

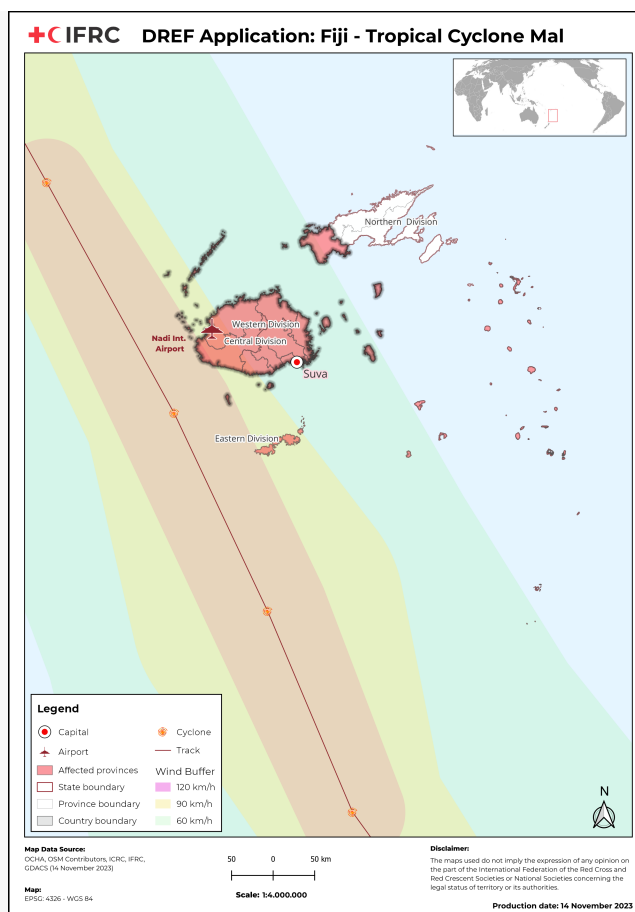


Fiji Red Cross volunteers support the reinforcement of housing of at-risk communities (Photo: FRCS)

Appeal: MDRFJ007	Country: Fiji	Hazard: Cyclone	Type of DREF: Imminent
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 142,018	
Glide Number: TC-2023-000219-FJI	People Affected: 69,564 people	People Targeted: 7,500 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-11-14	Operation Timeframe: 1 months	Operation End Date: 2023-12-31	DREF Published: 2023-11-15

Targeted Areas: **Central, Eastern, Northern, Western, Rotuma**

Description of the Event



Tropical Cyclone Mal Track Path (Source: IFRC IM)

Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

A low-pressure formed north of the Solomon Islands on Friday, 10 November 2023. This weather system developed into tropical disturbance TD02F on Saturday, 11 November 2023, and moved slowly to the east of the Solomon Islands. It is likely to intensify into a Category 3 tropical cyclone by Tuesday, 14 November 2023, or early Wednesday, 15 November 2023. Fiji Met Office released a tropical cyclone alert on 12 November 2023, informing the projected path expected to approach the Fiji Group from later on Tuesday and continue its journey through the country on 15 November 2023. While the current projected path is over Viti Levu, there is significant uncertainty at present as the system has not yet fully developed. It may become much clearer when the system becomes a tropical cyclone.

Given this new development, the whole Fiji Group is advised to be on alert for a possible tropical cyclone. Gale to storm force winds is likely over the country from later Tuesday into Wednesday, 14-15 November 2023. These winds can break tree branches, blow unsecured and loose materials, disrupt communication network and power supply due to damaged power lines, damage temporary and weak structures, increase the risk of sea travel for all types of sea crafts, and increase the risk for hazardous breaking waves and coastal inundation of debris along low lying coastal areas, especially during high tides.

There is also the risk of flooding in low-lying areas, including flash flooding. Meanwhile, a Heavy Rain Warning remains in force for the Northern Division, Yasawa, Mamanuca, Lau and Lomaiviti Groups, while a Heavy Rain Alert is in force for the eastern half of Viti Levu. This is due to a trough of low pressure with associated cloud and rain, which remains slow-moving just to the north of Fiji. It is expected to drift south and affect the northern and eastern parts of the group.

The cyclone may have begun to impact the Yasawa and Mamanuca Groups from the morning of 14 November and is expected to start affecting Viti Levu later in the afternoon. Most of the destructive winds are expected overnight on Tuesday and into the early morning of Wednesday, 15 November 2023.

The following risks are expected, especially for areas under heavy rain warning:

- Localised flooding of low-lying and flood-prone areas.
- Coastal inundation and hazardous breaking waves.
- Disruption to communication networks and power supply.
- Damage to temporary and weak structures.
- Localised flooding of minor roads, Iris crossings (pedestrian pathways or crossings), and bridges with some disruption to traffic flow.
- Poor visibility at sea and on land with an increased risk of motor vehicle accidents due to slippery roads.

A Strong Wind Warning remains in force for the rest of Fiji Waters. Southeasterly winds with speeds up to 37 to 56 kph, along with rough to very rough seas, are expected over Fiji Waters. Winds are expected to increase to 65 kph, with gusts up to 93 kph, and become clockwise later on Tuesday, 14 November 2023. Seas are also likely to become very rough with high waves. Over open waters, sea conditions are potentially hazardous for small crafts. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions.

The Fiji Meteorological Office released a warning to the whole Fiji Group on Sunday, 12 November 2023, to be on alert for a possible tropical cyclone. The Fiji National Disaster Management Office released public advisory on Saturday and Sunday, 11-12 November 2023, urging vigilance and advising households to start implementing preparedness measures, including securing homes and assets from strong winds.

The Government announced the closing of schools on 14-15 Nov 2023, and instructed all non-essential civil servants to work from home starting 14 November, and the decision will be reviewed daily.



FRCS volunteer conducting early warning dissemination in a community at risk (Photo: FRCS)

Why your National Society is acting now and what criteria is used to launch this operation.

Following the tropical cyclone warning released by the Fiji Meteorological Office, the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has started mobilizing resources to the potential impacted areas in Viti Levu Island. The heavy rains and strong winds have affected parts of Fiji, resulting in floods, fallen trees obstructing roads and footpaths, and broken bridges and crossings.

Accordingly, the FRCS is taking action in response to the potential threat of Tropical Cyclone (TC) Mal Category 3 to assist communities in disseminating early warning messages and mobilizing resources. The FRCS has a strong presence in the country and is well-positioned as the main auxiliary partner to assist communities and respond to disasters or crises in the country. As the tropical low develops into a tropical cyclone in the coming days and passes over the Fiji Group, the FRCS initiated an IFRC-DREF for an imminent event to support early action activities. However, it may decide to transition to a response IFRC-DREF, significantly assisting more people with a full range of response activities after assessing the situation post-landfall.

Scope and Scale

The development of the weather system into a tropical cyclone, bringing torrential heavy rains and strong winds, is forecasted to affect most of the western, northern, and central parts of Viti Levu Island. It is estimated to impact 69,564 people (13,913 households), disrupting the very fabric of these close-knit communities. The affected households may be exposed to potential damage from flooding and are at risk of adverse health impacts due to compromised access to safe water supplies. There is a high likelihood that water sources have been contaminated following the floods and the overflow of main streams. Access to food may be restricted due to damage to agriculture and the subsequent impact on livelihoods. The FRCS is focusing its early actions and preparedness measures in the Western, Central, and Eastern Divisions, aiming to assist approximately 7,500 people.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRFJ006 2022

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

TC Cody was a Category 2 cyclone that made landfall in Fiji in January 2022. TD02F is a tropical depression that is expected to develop into a tropical cyclone category 3 later on 14 November or early 15 November. The activation of the imminent IFRC-DREF becomes an essential tool in reducing the risk of the event and allows for the immediate mobilization of resources to reduce the risk of the cyclone impact. There are still high variables on the development and intensity of the cyclone and the scale of it may have on Fiji.

Lessons learned:

The lessons learned from TC Cody's response in Fiji in January 2022 have significantly improved the current response efforts. Notably, the importance of training volunteers in flood impact assessment and the subsequent adaptation of relief item distribution criteria to align with community needs were key takeaways. The inclusion of hygiene promotion in Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) applications has been recognized as crucial for reducing post-disaster disease-related fatalities. Closer collaboration with the IFRC CCD Pacific Suva office logistics team and suppliers has been established to ensure timely relief item availability during emergencies. Health issues are consistently addressed throughout the disaster response process. Local procurement processes have been reviewed, clarifying roles between the IFRC and the National

Society, with a heightened focus on accommodating individuals with disabilities. Pre-disaster agreements with suppliers and timely reviews have been instituted for improved efficiency. Additionally, expanded training on the use of KOBO for assessment and recording enhances data accuracy. Furthermore, securing prior contracts with transport companies to facilitate response and reinforcing coordination with partners, particularly Provincial Administrators during peacetime, strengthens overall disaster response coordination.

Current National Society Actions

Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Preparedness messages have been disseminated across all FRCS media platforms, including the mobilization of personnel on the ground to reach potentially affected communities. FRCS Resilience communities have been informed of the current situation and have activated their disaster response plan and disaster committee. These community disaster committee members have received training through FRCS Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) and are now equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to respond to any disaster affecting their community.

National Society Readiness

FRCS mission is to build safe, healthy, and resilient communities by working with our partners and empowering volunteers in humanitarian services and advocacy. The FRCS is Fiji's largest local humanitarian organization with a network of 16 branches located across the country in Suva, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, Nalawa, Levuka, Labasa, Seaqaqa, Bua, Savusavu, Taveuni, Rabi, and Rotuma. Through its network of branches, dedicated members, and volunteers, FRCS delivers key programs and activities. In times of disasters, volunteers are mobilized to respond to emergencies.

The FRCS has three divisional service centers located in the northern (Labasa), western (Lautoka), and central-eastern (Suva) divisions, acting as the National Office liaison and supporting the branches. At the FRCS National HQ in Suva, management and staff support day-to-day operations and provide assistance to branches in service delivery, operational support, and emergency response.

All branches, divisions, and staff are on standby. The FRCS facilitated a disaster preparedness mock exercise with the National Office Staff and branches on 11 November 2023. IFRC CCD Suva was also present, providing support and guidance on IFRC response tools and processes.

Preparedness messages have been posted on all FRCS media platforms, and the preparedness work of community volunteers has been shared via social media. Stock levels are being updated and mobilized to respective division branches.

FRCS mobilized a manpower of 270 personnel, comprising 30 staff (27 NHQ and 3 Divisional staff) and 240 volunteers, to conduct preparedness and early actions, activate the EOC, and disseminate early warning messages. The Western Division mobilized 105 volunteers, the Central Eastern Division mobilized 45 volunteers, and the Northern Division mobilized 90 volunteers.

FRCS has the capacity to mobilize stock from other branches if needed, as well as availability and capability of identified local suppliers to provide household items such as hygiene parcels, dignity kits, disability kits, baby kits, blankets, kitchen sets, and 10L buckets during emergencies. FRCS has stock levels that can cater to the response for at least 1,500 households. Additionally, FRCS has the capacity, including human resources, to mitigate relief supply and distribution to up to 1,500 households from the onset of a disaster.

Assessment	<p>Based on predictions of the Tropical Depression developing into a TC Category 3, it suggests that the following areas will be affected: the Yasawa Group, Western and Northern Viti Levu, with this impact expected to extend to the rest of the country. Currently, all branches are focused on reaching at-risk and vulnerable communities with preparedness and early warning messages. These messages are being disseminated through emails, SMS, Instagram, Facebook, and other social media channels. This effort will continue in the coming days and will involve volunteers post-impact. Once clearance is given, assessments and distributions will be conducted, prioritizing elderly individuals with chronic illnesses, pregnant women, children, and people with special needs.</p> <p>The initial response anticipates that 20 per cent of the population will be directly affected, and FRCS aims to address the immediate needs of 10 per cent of the affected population, focusing on the most vulnerable. This approach is based on lessons learned from the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)</p>
Coordination	<p>The branches are in coordination with communities, local government and stakeholders for situation development and following the direction of government. At the national level, FRCS is coordinating with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Commissioners office, provincial administrators, Fiji Meteorological office and relevant authorities.</p>
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>Contingency plan is activated when the trigger to response is met.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>FRCS is on standby. The EOC has not been activated yet. According to the latest NDMO meeting on 13 November 2023, the national EOC will be activated within 24 hours, followed by the activation of the NS EOC. FRCS is continuously monitoring the situation, with all personnel in priority branches and NHQ on standby and prepared to respond.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>IFRC CCD Suva has been monitoring the situation with FRCS, including close coordination with national cluster system in case there is an escalation of response required.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>No PNS is currently present in Fiji, however, Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross are on standby to support and in coordination with the IFRC CCD Suva.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

No clear direction on assistance for this particular operation has been received from the ICRC as of to date.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	<p>No</p>
National authorities	<p>Fiji National Disaster Management Office coordinate with all stakeholders and continue releasing regular updates on the development of situation. Fiji Meteorological Office continue updating the weather system and disseminating to all stakeholders and community.</p>

UN or other actors

OCHA is closely monitoring the situation and informing accordingly to Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) partners through PHT cluster coordinators and principals.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The government has issued weather alerts, and the FRCS is a member of the Disaster Focal Group joining the platform which provides timely updates. This forum facilitates information dissemination and connects all stakeholders involved in the response, resulting in a more coordinated effort.

National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) is on full activation since 13 November and is closely monitoring the situation with the Divisional EOCs. National Clusters are on standby for response activation if required.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

Due to the current heavy rain and flooding, coupled with the potential landfall of TC Mal, health messaging on water and vector-borne diseases, including COVID-19, will be prioritized. Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) will be provided to volunteers and staff involved in continuous situational monitoring and assessment, integrated into the overall response. This approach stems from identified needs in previous operations, aiming to better support staff, volunteers, and address the psychosocial needs of the affected population.

First aid kits are being provided to field staff and volunteers to support minor medical injuries and care that may result from the strong winds and flooding. In high-risk communities where FRCS has Community Based Surveillance (CBS) volunteers, they will be able to raise health alerts regarding any identified cases of illness/disease during the ongoing flooding. Follow-up referrals, health promotion, and messaging will focus on relevant diseases, including dengue, typhoid, leptospirosis, and COVID-19.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Due to the anticipated extensive flooding, concerns regarding hygiene-related and waterborne diseases are significant. There is a high probability of water source contamination, making access to clean drinking water challenging. The WASH cluster is holding regular meetings, and both FRC and IFRC will maintain coordination and monitoring of these needs. However, currently, there is limited capacity within FRCS to deliver services in this area at a significant scale. Household water filtration could be considered as an option to provide aid to the most vulnerable households if a response becomes necessary.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

During times of disasters, affected people face increased vulnerability due to a lack of proper housing, limited access to healthcare, suboptimal WASH facilities, and economic insecurity, often resulting from the loss of immediate livelihood. Vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, or chronic medical conditions encounter barriers in accessing assistance and face an elevated risk of violence and abuse. It's imperative to protect these individuals and address their specific needs when planning implementation, ensuring the availability of Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) for accountability and inclusiveness in the response.

Protection, gender, and inclusion are critical risks in Fiji, particularly concerning disasters. Lessons learned from TC Yasa highlighted the necessity to focus on PGI since notable cases of gender-based violence were observed in past responses. In the event of evacuation centers being activated, gender and protection issues should also be taken into consideration.

Moreover, providing psychosocial support interventions for people who have lost livelihoods and been displaced is essential. Additionally, supporting children through child-friendly spaces is crucial.



Migration

FRCS will provide support if evacuation is necessary and assist the displaced population, whether they are residing in evacuation centers or staying with friends or relatives nearby. Throughout the duration of displacement, FRCS will continue to complement the Government's efforts in delivering quality humanitarian assistance to these individuals. Upon de-escalation of the alert level, FRCS will aid them in safely returning to their respective homes.

In the event of the cyclone making landfall and causing strong winds, some or many of these individuals may partially or fully lose their shelter and livelihood. After carefully assessing the situation, identifying gaps and needs, FRCS will support the most vulnerable sections in rebuilding their lives.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The potential impact of this cyclone is multifaceted, and community awareness and preparedness are crucial to prevent loss of life and mitigate humanitarian consequences. Therefore, emphasis on various communication outputs for early warning messaging is vital for communities to make prompt and informed decisions at the individual and household levels beforehand.

In response to the looming threat of Tropical Cyclone Mal, the Fiji Red Cross resilience communities are ready to activate their community disaster response plan. The disaster committee, comprising dedicated individuals with expertise in community emergency response, will play a pivotal role in coordinating efforts to inform communities about the current situation. The primary focus will be on implementing various communication outputs for early warning messaging, emphasizing the urgency for communities to make swift and informed decisions at the individual and household levels beforehand.

Timely dissemination of accurate information is crucial to enable residents to take necessary precautions and evacuate vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and their livestock. FRCS is particularly committed to ensuring early warning and early action activities to minimize the impact of TC Mal. This includes prioritizing the evacuation of the elderly, who are often more vulnerable during such events, and safeguarding their livestock. Simultaneously, efforts will be directed toward securing homes and belongings to enhance overall community resilience in the face of the impending cyclone.

By activating their disaster response plan and engaging the disaster committee, the FRCS aims to foster a comprehensive and community-centric approach to disaster management. Through these proactive measures, the organization strives to mitigate the potential humanitarian impact of TC Mal and contribute to the overall safety and well-being of the affected communities.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The affected households require support from both government and non-governmental organizations. It is crucial to provide information on the types of available support and how households can access it. This information should be readily available to ensure that affected households are aware of the support options accessible to them.

Additionally, the development and intensity of the tropical depression can be unpredictable, necessitating continuous updates and information on the status of the track path to communities. This information must include what needs to be done and what support is available. Continuous updates are essential to keep at-risk communities informed of any changes as the situation evolves.

Monitoring the needs of different groups continuously is also essential. Different groups of people may have varying needs, and it is important to ensure that the support provided targets these specific needs.

Two-way communication is vital in providing aid during disasters. It is not enough to provide information to affected households; listening to their needs and feedback is equally important. Information is a life-saving mechanism during disasters, and it is imperative to ensure that accurate and up-to-date information is provided to potentially affected households. The joint undertaking emphasizes the importance of two-way communication as aid, highlighting the necessity of effective communication in providing support to affected households.



Shelter Cluster Coordination

The NEOC was fully activated on 13 November 2023, and is closely monitoring the situation along with the Division EOCs. National clusters meet regularly during preparedness times and are now on standby for activation if the situation requires.

In Fiji, the National Shelter Cluster is led by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management (MRMDDM) and co-led by the IFRC, represented by the Pacific Shelter Coordinator. Ongoing close communication among the shelter cluster coordination team and all shelter partners is maintained. An initial update of prepositioned stock at the country level has been conducted. A shelter cluster meeting is scheduled for 15 November, for preparedness, which might be changed to a response meeting if required.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to the current weather forecast, major flooding is anticipated in the affected areas due to tidal movements and ongoing heavy rains. The soil is already saturated, increasing the risk of falling trees. No major damage to houses has been reported thus far. Strong coordination with local authorities and within the communities will be crucial for cleaning and removing debris/fallen trees and ensuring safe access to settlements. Emphasizing the dissemination of safe shelter awareness and key messages on securing houses, removing potential flying objects, and trimming branches around houses will help mitigate possible damages. Timely and clear communication with communities regarding safe evacuation centers should be prioritized. Coordinated assessments to identify future damages, needs, and coping mechanisms of the affected population will be necessary to provide adequate and timely emergency shelter assistance. This may include potential distribution of essential household items to facilitate affected families in resuming their domestic activities and supporting their self-recovery, if escalating the response becomes necessary.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The operation aims to provide essential support to the FRCS in addressing the urgent early actions and preparedness measures to at-risk communities in Western and Central Eastern Division potentially affected by the developing tropical cyclone based on the forecast released by Fiji Meteorological Office on 12 November 2023. The operation will focus on stock movement in anticipation of evacuation near evacuation centres, disseminating early warning messages and shelter/hygiene/health-related messages, including activation of CERT volunteers and activation of EOC, and volunteer mobilisation for the activities, with potential support towards evacuation based on government announcement. The operation is targeting to assist 7,500 people at risk (1,500 households) for a period of one month in western, central and eastern division.

Operation strategy rationale

The objective of this imminent operation is to provide immediate early actions that reduce the potential humanitarian impact of the Category 3 tropical cyclone as it develops and passes over the Fiji Group. This includes:

- 1) Mobilizing personnel to disseminate early warning messages and potentially evacuate people if required.
- 2) Mobilizing stock closer to evacuation areas in preparation for possible government evacuation announcements.
- 3) Conducting preparedness briefings for personnel at branches and HQ, activating Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. These briefing covers situation/weather updates, potential impacts, response triggers, preparedness checklists including safety/security, stakeholder coordination, SOPs, volunteer readiness, stock updates, fleet readiness, ECV toolkit, IEC, etc.
- 4) Sensitizing health and hygiene-related messages to reduce potential escalation of water-borne diseases.
- 5) Conveying shelter awareness messages on housing reinforcement and shelter/settlement safety.
- 6) Producing IEC materials and communication tools for communities at risk.
- 7) Activating EOC and coordinating with branches and stakeholders.
- 8) Monitoring and assessing the rapidly changing situation due to the impact of heavy rains and strong winds before the cyclone makes landfall to ensure timely evacuation.

Most of these activities commenced on 12 November 2023, following the weather advisory from the Fiji Meteorological Office forecasting the low depression's likely development into a tropical cyclone within 48-72 hours. FRCS mobilized its personnel and resources to conduct preparedness briefings with branches and communities. Early warning dissemination regarding the cyclone's development was carried out through all media platforms and direct community visits. This included preparedness measures at the household level and shelter awareness messaging for communities to take precautionary measures to reinforce their housing structures where possible. Ongoing assessments are monitoring the early impact of heavy rains and strong winds associated with cyclone development. FRCS stands ready to support evacuation if needed.

Initially, FRCS will focus on assisting vulnerable communities in the Western and Central Eastern Divisions along the forecasted tropical cyclone track path. Upon the escalation of cyclone intensity and landfall, immediate assessments will be conducted to identify the impact's scale and scope to inform response needs. FRCS will also escalate its response if the Government declares an emergency following the cyclone's landfall.

In case of increased impact, FRCS may apply for an IFRC-DREF for response, depending on the impacted geographic areas, intensity, number of affected families, damaged or destroyed houses, complete/partial loss of livelihoods, impact on WASH and health infrastructure, and the government and NS/branches' capacity to respond to the disaster's scale.

FRCS, its partners, and IFRC will continue to assess the situation and escalate response activities as necessary, in consultation with FRCS and IFRC DREF management team. The escalation and associated humanitarian activities will be determined by evidence, context (gaps, systemic resilience of public authorities, contributions from partners and stakeholders to meet people's needs, etc.), and FRCS's response capacity.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The overall target beneficiaries are based on the forecast track path of Tropical Depression 02F (TD02F) that is predicted to affect population in the Western and Central Eastern Division of Viti Levu, Fiji, particularly in Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, Yasawa and Kadavu. This includes the most vulnerable communities who may have to be evacuated soon, people who are injured or sick, and people with special needs.

The FRCS will work with the Fijian government to identify the specific communities and individuals who will be targeted through the operation, estimated to assist about 1,500 families. The FRCS will also work with other humanitarian partners to ensure that the most vulnerable people are reached.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria for the targeted population will be based on the following factors:

- (i) Vulnerability: The FRCS will target the most vulnerable people that will likely be impacted by TC Mal, such as people who may lose their homes and livelihoods, people who are displaced, people who are injured or sick, and people with disabilities.
- (ii) Need: The FRCS will target people who have the greatest need for assistance. This will be assessed based on the severity of the damage caused by the cyclone, the level of displacement, and the availability of other resources.
- (iii) Equity: The FRCS will ensure that the operation is equitable and that all affected people have an equal opportunity to receive assistance. This means that the FRCS will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, political affiliation, or any other factor.

The FRCS will work with the Fijian government especially NDMO and other humanitarian partners to identify the specific communities and individuals who will be targeted through the operation.

Total Targeted Population

Women	3,675	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	3,825	People with disabilities (estimated)	6%
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	7,500		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Insufficient funding	Secure funding from a variety of sources, including DREF, corporate donors, and individual donors
The FRCS may face logistical challenges in delivering assistance to communities at risk, especially if the cyclone causes significant damage to infrastructure and transportation	The FRCS will need to develop contingency plans and work with the Fijian government and other humanitarian partners to overcome logistical challenges
Lack of coordination with other humanitarian partners	Coordinate closely with the Fijian government and other humanitarian partners to avoid duplication of services and ensure that the response is comprehensive

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Bad weather:

TD02F is expected to develop into a powerful cyclone category 3 that could cause significant damage to Fiji. The FRCS will need to take precautions to protect its staff and volunteers from bad weather conditions.

Disease outbreaks:

The cyclone could increase the risk of disease outbreaks, such as cholera and malaria. The FRCS will need to take precautions to prevent disease outbreaks, such as providing clean water and sanitation facilities.

The National Society's security framework will be applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. In case of need for deployment of personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support, the existing IFRC security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management, will be applicable.

All IFRC must, and RCRC staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses. Staff and volunteers to be aware of the security situation and briefed on reactions in an emergency before deployment in the operational area.

Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel will be undertaken following the current IFRC travel approval process, and current health advisories. There are currently no significant security issues or threats for NS and IFRC staff.

Planned Intervention



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 425

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Indicators

Title	Target
# of hotline activated	1

Priority Actions

1. Hotline activation
2. Establish Feedback mechanism



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 22,299

Targeted Persons: 3,500

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people who received training/awareness raising sessions/messaging on safe shelter	3,500

Priority Actions

1. Disseminate safe shelter messages in high-risk communities, including securing shelters, clearing potential flying objects, and trimming branches/trees near houses.
2. Mobilize existing stock of essential household items closer to evacuation centers in high-risk areas for potential evacuated populations.



Health

Budget: CHF 19,114

Targeted Persons: 3,500

Indicators

Title	Target
#of people reached by the NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors.	3,500

# of assessments conducted based on the standard IFRC assessment guidelines.	1
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Priority Actions

1. Continuously monitor potential outbreaks or escalation of water-borne diseases.
2. Coordinate technically and collaborate with the MoH and regional humanitarian organizations.
3. Reproduce and distribute IEC materials, along with community messaging, for disease prevention and health promotion, utilizing social media and engaging youth as agents of behavioral change (YABC).
4. Conduct health promotion briefings for volunteers.
5. Implement CEA and CBHFA awareness to promote community-based disease control and health promotion before the impact of cyclone.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 16,990

Targeted Persons: 3,500

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	3,500
# of assessments conducted based on the standard IFRC assessment guidelines	1

Priority Actions

1. Continuously monitor the WASH situation in targeted communities.
2. Select target groups, key messages, and communication methods with beneficiaries (utilizing mass media and interpersonal communication).
3. Conduct hygiene promotion activities.
4. Reproduce relevant IEC materials.
5. Continuously monitor and assess the early impact of the developing cyclone.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 4,672

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Indicators

Title	Target
# of Child Safeguarding risk assessment conducted	1

Priority Actions

1. Utilize Minimum Standards as a guide to assist sectorial teams in integrating protection, gender, and inclusion into sectorial activities, encompassing child protection and measures to mitigate the risk of SGBV.
2. Integrate messaging on preventing and responding to SGBV into all community outreach activities.

3. Establish referral systems to deliver psychosocial support to children, collaborating with PSS specialists.
4. Conduct briefings for volunteers and staff on child protection policy/guidelines and the Code of Conduct.
5. Perform a child safeguarding risk analysis.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 32,918

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached by RCRC through disaster risk reduction public awareness messaging and public education campaigns (PAPE)	7,500
# of EOC activated	1
# of assessments conducted based on the standard IFRC assessment guidelines.	1

Priority Actions

1. Evacuate high-risk populations.
2. Disseminate early warnings.
3. Activate and deploy CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).
4. Activate EOC.
5. Conduct immediate needs assessments.
6. Conduct potential search and rescue after the landfall.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 8,070

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
# of shelter cluster coordination meeting	2
# of monitoring visit	2

Priority Actions

1. Shelter cluster coordination
2. Monitoring by IFRC CCD
3. Media engagement and communication
4. Provide Logistics support to FRCS



Budget: CHF 37,530

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers insured	240
# of posts and communication on media platforms	5
# of lesson learned workshop conducted	1

Priority Actions

1. Ensure volunteers have insurance coverage.
2. Provide comprehensive briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they encounter.
3. Ensure the safety and well-being of volunteers.
4. Engage volunteers in debriefings and involve staff and volunteers in a review of lessons learned.
5. Collaborate with Movement partners, government, external stakeholders, and the Shelter cluster.
6. Proactively communicate through media platforms.
7. Conduct field monitoring visits.
8. Organize a lessons learned workshop.
9. Ensure the safety and security of staff and volunteers.

About Support Services

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

FRCS will mobilize 240 volunteers from 3 branches (North, West and Central Divisions), including 30 staff who are involved in the operation. Volunteers are deployed at the branches level to provide immediate lifesaving activities and disseminating early warning to communities. FRCS is activating their community emergency response team (CERT) to anticipate the needs to escalate response.

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

No procurement planned at this stage. FRCS mobilize resources, including prepositioned stock, however the distribution of essential household items and emergency shelter assistance will only be carried out once it is escalated to response activities. This will be captured in an Operation Update, should second allocation be sought. The FRCS has a procurement team with experience in procuring goods and services for humanitarian operations. The FRCS will follow its own procurement procedures, which are aligned with IFRC standards.

How will this operation be monitored?

An indicator tracking table will be developed and used as one of the monitoring tools. Reporting on the operation will be carried out as per the IFRC reporting standards. Regular updates will continue be issued with a final report issued within three months after the end of the operation. The operation team will have technical PMER capacity and additional technical support is provided through the IFRC PMER CCD. The operation monitoring teams will conduct field visit as needed, this will help identify and resolve any issues where possible and necessary. Tools and templates for regular data collection and reporting will be adopted from

existing PMER resources. A lesson learned workshop will be conducted at the end of the IFRC-DREF operation to capture recommendations for FRCS to consider and/or incorporate in future events.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

FRCS emergency communication plan will be activated. The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) communication strategy for the Tropical Depression operation is to inform the public about the Tropical Depression and preparedness methods and the FRCS response, facilitate communication and coordination between the FRCS, its partners, and the affected population, and promote the FRCS's mission and values. The FRCS will use a variety of communication channels, including its website, social media, email, and SMS. The FRCS will communicate information about the development of Tropical Depression, safety, and security tips, and how to donate to the FRCS or volunteer. The FRCS will also promote its mission and values as a humanitarian organization that provides assistance to people who are affected by disasters, regardless of their race, religion, or nationality, and as a volunteer-driven organization that relies on the support of the community.

IFRC will be supporting FRCS communications capacity through the communications teams in the CCD Suva. This includes providing assistance in media relations and content gathering, producing and distributing communication material and resources, as well as using social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) to promote advocacy messages through the global and regional platforms.

Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRFJ007 - Fiji Red Cross Society
Tropical Cyclone Mal 2023

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	96,417
Shelter and Basic Household Items	22,299
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	19,114
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,990
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4,672
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	32,918
Community Engagement and Accountability	425
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	45,601
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	8,070
National Society Strengthening	37,530
TOTAL BUDGET	142,018

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)