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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Dominican Republic: Hurricane Irma

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| DREF n° MDRD0010 | Glide n°: To be confirmed |
| Date of issue: 7 September 2017 | Expected timeframe: 2 months; the expected end date is 7 of November 2017 |
| Overall operation budget: 298,588 Swiss francs (CHF) | Operation start date: 7 of September 2017 |
| Total number of exposed population: 3,000,000 people | Number of people to be assisted: 2,000 families; 10,000 people |
| Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) has 1 national headquarters, 187 branches and 20,000 volunteers | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Country Cluster Office in Haiti – Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). Support is also being provided to the National Society through Spanish Red Cross as well as through the Canadian Red Cross Society’s Capacity Building for Emergency Response Project (CERA), which is co-funded by the Canadian government | |
| Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Civil Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Housing (INVI for its acronym in Spanish), National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), Ministry of Public Works, municipalities, Ministry of Defence, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA). National Emergency Commission (NEC for its acronym in Spanish), Presidency of the Republic, National Institute of Potable Water and Sewerage (INAPA for its acronym in Spanish), Oxfam, World Vision, | |

[Click here for the DREF budget.](#)

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Hurricane Irma is moving through the Atlantic as a Category 5 hurricane; it is currently located 482 km west north-west of the Dominican Republic’s capital, Santo Domingo. The latest forecast suggests Irma could be a Category 4 hurricane on the morning of Thursday, 7 September, which is when it is expected to make landfall in the Dominican Republic; a direct hit on Hispaniola Island is highly possible on Thursday and into Friday, and sustained winds close to the eye of the hurricane could reach 295 km/h. The system will also bring torrential rains close to its centre and from spiral bands on its sides. On 5 September 2017, the government of the Dominican Republic issued a hurricane warning from Cabo Engaño to the country’s northern border with Haiti and a Tropical Storm Warning from south of Cabo Engaño westward to the southern border with Haiti. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from 1 June to 31 November; September and October are the peak of the season, and the months in which the Dominican Republic is most at risk.



Storm's predicted trajectory as of 8 PM AST Wednesday, 6 September 2017. Source: NOAA

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

In anticipation of a direct impact from Hurricane Irma, the Dominican Red Cross has activated its internal disaster response protocols in coordination with the national disaster response system; the National Society has also carried out national assessments ahead of the storm to identify critical areas that are likely to pose a challenge to its response

activities. Additionally, the DRC has activated the Community Disaster Response Teams (Community Networks) have also been activated to respond to a potential emergency. The National Society has been readying its emergency stock, equipment (21 Potabilization Units, 5 Water Trucks) and emergency teams (Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis [DANA], water and sanitation [WATSAN], psychosocial support [PSS], search and rescue, first aid and restoring family links [RFL]). The National Society currently has stock to support 2,000 families, which it intends to distribute to families that are at risk of being displaced by Hurricane Irma.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNSs) do not have a physical presence in country; consequently, the Caribbean country cluster office in Haiti and the IFRC's regional office for the Americas (ARO) in Panama have deployed an operations coordinator and an information management (IM) officer to the DRC. Additionally, the Canadian Red Cross Society deployed a delegate to support a Real-Time Evaluation of the National Society's response. The Spanish Red Cross has been closely monitoring the situation, and it is ready to provide support either from its country office in Haiti or its national headquarters in Spain.

Movement Coordination

ARO declared an Orange Alert for the event on 6 September 2017, and coordination among the Dominican Red Cross, the Latin Caribbean country cluster office and ARO has been established. Lastly, ARO developed a [Dashboard](#) to monitor the storm's progress.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government of the Dominican Republic has activated the country's national disaster response system and the system's municipal committees of preparedness, mitigation and response (PMR). The country is in addition, the government has activated its Ministry of Public Works contingency plan to expedite the clearing of blocked drains and the trimming of overhanging tree branches from power lines.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Shelter and Settlements (and household items): The Dominican Red Cross supports the government through the provision of non-food items (NFIs) in collective centres, which are managed by the national and local authorities. Shoddy infrastructure could expose vulnerable families' dwellings and their belongings to storm damage, requiring the provision of emergency shelter. Additionally, most of the country's aqueducts are vulnerable to flooding and the resultant damages, particularly in the Bajo Yuna, Yaque del Norte, Yaque del Sur and Nigua river basins, which could affect the country's infrastructure. To mitigate the potential flooding, the government is lowering all dams to their minimum level.

Water and sanitation and hygiene promotion: Hurricane Irma will adversely impact access to the Dominican Republic's potable water system, thereby disrupting the provision of drinking water to communities and exposing them to potential waterborne and vector-borne illnesses

Beneficiary Selection:

The operation of the Dominican Republic Red Cross aims to reach 2,000 families affected by Hurricane Irma. The following selection criteria have been established for the operation at community and family level:

- Families affected by the event in critical areas.
- Exposure to health and survival risks
- Families whose livelihoods have been affected
- Families in collective centres
- Families who have not received similar assistance from another institution

Risk Assessment

Hurricane Irma's trajectory is still uncertain at this time; however, a small deviation in the storm's path could mean a greater or lower impact on the Dominican Republic.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The operation will support the Dominican Republic Red Cross' preparedness actions to ready the country for Irma's potential impact and attend to the immediate needs of 2,000 families (10,000 people) in the emergency centres.

Proposed strategy

The hurricane has yet to impact the island; therefore, this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is being developed to cover the National Society's preparedness activities. This EPoA will be revised once the rapid emergency

assessments have been completed, and the National Society has a clearer picture of the storm's impact on the Dominican Republic.

This DREF will support the following preparedness activities:

- This DREF will replenish the NFIs distributed by the National Society during the response operation.

Operational support services

Human resources

Six thousand of the DRC's 12,000 volunteers at the national level are relief volunteers. The following human resources are available for the hurricane response operation:

National Intervention Teams (NITs)

General: 10

Health: 25

PSS: 60

WATSAN: 30

Regional Intervention Teams (RITs)

Logistics: 8

WATSAN: 8

General: 3

Health: 5

DANA: 90 volunteers trained

WATSAN Teams (: 50 volunteers

Logistics and supply chain

The Dominican Red Cross will distribute all its NFI stock that is pre-positioned in the country; this (stock will later be replenished as soon as possible through the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Panama. Lastly, the DRC will organize the transport of goods and personnel to the designated areas of intervention.

Communications

The IFRC's Communications Unit will provide technical support and assistance to the communications strategy, and its communications officer will be deployed as necessary to support these activities. Press releases will be shared with national, regional and global media outlets and uploaded to social media and the institutional website as events develop.

At the country level, the National Society will use social media, its web site and the local media to disseminate information on the operation, and it will also coordinate with IFRC's Communication Unit to share information at the regional level; all communications are being coordinated and shared with the Dominican Republic Red Cross before publication. Lastly, the IFRC issued [Information Bulletin no. 2](#) on Hurricane Irma on 6 September 2017.

Security

The Dominican Republic Red Cross' 12,000 volunteers have been put on alert, and they have the necessary profiles, degree of visibility and the level of security to conduct this operation, as established by the National Society; however, it is still necessary to procure insurance and protection for the participating volunteers, such as:

Personal protective gear

- Raincoats
- Rubber boots
- Flashlights

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

Reporting on the operation will be conducted in accordance with the IFRC's minimum reporting standards. A final report will be issued within three months of the operation's completion.

Administration and Finance

The IFRC provides the necessary operational support for the review, validation of budgets, bank transfers and technical assistance to National Societies on procedures for the justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Dominican Republic

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DREF OPERATION

2017-09-06

DREF -Dominican Republic - Hurricane Irma

| Budget Group | DREF Grant Budget CHF |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Shelter - Relief | 101,645 |
| Clothing & Textiles | 4,507 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 75,754 |
| Utensils & Tools | 34,521 |
| Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES | 216,427 |
| Storage, Warehousing | 0 |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 16,839 |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 4,890 |
| Logistics Services | 20,700 |
| Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE | 42,429 |
| International Staff | 0 |
| Regional Deployed Staff | 8,630 |
| National Staff | 0 |
| National Society Staff | 0 |
| Volunteers | 8,180 |
| Total PERSONNEL | 16,810 |
| Workshops & Training | 0 |
| Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING | 0 |
| Travel | 2,877 |
| Information & Public Relations | 288 |
| Office Costs | 0 |
| Communications | 959 |
| Financial Charges | 575 |
| Other General Expenses | 0 |
| Shared Office and Services Costs | 0 |
| Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES | 4,699 |
| Programme and Services Support Recovery | 18,224 |
| Total INDIRECT COSTS | 18,224 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 298,588 |