



FRCS Volunteer responding to communities affected by flood.

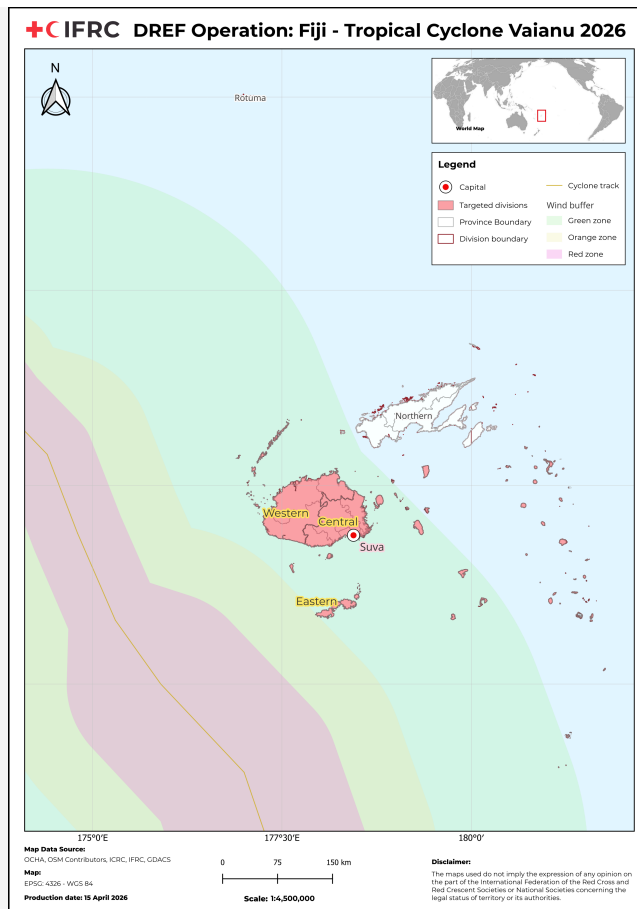
Appeal: MDRFJ009	Hazard: Cyclone	Country: Fiji	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 136,426	
Glide Number: TC-2026-000051-SLB	People Affected: 75,000 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 15-04-2026	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 31-10-2026	DREF Published: 18-04-2026

Targeted Regions: **Central, Eastern, Western**

Description of the Event

Date of event

07-04-2026



Map highlighting the affected locations.

What happened, where and when?

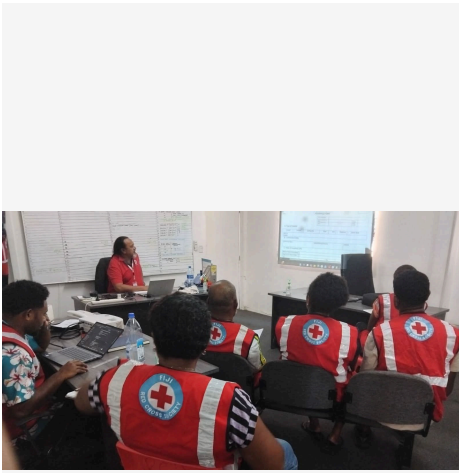
Tropical Cyclone Vaianu affected Fiji between 7 and 8 April 2026, bringing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and widespread flooding. The system primarily impacted the Western Division, parts of Viti Levu, and maritime island communities, resulting in disruption to essential services, infrastructure, and access to communities.

According to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) Situation Report No. 07 dated 08 April 2026, a total of 2,182 people (506 households) are currently displaced across 60 evacuation centers nationwide. The majority are located in the Western Division (1,796 people), followed by the Eastern (292 people), Northern (74 people), and Central Divisions (20 people). One fatality has been reported in Ra District, with no additional injuries or missing persons confirmed at this stage. These figures reflected the number of people accommodated in evacuation centers and those displaced from their homes. Although the NDMO has identified displaced individuals, it does not provide a clear estimate of the total number of people affected; therefore, the Fiji Red Cross Society has approximated that 10% of the population across the Western, Central, and Eastern Divisions has been impacted, representing an estimated 75,000 people affected, including those displaced.

Flooding, submerged crossings, fallen trees, and infrastructure damage have restricted access in several areas, including parts of Naitasiri and other rural locations. Disruptions have also been reported across electricity, water supply, transport, and telecommunications, particularly in Ra, Ba, Nadroga, and Tavua.

While Fiji has a simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) for tropical cyclones, it was not activated for this event as the required triggers were not fully met. As a result, the current intervention is being implemented as a response operation under DREF.





FRCS Western Division Office EOC.



FRCS Volunteers carrying out assessment.



FRCS volunteers are supporting the most vulnerable members of the community.

Scope and Scale

The overall affected population is estimated at approximately 75,000 people across the Western, Central, and Eastern Divisions. This estimate is based on Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) calculations using national census data, applying an estimated 10 percent impact rate across the most affected divisions, in the absence of completed joint government and FRCS assessments.

Of this, approximately 10,000 people have been identified as the target population for this operation, prioritizing those most at risk and affected, particularly in flood-prone, low-lying, and hard-to-reach communities.

The Western Division remains the most severely affected, with widespread flooding, infrastructure damage, and service disruptions. Communities in coastal and low-lying areas are particularly vulnerable due to exposure to flooding, limited drainage, and restricted access. Ongoing disruptions to power, water supply, and communications continue to exacerbate humanitarian needs.

In addition to displacement, the cyclone has caused damage to housing, public infrastructure, and livelihoods, particularly in the agriculture sector, including crop losses and disruption to local supply chains. Evacuation centers continue to host displaced populations; however, overcrowding, limited privacy, and constrained access to basic services are increasing protection risks and the likelihood of waterborne and communicable diseases.

The situation remains dynamic, with ongoing joint assessments by FRCS and government authorities expected to provide further clarity on the full extent of impacts, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Source Name	Source Link
1. FBC News	https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/tc-vaianu-forces-1400-fijians-to-evacuate/
2. Fiji National Disaster Office Website	https://www.ndmo.gov.fj/home/
3. Population and Demographic Indicator - Fiji Bureau of Statistic	https://www.statsfiji.gov.fj/statistics/social-statistics/population-and-demographic-indicators/



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	MDRFJ007 2023

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:

The current request for DREF funding is justified as this event should not be considered recurrent in nature. While this is the second weather-related event in a short period, it differs in both classification and impact. The previous event was a Tropical Depression (TD) that later intensified to a Category 2 Tropical Cyclone and made landfall. In contrast, the current event is a Category 3 Tropical Cyclone, representing a higher intensity, but it has not made landfall. These differences in category and impact profile indicate that the events are not directly comparable and should not be treated as recurrent.

According to the Fiji Meteorological Service, Fiji experiences an average of seven tropical cyclones per season (November to April). In response, the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has established a simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) for Tropical Cyclones, which was revised in December 2025 to align with updates in the national Anticipatory Action (AA) framework, including the introduction of a post-event observational rainfall trigger.

However, the sEAP cannot be activated solely based on the rainfall trigger. In situations where only this trigger is met, as in the current case, the protocol does not allow for activation of early actions. Therefore, to ensure a timely and appropriate response to emerging humanitarian needs, requesting rapid response funding through DREF is both necessary and justified.



Lessons learned:

Lessons learned from previous cyclone responses in Fiji, including Tropical Cyclone Mal, have been applied to strengthen the current response to Tropical Cyclone Vaianu.

During past operations, challenges were identified in coordination, information management, and timely deployment of resources, particularly in the early stages of the response. In some cases, delays in assessment reporting and unclear communication lines affected the speed of decision-making and response prioritization.

To address these gaps, the current operation has introduced clearer coordination and communication processes, including defined escalation procedures, standardized reporting formats (SITREPs), and improved information sharing through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

Previous responses also highlighted capacity gaps among staff and volunteers, particularly in rapid assessments, data collection, and reporting quality. In response, targeted trainings have been conducted, including refresher sessions on rapid assessments, PMER, and data management, to improve the quality and timeliness of information collected during this operation.

Logistical challenges were also experienced in earlier operations, especially in reaching remote and maritime communities and managing available stocks. To address this, the current response is placing stronger emphasis on improved stock tracking, and early coordination with government and partners for access and transport.

Lessons from past responses further emphasized the importance of volunteer management and engagement, including the need for clearer roles, better support, and improved coordination at branch level. In this operation, efforts have been made to strengthen volunteer coordination, clarify roles and responsibilities, and ensure volunteers are better prepared and supported during deployment.

In addition, previous operations highlighted the need to integrate protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), as well as community engagement and accountability (CEA), more consistently across all sectors. The current response is addressing this by ensuring the collection of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD), strengthening feedback mechanisms, and promoting inclusive and accessible assistance.

These lessons have informed a more timely, coordinated, and structured response to Tropical Cyclone Vaianu, with a stronger focus on clear communication, improved data quality, and inclusive programming.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?

Yes

What was the risk level for Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis?:

Moderate - 2

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

09-04-2026

Shelter, Housing And Settlements

FRCS is supporting affected communities through the dissemination of safe shelter awareness messages, including guidance on securing homes, minimizing risks from debris, and maintaining safe living conditions.

The National Society is mobilizing re-positioned shelter-related relief items, including tarpaulins and black packs, to enable rapid distribution where needed. Ongoing assessments are informing targeted shelter assistance, particularly for households experiencing damage or displacement, and for those most at risk (those living below the poverty line, single-headed households, members of the family with a disability, etc).

FRCS is also working in coordination with local authorities to support safe and dignified conditions in evacuation centers.



<p>Health</p>	<p>FRCS will be actively implementing health promotion activities in affected communities, focusing on the prevention of waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, and typhoid. With FRCS staff that are trained to deliver Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) training to both volunteers and community members, strengthening community capacity to prevent and respond to potential vector-borne disease outbreaks following the cyclone.</p> <p>Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) is being provided to affected populations, as well as to staff and volunteers engaged in the response. First aid services are also being supported through the deployment of trained volunteers equipped with first aid kits.</p> <p>Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) volunteers are engaged in monitoring and reporting potential health risks, with referral pathways in place to link communities to health services where required.</p>
<p>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</p>	<p>The National Society is coordinating closely with WASH cluster partners to monitor evolving needs and identify service gaps. Where feasible, support is being considered for the provision of basic WASH items such as hygiene kits and household water treatment solutions, prioritizing the most vulnerable households.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of water sources and sanitation conditions is informing response actions.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>FRCS is actively coordinating with national and local authorities, including the NDMO, Divisional Commissioners, and Provincial Administrators, to ensure alignment with government-led response efforts.</p> <p>At the national level, FRCS is also working closely with the IFRC and other humanitarian partners to support a coordinated and complementary response. Engagement in relevant coordination platforms, including cluster systems where activated, is ongoing to avoid duplication and maximize reach and impact.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>FRCS is conducting ongoing rapid and detailed multi-sectoral assessments in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and other partners. Trained teams, including CERT, BERT, and Red Cross volunteers, have been deployed to affected areas to assess the impact of flooding, strong winds, and coastal inundation.</p> <p>Assessments are focused on identifying damage to housing and infrastructure, the status of essential services, and the needs of affected populations, particularly in high-risk and hard-to-reach areas. Findings from these assessments are continuously informing response planning and prioritization of assistance.</p>
<p>National Society EOC</p>	<p>FRCS has placed its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on standby, in line with guidance from the National Disaster Management Office.</p> <p>Following national-level activation, the FRCS EOC will be fully operational to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate response activities across divisions and branches - Consolidate and analyse assessment data - Support decision-making and resource allocation <p>All priority branches and National Headquarters personnel remain on standby, ensuring readiness for immediate activation and response. The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has activated its national, divisional, and branch-level response mechanisms in response to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Vaianu. As an auxiliary to the Government of Fiji, FRCS continues to support national response efforts through its network of 16 branches and three divisional service centres.</p> <p>Preparedness measures undertaken prior to the cyclone season have strengthened FRCS readiness, including Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Branch Emergency Response Team (BERT) trainings conducted across all divisions. These efforts have enabled the rapid mobilization of trained volunteers to support immediate response actions.</p>



FRCS has proceeded with the mobilization of relief supplies through current stocks and established agreements with local suppliers. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been activated to coordinate response activities, consolidate information, and support timely decision-making.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	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
Participating National Societies	The New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC), Australian Red Cross, PIROPS, and the Japan Red Cross have been informed of the DREF application and are available to provide additional support, as needed, for activities not covered under the DREF allocation.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a presence in Fiji for this emergency response and is able to provide technical support, particularly in communications and the development of IEC materials to strengthen public awareness and information dissemination.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	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 information to all stakeholders and community.
UN or other actors	OCHA is leading overall coordination efforts, working closely with national authorities and partners to ensure a coherent and effective response. Key actions include facilitating information sharing, supporting joint planning and response mapping, and strengthening coordination mechanisms to align activities across sectors.



Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) will ensure strong coordination through established national mechanisms led by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The NDMO has been activated to coordinate and oversee the overall response to Tropical Cyclone Vaianu across affected areas. As an auxiliary to public authorities, FRCS plays an active and integral role within this coordination structure.

FRCS regularly shares situation reports and response mapping with the NDMO and will continue to strengthen information sharing with partners, including relevant government ministries, UN agencies, and humanitarian actors, to maintain transparency, avoid duplication, and ensure alignment with national priorities. The National Society actively participates in coordination meetings and joint planning discussions, contributing to consolidated needs assessments and agreed targeting approaches.

Through this mechanism, FRCS supports community-level assessments, emergency relief distributions, public awareness and early warning messaging, as well as the dissemination of IEC materials in areas identified as priority gaps. This structured and ongoing coordination ensures that Red Cross interventions are fully integrated into the national response, strengthening overall coverage, efficiency, and impact from the early stages of the response.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Approximately 2,182 people (506 households) are currently displaced and sheltered across 60 evacuation centers nationwide, with the majority located in the Western Division (1,796 people / 410 households / 42 evacuation centers), followed by the Eastern (292 people), Northern (74 people), and Central Divisions (20 people). These figures highlight a significant and immediate need for safe shelter, basic household items, and continued management of evacuation centers, particularly in the Western Division where the impact is most severe.

Flooding has been reported across multiple affected areas due to heavy rainfall and rising river levels, resulting in disrupted access, including submerged crossings in parts of Naitasiri and ongoing transport limitations in rural and low-lying communities. Power outages, water disruptions, and infrastructure damage have further compounded access constraints and reduced basic service availability in several locations, particularly in Ra, Nadroga, Ba, and Tavua.

While initial reports confirm at least one fatality (a two-year-old child in Ra District) and no missing persons or injuries reported during this period, shelter assessments indicate emerging structural damage, particularly in the Western Division. Although full shelter damage figures are still being verified, initial findings confirm at least several reported cases of housing and infrastructure damage, with formal Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs) currently underway to determine the full scale of impact.

Displaced households in evacuation centers are experiencing challenges related to overcrowding, limited privacy, and inadequate access to household essential items, increasing their protection risks and overall vulnerability. These conditions are particularly concerning given the high proportion of affected households in the Western Division and the continued pressure on evacuation centre capacity.

Based on current assessments, there is a clear and immediate need to:

- Provide safe, dignified, and adequately managed shelter conditions for displaced populations, particularly in high-density evacuation centers
- Distribute emergency shelter and household items (e.g. tarpaulins and black packs to households with damaged or affected homes).
- Support debris removal and restoration of safe access routes to enable movement and humanitarian service delivery
- Strengthen community awareness on safe shelter practices, including securing roofs, reducing exposure to hazards, and preventing secondary damage during ongoing adverse conditions

Ongoing assessments by the Fiji Red Cross Society and Government authorities (NEOC Sitrep 07, 08 April 2026) will continue to refine understanding of shelter damage and displacement trends. This will guide targeted assistance, with priority given to the most vulnerable households, including those in high-density evacuation centers and flood-affected rural communities



Health

Following the impact of TC Vaianu, immediate and emerging public health risks have been identified across affected divisions, particularly in the Western Division, where the majority of the 2,182 displaced people (506 households) in 60 evacuation centers are currently located, as reported in NEOC SitRep No. 07 (08 April 2026).



The ongoing heavy rainfall, flooding, and disrupted water systems have significantly increased the risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease outbreaks. Contaminated floodwaters and damaged sanitation systems in affected areas such as Nadroga, Ba, Tavua, Ra, and parts of Naitasiri are likely to increase exposure to diseases such as diarrhoea, leptospirosis, and typhoid, while stagnant water in flooded and low-lying areas creates favorable conditions for mosquito breeding, increasing the risk of dengue and other vector-borne diseases. These conditions are further compounded by reported water supply disruptions in Nadroga and Nadarivatu, increasing reliance on unsafe or limited water sources among affected households.

A key gap identified is the need for consistent and widespread health promotion and risk communication, particularly in evacuation centers and flood-affected communities. With large, displaced populations concentrated in evacuation centers especially in the Western Division (1,796 people across 42 centers) there is a heightened need for clear messaging on safe water use, hygiene practices, sanitation, and vector control measures to prevent rapid disease transmission in congested settings.

In addition, there is an operational need to strengthen basic access to primary health care and first aid services, particularly for displaced populations and response teams operating in hazardous conditions. SitRep 07 report, flooding, debris, and infrastructure disruptions, including submerged crossings and fallen power lines, which increase the risk of minor injuries such as cuts, sprains, and infections. The availability of first aid supplies and trained volunteers is essential to ensure timely treatment and reduce pressure on already stretched health facilities.

Another critical gap relates to Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) systems. While CBS volunteers are engaged in monitoring and reporting health risks, ongoing flooding, communication disruptions, and access constraints in rural and isolated areas are affecting the consistency of reporting and referral pathways. Strengthening CBS functionality is essential to ensure early detection of disease outbreaks and timely referral to health facilities, particularly in high-risk and hard-to-reach communities.

The need for psychosocial support services (PFA) has also been highlighted. With one fatality reported in Ra District, widespread displacement, and evacuation centre congestion, affected populations are likely to experience increased psychological distress. At the same time, responders and volunteers operating under difficult and high-pressure conditions are at risk of stress and fatigue. Integrating Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) into the response is therefore essential to support both community wellbeing and responder resilience.

Overall, addressing these health needs requires a coordinated approach focusing on disease prevention, health promotion, surveillance strengthening, first aid support, and psychosocial care, particularly in the most affected areas of the Western Division and high-density evacuation centres. This will be critical to reducing secondary health impacts and supporting recovery following TC Vaianu.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Due to the likely extensive flooding, hygiene-related and waterborne diseases present a significant public health risk. There is a high likelihood of contamination of water sources, which will limit access to safe drinking water and increase the vulnerability of affected communities. The WASH Cluster continues to meet regularly, and FRCS, in coordination with IFRC, will closely monitor and respond to emerging needs. However, there is currently limited capacity within FRCS to deliver WASH services at scale. As such, jerry cans will be procured to ensure the safe collection, transport, and storage of clean water at the household level.

In addition, the distribution of hygiene kits and dignity kits has been identified as a priority to support affected populations in maintaining basic hygiene and dignity, particularly for women and girls. Black packs, including essential household items such as blankets, clothing, and other basic necessities, have also been identified as critical to support immediate needs and early recovery.

Hygiene promotion and community awareness activities will also be conducted in affected communities as a key component of the response. These efforts are essential in reducing the risk of disease outbreaks by promoting safe hygiene practices such as regular handwashing, safe water handling, proper sanitation, and waste disposal. Community engagement will ensure that affected populations are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to protect themselves and their families, thereby strengthening the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the response.

Furthermore, staff and volunteers are expected to operate in hazardous environments, including areas with fallen trees and debris. The provision of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is therefore essential to ensure their safety while carrying out response activities. This includes potential involvement in community clean-up efforts, which will be vital in reducing health risks and supporting early recovery within affected communities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

During disasters in Fiji, affected populations experience heightened vulnerability due to disrupted housing, limited access to health care, insufficient WASH facilities, and economic insecurity, often linked to loss of livelihoods. According to NEOC SitRep No. 07 (08 April 2026), a total of 2,182 people (506 households) are currently displaced across 60 evacuation centers, with the majority in the Western Division. These conditions increase exposure to protection risks, particularly in crowded evacuation settings.

Marginalized groups, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and individuals with chronic medical conditions, face increased barriers in accessing humanitarian assistance and are at higher risk of neglect, exploitation, and violence during emergencies. Overcrowding in evacuation centers and disrupted household structures further heighten these risks, particularly where privacy, safety, and access to services are limited.

To ensure an equitable and accountable response, it is essential to integrate the needs of these groups into all stages of planning and implementation. The systematic collection and use of Sex, Age and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) is critical to identifying vulnerable individuals, targeting assistance effectively, and ensuring that no groups are excluded from life-saving support.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion remain key priorities in the Fiji disaster context. Lessons from previous cyclones, including TC Mal and TC Rae, have highlighted the occurrence of gender-based violence during emergencies, reinforcing the need for proactive safeguarding measures. In the current response, evacuation centers must therefore be managed with gender-sensitive and protection-focused approaches, including safe access to services, adequate lighting, privacy considerations, and clear referral pathways for protection and GBV support services.

Psychosocial support interventions are also essential for both affected populations and responders. Many displaced individuals are experiencing stress, trauma, and uncertainty due to displacement and loss of livelihoods, while frontline responders and volunteers are operating under sustained pressure in challenging conditions. Integrating Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) into the response is therefore critical to support emotional wellbeing and maintain effective service delivery.

Overall, strengthening PGI integration across the response will ensure that humanitarian assistance is safe, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of all affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable among the 2,182 displaced people across Fiji.

These figures are expected to increase as detailed assessments by the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) are still ongoing.



Migration And Displacement

According to NEOC SitRep No. 07 (08 April 2026), a total of 2,182 people (506 households) are currently displaced and sheltering across 60 evacuation centres nationwide, with the majority located in the Western Division (1,796 people / 410 households / 42 centres). Smaller displaced populations are also recorded in the Eastern (292 people), Northern (74 people), and Central Divisions (20 people), reflecting widespread but uneven population movement following TC Vaianu.

In addition to those in evacuation centres, a proportion of affected individuals are likely staying with host families or relatives in nearby communities, particularly in areas where evacuation centres have reached capacity or where households have sustained partial damage but remain habitable. This indicates a broader displacement pattern beyond formal evacuation centre figures, increasing pressure on both hosted households and community-level resources.

FRCS will continue to support the Government-led evacuation and displacement management process by assisting displaced populations in evacuation centres and those staying in informal hosting arrangements. This includes ensuring access to essential humanitarian assistance, with particular focus on shelter support, WASH services, health care, and protection-related needs for the duration of displacement.

As conditions stabilise and alert levels are reduced, FRCS will support the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of displaced households to their places of origin, in coordination with Government authorities. This will include basic recovery support where needed, particularly for households that have experienced partial or full shelter damage and livelihood disruption, as indicated in initial assessment findings across flood-affected areas.

Upon further detailed assessments, FRCS will also support early recovery interventions for the most affected households, including those who have lost or significantly damaged housing and livelihoods. Assistance will be prioritised based on vulnerability, displacement duration, and severity of impact, in alignment with Government recovery planning.

Overall, FRCS will complement Government efforts throughout the displacement cycle from evacuation and emergency sheltering to return and early recovery ensuring that affected populations receive timely, safe, and coordinated humanitarian assistance.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Tropical Cyclone Vaianu has demonstrated significant multi-sectoral impacts across Fiji, including loss of life, population displacement, infrastructure disruption, and livelihood damage, with a total of 2,182 people (506 households) currently displaced across 60 evacuation centres nationwide, as reported in NEOC SitRep No. 07 (08 April 2026). The majority of affected populations are concentrated in the Western Division, highlighting the uneven geographic impact of the cyclone.



In this context, risk reduction and preparedness actions remain critical to reducing further harm and supporting affected communities. Timely and accessible early warning communication has played a key role in enabling households to take protective actions, including evacuation, protection of assets, and movement of vulnerable individuals to safer locations. Continued emphasis on early warning and early action is essential, particularly in flood-prone and low-lying areas where access constraints and service disruptions persist.

FRCS community resilience structures, including trained community disaster committees, have been activated to support local coordination and dissemination of information. These community-based mechanisms have contributed to improved preparedness and response at the local level, particularly in areas where evacuation centres are operating under pressure due to high numbers of displaced households.

Priority risk reduction actions have focused on supporting households to secure shelter and essential belongings, facilitating the early evacuation of vulnerable groups such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk individuals, and reducing exposure to hazards caused by flooding, fallen debris, and infrastructure damage. These actions are particularly relevant given ongoing reports of flooded crossings, power outages, and water disruptions in several affected areas.

Looking ahead, recovery planning will be guided by evolving assessment data, particularly in relation to households that have experienced partial or full shelter damage and livelihood losses, as reported in initial government assessments. Support will focus on enabling safe, timely, and dignified recovery, including the restoration of basic services and household recovery assistance for the most affected populations.

FRCS remains committed to a community-centred approach to risk reduction, climate adaptation, and recovery, early warning systems, enhance local preparedness capacity, and reduce vulnerability to future climate-related hazards. These efforts aim not only to address immediate cyclone impacts but also to strengthen longer-term resilience and adaptive capacity of affected communities.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Affected households will require coordinated support from both government and non-government actors to address immediate needs and support early recovery. It is essential that clear and accessible information is provided on the types of assistance available, as well as the processes through which households can access this support. Ensuring that communities are well-informed will enable more timely and equitable access to assistance.

Given the evolving and sometimes unpredictable nature of Tropical Cyclone Vaianu, there is a continued need for regular and reliable updates on the cyclone's development, track, and potential impacts. Communities must be kept informed with practical guidance on preparedness and response actions, alongside updates on available services and support mechanisms. Timely dissemination of this information is critical to enable at-risk populations to adapt and respond effectively as the situation changes.

Ongoing monitoring of community needs remains a priority, as different population groups may face varying levels of risk and require tailored support. Particular attention must be given to vulnerable groups to ensure that assistance is inclusive, appropriate, and responsive to specific needs.

Effective response efforts will also rely heavily on two-way communication and community engagement. Beyond the provision of information, it is equally important to actively listen to community concerns, feedback, and priorities. This approach ensures that interventions are relevant, trusted, and aligned with actual needs on the ground.

Access to accurate, timely, and actionable information is a critical, life-saving component of disaster response. Strengthening communication channels and promoting meaningful engagement with communities will enhance the overall effectiveness of the response and contribute to better outcomes for affected populations.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

FRCS has deployed assessment teams comprising staff and volunteers to reach affected communities across impacted areas, including outer islands, to gather critical information to inform response planning and targeting. An updated assessment report from the National Society is currently pending; however, preliminary information has been provided by the Government through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to inform initial response planning.

In addition to identified gaps in immediate relief and essential services, FRCS faces operational demands that require strengthened coordination and support to ensure an efficient and timely response. To address this, additional operational capacity will be mobilised to support coordination, planning, and implementation of response activities.

Given the scale and geographic spread of the response, a total of 76 volunteers will be engaged throughout the operation. Sustaining their engagement will require appropriate volunteer support and allowances. Significant logistical support is also required, including vehicles, fuel, and inter-island transport, to enable access to remote and hard-to-reach communities. Furthermore, procurement is



necessary to support immediate response actions, including the distribution of relief items to affected populations.

Initial assessment key findings:

- Operational capacity requires strengthening to effectively coordinate and manage the response.
- Volunteer engagement (76 volunteers) requires adequate support and allowances to sustain activities throughout the operation period.
- Logistics support (vehicles, fuel, and transport to outer islands) is essential to ensure access to affected communities.
- Procurement is required to enable timely distribution of relief items and support immediate response efforts.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall aim of this operation is to support people in at-risk communities across the Western and Central/Eastern Divisions, as well as selected outer islands, who are affected by the tropical cyclone, based on forecasts issued by the Fiji Meteorological Service.

This operation is designed as a response intervention, rather than preparedness or early action. Activities will focus on immediate actions required to address emerging risks and impacts. This includes the procurement and distribution of emergency stocks, as well as the dissemination of timely and clear messages to support communities.

The response will also include the delivery of key shelter, hygiene, and health messaging, activation of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) volunteers, and the operationalization of Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). Volunteers will be mobilised to carry out community-level response activities, and where required, and in line with Government directives, support will be provided to evacuation efforts.

Overall, this operation represents a targeted response to an evolving hazard, focused on immediate risk reduction and community safety. Through targeted response efforts, the Fiji Red Cross Society aims to deliver timely and effective assistance to 10,000 people, addressing immediate humanitarian needs while supporting the safety, dignity, and well-being of affected communities.

Operation strategy rationale

The overall emphasis of the response is on delivering timely, coordinated, and community-centered interventions to address the humanitarian and public health impacts of Tropical Cyclone Vaianu. The strategy focuses on immediate life-saving assistance, restoration of essential services, and support to affected populations, while ensuring a safe and dignified response.

This approach is grounded in the FRCS auxiliary role to government and its strong community presence, enabling coordinated action alongside national authorities and clusters. Interventions prioritize practical, household-level support, strengthened public awareness, and volunteer mobilization to address urgent needs, particularly in health, water, sanitation, shelter, and protection.

The scope of the operation focuses on immediate response actions following the cyclone's impact. This includes the mobilisation of personnel and trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers to support affected communities, assist with evacuations where required, and deliver essential assistance. Emergency stocks are deployed and distributed based on assessed needs in impacted areas.

The activation of Emergency Operations Centres (EOC), alongside strengthened coordination with branches, government, and partners, ensures a timely and well-coordinated response. Rapid assessments are conducted to determine the extent of damage, identify priority needs, and guide response actions and scale-up decisions.

Priority interventions—including the provision of emergency shelter items such as tarpaulins and household kits, hygiene and dignity kits, and safe water storage containers are informed by government situation reports. These actions aim to restore basic living conditions, reduce exposure to hazards, and support affected households in stabilising their immediate situation.

Shelter, Housing and Settlements

The strategy prioritizes ensuring safe access to affected communities and reducing further shelter-related risks. Emergency shelter assistance, including tarpaulin and black packs items, will be provided based on assessed needs to support immediate relief and recovery.

Health

Given the elevated risk of water- and vector-borne diseases, the response will focus on strengthening health messaging, community awareness, and early prevention. Sensitization on health and hygiene practices will be conducted to reduce the potential escalation of waterborne and vector-borne diseases. The provision of first aid kits will address gaps in immediate care for staff and volunteers operating in hazardous conditions. Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) will be reinforced to enable early detection, reporting, and referral of priority diseases. In addition, Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) will be integrated to support the mental wellbeing of both affected communities and responders.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH interventions will focus on reducing public health risks associated with contaminated water and poor sanitation. The distribution of hygiene kits, dignity kits, and jerry cans will support safe hygiene practices and water storage at the household level. Hygiene promotion and community engagement will play a central role in driving behaviour change, ensuring that communities are equipped with the knowledge to prevent disease outbreaks. While current capacity limits large-scale service delivery, targeted support to the most vulnerable households will be prioritized. FRCS will support the clean-up campaigns in communities.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

The response integrates a strong protection lens to ensure that the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups are addressed. Activities will be guided by the collection and use of Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD), ensuring equitable access to assistance. Refresher trainings and preparedness briefings for staff and volunteers will include PGI, Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE), and Code of Conduct components to reinforce safe, inclusive, and accountable programming.

Migration and Displacement.

FRCS will support evacuation efforts as required and assist displaced populations in evacuation centres or host communities. The strategy emphasizes coordinated support throughout the displacement cycle, including safe shelter, basic services, and support for safe return. Where needed, targeted assistance will be provided to the most vulnerable households to support early recovery and rebuilding of livelihoods.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Effective communication and community engagement are central to the response. The strategy prioritizes the dissemination of timely, accurate, and actionable information on cyclone developments, available services, and preventative actions through multiple channels, including IEC materials and direct community engagement. Equally important is the establishment of two-way communication mechanisms to capture community feedback, concerns, and priorities. This ensures that interventions remain relevant, trusted, and responsive to evolving needs, while strengthening accountability and community ownership.

Communications

All field activities will maintain clear and consistent visibility in line with FRCS and IFRC branding guidelines. Banners, posters, and IEC materials, will feature approved FRCS and IFRC branding and will be used across all community touchpoints.

FRCS will proactively engage with local media, and regional media, if possible, to promote and amplify its ongoing cyclone response. FRCS will seek to broadcast partnerships with national radio and television channels to reach the mass public with critical health awareness messaging.

FRCS and IFRC will work closely and collaboratively to procure and produce a range of communications products in support of the cyclone response. This includes videos, human-centered stories, photographs, B-rolls, and other multimedia content that reflects the impact of the response on the communities being served. All content will be developed with the necessary informed consent of subjects, and with strict adherence to safeguarding and data protection standards, particularly where children are involved. In the spirit of full collaboration, any raw materials, including unedited footage, photographs, and interview recordings, procured or produced by FRCS or IFRC will be shared across both parties, to ensure both organizations have access to the full breadth of content generated through this response.

Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery

This response adopts a forward-looking approach that integrates risk reduction and early recovery considerations. By promoting preparedness, safe practices, and community awareness—including shelter reinforcement and environmental safety—the operation aims to reduce immediate risks while strengthening resilience to future climate-related hazards. Community clean-up activities, supported by adequately equipped volunteers, will further contribute to reducing environmental health risks and supporting recovery.

Overall, this strategy focuses on delivering timely and coordinated response actions to address the immediate humanitarian impacts of Tropical Cyclone Vaianu. By leveraging community networks, mobilising trained volunteers, maintaining strong coordination with government and partners, and prioritising inclusive and evidence-based approaches, the FRCS aims to minimise the impact of the cyclone and support affected populations in a safe and dignified manner.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation will target vulnerable populations affected by Tropical Cyclone Vaianu across the Western and Central/Eastern Divisions, as well as selected maritime and outer island communities, including the Yasawa group.

This includes:

- Communities located along the cyclone's track path, particularly those in low-lying coastal areas, flood-prone zones, rural and remote locations, and informal settlements, which are more exposed to flooding, strong winds, and isolation.
- Households directly affected by flooding, structural damage, disrupted livelihoods, and reduced access to essential services such as



water, health care, and shelter.

- Children, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and other socially vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected due to limited mobility, higher health risks, and reduced access to assistance.
- Displaced populations and households temporarily staying in evacuation centres or with host communities due to damage or loss of shelter.
- Red Cross staff and volunteers, who serve as frontline responders and require protection and support to safely deliver assistance in hazardous post-cyclone conditions.
- Communities in hard-to-reach maritime and outer island locations, where access constraints and service delivery gaps may delay humanitarian assistance.

This targeted approach ensures that the most at-risk and affected populations are prioritized for life-saving assistance.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection of targeted populations is based on a combination of vulnerability, level of impact, and immediate humanitarian needs identified through ongoing assessments. Key criteria include:

Geographic exposure to the cyclone: Communities located in high-risk areas such as coastal zones, riverbanks, flood-prone regions, and remote maritime islands that were directly affected by the cyclone.

Level of damage and impact: Households that have experienced damage to homes, loss of livelihoods, displacement, or disruption to essential services such as water, health, and sanitation.

Vulnerability status: Priority is given to the most vulnerable groups, including:

- Children and youth
- Elderly persons
- People with disabilities
- Individuals with chronic illnesses
- Households with limited income or living in informal settlements
- Access and capacity gaps: Communities with limited access to assistance due to remoteness, damaged infrastructure, or lack of resources, as well as those with lower coping capacities.
- Protection considerations: Households facing heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence, lack of safe shelter, or inadequate access to basic services, particularly in evacuation settings.
- Assessment findings: Data collected through rapid and ongoing multi-sectoral assessments conducted by FRCS teams, ensuring that assistance is evidence-based, targeted, and responsive to the most urgent needs.

This approach ensures that the response is inclusive, prioritizes those most in need, and aligns with FRCS's commitment to delivering timely, equitable, and needs-based humanitarian assistance.

Total Targeted Population

Women	4,000	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	6,000	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	10,000		



Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	No
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	No
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	No

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Disruptions to access to targeted areas especially remote and maritime communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revise operational planning and adjust targeted areas - Coordinate with government and partners for access and transport
Potential disaster happening during the period of implementation, which can affect the national society's capacity to respond to multiple emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination and technical support from CCD office. - Activation of regional surge capacities to support FRCS. - Coordination and partnership with other humanitarian actors. - Close monitoring of the potential risks and hazards
Fuel price increase and fuel shortages as a result of the situation in the Middle East with potential impact on travel and transport including movement to the outer islands as well as increase in operational costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close monitoring of the fuel prices and availability - Strategic planning of distribution and consolidation where possible to reduce transportation trips and volunteer field movements - Close expenditure and budget monitoring for early detection of budget overspend
Disease outbreak risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and hygiene promotion activities a part of the operation - PPE distribution to staff and volunteers - Coordination with health authorities and partners - Close monitoring of the situation



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The primary safety and security concern for this operation is the welfare and protection of Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) staff and volunteers during the delivery and distribution of relief assistance. Key risks include exposure to dengue, heat stress, fatigue, and minor injuries while conducting field activities in community settings across the Central, Western, and Eastern Divisions. In addition, there is an observed increase in drug use across the country, which may present additional safety considerations for field teams operating in affected communities.

To mitigate these risks, FRCS will implement clear safety and security protocols, including volunteer briefings, adherence to Ministry of Health and relevant public health guidance, use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and safe handling and distribution procedures. Regular monitoring of staff and volunteer wellbeing will also be conducted to ensure a safe and supportive working environment throughout the operation.

The Fiji Red Cross Society security framework applies to all staff and volunteers. Should IFRC personnel be deployed, the IFRC security framework will be applied accordingly. Comprehensive safety measures will be implemented to ensure the protection of all Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel engaged in the operation. These include continuous situation monitoring, timely security updates, tracking of staff movements (via phone or WhatsApp), security assessments in operational areas, and pre-deployment security briefings.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 49,064
Targeted Persons: 2,700

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of People reached with relief assistance for basic needs	2,000
Number of people reached with messaging on housing reinforcements and shelter safety	2,700

Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of essential household items such as tarpaulin and black packs to affected households
- Conduct community outreach on safe shelter practices, including minor repairs and reinforcement techniques
- Support safe and dignified use of evacuation centers in coordination with authorities
- Carry out ongoing shelter needs assessments to inform targeted assistance and potential scale-up



Health

Budget: CHF 12,643
Targeted Persons: 10,000



Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people who received individualized psychosocial support, including Psychological First Aid (PFA), by a trained staff member or volunteer.	100
Number of people reached by National Society's community health promotion.	10,000
Number of staff and volunteers trained in PGI including referrals	10
Number of people reached with FA services	100
% of volunteers actively reporting into CBS system	85

Priority Actions

Disseminate health promotion messages on priority risks (dengue, leptospirosis, typhoid, Diarrhoea)

Provide Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) to affected populations through trained staff and volunteers

Deploy first aid services in affected communities and evacuation centers

Strengthen community-based surveillance through trained volunteers to detect and report health risks

Support referrals to health services in coordination with Ministry of Health

3 days Training on CBHFA, Briefing on Code of Conduct, CPIE and PGI for staff and volunteers in Western, Eastern and Central Division



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 17,927

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached with hygiene promotion	10,000
Number of people reached by WASH assistance	1,000

Priority Actions

Conduct hygiene promotion activities focusing on safe water use and storage, sanitation, and disease prevention

Procure and distribute WASH non-food items, such as hygiene kits and jerry cans

Continuously coordinate with WASH cluster partners to address service delivery gaps



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 17,663



Targeted Persons: 400

Indicators

Title	Target
CSRA conducted by the National Society	1
Number of staff and volunteers trained in PGI including referrals.	57
Number of people reached for PGI messaging	400

Priority Actions

Collect and utilize sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) to inform programming
Training of staff and volunteers actively involved in the response to ensure:

Ensure all response activities are inclusive, safe, and accessible to women, men, girls, boys, and persons with disabilities

Disseminate key protection messages, including prevention of gender-based violence and child protection

Safe referral pathways for protection concerns are clearly understood by all staff and volunteers and accessible to communities



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 7,548

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached by media campaigns	10,000
% of people surveyed who feel the National Society's support/services meets their most important needs/provides useful support	80
no of feedback received and responded to within defined timeframe	1

Priority Actions

Establish two-way communication channels with affected communities

Collect and respond to community feedback and complaints

Engage communities in needs assessments, planning, and monitoring of interventions

Ensure communication materials are inclusive and culturally appropriate

Conduct media campaigns

Leveraging an existing dedicated phone line as a community feedback channel



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 1,510

Targeted Persons: 0



Indicators

Title	Target
# of technical support provided	1

Priority Actions

- Provide technical and coordination support to FRCS
- Conduct monitoring visits by IFRC



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 30,071

Targeted Persons: 84

Indicators

Title	Target
# of staff and volunteers involved in the operation	65
#of Lessons Learnt Workshop Provided	1

Priority Actions

- Provision of volunteer allowances
- Organize a lesson learned workshop

About Support Services

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

The operation is structured around a clear national and divisional staffing framework, led by the Disaster Management Coordinator and Head of Operations who coordinate at the national level and provide regular updates to the Director General and Senior Management Team. Divisional Managers for West, Central, and Eastern, supported by Divisional Leads, oversee coordination at the divisional level, liaising with Divisional Commissioners, Branch Executives, and field teams, while the Health and Care and Volunteer Management Coordinators provide technical and operational support in health messaging, Eastern response activities, and volunteer management, insurance, and welfare. At the field level, Disaster Management Officers support administrative functions, staff coordination, and proposal and acquittal processes, with a total of 76 volunteers—54 in the Western Division, 12 in the Central Division, and 10 in the Eastern Division. They will be responsible for the assessment and distribution of NFIs and the delivery of health and care messaging.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your



volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) ensures that its volunteer base reflects the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the communities it serves. Volunteers include both men and women across different age groups and are recruited from urban, peri-urban, and outer island communities, enabling culturally appropriate and context-sensitive engagement.

This diversity enables FRCS to tailor its messaging, outreach, and assistance to the specific needs of different population groups, including children, older persons, and other vulnerable groups, ensuring inclusive and effective community-level response.

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

Procurement process will be done jointly by FRCS and IFRC CCD Suva office. Procurement will be done locally where possible with technical support from the IFRC. The CCD Logistics team will work in close coordination with the GHS&SCM AP to implement an appropriate procurement strategy, ensuring timely, efficient, and compliant support to the operation in line with IFRC standards.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) Coordinator will join the assessment teams in the Western, Eastern and central Division to collect raw data, ensuring that information is systematically captured in line with IFRC DREF standards on data quality, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making. An Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) will be maintained throughout the operation, updated at minimum bi-weekly by the PMER Coordinator to track progress against all planned output indicators across each sector. Daily situation and activity reports will be prepared and submitted to the coordination cell and senior management to monitor compliance with project indicators and maintain transparency and accountability throughout the operation.

A community feedback and complaints mechanism (CFM) will be activated at the start of implementation. FRCS volunteers will serve as the primary channel for collecting community feedback during field visits and distributions. All feedback received will be documented, reviewed by the PMER Coordinator, and used to inform operational adjustments where required. Communities will be informed of how to raise concerns through volunteer-led orientation sessions at the point of assistance delivery.

At the conclusion of the response, a structured Lessons Learnt exercise will be conducted to review what worked well, identify gaps in planning and implementation, and document key recommendations. Findings will feed into future contingency planning, operational procedures, and any follow-up DREF or longer-term recovery programmes.

At operation close, FRCS will formally hand over ongoing community-level activities to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and relevant provincial authorities, and lessons learned will be integrated into the FRCS Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process to strengthen future readiness.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Objective 1: Visibility and Branding

All field activities will maintain clear and consistent visibility in line with FRCS and IFRC branding guidelines. Banners, posters, and IEC materials, will feature approved FRCS and IFRC branding and will be used across all community touchpoints.

Objective 2: Media Engagement

FRCS will proactively engage with local media, and regional media, if possible, to promote and amplify its ongoing cyclone response. FRCS will seek to broadcast partnerships with national radio and television channels to reach the mass public with critical health awareness messaging.

Objective 3: Joint Content Development and Sharing

FRCS and IFRC will work closely and collaboratively to procure and produce a range of communications products in support of the cyclone response. This includes videos, human-centred stories, photographs, B-rolls, and other multimedia content that reflects the impact of the response on the communities being served. All content will be developed with the necessary informed consent of subjects, and with strict adherence to safeguarding and data protection standards, particularly where children are involved. In the spirit of full collaboration, any raw materials, including unedited footage, photographs, and interview recordings, procured or produced by FRCS or IFRC will be shared across both parties, to ensure both organisations have access to the full breadth of content generated through this response.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

Code - Fiji Red Cross Society
TC Vaianu Response

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	104,846
Shelter and Basic Household Items	49,064
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	12,643
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	17,927
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	17,663
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	7,548
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	31,581
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	1,510
National Society Strengthening	30,071
TOTAL BUDGET	136,426

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](#)

