaps are assessed	10	104	



# of volunteers/staff trained on safe shelter awareness prior to distribution	50	37
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Progress Towards Outcome

Over 3,000 affected households (16,519 people) in Shefa, Tafea, Penama, Sanma, Malampa, and Torba Provinces were reached with the distribution of essential household items and emergency shelter assistance. Among them, 2,838 households (12,688 people) were in the first priority areas of Shefa and Tafea Provinces. This includes awareness sessions on building back safer.

Essential household items and shelter toolkits were distributed in the provinces of Shefa, Malampa, Tafea, Sanma, and Penama. From the distribution, 3,329 households received 4,874 tarpaulins, and 1,967 households received 2,026 Shelter Toolkits. Likewise, 1,199 kitchen sets were distributed to 1,199 households. Additionally, 1,399 blankets and 1,098 sleeping mats were distributed to 927 and 760 houses, respectively.

A post-distribution monitoring was conducted to assess the overall experience of recipients, the impact of the assistance aligning with the needs of affected people and to obtain community feedback on VRCS's response. About 236 respondents were interviewed, of which 59 per cent were the heads of households, and out of these, 24.6 per cent were female. About 6.4 per cent of the respondents are living with a family member who has a disability. The respondents highlighted the need for a faster response since some relief items reached them a few weeks after the events. This was one of the challenges faced in responding to the outer islands, where dispatching goods was hindered by the availability of transportation.

In addition to interviewing respondents, focus group discussions were carried out with 11 community representative groups. Most of the participants agreed that the quality of relief items was good but not enough for big families. Some families required more than 2 pieces of tarpaulins to accommodate extensive damage to their houses. Further feedback was given on the provision of assistance for pregnant women and people with disabilities, as well as first aid training for the community.

Regarding the distribution process, 88 per cent of the households were satisfied with the process, and 3 per cent were very satisfied, while 1 per cent were dissatisfied, and a further 1 per cent were slightly dissatisfied, while 7 per cent remained neutral.

Through this IFRC-DREF operation and under the coordination of the IFRC, VRCS has managed to reach beyond the target beneficiaries with the additional in-kind donation from the Australian Red Cross (ARC) and New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC). The IFRC-DREF has contributed to covering the logistical and distribution costs, as well as volunteer mobilization for the distribution of the relief items.

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	
		CHF 205,900	
		Targeted Persons	
		100	
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of volunteers involved in the response insured	100	361	
% of volunteers provided with equipment for protection, safety and support appropriate to the emergency	100	100	
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	0	



Progress Towards Outcome

A total of 361 volunteers have been insured and provided with personal protective equipment (boots, visibility vests, masks, hand sanitizer, etc.) when being deployed to the field. Several refresher courses were conducted to brief personnel on the approach and techniques of sectoral implementation. In addition to the refresher trainings conducted for first aid and PSS, the following trainings were provided as part of capacity building for VRCS:

Below is a list of the refresher and training conducted:

i. Data collection - Trained on KOBO as a mobile data collection tool used during assessments, distributions, and PDM. 11 participants from NHQ participated, of which 6 were females and 5 were males.

ii. Safe shelter awareness - Key messages and practical exercises to demonstrate safe shelters in the event of natural disasters. 24 participants from NHQ participated, including 15 females and 9 males.

iii. Various refresher on health awareness and hygiene promotion, PGI, and PFA - Alignment on communication approach for health awareness and hygiene promotion, understanding key messages, and inclusion of PGI components in all distribution and overall response were conducted:

- 18 participants from Shefa branch participated, with 8 females and 10 males.
- 16 participants from Tafea branch participated, with 7 females and 9 males.
- 20 participants from Penama branch participated.

iv. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) - Technical briefing to volunteers on the content of PDM questionnaires prior to PDM and technicalities on KOBO was done:

- 6 participants from Shefa branch participated, including 3 females and 3 males.
- 5 participants from Tafea branch participated, including 3 females and 2 males.

v. GIS training - GIS training provided by IM surge coordinator to enhance data management and mapping skills through the OpenStreetMap platform. 6 participants from NHQ, including 4 females and 2 males.

vi. Basic CVA, CEA, and VRCS workflow on rolling out CVA - Refresher on basic CVA, importance of CEA approach for the whole phases of CVA, and design plan to roll out multipurpose cash grant to reach 1,100 HHs. 9 participants from NHQ, including 4 females and 5 males.

vii. Feasibility risk assessment (FRA) - Trained volunteers on the methodology and content of information required for joint FRA. The module of the training was developed together with the national Cash WG. There were 4 participants from NHQ, including 2 females and 2 males.

A lesson learned session for the operation is scheduled to be held in November after all the implementation of CVA and other interventions are concluded.

The twin cyclones have caused damage to the VRCS warehouse and storage facilities in Port Vila, consequently impacting several relief items. The restoration efforts for these warehouses were completed, encompassing the replacement of roof ventilators, reinstalment of gutters, reconstruction of walls on the second-floor open area, as well as repair and installation of roofing for the container warehouse.

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 22,365
		Targeted Persons	0
Indicators		Target	Actual



% of financial reporting respecting IFRC procedures	100	
# of surge missions or deployments	7	11

Progress Towards Outcome

During the first three months, eight surge personnel were deployed to cover various roles: finance, PMER, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), logistics, shelter cluster coordination, and information management. Additionally, three personnel from CCD Suva were deployed to support the establishment of the operation, management, shelter cluster coordination, shelter programming, and media and communication.

The deployment of an IM Coordinator to the shelter cluster has also benefited NDMO staff (6 staff – 3 females, 3 males) through a five-day training program that covered GIS training sessions and practical exercises on the use of the OpenStreetMap platform to enhance mapping capabilities.

Here is a list of deployments to support the operation:

- (1) PMER Coordinator: 1 surge PMER (Rapid Response) from IFRC, 4 weeks (first rotation), funding source from IFRC-DREF.
- (2) Logistics Coordinator - 1 surge Logistics (Rapid Response) from ARC, 4 weeks (first rotation), funding source from ARC.
- (3) Finance Coordinator - 1 surge Finance (Rapid Response) from ARC, 6 weeks, funding source from ARC.
- (4) Shelter Cluster Coordinator - 1 surge Cluster Coordination (Rapid Response) from ARC, 5 weeks, funding source from ARC.
- (5) Communications Manager - 1 surge Media Communication, IFRC CCD Deployment, 3 weeks, funding source from IFRC-DREF.
- (6) Shelter Coordinator - 1 surge Shelter and Coordination, IFRC CCD Deployment, 2.5 weeks, funding source from IFRC-DREF.
- (7) DRM Manager - 1 surge Operational Management, IFRC CCD Deployment, 2.5 weeks, funding source from IFRC-DREF.
- (8) Logistics Coordinator - 1 surge Logistics Rapid Response from IFRC, 5 weeks (2nd rotation), funding source from IFRC-DREF.
- (9) PMER Coordinator - 1 surge PMER (Rapid Response) from Nepal Red Cross. 8 weeks (2nd rotation), funding source from IFRC APRO.
- (10) Shelter Cluster IM Coordinator - 1 surge Cluster Coordination (Rapid Response) from IFRC, 7 weeks, funding source from NRC.
- (11) Cash Coordinator - 1 surge CVA (Rapid Response) from Malaysian Red Crescent Society, 8 weeks, funding source from IFRC APRO.

In media and communication, four IFRC press releases have been published to date, and there have been nine media coverages through high-value media outlets in Australia and New Zealand, as well as global coverage via Al Jazeera. A digital story was published highlighting the efficient disaster preparedness of the community that has saved lives during the devastating events.

Through the deployment of finance support, VRCS has been using financial monitoring tools that link to the implementation tracker tool developed with technical leads. This has assisted VRCS in allocating resources according to the requirements and earmarking of various donor partners to ensure complementarity. A weekly coordination meeting between IFRC CCD and VRCS takes place to track the implementation progress, led by VRCS Secretary General and Operation Manager.

The devastating twin cyclones have affected the VRCS warehouse in NHQ, Port Vila, requiring immediate repair to avoid further damage to the relief stocks and accommodate incoming supplies and replenishment. With the



support of logistics surge personnel, the replacement of roof ventilators and gutters has been completed, along with the reorganization of the warehouse to ensure safety measures are incorporated.

Replenishment of relief items is completed as of 18 June 2023, except for the partial hygiene parcels and sleeping mats that are scheduled to arrive in Vanuatu by 17 July 2023. Detailed replenishment under this IFRC-DREF is as follows:

- Shelter toolkits: 1,200 Kits
- Tarpaulins: 3,000 Pcs
- Kitchen sets – type A: 600 Set
- Sleeping mats: 3,000 Pcs
- Blankets: 3,000 Pcs
- Jerry cans: 3,000 pcs
- Hygiene parcels: 3,000 kits
- First aid kits: 32 Kits
- Solar lanterns: 1,000 Pcs

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 17,040
		Targeted Persons	20000
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of methods established to collect feedback from the community		1	2

Progress Towards Outcome

VRCS continues to improve the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach throughout the overall cyclone response. CEA has consistently supported all sectors and has been integrated into various interventions of the program. Prior to the landfall of the twin cyclones, VRCS provided life-saving information to communities through social media and early warning messages conveyed by community volunteers.

To enhance the effectiveness of the CEA approach, VRCS included CEA refresher sessions in various trainings provided to staff and volunteers. This step ensures that all personnel involved in the cyclone response are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage effectively with the community.

VRCS implemented a feedback mechanism to encourage two-way communication with the affected communities. A feedback desk was set up during face-to-face community gatherings, allowing community members to share their thoughts, concerns, and needs. Additionally, the use of social media platforms and a toll-free hotline (165) provided alternative channels for community members to express their feedback. Further details on the recording and responses to feedback will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

CEA has played a vital role in this cyclone response by continuously sharing information about VRCS interventions with communities and by establishing a feedback mechanism. VRCS continues to demonstrate its commitment to engaging with communities and ensuring that their voices are heard and acted upon throughout the programme. This has fostered a sense of trust and accountability between VRCS and the communities.

		Budget	CHF 8,520
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	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Targeted Persons	5000
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of households provided with solar lanterns		1000	636
# of households provided with dignity kits		1000	0
# of training/refresher that includes PGI sensitization		2	5

Progress Towards Outcome

VRCS continues to focus its efforts on anticipating and addressing protection, gender, and inclusion issues from the beginning of this cyclone response. Continuous awareness raising, alongside the distribution of solar lanterns, has been carried out to support affected communities and promote protection and inclusivity. A child safeguarding risk analysis was developed during the first few weeks of the program.

As part of the cyclone response, VRCS provided 636 solar lanterns to affected communities. This aims to restore a sense of dignity and safety among the impacted population, especially vulnerable groups such as women and girls. Dignity kits have been excluded from the DREF allocation since they have been covered by other bilateral funding support.

PGI training was organized for volunteers in Sanma province prior to field mobilization. A total of nine volunteers participated in the training, with seven being female and two males. These trained volunteers were then mobilized into communities and schools to raise awareness and promote PGI and available referral services.

Through targeted training and awareness sessions, 15 communities were reached, benefiting a total of 93 males and 60 females. The focus on reaching both genders signifies the commitment to inclusivity and gender equality in the response efforts. Three out of six designs of IEC materials were developed by VRCS in the local language to be used as a tool to address protection, gender, and inclusion issues, including the provision of referral pathways.

In line with the objective of fostering an inclusive and equal society, PGI awareness initiatives were carried out in four schools located in Santo, Sanma Province. These awareness sessions reached a significant number of students, with 880 males and 1,011 females benefiting from the program.

VRCS used referral materials from the Vanuatu Gender & Protection cluster contextualized in the Bislama local language. VRCS also posted referral information on its National Society Facebook page, including local helplines managed by Vanuatu Women's Crisis Centre. VRCS volunteers and PGI staff used Vanuatu Women's Crisis Centre IEC materials to disseminate information regarding referrals at the branch and community levels.

Overall, proactive measures were taken to address protection, gender, and inclusion in the cyclone response in Vanuatu. By providing essential items, organizing PGI training for volunteers, and conducting awareness sessions in communities and schools, including the provision of IEC materials in the local language through various means of communication (public space, social media), VRCS has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the safety, dignity, and inclusivity of all affected individuals, regardless of gender or other vulnerabilities.

	Budget	CHF 69,006
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	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	
		Targeted Persons	15000
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of target communities provided with rainwater harvesting assistance	10	0	
# of people reached through hygiene promotion sessions	15000	4995	
# of households provided with essential hygiene materials	3000	999	
# of households received jerry can	0	1585	

Progress Towards Outcome

VRCS has assisted affected communities through the mobilization of 14 trained volunteers (10 females and 4 males) to distribute hygiene-related items such as hygiene parcels and jerry cans. A total of 2,163 jerry cans were distributed to 1,585 households, and 1,003 hygiene parcels were distributed to 999 households. Hygiene kits comprised soaps, towels, sanitary pads, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and detergent. These volunteers were mobilized to raise health awareness alongside hygiene promotion that includes key messaging about the importance of handwashing practices, safe storage of drinking water, prevention of epidemic diseases, and menstrual hygiene management. VRCS produced IEC materials such as posters as tools for promoting hygiene and a healthy lifestyle. About 25 people with disabilities participated in hygiene and health awareness sessions.

VRCS was involved in WASH cluster coordination and initially planned to provide rainwater harvesting in several affected communities, also in anticipation of potential drought due to the predicted upcoming El Nino. However, the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) directed that the restoration of water sources would be led and covered by the Government through their response and recovery plan. This, therefore, was reallocated to cover the increased logistical and distribution costs, both internationally and locally (inter-island transportation). Accordingly, earlier planned intervention of providing communities with rainwater harvesting assistance has been deprioritized.

	Health	Budget	
		Targeted Persons	CHF 39,938
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of people reached through first aid services	1000	0	
# of people reached through health promotion sessions	10000	2186	
# of volunteers trained on PSS	50	54	



Progress Towards Outcome

Approximately one-third of health facilities assessed in hard-hit areas have moderate to severe damage to the structures and/or medical equipment, while cases of diarrhea, dengue, and leptospirosis were on the rise during the first few weeks post-cyclones. VRCS focused on delivering key messages on health awareness, incorporating the prevention of vector-borne and water-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, diarrhea, and leptospirosis through proper individual and household hygiene practices. The health awareness sessions were conducted alongside the distribution of hygiene parcels, mosquito nets, and essential household items. Various IEC materials were produced in the local language in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the health cluster to accommodate different health messages.

The following training sessions were provided to volunteers during the response:

List of Trainings and Participants:

- 1) First Aid training (23 males, 23 females - total 46): A total of 28 members from 2 communities and 18 VRCS volunteers.
- 2) Psychosocial Support (PSS) (31 males, 23 females - total 54): VRCS volunteers.
- 3) Basic First Aid services in emergencies (15 males, 13 females - total 28): VRCS volunteers.
- 4) Health and hygiene promotion training (9 males, 15 females - total 24): Refresher prior to field deployment in Tanvasoko ward.

VRCS continues to address health-related challenges arising from the cyclone, focusing on distributing essential items, providing training to volunteers and communities, and conducting health and hygiene awareness campaigns.

Two first aid training sessions were organized in Shefa and Tafea provinces, with 28 volunteers (13 females and 15 males) participating. These trained volunteers are now equipped to provide essential first aid services during emergencies, strengthening VRCS's response capacity.

To address mental health and stress issues resulting from the cyclone, 68 volunteers (23 females and 31 males) were trained on Psychosocial Support (PSS). These volunteers are now prepared to provide psychosocial support to those in the communities who require assistance.

VRCS's First Aid team visited Lakatoro in Malampa Province and Aneityum in Tafea Province to conduct comprehensive First Aid Training. This effort expanded the availability of first aid services to 28 cyclone-affected community members.



About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

At least 361 volunteers involved in the nationwide response of VRCS, with 52 staff members. VRCS has 100 NDRT-trained and 100 first aid trained volunteers. Finance, logistics and communications role are the gaps that was filled through the deployment of rapid response personnel to support this response.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Surge deployments came in various roles: finance, logistics, shelter, PMER, CVA and communications. Specifically for Logistics and PMER, the deployment of personnel was done in two rotations. The list of deployment is as shown earlier under the 'Secretariat Services' section. The Logistics Coordinator led the coordination and management of the country level logistics operations in cooperation with VRCS and Asia Pacific Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management in line with IFRC Supply chain management strategy. This is to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of goods and equipment, to optimize service quality and cost effectiveness and to meet the needs of the Federation and partners. All deployments were based in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Following the assessment on impact of supply chain in local market, all procurement was conducted internationally with the support of IFRC APRO LPSCM and IFRC CCD Suva, except for first aid kits that is procured locally. The procurement of first aid kit is being carried out with the support of IFRC CCD Suva and GVA to ensure quality assurance and compliance.

How will this operation be monitored?

Reporting on the operation will be conducted in accordance with IFRC reporting standards. In the span of four months, a total of 11 Sitreps have been generated. Following this, the Operation Update has been published to communicate the progress and provide insights into operational and budget adjustments. Two management cell calls, chaired by the AP Regional Director, have been conducted to date to address issues and anticipate operational risks. Biweekly updates to APRO will continue during the operation's timeframe, with a final report to be issued within three months after the operation concludes.

The operation team possesses technical PMER capacity, and additional technical support is provided through the deployment of two surge personnel. Operation monitoring teams from VRCS NHQ regularly conduct field visits to branches. This helps in identifying and, when necessary, resolving on-the-ground issues. Necessary tools and templates for regular data collection and reporting have been adopted from existing PMER resources. This includes the use of a monitoring tracker tool and a financial tracking tool. PDM was conducted for relief distribution and will be conducted once CVA is implemented. A lesson learned workshop is scheduled for November 2023 to review the activation of DREF in preparedness and early action, as well as the emergency response undertaken.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

IFRC has been enhancing VRCS's communications capacity with support from the communications teams in the country cluster delegation in Suva and the regional office in Kuala Lumpur. Specifically, IFRC continues to provide assistance in media relations, content gathering, production, and distribution of communication materials and resources. Moreover, they employ social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to promote advocacy messages through global and regional channels. IFRC remains committed to managing reputational risks at the country level, ensuring that Movement actors at the country level speak and act with a unified voice, building trust among partners, donors, and other stakeholders.



Contact Information

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

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- **IFRC Project Manager:** Christie Samosir, DRM Manager, christie.samosir@ifrc.org, +679 998 0772
- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Nusrat Hassan, Operations Coordinator, opscoord.pacific@ifrc.org
- **Media Contact:** Soneel Ram, Communications Manager, Soneel.Ram@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)





DREF OPERATION

MDRVU010 - Vanuatu Red Cross Society Severe Tropical Cyclone Judy and Kevin 2023

Operating Budget by Output Codes

	Total
Planned Operations	571,124
Shelter and Basic Household Items	246,731
AP005 Shelter assistance to households	246,731
Livelihoods	0
AP007 Improvement of income sources	0
Multi-purpose Cash	189,890
AP081 Multipurpose cash grants	189,890
Health	39,938
AP107 NS health capacity	0
AP108 Health services	22,365
AP109 Health services in emergencies	17,573
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	69,006
AP110 WASH	0
AP111 WASH in emergencies	69,006
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	8,520
AP114 Humanitarian values and principles	0
AP116 Protection/gender/inclusion services	8,520
AP117 Protection/gender/inclusion capacity	0
Education	0
AP115 Access to education	0
Migration	0
AP112 Support to migrants and displaced	0
AP113 NS Migration & Displacement Capacity	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	0
AP101 Climate change adaptation	0
AP103 Comm. risk reduction and resilience	0
AP104 Assistance to people affected	0
AP105 NS DM Capacity	0
AP106 Disaster Law	0
Community Engage. and Accountability	17,040
AP129 Community engagement/accountability	17,040
Environmental Sustainability	0
AP102 Climate change mitigation&greening	0
Enabling Approaches	228,265
Coordination and Partnerships	0
AP049 IFRC coord. in humanitarian system	0
AP118 Engagement w. stakeholders	0
AP119 Influencing and hum. diplomacy	0
AP120 Innovation	0
AP121 Digital Transformation	0
AP127 Membership Coordination	0
AP128 Movement Cooperation	0
Secretariat Services	22,365
AP122 Secretariat services strengthening	22,365
National Society Strengthening	205,900



DREF OPERATION

MDRVU010 - Vanuatu Red Cross Society Severe Tropical Cyclone Judy and Kevin 2023

Operating Budget by Output Codes

	Total
AP124 National Society Development	203,131
AP125 Volunteering development	2,769
AP126 Leadership development	0

TOTAL BUDGET **799,389**

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)