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## DREF Operation Update

### Dominican Republic: Hurricane Irma

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF operation n° MDRD0010</b>	<b>Glide n° TC-2017-000125-DOM</b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 10 October 2017	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 3 months; the expected end date is 7 December 2017
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> 450,614 Swiss francs (CHF)	<b>Operation start date:</b> 6 September 2017
<b>Total number of exposed population:</b> 1,300,000 people	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 2,096 families; 10,480 people
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) has 1 national headquarters, 187 branches and 20,000 volunteers.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> 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	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> 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,	
<b>Summary of revisions made to the emergency plan of action for this DREF operation:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outcome 1 - Shelter:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The target population has been increased from 1,016 to 1,500 families</li> <li>➤ The following increases for non-food items (NFIs) were made: 3,000 tarpaulins; 1,500 shelter tool kits; 1,500 kitchen sets</li> <li>➤ Increased long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLITNs) to 3,000</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Outcome 4 - Water and sanitation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increase of Mosquito Nets to 3,000 items</li> <li>➤ Increase of Jerry cans to 3,000 items</li> <li>➤ Increase of Hygiene kits to 3,000 items</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Outcome 5 – Areas common to all sectors:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reduction of CTP program to 210 families</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

Hurricane Irma impacted the Dominican Republic from 6 September 2017 through 7 September. The eye of the storm passed north-east of the coastline of the country, creating storm surge along the country's northern coast and causing wind and flood damage to vulnerable communities. The country experienced a higher than usual rainfall, and tropical storm winds were felt 270 km away from the hurricane's eye in Santo Domingo. The hurricane impacted coastal towns and mountainous areas, particularly communities in rural areas.



**Dominican Red Cross volunteers distributing relief items. Source: IFRC**

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

In anticipation of a direct impact from Hurricane Irma, the Dominican Red Cross activated its internal disaster response protocols in coordination with the national disaster response system; the National Society also carried out national assessments before the storm to identify critical areas that are likely to pose a challenge to its response activities. Additionally, the DRC activated the Community Disaster Response Teams (Community Networks) to respond to a potential emergency. The National Society has been readying its emergency stock, equipment (21 water purification units, 5 water trucks) and emergency teams (Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA), water and sanitation (WATSAN), psychosocial support, search and rescue, first aid and restoring family links (RFL). The National Society distributed relief items to support 2,000 families affected by Hurricane Irma.

After the passage of the Hurricane, the National Society deployed five damage and needs assessments teams to the most affected provinces (Montecristi, Santiago, Puerto Plata, Maria Trinidad Sanchez, El Seybo y Hato Mayor and Samana) and the Santo Domingo Province to conduct rapid evaluations from 8 to 10 September 2017.

The UN Country Team, in support of the government, is conducting a multi-sectorial DANA; the National Society is supporting the assessment through the provision of DANA-trained volunteers and vehicles.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNS) 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. The Canadian Red Cross Society, as a bilateral collaboration, 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

The Regional Office of the Americas (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 the ARO was established. Additionally, to obtain more detailed information a [Dashboard](#) was developed a 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 government 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 (NFI) in collective centres, which are managed by the national and local authorities. Damaged infrastructure and homes may expose vulnerable families' requiring the distribution of tarpaulins and tool kits. 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 flooding, the government lowered all dams to their minimum level. According to the National

Emergency Operation Center (NEOC), 13,031 people were taken to temporary collective centres, 2,683 households were affected and 114 houses were destroyed by Hurricane Irma.

**Livelihoods/Food security:** The livelihoods assessments have started in collaboration with the United Nations disaster response team. The affected provinces are the same ones that were impacted by flooding in November 2016 and March/April 2017; preliminary information received from the field indicates that the damage to the agricultural sector is important and that it will negatively impact the rural communities' immediate food needs.

**Health:** A main concern in the country is vector-borne diseases, as dengue, chikungunya and Zika are present or have recently been present in Dominican Republic. Malaria is found in the country, with a higher number of cases when comparing 2016 and 2017. The threat of a malaria outbreak has been increased by the hurricane-weakened infrastructure. Cholera is also a major concern as it is endemic to the Dominican Republic; a total of 62 suspected cholera cases were reported in the Dominican Republic between epidemiological week (EW) 1 and EW 14 of 2017 (no updates have been provided since May 2017), while 679 suspected cases were reported in 2016. Additionally, there is a heightened risk of leptospirosis due to the flooding that often occurs with hurricane since it facilitates the spread of the leptospira organism; Leptospirosis is frequently found in the Dominican Republic, and it caused 74 deaths in 2016, with 752 cases nationwide. Vaccine-preventable diseases are an important issue in the country, as the coverage for disease such as measles is only 85 per cent in the Dominican Republic, which means there is a risk of measles outbreak, especially in the overcrowded collective centres and the displaced population. Psychosocial support is also a focus area as survivors are forced cope with the loss of lives, livelihoods, shelter and/or belongings. Moreover, serious damage to water and sanitation systems is also expected. The evaluation of the National Society is being coordinated with the Ministry of Health, and the identification of more specific risks on a provincial basis are being analyzed by the Dominican Red Cross with the IFRC's Health Unit in Panama. Finally, public sensitization towards vector and waterborne diseases needs to be increased, in conjunction with cleaning and fumigation activities in the affected communities.

**Water and sanitation and hygiene promotion:** Hurricane Irma adversely impacted 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. More than 60 aqueducts were affected according to official figures, and areas are still flooded. The flooded areas are placing the affected zones at risk to environmental to vector and waterborne diseases, thus requiring an increase in hygiene promotion activities, the promotion of safe water usage and water production and distribution to the most affected areas.

#### **Beneficiary Selection:**

The operation of the Dominican Republic Red Cross aims to reach a total of **2,096 families** affected by Hurricane Irma; a total of **1,500 families will receive non-food items**, and an additional **596 families** will receive sensitization in health, hygiene and safe water promotion activities. 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

For the unconditional cash transfer programme (CTP), a specific targeting mechanism will be established to determine who the most vulnerable 210 families are among the 1,500 families targeted by the NFI distributions to provide them with CTP assistance.

The following communities have been targeted by the initial DANA:

#### **Distribution of Non-Food Items (across all sectors):**

Province	Municipality	Community	Severely Affected Families
Esapillat	Gaspar Hernandez	La cuchara	25
Esapillat	Gaspar Hernandez	Rincon-Boca	20
Esapillat	Gaspar Hernandez	La lometa	11
Montecristi	Montecristi	Palo Verde	450
Montecristi	Montecristi	Batey Juliana	230
Puerto plata	Motellano	Sanman	145
Puerto plata	Sabaneta de yasica	Palo amarillo	21

Puerto plata	Sabaneta de yasica	Villa Islabon	24
Samana	Galera	Loma Atravesa	46
El Seybo	Miches	Miches	224
El Seybo	El Seybo	El Seybo	160
Hato Mayor	Hato Mayor	Hato Mayor	100
Valverde	Mao, esperanza	Esperanza	44
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,500</b>

**Communities that will receive sensitization in health, hygiene and safe water promotion activities:**

Province	Municipality	Community	Affected Families
Esapillat	Gaspar Hernandez	La cuchara	25
Esapillat	Gaspar Hernandez	Rincon-Boca	20
Esapillat	Gaspar Hernandez	La lometa	11
Montecristi	Montecristi	Palo Verde	450
Montecristi	Montecristi	Batey Juliana	230
Puerto plata	Motellano	Sanman	145
Puerto plata	Sabaneta de Yasica	Palo Amarillo	21
Puerto plata	Sabaneta de Yasica	Villa islabon	24
Samana	Galera	Loma Atravesa	46
Valverde	Mao, esperanza	Esperanza	44
Santiago	Santiago	La Loteria	350
Santiago	Santiago	Hoyo de Bartola	380
Santiago	Santiago	Hoyo de Caimito	350
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,096</b>

Additional communities are being assessed, and new beneficiary communities will be identified in the following days.

### Risk Assessment

Since it is the peak of hurricane season in the Atlantic basin, there is a risk of the Dominican Republic being impacted by a hydro-meteorological event such as from a tropical wave or a hurricane, which could disrupt the operation. The National Society is planning to finish the NFI distributions and community sensitization within the next three weeks; however, the cash transfer programme activities will take a longer time, and therefore, they could be affected negatively. Hurricane Maria was threatening to affect Hispaniola island from 21 to 22 September 2017 as a category 4 or 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

## B. Operational strategy and plan

### Overall objective

The operation will support the Dominican Republic Red Cross' attend to the immediate needs of **2,096 families** (10,480 people) in the affected communities.

### Proposed strategy

Coordination between the Dominican Red Cross and various entities is essential to improve the impact of actions and ensure the best care for the affected population. In coordination with the emergency operation centres (regional, provincial, national and municipal), this plan of action will ensure that the affected communities and their needs are identified and the safety of those involved in the operation throughout its duration, as expressed in the operation's strategic lines of intervention for the selected 2,096 families.

## Operational support services

### Human resources

Six thousand of the DRC's 20,000 volunteers at the national level are relief volunteers. The following human resources are available for the hurricane response operation:

National Intervention Teams (NITs):

- General: 13
- Health: 30
- Logistics: 8
- PSS: 60
- Water and sanitation: 38

DANA: 90 volunteers trained

Water and sanitation Teams: 50 volunteers

### Human Resources included in the Emergency Plan of Action:

#### National Society:

- 1 Health coordinator for 2 months to coordinate the branch health coordinators for the public sensitization campaigns, vector control activities; this coordinator will be responsible for reporting on the health activities.
- 1 Hygiene promotion coordinator for 2 months to coordinate the branch health coordinators for the public sensitization campaigns on hygiene promotion and safe water use; this coordinator will be responsible for reporting on the hygiene activities.
- 1 Shelter coordinator for 2 months to coordinate the shelter sensitization and training for beneficiaries.; this coordinator will report on the shelter activities.
- 1 operational manager assistant for 3 months; this person will support the relief director on planning, logistics and follow up with the technical coordinator and branch relief directors.
- 1 Finance assistant for 3 months; this person will support the finance program manager to ensure that finance and procurement procedures are respected, and he/she will support the National Society on the production of the financial reports.
- 1 Logistics coordinator for 3 months; this coordinator will support the relief director on logistics activities, specifically the organization of the distributions, restocking of the warehouse and provide support to the National Society's development of its contingency plan for future emergencies.

One general RIT will support this operation for one month.

### Logistics and supply chain

The Dominican Red Cross will distribute all its NFI stock that is pre-positioned in the country; this stock will 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, Lastly, the IFRC issued [Information Bulletin no. 1](#) and [Information Bulletin no. 2](#), [Information Bulletin no. 3](#), [Information Bulletin no. 4](#) and [Information Bulletin no. 5](#) on Hurricane Irma.

### Security

The Dominican Republic Red Cross' 20,000 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. An operations update and a final report will be issued within 1.5 and three months of the operation's completion, respectively.

## 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

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

### Health

**Needs analysis:** The Hurricane has impacted the physical and emotional wellbeing of the population in the affected areas. On the operational side, the actions will be primarily focused on the distribution of humanitarian aid at the community level. Moreover, the Ministry of Health has deployed personnel to address the population's needs, and all the health centres in the affected districts are currently operational. It is key to highlight that all the proposed actions complement existing Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education initiatives, providing tools to the population for the reduction of their health risks. The Dominican Red Cross conducted psychological first aid activities in the first 48 hours of the emergency, and it will need to continue to carry out psychological care activities through home visits. Public sensitization towards vector and waterborne diseases needs to be increased, in conjunction with cleaning and fumigation activities in the affected communities.

A main concern in the country is vector-borne diseases, as dengue, chikungunya and Zika are present or have recently been present in Dominican Republic. Malaria is found in the country, with a higher number of cases when comparing 2016 and 2017. The threat of a malaria outbreak has been increased by the hurricane-weakened infrastructure. Cholera is also a major concern as it is endemic to the Dominican Republic; a total of 62 suspected cholera cases were reported in the Dominican Republic in 2017 while 679 suspected cases were reported in 2016. Additionally, there is a heightened risk of leptospirosis due to the flooding that often occurs with hurricane since it facilitates the spread of the leptospira organism; Leptospirosis is frequently found in the Dominican Republic, and it caused 74 deaths in 2016, with 752 cases nationwide. Psychosocial support is also a focus area as survivors are forced cope with the loss of lives, livelihoods, shelter and/or belongings. Moreover, serious damage to water and sanitation systems is also expected.

**Population to be assisted:** At least **2,096 families** in rural and urban areas in the affected provinces (**Espailat, Montecristi, Puerto Plata, Samana, Valverde El Seybo y Hato Mayor and Santiago**). Community health (community epidemiological surveillance, vector control as well as disease prevention sensitization) activities will target the additional following communities:

<b>Outcome 1: The immediate health needs of the target population are met.</b>													
<b>Output 1.1 Community-based disease prevention and health promotion measures provided to 2,096 families</b>													
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Search and rescue		■											
Community health promotion activities			■	■									
20 community health workshops			■	■	■	■							
Production of printed materials for health promotion activities			■	■	■								
Vector control activities (fumigation of sites with chemicals by DRC-trained volunteers, cleaning activities, etc.)			■	■	■								
<b>Output 1.2 The affected population's PSS needs are covered following Hurricane Irma's impact (500 families in the collective centres)</b>													
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PSS activities in collective centres		■	■										

### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Needs analysis:** Hurricane Irma adversely impacted access to potable water system, thereby disrupting the provision of drinking water to communities and exposing them to potential waterborne and vector-borne illnesses. More than 50 aqueducts were damaged by the passage of hurricane Irma.



Pre-positioning of trained volunteers to strategic areas in advance of the hurricane																				
Appoint a focal person in the emergency operations centre (EOC) to prepare weekly situation reports, which will be posted on the Dashboard and shared with all stakeholders.																				
IFRC monitoring by the regional disaster manager or country cluster																				
<b>Outcome 5: 210 families (1,050 people) are assisted through cash transfers to cover their immediate humanitarian needs</b>																				
<b>Output 5.1 Unconditional cash transfers are provided to households (210 families)</b>																				
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
Feasibility study																				
Selection process for 210 most vulnerable families																				
Training for families on how to use the CTP																				
Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CTP for 210 families																				
Satisfaction beneficiary survey																				
Consultation mechanism for families developed and implemented																				

The target population is the 210 families based on the most vulnerable population. The selection criteria will be developed with the support of the IFRC prior to the distributions, and the targeted communities will be selected among the affected provinces of Espaillat, Montecristi, Puerto Plata, Samana, Valverde El Seybo y Hato Mayor and Santiago. The DRC has successfully worked with cash transfer program in 2016 within the emergency Livelihoods Recovery program in the Southern provinces, this program was implemented with the support of the Spanish Red Cross.

The unconditional CTP will be implemented using the Visa Program of the IFRC and the amount of 225.00 US dollars per family is based on the minimum salary scale. This multi-sectoral support will enable these vulnerable families to better cope with the loss of income due to hurricane Irma impact.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

### In Dominican Republic

- Dra. Ligia Leroux, President, email: [ligia.leroux@cruzroja.org.do](mailto:ligia.leroux@cruzroja.org.do)
- Arq. Gustavo Lara, Director General, email: [gustavo.lara@cruzroja.org.do](mailto:gustavo.lara@cruzroja.org.do)

### In the IFRC Americas regional office, Panama (+507 317-3050):

- Inigo Barrena, disaster response and crisis and early recovery head; email: [ci.barrena@ifrc.org](mailto:ci.barrena@ifrc.org).
- Diana Medina, communications coordinator; email: [diana.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:diana.medina@ifrc.org)
- Mauricio Bustamante, Regional Logistics coordinator, phone: +507 317 3050; email: [mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org](mailto:mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries):

- Priscila Gonzalez, planning and monitoring coordinator, phone: +507 317 3050; email: [priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org](mailto:priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org)

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Marion Andrivet, emergency appeals and marketing officer, phone: +507 317 3050; email: [marion.andrivetj@ifrc.org](mailto:marion.andrivetj@ifrc.org)

### In IFRC Geneva:

- Susil Perera, senior officer response and recovery; +41 (0)22 7304947; email: [susil.perera@ifrc.org](mailto:susil.perera@ifrc.org)
- Sune Bulow, emergency operations and information management-Disaster and Crisis Department; email: [sune.bulow@ifrc.org](mailto:sune.bulow@ifrc.org)

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**DREF OPERATION**

09/10/2017

MDRDO010 - Dominican Republic Hurricane Irma

DREF Grant  
Budget CHF**Budget Group**

Shelter - Relief	91,500
Clothing & Textiles	8,850
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	62,318
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	24,192
Utensils & Tools	57,449
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	48,149
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>292,458</b>

Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>

Storage, Warehousing	7,899
Distribution & Monitoring	7,800
Transport & Vehicle Costs	21,526
Logistics Services	19,218
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>56,443</b>

International Staff	7,899
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	18,662
Volunteers	26,956
Other Staff Benefits	3,950
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>57,467</b>

Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>

Workshops & Training	0
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>

Travel	3,160
Information & Public Relations	10,368
Office Costs	0
Communications	1,774
Financial Charges	1,442
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>16,744</b>

Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>

Programme and Services Support Recovery	27,502
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>27,502</b>

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>450,614</b>
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