



# PACIFIC ISLANDS

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

19 December 2023

## IN SUPPORT OF TEN PACIFIC ISLAND RED CROSS NATIONAL SOCIETIES



**64**

National Society branches



**174**

National Society staff



**2,830**

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and  
environment



**126**

Disasters  
and crises



**54,079**

Health and  
wellbeing



**19,960**

Values, power  
and inclusion



**2,948**






Appeal number **MAA55001**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements	 41,000
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## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	 71
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 219
	People donating blood	 123
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
	One National Society Development plan is in place	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS (CONT.)

### Humanitarian diplomacy

Domestic advocacy strategies are developed, aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies Yes

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National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy Yes

National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions Yes

### Accountability and agility



National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms Yes

PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors Yes




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## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Income	 33,000
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>	Income	 29,000













## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 24,000
	People trained in first aid	 3,000
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 784
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES



National Society	Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross					
Italian Red Cross					
New Zealand Red Cross					

 Planned



 Supported

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements	 54,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Funding requirements	 54,000




## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	1
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 1,000
	People donating blood	 140
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross			
New Zealand Red Cross			



Planned



Supported

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	1
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	535
	People trained in first aid	845
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People donating blood	140
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	25
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society		Climate	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross	Supported		
New Zealand Red Cross		Planned	Planned

Planned
Supported

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Income	<div></div> 196,000
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## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	<div></div> 248
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	<div></div> 100
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	<div></div> 39
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	19
	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes



## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society		Climate	Enabling Functions	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross	<div></div>			
New Zealand Red Cross		<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>







Planned
  Supported

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Income	 196,000
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>	Income	 179,000

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	 50
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 300
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 55
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People donating blood	 512
	People trained in first aid	 402
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by National Society educational programmes	 2,000
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes



## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
	One National Society Development plan is in place	Yes
<b>National Society Development</b>	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes



## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society		Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross	●					
New Zealand Red Cross		●	●	●	●	●



● Planned
 ● Supported

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements	 59,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Funding requirements	 59,000

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	1
	People trained in first aid	 845
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People donating blood	 652
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	25
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society		Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross	Supported				
New Zealand Red Cross		Planned			Planned

Planned
Supported

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW  
*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

Total	Funding requirements	<div></div> 59,000
Participating National Societies	Funding requirements	<div></div> 59,000
	Income	<div></div> 101,000

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	<div></div> 1
	People trained in first aid	<div></div> 845
Health and wellbeing	People donating blood	<div></div> 652
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	<div></div> 25
Values, power and inclusion	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	<div></div> Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
	One National Society Development plan is in place	Yes
<b>National Society Development</b>	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
	Domestic advocacy strategies are developed, aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes





# IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society		Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	
French Red Cross	Supported				
New Zealand Red Cross		Planned			Planned





PlannedSupported

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements	 47,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Funding requirements	 47,000
	Income	 43,000
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>	Income	 47,000

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 24,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 639
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with immunization services	 120
	People trained in first aid	 46
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	 Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	Domestic advocacy strategies are developed, aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES



		Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society						
Australian Red Cross	●					
New Zealand Red Cross		●	●	●	●	●

● Planned
 ● Supported












## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements	 799,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Funding requirements	 77,000

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 1
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with shelter support	 3,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 1,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 8,000
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 845
	People donating blood	 652
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 25
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	 641
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	 Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
<b>National Society Development</b>	One National Society Development plan is in place	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society		Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross	●			
French Red Cross	●			
Japanese Red Cross Society		●	●	
New Zealand Red Cross		●		●

● Planned
 ● Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) member Pacific Island National Societies are spread across a diverse and vast region. Largely made up of small island and archipelago states, situated in geographic locations vulnerable to disasters, exacerbated by environmental degradation and the global climate crisis. Pacific Island countries face a range of external shocks affecting lives and livelihoods. Their economies face challenges of remoteness, small population bases, and shrinking resources, which impact their systems of governance and compound the challenges of coping with external shocks.

In many parts of the Pacific, communities face water and food insecurity and threats to life expectancy due to communicable and non-communicable diseases and weak health systems. Mental health issues are also a concern, especially among young people. Access to quality education is also a challenge, with remote communities particularly affected by poverty depriving many of education opportunities. Where development gains can be made, the high prevalence of gender-based violence and social norms perpetuating inequality threatens progress.

Climate change with higher temperatures, shifts in rainfall patterns, and changing frequencies of extreme events have simultaneously affected peoples' lives and livelihoods. Over the past few years, the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones have been increasing. For example, in January 2023, the twin cyclones – Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin – in Vanuatu produced destructive hurricane-force winds, heavy rainfall and thunderstorms and rough seas.

This resulted in damaged or destroyed homes for 19,152 households, as well as affected 185,000 people with disruptions to healthcare services, including for 26,000 children under five years who were deprived of maternal and child healthcare, immunization, and health and nutrition. School children will not have access to in-class education until schools are rebuilt and distance learning is not available to all.

The overall human impact of the two cyclones adds to the human impacts caused recently by heavy La Nina rainfall in 2022 to 2023, Tropical Cyclone Harold in 2020, and the COVID-19 crisis. Changes to the frequency of extreme El Niño and La Niña events have also led to an increase in the frequency of droughts and floods, leading to food and water insecurity in affected communities. Further, the vulnerable island nations of the Pacific are also located in the hotspot of the Pacific Ring of Fire where major volcanoes and seismic events occur. Approximately 73 per cent of the population and 65 per cent of the economic stock are exposed to seismic hazards. Seismic activity normally generates tsunamis when occurred in the ocean which poses devastating impacts to low-lying islands on land it can cause landslides, and damage to physical infrastructure including buildings, transport, electricity powerlines, and ICT infrastructure.

Natural disasters exacerbate violence against women and other marginalized groups. For instance, in Vanuatu during the twin cyclones Judy/Kevin, Vanuatu Women's Crisis Centre recorded an increase in reports of gender-based violence; other increased risks included a lack of privacy and security due to damaged houses, toilets, and bathrooms. The dependence of women on natural resources for energy, agriculture, and food security makes them particularly vulnerable to loss of livelihood due to disaster and climate change.

The IFRC Pacific country cluster delegation and the Pacific National Societies have recognized many of the above challenges faced by the region as opportunities to provide support across the humanitarian sector.

Many Pacific Island nations have developed and aligned their climate change policy and regulations to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. At the regional level, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2017-2030), is key guidance for the work of the Pacific Island nations, specifically around localization, risk finance, human mobility, and risk governance, contributing to resilience. Equally important is the recently approved Pacific Islands Forum Strategy 2050 for the Blue Pacific Continent which advocates for regionalism as a strategic approach to foster collective impact. In the area of health, guidance is provided by the Pacific Non-Communicable Disease Roadmap (2014) and Pacific First Aid Roadmap (2019).

The Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls promotes gender equality, prevents violence against women and girls, and increases access to quality response services for survivors. In strengthening youth participation and engagement, a Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023 coordinates the work with youth in the region. In the resilience space, the IFRC is playing a huge role in supporting youth development and coordination as part of

the Pacific Resilience Partnership under the auspicious of the Pacific Islands Forum in coordination with the Pacific Community. IFRC and Pacific National Societies have opportunities to collaborate and share lessons through a number of regional platforms. The Pacific Island Forum is chief among these.

## **Key achievements**

### **Increasing Pacific competencies**

Over the first half of the year, the IFRC has had some success in rolling out the Pacific Emergency Responder Capacity Initiative which, in line with the Surge Core Competency Framework, aims to provide opportunities for professional development through training and peer-to-peer deployments. One example of this initiative has been the way in which Pacific capabilities have been enhanced in the roll out of Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (eVCA).

A total of 12 Pacific Island National Societies, supported by IFRC's Pacific country cluster delegation, are now equipped with the latest knowledge of the eVCA process and nature-based solutions. Resilience/disaster focal points from all National Societies in the sub-region (were trained in the use of these tools and approaches. Through this training, eight new resilience focal points (Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Micronesia, Palau, Tonga, Samoa, Cooks and the Marshalls Islands Red Cross Societies) gained first-hand experience of the newly revised eVCA tool and roadmap to resilience. Four experienced focal points (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomons and Kiribati Red Cross Societies) already undertaking VCA were able to align their current resilience work to the revised eVCA tool. Since this training was provided, focal points from Fiji Red Cross and Palau Red Cross have also been deployed to provide peer-to-peer support to Micronesia Red Cross to roll out training to communities. This support provided the opportunity to extending the field experience of staff and volunteers in the region.

### **Logistics warehousing improvements**

Some disaster preparedness initiatives undertaken during the reporting period have played a crucial role in strengthening National Society response capabilities, ultimately helping communities better cope with the challenges posed by the cyclones.

This included procurement and pre-positioning of stocks for emergency response by the Fiji Red Cross, along with the provision of logistic equipment to support heavy lifting and protect the safety of staff and volunteers. The Palau Red Cross made progress on establishing a sub-regional logistics hub for the North Pacific in Palau. This location will store containers filled with relief stock to aid in emergencies for Palau, Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. The Red Cross Societies of Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu undertook significant renovation work on their warehousing, construction of new shelters specifically designed for storing containers that house all relief supplies, as well as repair, maintenance and construction of containers.

### **Youth participation**

A key highlight for 2023 has been the successful implementation of the Pacific Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) Training of Trainers which saw the training of four new YABC trainers from the National Societies of Fiji, Solomon Island, Samoa and Cook Islands. This training has enabled the Pacific to expand its pool of YABC trainers, strengthening YABC as a youth flagship program and promoting greater youth participation and engagement, especially at branch level. Similarly, training of YABC peer educators for Fiji Red Cross was conducted with 22 new peer educators supporting community activities and outreach programs.

Two National Youth Forums were conducted with the Solomon Islands Red Cross and the Fiji Red Cross with 20 and 30 youth representatives participating respectively. The forum provided an opportunity for learning and discussion on key issues affecting young people while at the same time, both National Societies elected their new national youth chair and governance representative to the Board.

After a lapse of three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pacific Youth Network met face-to-face in the margin of the Pacific Leaders Meeting held in February. It was an opportunity for the network to discuss, share and learn about key youth achievements, challenges, and best practices. A key outcome of the meeting was the finalization of the Pacific Youth Network workplan and development of a youth outcome statement.

### **Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI)**

To mark International Women's Day and increase the visibility of Pacific women leaders, a panel discussion and virtual meeting space was held on the 8 March 2023, to share perspectives on a range of topics associated with leadership. The virtual meeting had participation from 14 National Societies of the Pacific. A second key achievement has been

the handover of 252 solar lanterns from the Protection and Gender Cluster to the Vanuatu Red Cross to assist with Tropical Cyclone Judy/Kevin response operations.

### Shelter Cluster coordination

The IFRC's Pacific Shelter Delegate has been able to re-engage with active Pacific National Shelter Clusters and provide support in shelter coordination in Fiji (led by Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management; co-led by IFRC and Habitat for Humanity), Tonga (led by NEMO and co-led by IFRC) and Vanuatu (led by NDMO and co-led by Vanuatu Red Cross, with IFRC support).

### National Society Development

IFRC facilitated the governance induction for the national governing board members of the Micronesia Red Cross, Solomon Islands Red Cross and Tuvalu Red Cross. All the National Societies emerged from the training with a greater understanding of the Movement, their roles in Governing National Societies and with clearly articulated priorities for their board terms.

The IFRC's Pacific country cluster delegation and Fiji Red Cross co-hosted the seventh Pacific Leaders Meeting and the first to be held as a standalone event in the Pacific for all Pacific islands. The aim of the meeting was for National Society leaders to discuss how they can collectively tackle some of the biggest challenges the Region is facing. These issues included Climate Crisis, the need for greater preparedness and youth engagement. All of these needs were tackled within the lens of National Society Development and the challenges of building strong, financially sustainable Red Cross National Societies which can better serve Pacific communities.

## Changes and amendments

There are no changes to the unified plan 2023, but the challenges faced in the Pacific should be reviewed and taken into consideration in next year's planning. These factors are:

- The Pacific rate of climate change impact is not commensurate with the available resources and capacity to meet the increasing demand to combat climate change.
- The implementation of post-COVID-19 activities by National Societies has been slower than expected.
- There have been several leadership transitions in Pacific National Societies in the last six months.
- The National Societies report that the temporary and permanent migration of workers through migration schemes and the Pacific Labour Mobility Programme has created a skills gap affecting both staff and volunteer recruitment and retention.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Pacific Climate Action is based on the notion of collective impact, with all Pacific Islands National Societies, IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and programming partners within the global network, including the Climate Centre, working towards a set of outcomes guided by Strategy 2030 and a Pacific Climate Framework.

Four National Societies (Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu) have received ongoing support for the engagement of Climate Action Officers to further their work in this area of strategic importance. The IFRC was able to work with partners programming in the region to steward funding to support these important resources from American Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross.

The IFRC worked with all National Societies and partners to strengthen the Pacific Climate Coordination Hub. Technical support was provided to monthly coordination meetings (five meetings during this reporting period) and need based ad hoc support, which has improved knowledge, information, and capacity in areas such as Early Warning Early Action for drought, youth climate engagement through Y-Adapt planning, as well as the national adaptation plan influencing broader stakeholder engagement at national and regional levels.

The IFRC supported two National Societies (Cook Islands and Samoa) to engage with the IFRC Global Climate Champions initiative launched in 2023, which aims to harness and grow the knowledge, expertise, and leadership of National Societies on climate action at the policy and programmatic levels. The launch workshop, held in Geneva, shared the vision of the initiative and some initial planning sessions. The representatives from the two National Societies developed two draft climate action plans.

During the reporting period, preparation was done for a first face-to-face training scheduled in Fiji in August 2023, to increase the number of trained Y-Adapt alumni and begin to roll out of Y-Adapt activities through the provision of seed funding. This was planned for the National Societies of Kiribati, Tonga, Fiji, Cook Islands and Vanuatu. During the preparation phase, a review of material with young people and the Climate Centre was carried out, developing a 'next steps' action plan. Further, a small grants mechanism to support National Societies with implementation of Y-Adapt has been developed, with support from the Japanese Red Cross, as well as a comprehensive communications plan supporting digital storytelling on climate action over the coming years.

IFRC, in coordination with several donors and global network partners (American Red Cross, Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre and USAID), hosted a regional training of trainers in Fiji in June 2023, on the "Road Map to Community Resilience via Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment". This was a five-day training based on the eVCA training of trainers training kit released in September 2022. The training was followed by a nature-based solution training of trainers the following week. A total of 13 participants (8 male, 5 female) from 12 Pacific National Societies attended both training sessions.

All participants confirmed their participation in the community of practice and willingness to join a roster to be mobilized regionally and internationally. This community of practice, with a specific working group at the Pacific level, had previously been requested from National Societies/IFRC country cluster delegation to generate peer-to-peer learning and improve best practices for Pacific specific resilience-building initiatives, now with a nature-based lens. For the National Societies, the training was a first step to raise awareness and build momentum for considering more environmentally friendly ways to programme, increase how interventions can be more environmentally sustainable and nature focused.

In collaboration with the Fiji Red Cross, IFRC supported the proposal development for up to 12 years of funding from the Zurich Flood Alliance. With the regional advocacy component, the proposed reach is approximately 2 million people in the Pacific. The was submitted in June and aimed to take a strengths-based approach to managing long-term flood risk and building community resilience across Fiji.

The IFRC has also begun a mapping exercise to identify entry points in the 'Roadmap to Resilience' to add a climate lens to existing and new resilience programmes. The process will mean Pacific National Societies cannot only consider climate change impacts in programming but also look for opportunities to enhance climate adaptation and mitigation actions at the community level.

IFRC, Australian Red Cross and American Red Cross hosted an Anticipatory Action Writeshop for 11 participants from the Pacific Island National Societies. The objective of the Writeshop was to support the participants to draft a simplified Early Action Protocol, a first for the Pacific. This is to be endorsed by their Secretaries General and go through the steps for approval by the end of 2023. Six National Societies have since indicated their interest to finalize their Early Action Protocol. The process is currently raising awareness around the need for taking early or anticipatory actions ahead of imminent threats, which is pushing National Societies to consider more proactive actions (than just response). It is also building skills more broadly in readiness and preparedness planning for National Societies.

In partnership with the Australian Red Cross, the IFRC drafted the first ever 'Greening Compendium' for Preparedness and Response for Pacific National Societies. This is a tool for National Societies to use to begin to 'green' their operations by identifying simple activities or resources currently in operation, that can be approached in a more environmentally friendly way.

Since 2021, the IFRC has initiated and coordinated the Pacific Climate Coordination Hub. In May 2023, the IFRC, supported by American Red Cross, hosted the first face-to-face meeting of the hub. The participants consisted of 11 National Society technical staff (4 male, 7 female), as well as representatives from ICRC, Global network partners, Australian Red Cross, American Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and New Zealand Red Cross participating online. The two-day meeting provided a critical opportunity to bring partners working on climate initiatives in the Pacific together, to build cohesion and harmonize approaches for collective impact. The result was a review of the existing Theory of Change for Climate Action in the Pacific, including inputs collected to update it to reflect current and changing needs. The Theory of Change was finalized in June 2023 and will guide the direction of Pacific National Societies in their climate ambitions.

In March 2023, under the umbrella of the Pacific Resilience Partnership, IFRC co-convened a week of Pacific Anticipatory Action Sensitisation and Legal Framework workshops, bringing together 15 Pacific National Disaster Management Authorities, meteorological services and National Societies. A total of 12 Pacific National Society Secretaries General attended and engaged with more than 80 participants (49 male, 33 female). The week consisted of three separated but connected workshops: The Pacific Anticipatory Action Sensitization Workshop (28 to 29 March 2023), Law and Institutional Frameworks for Anticipatory Action in the Pacific, hosted by IFRC (30 March), and the Pacific CREWS Steering Committee (31 March 2023). Outcomes included increased knowledge and awareness of the key building blocks of anticipatory action, including risk information and early warning systems; planning inclusive and people-centred anticipatory actions and pre-arranged financing in different country contexts, resulting in an articulation of country-level vision and next steps to advance the anticipatory agenda at regional and national levels. One immediate result of the workshops was to significantly raise the profile of National Societies with their auxiliary partners, placing them as knowledgeable and credible Anticipatory Action Stakeholders. As a result of these workshops, the National Societies of Fiji, Palau, Cook Islands and Samoa have been involved at country level in Early Warning Early Action stakeholder meetings and pilot activities.

The Early Warning for All initiative was formally launched by the UN and IFRC Secretaries General in November 2022 at the COP27 meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. In April 2023, three of the four pillar leads present in the Pacific (IFRC, The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Organization) began meeting to consider how to advance work on the initiative in the region. Five Pacific National Societies (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Tonga) are involved in the initiative which aims to save lives and protect livelihoods from disasters through inclusive and multi-hazard early warning systems that reach the 'last mile'.



## Disasters and crises

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Four Pacific National Societies (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Kiribati) conducted a climate vulnerability baseline survey for targeted communities in the initial stages of their community resilience programme. This is being used to develop a community action plan that contains mitigating activities to minimize risks identified through the risk assessment process. North Pacific National Societies, Marshalls, Palau, and Micronesia have also started to develop their survey to be used in their identified communities.

Twelve National Societies, participating in eVCA training, have reviewed their resilience approaches using lessons learned. Some National Societies have also taken the additional step of rolling this out at the national and community level.

An IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) was approved three days after twin cyclones Kevin and then Judy made landfall in Vanuatu in March 2023, to support Vanuatu Red Cross to respond immediately and effectively to the impact of the Category-4 twin cyclones. A total of 11 surge personnel were mobilized to support the response, including for shelter cluster coordination. During the reporting period, Vanuatu Red Cross responded to more than 3,300 households with emergency shelter assistance, distribution of essential relief items (including essential household items, hygiene kits and solar lanterns), and hygiene promotion and health awareness in anticipation of potential outbreaks of leptospirosis and water-borne diseases. IFRC led membership coordination from the country cluster delegation, enabling support for national shelter cluster coordination, with Vanuatu Red Cross as the cluster co-lead.

A total of 47 Red Cross volunteers were trained on the IFRC emergency shelter kit on 20 March. At the end of the training, the volunteers were able to build an emergency shelter using the material in the kit, applying the Sphere



Standards and the safe basic construction techniques. Contextualized IEC materials used in distribution to the National Society were revised.

Post-distribution monitoring was undertaken to assess the overall experience of recipients, whether assistance rendered aligned with the needs of affected people and to obtain community feedback on the overall response by the National Society. This feedback will be incorporated into Vanuatu Red Cross' preparedness planning, moving forwards.

On 22 June, a virtual emergency shelter programming induction was conducted with North Pacific National Societies. Participants included 22 people comprising National Society staff from Palau, Micronesia and Marshall Islands. They learned critical aspects of shelter preparedness and response as a foundation to build on in coming months.

Through support from Japan Red Cross, IFRC's country cluster delegation has a small response fund which has enabled National Societies to respond to emergencies that are too small for IFRC's DREF or where the National Society required a high level of capacity support to manage DREF applications and allocations. This fund enabled the Fiji Red Cross to respond to the dengue outbreak that took place in March 2023, by distributing mosquito nets and increasing awareness of dengue prevention measures. The fund also enabled Kiribati Red Cross to respond to the prolonged drought which has taken place since July 2022 through the installation of communal water tanks in three prioritized and highly vulnerable communities alongside the dissemination of drought key messaging and hygiene/health awareness sessions. Kiribati Red Cross also managed to reach 10 schools for hygiene promotion and conducted Emergency Response Team and protection, gender and inclusion training for youth and volunteers.

National Societies have also been assessed for their preparedness capacity using the Preparedness for Effective Response mechanism. During the first half of 2023, IFRC supported National Societies in the region to ensure preparedness measures are in place by following a pre-cyclone preparedness checklist and running preparedness briefings with branches. A [preparedness dashboard](#) for the Pacific was developed with the support of IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Office.

A peer support Pacific Disaster Management Network continued to serve as a coordination platform among National Societies. The network discussed the progress of preparedness measures, disaster management best practice, and strengthening coordination mechanisms with meteorological offices. The platform has also shared prepositioned stock updates and discussed gaps in logistics readiness preparation.

Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) work with Pacific National Societies is approached through integration with other technical sectors and collaboration with network partners such as the Australian Red Cross. This approach has contributed to National Society compliance with global and sub-regional commitments and has helped identify opportunities to progress PGI further in the Pacific region. Further, during Vanuatu Red Cross' emergency response to the twin cyclones Judy and Kevin, a PGI checklist for conducting assessments was developed with the Australian Red Cross to guide and support the Vanuatu Red Cross PGI team.

Child safeguarding risk assessments were carried out in Tonga and Vanuatu in compliance with IFRC's newly revised Child Safeguarding Policy. One of the lessons stemming from these assessments has been that it is essential to deliver training on this to all National Society PGI focal points and disaster management programme leads, to ensure that it is incorporated into the programmes. Another lesson has been that it is essential to identify referral pathways as avenues for people to seek assistance from appropriate essential service providers, prior to emergencies, to adequately respond to people with specific needs.

Members of the Pacific Disaster Management, Protection, Gender and Inclusion, and Shelter networks met for the first time in-person since the COVID-19 lockdowns. This five-day meeting aimed to provide a safe space for National Societies to learn, develop, exchange, and deepen their knowledge on how they can most effectively weave the PGI and disaster management/shelter mats together. The wealth of experiences and best practices were shared among the 16 participants from across the Pacific region during peer learning, workshops, and training in Suva, Fiji. Topics covered included:

- Lessons learned reflections from recent operations and cyclone preparedness efforts
- National Society preparedness, including the preparedness for effective response (mechanism, logistics management, information management, and mechanism to mobilize resources during response through IFRC Global Response Tools)
- Green Response – how to ensure response is more environmentally friendly and greener



- Assessments, analysis, and operational strategy
- Cash and Voucher Assistance,
- Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER),
- PGI in emergencies, PGI and safeguarding, organizations for persons with disabilities and inclusion of people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics.

The network meeting also conducted the first pilot test for the region of the newly updated All Under One Roof disability-inclusive shelter and settlements in emergency training.

Representatives from Fiji, Tonga, and the IFRC's country cluster delegation were trained for emergency needs assessment and planning, which was held in Indonesia to learn better assessment, analysis, and reporting. A representative from Samoa Red Cross was deployed to a coordination, assessment and planning training in Nepal that will enrich the deployable cohort in the region.

Continued support has been provided to National Societies in terms of developing preparedness and readiness plans. Work with Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu is focused on strengthening relationships and coordination. Prepositioned stocks at the country level are monitored through manual monthly updates provided by all National Societies.

Participation of National Societies and IFRC in country clusters and coordination mechanisms to highlight auxiliary roles and mandates and ensure cooperation during emergency response operations is continued. This includes shelter cluster coordination, inter-cluster coordination, Pacific and national Cash Working Group, Health/WASH cluster, as well as Logistics cluster. The National Societies of Fiji, Tonga, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati are active members of such coordination platforms at the national level.

There has been an increased appetite for the utilization of Cash as a response mechanism. Advocacy at the leadership level was taken place during Pacific Leaders Meeting in 2023, followed by basic Cash training for the National Societies within ongoing operations. Vanuatu Red Cross has been supported in taking up an active role in the national Cash Working Group. A Cash senior officer participated in an advanced Cash training (Practical Cash in Emergency) in Turkey in June 2023 and will be part of a few other Cash champions available in the region that will take leadership roles to build the National Society's capacity and Cash readiness.

Disaster law has worked alongside National Societies to strengthen their legal base and engage with host governments to update relevant Red Cross legislation in-country. The review process for this legislation and/or policy has started in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Micronesia. The legislation for Fiji has progressed to the level of the Solicitor General and is expected to be passed before the close of 2023. For the remainder of the countries, negotiations are underway to kickstart the process.



## Health and wellbeing

First Aid focal points from the National Societies of Fiji, Cook Island and Palau completed first aid instructor courses during the first six months of the year and now can expand their first aid education to diverse settings throughout remote communities and workplaces. This is aligned with the Vision 2030 goal of reaching every home, school, and workplace.

Work commenced in the first half of the year on scoping this area of programming with National Societies. Learning what programming has gone on at National Societies previously, what the National Society involvement is with the Ministry of Health, and where the gaps may exist. Opportunities were explored and a few National Societies that have the capacity will commence a pilot project in the second half of the year with a focus on non-communicable disease prevention/health promotion.

In June, World Blood Donor Day was celebrated and provided a good opportunity for National Societies to raise community awareness on the importance of blood donation. A small amount of funding was given to Kiribati, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Palau for activities for World Blood Donor Day and blood programme support work beyond this. National Societies are using this funding in various ways to strengthen their programmes, for example, supporting a part-time blood volunteer, providing transport to blood banks and refreshments post-donation.

National Societies have been supported technically and financially with acute responses to outbreaks in Tuvalu, Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Kiribati. National Societies in these countries supported their respective health ministries by engaging volunteers to share community messaging and raise awareness to reduce transmission and emergence of new cases.

In March, Vanuatu was affected by two tropical cyclones and earthquakes in close succession. Approximately 80 per cent of the population was thought to be affected and a state of emergency was declared. Vanuatu Red Cross was involved in the national response and applied for funding from IFRC's DREF. The Vanuatu Red Cross team has been supported in their health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response and recovery activities.

The two-year international appeal to support Tonga after the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami, in January 2022, entered its second year in 2023. Ongoing support has been provided to the National Society team in the health and WASH-related aspects of the recovery.

COVID-19 funding from New Zealand Red Cross has provided four Pacific Island countries (Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, and Samoa) the opportunity to continue some post-pandemic work, including continuing support for vaccines, hygiene promotion, WASH work, and strengthening resilience to further disease outbreaks. This work is ongoing into the second half of 2023 and is proving valuable, allowing for a period of transition after the COVID-19 appeal ceased in 2022.

### **Solomon Islands Red Cross Society**

The Solomon Islands Red Cross have a strong blood programme that supports their national blood service. This reporting period has seen them reach a total of 1,185 people through implementing awareness at six schools (242 females under 18 years old, 335 females over 18 years old, 232 males under 18 years old, 376 males over 18 years old). Blood drives at six different locations and during world blood donor day celebrations resulted in a total of 140 people donating units of blood (54 females and 86 males over 18 years old donating blood). This public awareness raising, and promotion of blood donation provides essential support to the blood service in the Solomon Islands and supports access to blood products for the population who need this.

A pilot project on menstrual hygiene management commenced by the Solomon Islands Red Cross in the second quarter of the year. A collaboration with the organization Days for Girls, which work towards menstrual equity, has created a team of trained menstrual hygiene management volunteers at the National Society. Four females and four males, all over 18 years old, have the knowledge and skills to sew reusable menstrual hygiene kits and are trained to deliver comprehensive menstrual hygiene education to groups of girls and boys when kits are distributed. This work provides valuable support to girls and women in the Solomon Islands to address some of the negative impact menstruation can have on health, emotional well-being, attendance, and performance in school and work.

The National Society is currently working with the Ministry of Health toward implementing a community-based surveillance programme. The pilot programme will target 10 communities in the Guadalcanal branch and 20 for the Honiara branch. A total of 25 volunteers have been recruited to train and work in support of this programme.

### **Fiji Red Cross Society**

Several disease outbreaks occurred in Fiji in the first half of 2023, and the Fiji Red Cross provided support to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to respond to these. A high number of alerts were raised through the community-based surveillance system in February. In response to this, house-to-house awareness of leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue fever and diarrhoea was carried out in seven communities. A total of 206 households (784 people – 422 males and 362 females) were reached. This intervention, thanks to the early alert raising through community-based surveillance reporting, was able to support the community to prevent further cases of disease and/or recognize and seek early treatment for improved health outcomes.

In March, the Fiji Red Cross received a request from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to support the surge in cases of dengue fever and leptospirosis in Macuata district and a typhoid outbreak in Savusavu. A total of 80 Red Cross volunteers were engaged for five days of house-to-house messaging on leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue and diarrhoea, reaching 13,506 people (6,857 male and 6,649 female) in 2,891 households. Of those reached, 69 were people living with disabilities (33 male and 36 female). This intervention made an impact in the communities to reduce disease transmission and resultant case numbers.

Fiji Red Cross reached a total of 1,626 people through their blood programme. A total of 1,114 people were recruited and registered as blood donors, and 512 people were supported to donate units of blood. Recruitment was done in a variety of ways including blood drives. The National Society's blood drive programme was kick-started with blood drives in seven sites throughout Fiji. A refresher training for 28 volunteers was carried out at the local branches before the blood drives.

Fiji Red Cross' work in the area of blood donation is essential in supporting the national blood service to get in sufficient donors and maintain a safe, ongoing supply of blood to meet the need.

Two workplace non-communicable disease screenings and awareness were carried out in March. Twenty-nine staff were screened and high-risk individuals were referred to their nearest health centre or nursing station.

### **Cook Islands Red Cross Society**

Cook Islands Red Cross continued to deliver first aid courses and support their national blood service as their two core health programmes. The National Society raised awareness and supported blood donations. Regular blood drives, articles in the newspaper, and radio slots raised community awareness on the importance of donating.

### **Tuvalu Red Cross Society**

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted the Tuvalu Red Cross to establish a health emergency response team. A total of 120 volunteers were trained as health emergency responders, including on epidemic control, psychological first aid, and community engagement and accountability.

At the beginning of January, the Tuvalu government declared an outbreak of dengue and typhoid. Tuvalu Red Cross worked closely with the national health promotion unit to respond to the outbreak on the main atoll, Funafuti. They supported with training for volunteers on typhoid and dengue (risk communication and community engagement as well as active case finding), distribution of IEC materials to households in Funafuti, and distribution of mosquito nets to identified households.

In June, a second wave of COVID-19 occurred in Tuvalu. The National Society worked in collaboration with the public health unit to respond, strengthening community resilience and enhancing community capacity to take ownership of their health and safety. Red Cross volunteers made house-to-house visits to support hygiene awareness, handwashing, COVID-19 prevention measures and education on how to perform a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test. Additionally, the volunteers shared information on COVID-19 booster vaccinations. A total of 639 households in Funafuti were reached with kits, masks, and IEC on booster vaccinations.

### **Vanuatu Red Cross Society**

WASH-related activities were a significant component of the response to the twin cyclones Kevin and Judy. Non-food items were distributed to the affected population. Schools and communities were supported with water distribution, testing, and filtration to support access to safe drinking water. Volunteers were mobilized to affected communities to support handwashing and hygiene promotion and reduce disease transmission.

### **Kiribati Red Cross Society**

Under the USAID-funded Community Resilience Programme at Kiribati Red Cross, training on the Kobo toolbox was conducted for three staff and 20 volunteers. This was to enhance capacity in the WASH programme as part of the drought response.

WASH concerns were addressed as part of the enhanced vulnerability capacity assessment, undertaken in three of the most vulnerable communities in Tarawa. Plans developed during these assessments involved prioritizing water issues - addressing ways to manage water sustainably at home and improve sanitation.

Drought has exacerbated hardship in some communities, particularly coastal communities that have a lack of access to fresh water, brackish water from wells, and no connections with the Public Utilities Board (PUB water) pipeline. Drought conditions created food security issues in Kiribati, especially in South Tarawa, where half of the population lives with poor soil and water scarcity. The resilience unit collaborated with stakeholders and government ministries in providing training to volunteers and communities, and resources to support the planting of resilient crops. A total of 483 people (203 male and 280 female) benefited from the community health and WASH programme.



## Values, power and inclusion

The Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change (YABC) Training of Trainers was conducted in April 2023 which brought together the four National Societies of Fiji, Cook Islands, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands. The objective of the training was to train new Pacific YABC trainers to support and upscale YABC as a youth flagship programme in the region to strengthen youth participation, engagement and utilizing young people to be agents of change. The training trained four new trainers who had previously been trained as YABC peer educators and had qualified to undergo the training of trainers. It was conducted and delivered by YABC master trainers from Malaysia Red Cross and the Cook Islands Red Cross. The training of trainers had provided an opportunity for the Pacific to train a new pool and cohort of trainers in YABC to upscale YABC as a youth flagship programme in the Pacific, contributing to strengthening youth participation and engagement.

A YABC peer educators training was also conducted, which trained 22 new YABC peer educators. The newly trained peer educators developed action plans at the end of the training to map out the rolling out of YABC activities throughout their network of branches.

Planning was done during the second quarter of the year for a Pacific Y-Adapt training of facilitators, to be held during the third quarter of 2023. The Y-Adapt will be built based on existing best practices to ensure that lessons learned are replicated in the further rollout of Y-Adapt with other Pacific National Societies.

Two national youth forums were conducted and the Solomon Island Red Cross conducted a national youth meeting in March. This was attended by over 20 national youth representatives from across its branches. The meeting provided an opportunity for branch youth representatives to meet, discuss and deliberate on key youth agenda for the National Society. Fiji Red Cross conducted its annual youth forum in June, which was attended by over 30 branch youth representatives. The national youth forum provided a space for youth officers and representatives to learn, discuss and highlight key emerging youth issues.

Three National Societies were initially targeted for Child Safeguarding Policy, namely, Fiji Red Cross, Vanuatu Red Cross, and Solomon Islands Red Cross. The Solomon Islands Red Cross is currently reviewing its Child Safeguarding (formerly Child Protection) Policy to better align it to the Movement policy.

On 31 May, the Pacific Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) network held its first learning series on referral pathways. The objective of the virtual session was to help National Society PGI focal points understand that they need to have strong and effective referral mechanisms to ensure that the necessary duty of care is provided from essential service providers. A total of 13 participants joined the online event.

PGI will continue to be integrated with other technical sectors. In the coming weeks, further integration with communications will be strengthened through the development of an advocacy toolkit on 'How to talk about PGI' and a messaging toolkit on the 16 days of activism for the Pacific region..

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



### Strategic and operational coordination

The Shelter Cluster Coordinator was deployed for seven weeks (about one and a half months) to support data collection on damages and distribution, followed by analysis and dissemination, to inform the ongoing response and ensure coordination. Six people from National Disaster Management Office (3 male and 3 female) and shelter cluster partners attended a four-day training on Geographic Information Systems and OpenStreetMap.

Through the Core Cost and Financial Sustainability Initiative, 12 National Societies were able to (i) understand and balance unearmarked income and resources with the core costs of the National Societies; (ii) submit their annual plan

and budget and resource mobilization plan that showed a mix of long and short term domestic income generating initiatives at the headquarters (the branches have been developed separately); (iii) complete external audits annually, as well as responding to audit concerns and aligning with international standards.

Eight National Societies submitted their CFA Business canvas; Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu; the canvasses will be reviewed by the TDi and the IFRC; provide feedback to the National Societies with hope to help them Societies embed learnings from the program, into clear, actionable plans and provide a bit of extra capability building to those that still may need to improve their Business Model Canvas and action plans. The reviewers are also proposing to develop a short report, documenting the lessons learned from the program, to share with the broader Red Cross network.

IFRC supported two National Societies, Fiji Red Cross and Solomon Islands Red Cross, to develop and roll out their corporate partnership programmes to (i) Develop National Society corporate partnership strategy, (ii) A generic presentation plus the video for the visibility of the National Society (iii) Conduct market scoping of corporate organizations (iv) Letters to corporate organisations and work planner.



## National Society development

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Support was provided to five National Societies to review their common volunteer database. Out of these five National Societies, two National Societies had progressed in furthering the updating of their common volunteer database and transitioning to online platforms and digitization. These were the Solomon Islands Red Cross and Fiji Red Cross. Fiji Red Cross continues to roll out branch consultation of their volunteer management digitization.

Ongoing support has been provided to three National Societies for the development of their National Society Youth Policy - Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. Technical, remote, and advisory support was provided to these National Societies to advance their national youth policy.

Promoting and aligning youth engagement with National Societies was also a priority where two National Societies - Solomon Islands Red Cross and Australian Red Cross - progressed with the development of their specific national youth engagement strategy. This aims to align with the National Society's national strategy with a specific focus on youth.

Three National Societies insured their volunteers under the DREF - the Samoa Red Cross, Tonga Red Cross and Vanuatu Red Cross. For 2023, following the Pacific Leaders Meeting, National Societies have been encouraged to support the registration of their volunteers' insurance through payment of insurance subscription fees at CHF 1.50 per volunteer.

Following the revision of its volunteering policy by the IFRC in 2022, in early 2023 the Suva country cluster delegation advocated with the Pacific National Societies to consider reviewing their National Society volunteering policies to align with the revised IFRC one. At least two National Societies had progressed with the review of their National Society volunteering policy - Tonga Red Cross and Vanuatu Red Cross.

A consultant was engaged to undertake induction for the Board members of Micronesia Red Cross, Tuvalu Red Cross and the Solomon Islands Red Cross.

The seventh Pacific leaders meeting was attended by all the 13 National Society leaders for five days to reflected on how National Societies have begun to implement the IFRC Strategy 2030 and Agenda for Renewal in the region. The meeting focused on how National Societies and Movement partners can set our collective ambitions to tackle some of the biggest challenges in the Pacific region is facing, including the climate crisis, poor health outcomes and pervasive social issues such as inequality and gender based violence. All these were tackled within the lens of National Society Development - building strong, financially sustainable National Societies which can better serve Pacific communities.

Concurrently on the week of the Pacific Leaders meeting, the North Pacific Leaders meeting was organized on 19 February 2023 in the IFRC's country cluster delegation in Suva. This was a great opportunity to bring together the North Pacific Leaders as this was the first available time since before COVID-19. Being able to sit down together, reconnect face to face, and rebuild relationships was invaluable.

The North Pacific Leaders discussed and worked through their in-country challenges and successes and agreed on a way of working as a leadership team for the North Pacific.

Outcome statements for all meetings reflected the key priorities ahead for Pacific National Societies, including youth participation, taking climate action to scale, becoming more financially sustainable and ensuring opportunities exist for staff and volunteers of Pacific National Societies to gain skills and experience more broadly within the region and globally.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Capacity strengthening

Support to the Pacific Communications Network is ongoing. The network comprises 12 communications officers from the Pacific National Societies. Each month there is a capacity-building session and this year, the communications officers have participated in the below sessions:

- Writing press releases and key messages
- Storytelling
- Harnessing the use of social media
- Editing graphics and videos for social media

Meta has also facilitated online training for emergency communicators, recognizing the importance of digital communication services, before, during, and after disaster events, especially where traditional forms of communication may be limited.

The three-hour online workshop was designed to empower emergency communicators to optimize their use of digital platforms (including Facebook and Instagram) as part of their broader communications toolkit before, during, and after a disaster. A simulation exercise was also part of the workshop. This was in the form of an interactive session where participants applied lessons from the workshop with coaching and support from emergency response, communications and social media experts.

### Communications

Vanuatu Red Cross and Tonga Red Cross have both had their first communications strategy finalized and endorsed by their respective boards. The communications strategy is aligned with the strategic plan of the Vanuatu Red Cross and Tonga Red Cross.

Planning for a communications strategy for the Solomon Islands Red Cross is currently underway as the National Society has recently launched its strategic plan.

Digital stories have also been published to highlight the good work done by the Red Cross in the Pacific. To mark the third anniversary of COVID-19, a digital story documenting the achievements and challenges of Fiji Red Cross volunteers was published titled "[The horror that was.](#)" To emphasize the importance of disaster preparedness and how it can help save lives during emergencies, a digital story on the recent [double cyclones](#) in Vanuatu was published.

### Media

Vanuatu's double cyclones in March gained a lot of attention from the media. Coverage from major news outlets such as Al Jazeera, ABC Australia, Television New Zealand, and Radio New Zealand highlighted the work done by Vanuatu Red Cross teams on the ground.

### Partnership

IFRC continued to support and engage with the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) under the auspicious of the Pacific Islands Forum as a member of the PRP taskforce, PRP localization technical working group, risk governance technical working group, youth working group with IFRC as co-chair and member of the 2023 Pacific Resilience Meeting organizing committee currently chaired by the Pacific community. The 2023 PRM organizing committee commenced its meeting during the month of May to begin preparation for the 2023 PRM scheduled for October 2023. This also saw the activation of the PRP youth working group to commence preparation for the PRM youth forum to be held before the main PRM meeting.



The IFRC's country cluster delegation plays a crucial role in ensuring that regional and national perspectives based on best practices in disaster risk management and climate change are inputted into the preparation of the PRM to ensure that the PRM 2023 reflects and address the needs of communities across the region about building resilient communities. The IFRC membership into the PRP and PRM also ensures representation of the Pacific National Societies at the regional level through the CROP agencies that are based in Suva.



## **Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)**

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As part of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), a virtual meeting was organized and attended by the PMER focal points from the 11 Pacific National Societies. The meeting was to share learnings from the experience of the Vanuatu Red Cross PMER and the Surge PMER regarding their role in responding to two tropical cyclones (Judy and Kevin) that affected Vanuatu from late February to early March. The meeting focused on identifying challenges and lessons learned within the network and how the PMER role could be strengthened and made more influential in establishing a better system to collect, analyze and report information accurately and on time for better accountability.

The PMER focal point was invited to present at the eVCA workshop, held from 12-16 June 2023, and attended by 11 National Society representatives. The presentation was on quality, donor targeted reporting. Production of good quality and timely reports was emphasised. More training is needed in this area and funding required to support this activity.

As part of the process of digital transformation, the National Societies are investing in basic IT capacities (infrastructure, servers, connectivity) as well as the people and processes to implement this. This process has been completed for the Fiji Red Cross, Tonga Red Cross and Cook Island Red Cross. Vanuatu Red Cross and Solomon Island Red Cross are in the process of completing this. Nine out of the 11 National Societies have their video conference systems installed and IT focal points trained. Seven out of the 11 National Societies completed a virtual training on KoBo and use of Sharepoint.



## The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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#### Cook Islands Red Cross Society

W <http://www.facebook.com/cookislandsredcross>

#### Fiji Red Cross Society

W [www.fijiredcross.org](http://www.fijiredcross.org)

#### Kiribati Red Cross Society

W [www.facebook.com/KiribatiRCS](http://www.facebook.com/KiribatiRCS)

#### Marshall Islands Red Cross Society

W [www.msn.org](http://www.msn.org)

#### Micronesia Red Cross Society

W [www.redcross.fm](http://www.redcross.fm)

#### Palau Red Cross Society

W [Http://palauredcross.org](http://palauredcross.org)

#### Samoa Red Cross Society

W [www.facebook.com/samoaredcross](http://www.facebook.com/samoaredcross)

#### Solomon Islands Red Cross Society

W [www.facebook.com/solomonislandsredcross](http://www.facebook.com/solomonislandsredcross)

#### Vanuatu Red Cross Society

W [www.vanuaturedcross.org](http://www.vanuaturedcross.org)