OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

Tropical Cyclone HAROLD continued moving south-east over the Coral Sea and made landfall over southwest coast of Espiritu Santo Island (north Vanuatu) on 6 April around 0.00 UTC, with maximum sustained winds up to 215 km/h. The media reported, hundreds of people preventively evacuated across Espiritu Santo. (ECHO, 6 Apr 2020). The northern provinces of Sanma, Malampa and Penama are most affected. Due to its path across the centre of Vanuatu, TC Harold has directly impacted on a large number of populated islands and the large island of Santo with the country’s second largest city Luganville.

As of 8th April, the Vanuatu’s National Disaster Management Office estimates that up to 160,000 people may have been affected by the cyclone in the country. The provinces of Sanma (53,344 people), Penama (32,055 people), and Malampa (40,917 people) have been categorized as Priority 1 for assistance. The provinces of Torba (10,102 people) and Shepherds Group (23,056 people) have been categorized as Priority 2.

As well as the damages to homes, peoples livelihoods and the environment they live in, these islands were the ‘food belt’ of the nation. The damages to crops have in many affected areas been catastrophic. Affecting the food security for the country as a whole.

TARGET POPULATION

Overall, it is estimated that a total of 160,000 people have been affected by the Cyclone and will require shelter, food, health and WASH assistance over the coming weeks and months, due to the extensive damage to infrastructure on the island.

OBJECTIVES

The complicating factors of COVID-19 have meant that international responders have been unable to assist in country making the response entirely reliant on existing human and systems resources. While international relief items will be imported and required, it is critical to rapidly establish the in country logistics and procurement to support Government, NGO’s and Partners to rapidly distribute items.

The ECG hub will provide existing in-country partners with resources to establish Local Supplies Hub and Transport Hub to support our first responders. Additional complexities to the situation include that our supply partners in Australia and New Zealand are currently on lock down and reduced capacity to pick and pack and deliver goods for export.
ESTABLISHING LOGISTICS HUBS – PROCURE LOCAL SUPPLIES, DISTRIBUTION & TRANSPORTATION

The Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) has established hubs supporting logistics for the appropriate procurement for goods and transportation of relief and recovery items. This will establish a system whereby local suppliers become the priority suppliers for response and recovery items that are being sourced by both the private sector and government.

In parallel with the materials it is vital that the delivery of these to site is efficient and timely. The transportation systems are vital and the focus from VBRC will be to rapidly gather and distribute information on available vessels and aircraft. This will include co-ordination of actual logistics challenges.

Funds will go primarily to human resources that will establish:

- The information hubs (coordination of suppliers and transport operators) including daily updates on supplies, incoming goods, pricing and demand

- Database development & online access tools that encourage visibility and appropriate access

- Supporting equipment and services including communications (internet and phone, and potentially satellite phone) and other related costs to establish and maintain the hubs.

- Distribution of urgent humanitarian aid and supplement with VBRC purchased or donated items in areas of most need

- Tracking and coordination of shipping and air assets

NAME OF IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION(S)

The Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) is a registered charitable Association. It is a sub-committee of the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and provides a coordination mechanism for the private sector to engage with government and partners on resilience building, response and recovery activities.

Established in October 2017, the VBRC is supported by the Connecting Business Initiative (CBi), in collaboration with the UNDP Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP). VBRC’s role is to coordinate and strengthen engagement of the private sector in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery, and climate change adaptation and mitigation in Vanuatu.

TIME-FRAME (START/COMPLETION DATE)

The establishment of the hubs is expected to be completed immediately following the release of the cash grant, and all reporting requirements will be met by 30 September 2020.
### RELIEF APPEAL FUNDING REQUEST

#### Description of Item

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE ONE (APRIL TO JUNE 2020)</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Establishment of virtual hubs; Human resources, Communications &amp; Database/Web Solutions</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE TWO (JUNE TO DEC 2020)</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Technical Advisors Procurement &amp; Transportation &amp; support contract staff (for example legal support)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Continuity of Hub systems and migration to sustainable technical set up that can assist in next emergency</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shipping - supplementary assistance towards shipping costs to the most effected northern islands by domestic sea vessels.</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Procurement of supplementary shelter/food and hygiene kits from in country suppliers and supplementing additional food distribution over the coming 3 months</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>900,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL PHASE 1 &amp; 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>USD$1,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
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**Talk to Us!**

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[Vanuatu Business Resilience Council](www.vbrc.vu)