



2015

The fundamental mission of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society is to improve the lives of the most vulnerable without discrimination through voluntary service.

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Photo: Madeline Wilson, IFRC.

Front Cover photo: Hanna Butler, NZRC





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In July 2015, Vanuatu Red Cross Society members elected a new Board and Executive. Former President of Vanuatu, Ati George Sokomanu, joins us for his fourth term as President of Vanuatu Red Cross Society.

2015 was a year defined by one of the most devastating disasters Vanuatu has ever seen. Cyclone Pam is an event that none of us will forget easily: a difficult time for the people of Vanuatu and for Vanuatu Red Cross Society in its response. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the outgoing President, Mr. Hannington Alatoa, all of the previous board members and the Chief Executive Officer for their hard work and commitment during this period.

Our core focus at Vanuatu Red Cross is disaster preparedness and response. This was put to the test in 2015 and it highlighted the great strengths we have in this area as well as the gaps we need to fill in order to be better prepared to respond to future disasters. The board has become more involved in operations to ensure that the governance of

the Society is in touch with 'on the ground' activities and can be more responsive in emergency situations.

I was elected as President of the board in July and was very happy to return to the post, having held the role four times previously. Vanuatu Red Cross has much changed since my last term as President: we have grown considerably and it is with great pride that I see the extensive work of the board, the CEO and staff, aimed at further developing the Society.

We have great plans for 2016: we want to make sure that we take the momentum built by the TC Pam response and run with it to create a stronger, more capable Vanuatu Red Cross Society. With the support of our partners, the Government and the people of Vanuatu, I am confident that we will be successful in our mission.



Ati George Sokomanu
President, Vanuatu Red Cross

The President of the board, Ati George Sokomanu, at the International Humanitarian Law Handbook for Parliamentarians Launch. Photo: Edwina Yeates, VRCS



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The CEO, Jacqueline de Gaillande, assisting with the unloading of relief supplies following Cyclone Pam. Photo: Madeline Wilson, IFRC.

2015 was definitely the most eventful year I have seen in my time as CEO. The Category-5, Tropical Cyclone Pam, cut a trail of destruction through the Country mid-March and we mounted the largest humanitarian response in the 34 year history of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society. The international response and dedication of our local staff and volunteers was an inspiration and testament to the humanitarian spirit of the entire Red Cross movement.

A large section of this report is focused on our work following cyclone Pam however, we also had a number of other programs, outlined in this report, which continued outside of the recovery operations. Some of these programs took a 3 month pause to assist with the emergency response and were resumed mid-year.

Despite the upheaval caused by the cyclone, we also managed to launch our Parliamentarian Handbook, hold a very successful Gala night and host a National Medal ceremony to honour the hard work of all those involved in the TC Pam response.

2015 saw the election of a new board in which we welcomed a new President, Ati George Sokomanu. We also began work on a new strategic plan to reflect the significant changes the Society has undergone since cyclone Pam.

2015 was a huge year for VRCS and I am proud of how we have handled ourselves under pressure and the work we have done to help the thousands of affected people. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors, international partners, the Vanuatu government and most of all, our staff and volunteers for their contributions to this operation. I look forward to 2016, planning a way forward and to continuing to develop and strengthen the Vanuatu Red Cross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline De Gaillande', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jacqueline De Gaillande
Chief Executive Officer, Vanuatu Red Cross



RED CROSS RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

*Photo: Hanna Butler,
NZRC.*

COMPONENTS OF THE RCRC MOVEMENT

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS – (ICRC)

ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and co-ordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES – (IFRC)

The IFRC works to inspire, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies. Founded in 1919 the IFRC directs and coordinates international assistance of the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field. It promotes cooperation between National Societies and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programs.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 189 Countries. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own Countries in the humanitarian field, and provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programs. During wartime, National Societies assist the affected civilian population and support the army medical services where appropriate.

THE SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Vanuatu Red Cross designs and implements its activities and programs in line with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's 7 Fundamental Principles:

HUMANITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement endeavours in its international and national capacity to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

INDEPENDENCE

The movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services to their governments, and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able, at all times, to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

UNITY

There can only be one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

UNIVERSALITY

The International RCRC Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

ABOUT VRCS



Photo: Dickinson Tevi,
VRCS.

OUR HISTORY

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society was founded on October 11th, 1982 pursuant to the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act No: 23 of 1982, and is a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal. Its Constitution is based on the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols of 1977, to which Vanuatu is a party, and the fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Red Cross began operating in Vanuatu as a branch of the British Red Cross.

CONSTITUENCY

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society has a total of 5 Provincial branches with its Headquarters located in Port Vila, Membership of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society is open to everyone. There are three (3) forms of membership: active (volunteers), subscribing (fee-paying) and honorary.

The Society has over 900 registered volunteers and this number increases when there is an activity needing the support of volunteers. The Society regularly seeks feedback and involvement in decision making from beneficiaries, members, volunteers, donors and partner organisations.

WHERE VRCS WORKS

Vanuatu Red Cross worked across the country in 2015 on community development projects and the Cyclone Pam disaster response.



BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Annual General Meeting in July 2015 saw the election of a new board for Vanuatu Red Cross Society. This new board will serve for two years until 2017. Vanuatu Red Cross would like to thank the departing members for their service and welcome our new members to their positions.

Board members chose to forgo some international meetings in 2015 in favour of staying in Vanuatu to assist following Cyclone Pam. The Vice-President participated in an International Humanitarian Law workshop in Canberra in July and an Asia Pacific Fundraising Network workshop in Hong Kong in November. Three board members, including the President and Vice-President, were accompanied by the CEO and two staff to attend the Red Cross Red Crescent Statutory Meetings in Geneva. The Statutory Meetings are held every two years and guide

the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in its effort to help people prepare for, deal with and recover from crisis. All components of the Movement travel from across the globe at the Statutory Meetings to evaluate progress, address current challenges and establish goals and priorities for the future. During this meeting, the Vanuatu Red Cross was able to establish an online donation system which will assist greatly in being able to establish fundraising appeals for future disasters.

The President and Vice-President also travelled to Tanna in October to visit communities affected by Cyclone Pam and El Nino. They also used this trip to survey the cyclone damage to the Red Cross Tafea branch office and facilitate discussions on the reconstruction of the building.

Vanuatu Red Cross sent a delegation to the Red Cross Red Crescent Statutory meetings in Geneva. Photo: Monica Croccolo de Gaillande, VRCS.

Opposite page: Rebuilding of Buninga school building. Photo: Edwina Yeates, VRCS



991 local volunteers

6 branches

59,525 people assisted







2015 OPERATIONS



TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM RESPONSE

Cyclone Pam caused widespread destruction across Vanuatu. Photo: Madeline Wilson, IFRC.

Photo previous page: Rebuilding of the school building on Buninga island. Photo: Edwina Yeates, VRCS.

OVERVIEW OF 2015 CYCLONE PAM RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Activity	Province	Beneficiaries	Implementing Partners
Emergency Relief	Shefa, Malampa, Tafea	39,915	International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent, Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	Shefa, Malampa	6,237	International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent, French Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross
Shelter	Shefa, Malampa, Tafea	6,650	International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent, Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross
Livelihoods	Shefa	155	International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent
Health	Shefa, Malampa	3,187	International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent
Disaster Risk Reduction	All provinces	up to 4,000	Australian Red Cross

Over the 13th and 14th of March 2015, Tropical Cyclone Pam devastated many of the islands of Vanuatu. The category-5 storm brought winds of 250km/hr with gusts up to 320 km/hr. Winds and flooding caused extensive destruction and damage to homes, livelihoods and infrastructure, which led to a drastic reduction in living conditions, income, and access to basic services.

Eleven people were killed and approximately 66,000 lost their homes. In total, 188,000 people were affected by Cyclone Pam - approximately 70% of the total population of Vanuatu.

Since then, Vanuatu Red Cross, with support from our partners have assisted 39,915 people in their recovery.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society's emergency response began before TC Pam arrived. The disaster management team made logistical preparations in anticipation of post-cyclone needs, participated in the identification and assessment of evacuation centres and, in cooperation with the NDMO, assisted in the evacuation of people in low-lying areas prone to flooding.

The challenges facing the Vanuatu Red Cross following the cyclone were immense.

Communications, power and water were cut. Logistical coordination was extremely difficult. For the first few days it was impossible to know the full scale of the devastation on the outer islands.

Many of the Vanuatu Red Cross staff and volunteers had lost their homes but they worked tirelessly to help the affected communities. VRCS took on the management of 10 evacuation centres. Immediately following the cyclone, a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT), a team from the

Families in Eton village were the first recipients of official relief distribution following Cyclone Pam. Photo: Becky Webb, NZRC



Emergency Response Unit and delegates from the IFRC were deployed to assist the National Society in the emergency response. These teams brought experts in logistics, operations, emergency shelter, health, information management and communications to provide support to VRCS.

Vanuatu Red Cross was the first organisation given permission by the government to commence relief distribution. This distribution was targeted to the areas worst-affected by the cyclone. These included Paama island, the Shepherd islands, the offshore islands north of Efate island, parts of rural Efate, parts of the capital Port Vila and the north of Tanna island. These areas were assigned to Red Cross by the National Disaster Management Office.

Relief distributions included tarpaulins hygiene kits, kitchen sets, shelter tool kits, solar lanterns, jerry cans, sleeping mats and blankets.

A community member helps to rebuild the school on Buninga island. Photo: Edwina Yeates, VRCS.

7798 families

provided with essential relief supplies

18 days after the cyclone hit, the IFRC chartered a cargo plane to deliver 43 tons of relief supplies from the Red Cross warehouse in Kuala Lumpur. This included 1600 hygiene kits, 1052 kitchen sets and 2565 shelter tool kits. Distribution of these items began the following day.

Vanuatu Red Cross, with the support of the French Red Cross, set up Nomad water purification units in Mele village on Efate and in north Tanna. On average, these units were purifying 22,000 litres of water per day.

There were significant logistical challenges with the response spread across 14 dispersed islands and substantial damage to the transport infrastructure as a result of TC Pam.





Supplies were transported by boat, plane, helicopter and truck, to reach the most vulnerable and isolated cyclone affected people.

Vanuatu Red Cross reached nearly 30,000 people with emergency relief in the first month following the cyclone.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

The devastation brought by Cyclone Pam seriously affected people's access to clean and safe drinking water. 68% of rainwater harvesting systems in Vanuatu were damaged or destroyed. Since Cyclone Pam, in addition to emergency repairs to the water supply in North Tanna, Red Cross has constructed or repaired 159 rainwater harvesting systems in Shefa and Malampa provinces. As a result of this work, 882 households have increased access to safe water. 35 latrines have also

been installed to improve community sanitation.

Water committees have been re-established in 34 communities on the Shepherd Islands, Paama, Moso and Lelepa to encourage local management of water resources. This has proved to be particularly important during the current El Nino weather event which has caused water shortages in many communities of Vanuatu due to lower than average levels of rainfall.

In any post-disaster situation, good hygiene is key to stopping the spread of disease and illness. Since Cyclone Pam, Red Cross has reached 5,198 people with hygiene promotion activities. Local volunteers have been trained in areas such as proper handwashing, disease transmission pathways and how to remain hygienic with a limited water supply. These volunteers then pass this knowledge on through awareness sessions in their local communities allowing them to

Children learn handwashing techniques in Port Vila. Photo: Dickinson Tevi, VRCS.

Red Cross prioritises vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities in the disaster recovery. Photo: Edwina Yeates, VRCS.



work together to prevent illness and promote healthy communities.

SHELTER

The Shepherd Islands and Tanna were two of the worst hit areas with many villages reporting that following the cyclone, the majority of buildings had been destroyed. Red Cross has focused on rebuilding essential

community infrastructure as well as helping people to rebuild their homes. Building methods which make structures safer and more capable to withstand further disasters are promoted throughout all of the shelter work.

During 2015, planning was undertaken for the reconstruction of school buildings in communities on Efate, Emae and Buninga Islands. In North Tanna, planning is also underway to build 16 kindergartens and 10 traditional cyclone shelters which will be more resistant to future disasters. This work is due to be undertaken in 2016.

900 families in over 100 communities in West Tanna received shelter fixing kits to assist in the reconstruction of their homes after participating in awareness demonstrations. Red Cross has conducted 'Build Back Better & Safer' awareness sessions within these communities to ensure people are equipped with the necessary knowledge to better prepare their homes for the next cyclone.

Reconstruction is also underway on the Red Cross branches in Tanna and Efate, both of which suffered extensive damage in the cyclone.



Young women are taught how to cook food for sale at one of the livelihoods workshops. Photo: Raynelyn Tavoia, VRCS.



Relief supplies are delivered to the Red Cross Tafea branch to be ready for the next disaster. Photo: VRCS.

LIVELIHOODS

For many families, their ability to earn income was negatively affected by Cyclone Pam. Red Cross ran three intensive livelihoods skills workshops during 2015 for young women from Efate who were affected by the cyclone. These workshops aim to build skills in income generation and assist these women to be able to contribute more to their household's income. Through diversification of income sources, the workshops also help participants to be more resilient in the face of future disasters. During 2015, 31 young women attended these workshops. Eight more workshops are planned for 2016.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In all of the work that has been completed towards recovery in 2015, preparedness for future disasters has been a key consideration. One of the most important roles of Vanuatu Red Cross in preparing for future disasters is to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of

“by storing stock both at Headquarters in Port Vila and in the provincial branches, supplies are always close at hand”

essential relief items readily available in country when a disaster strikes. By storing stock both at Headquarters in Port Vila and in the provincial branches, supplies are always close at hand. With assistance from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Red Cross restocked supplies in 2015 and now holds relief items for 800 families positioned across the country.

HEALTH

Red Cross has focused on building the resilience of communities to deal with health and medical issues through first aid workshops in communities. This Community-based Health & First Aid program is currently being implemented in Malampa and Shefa provinces and aims to benefit 7,500 people. By having first aid trained community members, immediate assistance can be provided in emergencies until medical treatment can be accessed.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Disaster preparedness kits are provided to communities as part of the 'Together Becoming Resilient' project. Photo: FRC.

Vanuatu is located in the “Pacific ring of fire” and at the centre of the Pacific “cyclone belt”. It is exposed to a substantive range of hazards compared to most other Pacific Island Countries resulting in a relatively high frequency of volcanic eruptions, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, storm surges, coastal and river flooding and landslides. Climate variability and change is likely to lead to sea level risk and the increase in frequency and/or intensity of some of these events. In light of these threats, there is an increasing focus on development processes and how these can reduce vulnerability and exposure to natural disasters.

OVERVIEW OF 2015 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS

Project Name	Province	Beneficiaries	Implementing Partner	Donor
Disaster & Crisis Preparedness	All provinces	1463		DFAT through Australian Red Cross
The Finnish-Pacific Project (FINPAC)	Shefa	600		Government of Finland through SPREP
Together Becoming Resilient Phase 4	Malampa	2077	French Red Cross	USAID
Together Becoming Resilient Phase 5	Torba	4321	French Red Cross	USAID

DISASTER AND CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

The Disaster and Crisis Preparedness project replaced the Pacific Disaster Management Partnership program in 2015. This project, supported by Australian Red Cross, aims to strengthen the capacity of Vanuatu Red Cross to respond to disasters and reduce community vulnerability to disasters.

Activities in 2015 focused on improving capacity of the Emergency Response Teams in Efate and the provincial branches. Workshops were run in Sanma, Torba, Tafea and Penama on logistics in emergencies. The remaining two provinces will hold workshops in 2016. Branch officers and other key staff also attended a workshop run by the National Disaster Management Office on weather and climate to improve their understanding of these important elements in disasters. ERT teams were equipped with essential resources such as maps and to ensure they are ready and able to respond in times of emergencies.

Following Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu faced a second disaster in the drought conditions brought by the El Nino weather pattern. Vanuatu Red Cross worked with the National Disaster Management Office to draft a National Drought Contingency Plan. Awareness activities were facilitated in all provincial branches to help people prepare for the lower than average rainfall and dry conditions. These activities were conducted in partnership with provincial authorities.

FINPAC

The Finnish-Pacific Project (FINPAC) is a Pacific regional project targeting one of the most pressing needs of Pacific Island communities - adapting to the effects of climate change. The project aims to reduce

the vulnerability of targeted Pacific Island Country villages to the effects of climate change.

“the FINPAC project targets one of the most pressing needs of Pacific Island communities – adapting to the effects of climate change”

Across the region, the program works to develop the capacity of the National Meteorological Services to respond to the growing needs of communities to prepare and respond to changing weather patterns and climate trends. For the implementation of this project, the Vanuatu Red Cross has partnered with the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo- Hazard Department, National Disaster Management Office and the Epau Community.

Epau is a coastal community on Efate that is exposed to open sea and was severely damaged during Cyclone Pam. This community was chosen as the site for the pilot project to help address the issues faced by the community of the need for strengthened early warning systems. The project also aims to strengthen community structures in gathering accurate and timely



A disaster simulation exercise is carried out in Farun, Malekula. Photo: Isabelle Choutet, FRC.

Awareness activities on International Disaster Risk Reduction Day in Aulua community, Malekula. Photo: Isabelle Choutet, FRC.



information on potential disasters and disseminating it into the community.

During 2015, activities focused mainly on community consultation and planning, this project will continue into 2016 and will benefit up to 600 people residing in Epau.

2077 people

in Malampa province better equipped to face natural disasters

TOGETHER BECOMING RESILIENT

PHASE 4

The 'Together Becoming Resilient' program has been ongoing since 2010 working with partner organisations and the Vanuatu government's National Disaster Management Office to build safer and more disaster resilient communities. The TBR program, implemented in partnership with French Red Cross, works to build community capacity, strengthen institutions and to implement a proven community-based disaster risk reduction model in Vanuatu.

Phase 4 saw the project implemented in South-East and South Malekula and Ambrym with funding from USAID. A multi-faceted approach to disaster risk reduction was utilized with each community developing a community response plan in case of disaster. This plan is then managed by the community disaster committees created in each community who also attend workshops in disaster preparedness. Disaster preparedness kits were distributed to these committees which include educational tools to assist with ongoing awareness activities.

In addition, the project team conducted activities in schools to train teachers in disaster response and increase awareness

The Together Becoming Resilient project aims to institutionalise disaster risk reduction at community, provincial and national level.

amongst children on how their communities can prepare for disaster. First aid workshops were conducted to improve people's ability to respond immediately following a disaster. All of these elements were then brought together in a simulation exercise in each community to allow people the opportunity to practice what they had learned.

The project was put on hold for three months after Cyclone Pam to allow the full capacity of Red Cross to respond to the emergency. The TBR4 project is due to complete in April 2016.

PHASE 5

Phase 5 of the TBR project began in July 2015 in Torba province. The communities on these

islands have already completed the bulk of the disaster preparedness measures and this phase focuses on re-visiting those plans, refreshing skills and institutionalising disaster risk reduction at community, provincial and national level.

The first step in this process was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with other consortium partners – CARE, Oxfam and led by Save the Children – to ensure a common vision of how the communities should proceed once the projects are completed. Once this was finalised, refresher workshops were run in the communities for disaster risk reduction and first aid.

This project will continue work into 2016. Work will include first aid workshops for communities, development of a Provincial Disaster Plan template with partners and capacity-building workshops for Community Disaster Committees. This work aims to ensure that the communities in Torba province are more prepared to face future disasters.

Community Disaster Committees are trained in HF radio operation as a means of post-disaster communications. Photo: Isabelle Choutet, FRC.





WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Access to clean and safe drinking water is one of the most important aspects in reducing community disaster risks. Photo: Roland Couprie, FRC.

OVERVIEW OF 2015 WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE PROJECTS

Two WASH projects were implemented in 2015 in partnership with French Red Cross, both of these projects are integrated with Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

Project Name	Province	Beneficiaries	Implementing Partner	Donor
Supporting Community Planning (2)	Torba	3066	French Red Cross	USAID
Supporting Community Planning (3)	Malampa and Torba	6293	French Red Cross	USAID

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PLANNING

PHASE 2

The second phase of the 'Supporting Community Planning' program was

completed in early 2015, funded by USAID and in partnership with French Red Cross. The project, based in Torba province, aimed to sustainably improve living conditions of remote communities by strengthening resilience to natural disasters. This involved the construction of two gravity-fed water systems and 15 rainwater harvesting systems to ensure the ongoing supply of clean and safe water to the communities. This work was

“the project aimed to sustainably improve living conditions of remote communities by strengthening resilience to natural disasters”

completed in conjunction with a hygiene promotion campaign to improve hygiene practices and decrease the risk of disease within the communities. The project was implemented across six islands – Gaua, Motalava, Vanualava, Toga, Loh and Hiu – and reached 3,066 people.

PHASE 3

The ‘Supporting Community Planning’ model used in Torba is also being replicated in communities in South-East and South

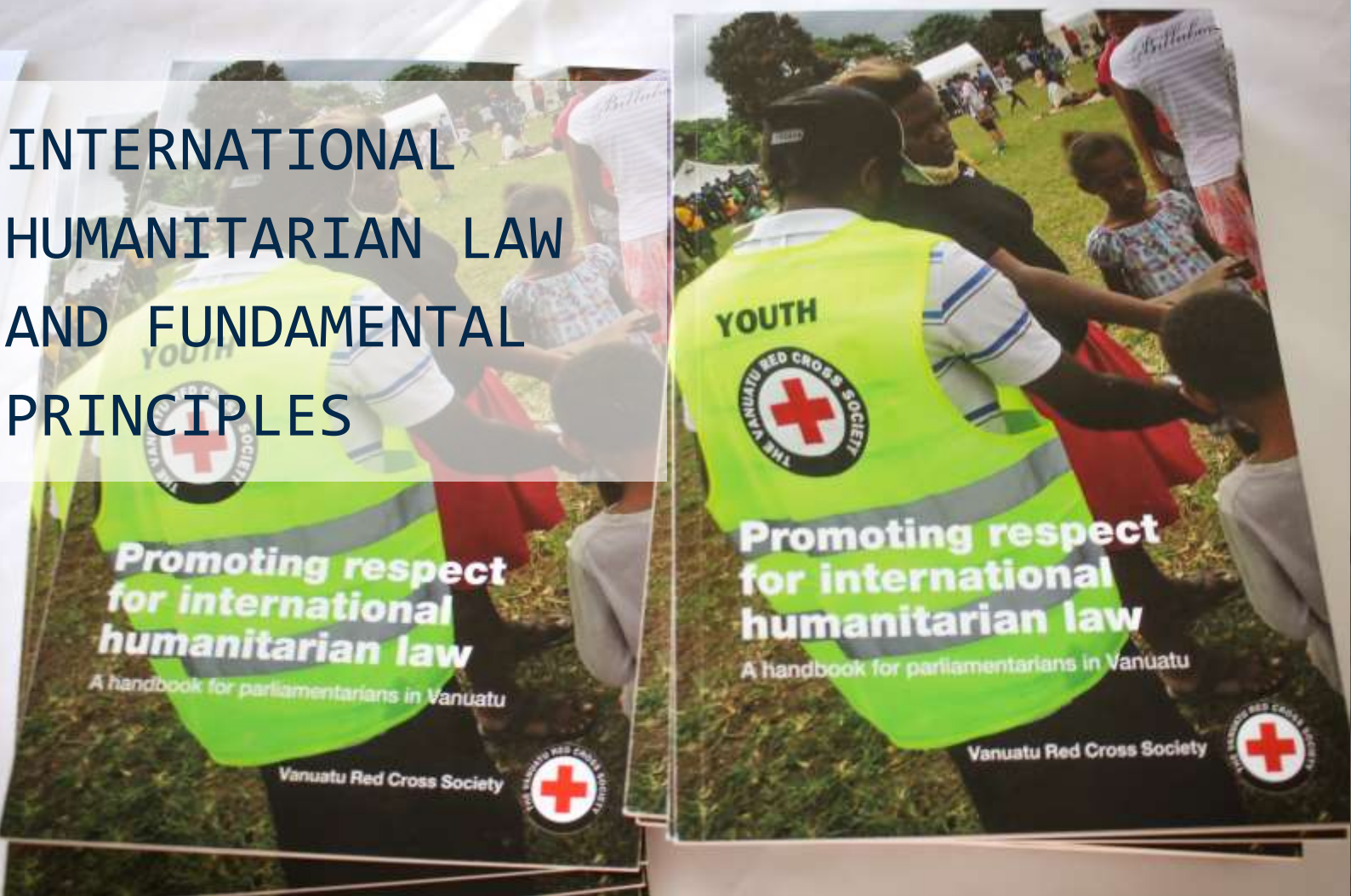
Malekula, Vanualava and Gaua islands. This program is implemented in the same communities in Malekula where the Together Becoming Resilient project was facilitated. This continuity allows for strengthened community relationships and improved disaster risk reduction planning.

The third phase commenced in July 2015 and work focused mainly on assessment of community needs. Twenty communities were identified as requiring assistance and a baseline survey was conducted in these communities to effectively identify and measure community needs. Construction of three gravity-fed systems is planned in the communities of Arep on Vanualava, Lanvitvit and Lambul on Malekula. It is anticipated that this project will benefit 6,293 people across these two provinces.

*Access to clean and safe water is essential for the health of communities.
Photo: Becky Webb, IFRC*



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES



The International Humanitarian Law Handbook for Parliamentarians aims to assist the government of Vanuatu in understanding their humanitarian obligations. Photo: Edwina Yeates, VRCS

The Law and Fundamental Principles program involves advocating for a wider understanding of the Fundamental Principles and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. These humanitarian values provide the foundation for our work, promoting social inclusion and reducing discrimination. The project aims to target the wider population of Vanuatu through dissemination sessions implemented during program activities.

In 2015, activities included dissemination of information on the Radio as well as direct to the government, communities, partners, VRCS staff and volunteers. The project also targeted secondary and tertiary students during the two days "Forum des Metiers" event which took place at Warwick Le Lagon. Social media also played an important role by sharing information on Red Cross humanitarian action on the internet.

The launching of the (IHL) Parliamentary Handbook on the 7th of October 2015 was a

landmark event for the IHL program. This handbook targets all members of Parliament in Vanuatu and helps to meet the project aim of increasing awareness of Red Cross at the government level. The handbook provides the opportunity to disseminate information on the Red Cross movement as a whole, the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values so that members of Parliaments have a better understanding of the role that Vanuatu Red Cross Society plays as auxiliary to the government.

The project also trained 10 active dissemination volunteers from Sanma Red Cross branch. They will help the Sanma Provincial branch in the dissemination of information on the Red Cross, recruitment of volunteers and assist in the implementation of local Vanuatu Red Cross projects.

The International Humanitarian Law and Fundamental Principles project is supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



FIRST AID

The Vanuatu Red Cross commercial first aid program underwent significant growth in late 2015.

This growth can be attributed to the recruitment of a dedicated staff member to manage and promote the program. Workshops were delivered to a number of organisations including Unelco, Bluescope Lysaght and Lycee School. Increased promotion of the program has been key to growing the income generated for Vanuatu Red Cross. The range and quality of the first aid kits for sale has been improved which has resulted in a significant increase in first aid kit sales.

A first aid emergency guide was created along with a quick look CPR reminder card to assist

352 people
trained in basic first aid

First Aid can save lives in emergencies. Photo: Isabelle Choutet, FRC

first aid workshop participants in their ability to administer first aid in emergencies. This program will continue to be a priority for Vanuatu Red Cross in 2016 to promote life-saving first aid skills and as a vital means of generating funding for programs to assist communities.

The Vanuatu Red Cross first aid program is supported by New Zealand Red Cross.



BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Women waiting for distribution of relief supplies on Emae island. Photo: Madeline Wilson, IFRC

Vanuatu Red Cross has branch offices in all provinces of Vanuatu. Branch staff and volunteers assist in the implementation of projects and manage disaster preparedness activities in their provinces.

In 2015, each provincial branch elected a committee to govern the branch activities in their province. This is an exciting development for Vanuatu Red Cross as the provincial committees can provide governance and guidance for branch programs and work closely with the provincial government. Each committee has 8 members and will serve a 3 year term to July 2018.

TORBA

2015 saw the recruitment of a new branch officer in Torba after the position had been vacant for a period. The new branch officer helped to re-invigorate Red Cross activities in the province. Aside from work conducted as part of the Disaster and Crisis Preparedness

program, the Torba branch officer and volunteers were also heavily involved in the disaster risk reduction work being carried out in partnership with French Red Cross in the province in 2015.

SANMA

Although Sanma province did not sustain significant damage from Cyclone Pam, the Sanma branch officer and volunteers were involved in the emergency response travelling to Pentecost island to assist in the disaster needs assessment and distribution of communities in the region.

Sanma Red Cross volunteers have also created a group who visits elderly, widowed

and people with disabilities within their communities once a week. These visits offer support and sometimes small donations of food or other household items provided by the public.

PENAMA

Penama branch was heavily involved in disaster risk reduction activities as part of the Disaster and Crisis Preparedness program. The Penama branch officer spent a lot of 2015 re-visiting Community Disaster Committees to ensure that they were functioning as intended and to provide support wherever possible.

The drought conditions brought on by El Nino severely affected some communities in Penama province and so drought awareness and targeted distribution of relief supplies were a high priority in this province.

MALAMPA

When Vanuatu Red Cross was re-stocking disaster relief supplies in all of the branches, it was decided that the inclusion of traditional pandanus sleeping mats would be trialled instead of the usual imported version. The Malampa branch officer and chairman



On Paama island, a woman uses a 'tippy tap' to wash her hands. Simple solutions like these can greatly improve hygiene behaviour in a post-disaster situation. Photo: VRCS.

Bottom left : VRCS staff and volunteers stand in front of the destroyed Tafea Red Cross branch following Cyclone Pam. Photo: VRCS.

worked with the Malampa Handicraft Centre to source customised mats for all branches made by local women. This reduced transportation costs for Vanuatu Red Cross whilst at the same time contributing to the rural economy in Malampa province.

TAFEA

Tafea province was one of the worst hit by Cyclone Pam and the Red Cross Tafea Branch office was completely destroyed. As such, 2015 was a very busy year for the Tafea branch with relief and recovery operations taking place in North and West Tanna. Vanuatu Red Cross would like to thank the Tafea provincial government for their generosity in allowing Red Cross to work from the provincial government headquarters whilst the branch office is rebuilt. It is anticipated that reconstruction of the branch office will be completed in early 2016.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Vanuatu Red Cross held and participated in a number of special events last year. Events included public awareness activities, fundraising events and award ceremonies to recognise the outstanding work of our staff, volunteers and partners.



White Ribbon Day



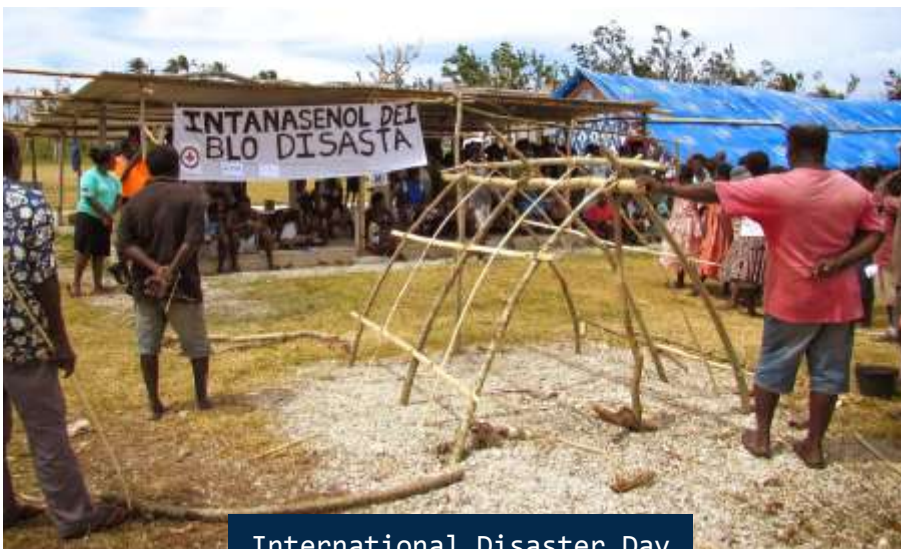
World Red Cross Day



Bollywood Theme Gala Night



National Award Presentation



International Disaster Day



VRCS Award Ceremony



International Volunteer Day



World First Aid Day



ON DECK FOR THE CURE
HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

ON DECK FOR THE CURE
HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

2015 FINANCIAL REPORTS



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF VANUATU RED CROSS SOCIETY

Scope

We have audited the financial statements of Vanuatu Red Cross Society (herein referred to as the "Society") for the year ended 31st December 2015 as set out on pages 4 to 9 comprising Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity and the Notes to the financial statements.

Committee's responsibility for the Financial Statements

Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), Australian Accounting Standards and Vanuatu Companies Act No.25 of 2012 and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Financial Statements based on our audit. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in accordance with International Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material aspects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with applicable accounting concepts and standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Company's financial position, and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Limitation of scope

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society undertakes a number of projects that are administrated separately from the day to day running of the organisation, as noted in note 1(c) these projects are subject to audit by individual donors. As a result we have not been requested to audit these projects.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the limitation of scope note above:

- (a) the financial statements of Vanuatu Red Cross Society have been properly drawn up:
 - (i) so as to give a true and fair view of Vanuatu Red Cross Society state of affairs as at 31st December 2015 and of its results for the period ended on that date; and
 - (ii) to comply with regulations of the Vanuatu Companies Act No. 25 of 2012 and
 - (iii) in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards;
- (b) we have been provided with all information and explanations required
- (c) proper accounting records have been kept by the company

Port Vila, 20 June 2016



Barrett & Partners
Chartered Accountants
Qualified auditors under Section 130
of the Companies Act No. 25 of 2012

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	VT	VT
GENERAL FUNDS	9,963,678	16,245,521
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	618,870	2,369,911
Other Current Liabilities	46,185,913	11,676,882
	<u>46,804,783</u>	<u>14,046,793</u>
TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES	<u>56,768,461</u>	<u>30,292,314</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	18,831	21,320
Cash at Bank	49,716,647	20,228,961
Other Current Assets	703,540	912,967
Accounts Receivable	311,277	984,264
	<u>50,750,295</u>	<u>22,147,512</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
As per Schedule (at Book Value)	6,018,166	8,144,802
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>56,768,461</u>	<u>30,292,314</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	VT	VT
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was provided from:		
Receipts from Donors	116,295,044	91,623,423
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers & Employees	86,389,993	121,001,812
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Operating Activities	29,905,051	-29,378,389
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was applied to:		
Purchase of new Plant & Equipment	419,854	132,600
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Investing Activities	-419,854	-132,600
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	29,485,197	-29,510,989
Add Opening Cash brought forward	20,250,281	49,761,270
Ending Cash Carried Forward	49,735,478	20,250,281
Cash Balances in Balance Sheet		
Cash at Bank	49,716,647	20,228,961
Cash on Hand	18,831	21,320
Ending Cash Carried Forward	49,735,478	20,250,281

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	VT	VT
INCOME STATEMENT SOCIETY		
<i>Income received including TC Pam Donation (net)*</i>	6,850,885	8,874,842
<i>* this balance includes a donation to Nepal Red Cross after the 2015 earthquake</i>		
VRCS EXPENSES (Summary)		
Staff Salaries & Benefits	3,470,241	2,239,520
Boards Expenses	402,715	252,576
Advertising & Promotion	204,265	196,125
Auditors Remuneration	403,594	322,780
Office Expenses	2,686,885	2,623,160
Insurances	354,375	249,230
Building Maintenance	545,433	353,556
IFRC statutory contribution	118,800	113,677
ICRC statutory contribution	36,634	34,091
APFN Fundraising Network	315,974	62,466
Standing commission fee	46,306	44,051
Others Expenses	0	407,908
Depreciation	2,546,489	2,609,374
Bad Debts and Provision Severanes	1,024,493	0
Total Expenses	12,156,204	9,508,514
Adjustments and Foreign Exchanges (net)	-976,524	-10,882,444

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	VT	VT
GENERAL FUNDS AT START OF PERIOD	16,245,521	27,761,637
Net surplus (Deficit) for the Year – Society	-5,305,319	-633,672
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the Year - Others	-976,524	-10,882,444
	<u>9,963,678</u>	<u>16,245,521</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is for the association as an individual entity. Vanuatu Red Cross Society is a Charitable Association, incorporated and domiciled in Vanuatu.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis. Accrual accounting has been used to match revenue with expenses. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Property, Furniture and Equipment

Each class of property, furniture and equipment is carried at cost or fair value.

(c) Donor Funded Program Incomes and Expenditures

The costs of providing various programs and other activities have been funded by the various donors as summarized in section 3 to 5. The donors' representatives regularly conduct their internal finance audit process into their projects or programs by sending their delegate or by requesting the Society to send their regular finance report. As a result the committee has requested that we limit of the scope of our audit so as not to include project income and expenses.

(d) Value Added Tax

These accounts are VAT inclusive. However, Vanuatu Red Cross Society is not required to remit Value Added Tax on grant or other income received.

(e) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 (CONTINUED)

2 INCOME - SOCIETY (Summary)	2015	2014
	VT	VT
<i>Donations & membership fees</i>	746,645	832,300
<i>First Aid Trainings & FA Kits</i>	1,974,500	3,155,240
<i>Fundraising Activities</i>	1,916,430	2,382,920
<i>Overhead received from Projects</i>	1,603,272	2,019,211
<i>Office Rental Incomes</i>	3,190,000	2,092,000
<i>Interest Received & Other Incomes</i>	246,975	119,848
	<u>9,677,822</u>	<u>10,601,519</u>

INCOME - TC PAM DONATION	2015	2014
	VT	VT
<i>Donations & Other Incomes</i>	<u>4,357,252</u>	<u>0</u>

Total donations received for Cyclone Pam were VUV 28,788,994. However only VUV 4,357,252 was spent during the 2015 financial year. The rest of the funds are recorded under "deferred income" and will be spent in future financial years.

3 INCOME - PROJECTS	2015	2014
	VT	VT
<i>Grant received from Donors partners</i>		
International Committee Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies	4,295,062	2,998,465
International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies	0	697,875
Australian Red Cross	17,989,944	38,306,889
New Zealand Red Cross	2,644,877	4,726,105
French Red Cross	10,022,113	10,956,755
OXFAM Australia	0	12334042
USAID	9,636,949	3,862,599
Chinese Embassy	80,278	2,060,611
Embassy of Switzerland	0	3,830,994
VAPP	243,384	900,057
<i>Grants Received to support TC Pam Operations:</i>		
International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies	49,417,837	0
Australian Red Cross	7,007,470	0
Total Income	<u>101,337,914</u>	<u>80,674,392</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER
2015 (CONTINUED)

5 PROJECT EXPENSES	2015	2014
	VT	VT
<i>Donors partners project Expenditures</i>		
International Committee Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies	4,295,062	2,990,205
International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies	1,038,730	693,580
Australian Red Cross	17,982,988	38,399,007
New Zealand Red Cross	2,644,877	4,724,571
French Red Cross	10,029,493	11,407,948
OXFAM Australia	1,000	19,940,880
USAID	9,636,949	7,943,329
Chinese Embassy	80,278	2,060,611
Malagwelo Project	156,009	4,541,310
<i>Projects Expenditures to support TC Pam Operations:</i>		
International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies	49,475,707	0
Australian Red Cross	7,007,470	0
Total Income	<u>102,348,563</u>	<u>92,701,441</u>

Project Expenses in 2015 were VT **102,348,563**.

VT **101,337,914** related directly to the project income and VT **1,010,649** related to prior year income.

For further information on the Vanuatu Red Cross Society 2015 financial reports, please contact finance@redcrossvanuatu.com or (678) 27418.

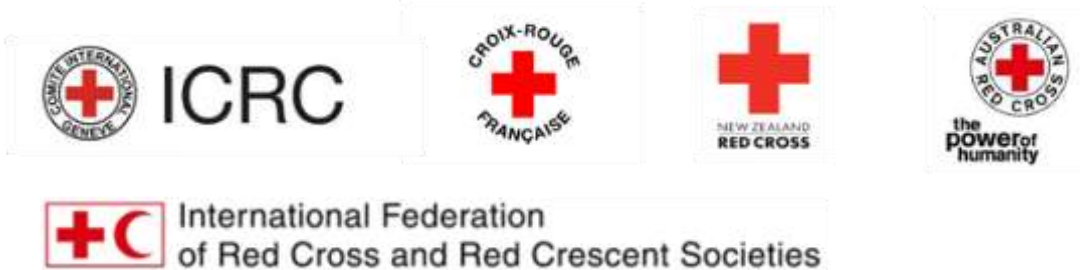
TANKYU TUMAS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



There are many people and organisations to thank this year. The overwhelming support received in the wake of Cyclone Pam from our sister National Societies, local and international organisations and the general public was truly inspirational. We have highlighted some of our main supporters below however every donation, no matter how big or small, was important and appreciated. These donations are what drives our work and we would like to thank each and every donor for their generosity.

Photo: Hanna Butler, NZRC; Photo previous page: Hanna Butler, NZRC; Photo opposite page: Edwina Yeates, VRCS; Photo back cover: Edwina Yeates, VRCS.

OUR RED CROSS PARTNERS



OUR DONORS



OUR LOCAL SUPPORTERS



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Luganville Office
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To learn more about the Vanuatu Red Cross Society please call us on +678 27418

To become a volunteer please email admin3@redcrossvanuatu.com

To purchase a first aid kit or workshop email firstaid@redcrossvanuatu.com

For general enquiries please email ceo@redcrossvanuatu.com

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