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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Dominica: Tropical Storm Ophelia

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRDM001**  
**GLIDE n° [TC-2011-000152-DMA](#)**  
**11 October 2011**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**27,516 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 79 families (approximately 395 persons). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Although Tropical Storm Ophelia did not pass directly over Dominica, it generated severe rainfall over the island affecting infrastructure and damaging personal belongings. The most affected communities include: Canefield, Massacre, Mahaut, Cochrane, Coulibistrie and Campbell. The Dominica Red Cross Society

will assist 79 families with relief items. The DREF operation will replenish items distributed by the National Society.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by January 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by April 2012).

[< Click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area >](#)



*The passing of Tropical Storm Ophelia left behind overflowing rivers that washed away cars and flooded homes.  
Source: Dominica Red Cross Society*

## The situation

Tropical Storm Ophelia developed and passed across the northern Caribbean as of 21 September 2011. This tropical storm lingered north-east of Dominica and produced heavy rains over the island from 25 to 29 September 2011. This resulted in unprecedented flooding which has isolated the Layou village, caused landslides in many locations (including Campbell), washed away cars and blocked many roads.

On 28 September 2011, feeder bands from Tropical Storm Ophelia –which are clouds streaking out from the extreme edges of a storm– produced more than 80 millimetres of rain in six hours. As streams and ravines

overflowed their banks, roads became waterways that washed away cars and flooded homes, particularly in the communities of Canefield, Massacre, Mahaut, Cochrane, Coulibistrie and Campbell. Water and electricity supplies were disrupted and roads remained obstructed due to flooding and landslides in several areas. By the following day (29 September), water levels had significantly subsided and allowed for the clearing of blocked roads and the start of restoration of utilities. Damage and needs assessments of 180 affected households were undertaken by the Dominica Red Cross Society and the local government over the next two days and revealed extensive damage to the infrastructure including roads and some bridges. Of the affected families assessed, 100 did not require assistance while 15 families had their homes destroyed, 17 suffered major damage, 26 suffered minor damage and 22 were affected by the loss of household items. Even though infrastructural damage was reported as a result of Ophelia, there were no injuries or deaths.

## Coordination and partnerships

In Dominica, the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) holds the overall coordination responsibility for the relief operation to ensure there is no duplication of services. The DRCS as a member of both the Food & General Supplies Sub-Committee and Welfare Sub-Committee of the ODM will coordinate their proposed response activities with the other members of these sub-committees.

The National Society had previously collaborated with the National Emergency Planning Organization and the Office of Disaster Management in its disaster risk reduction activities. As a serving member of the National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO), the DRCS sits on a task force to plan the response to Tropical Storm Ophelia.

The Director General and/or Disaster Coordinator of the National Society will manage the operation utilizing National Intervention Teams' volunteers in the field and collaborating with Disaster Committee members in the affected communities for distribution of relief items. In the case of persons who are homebound and unable to collect their supplies, members of the community's Disaster Committee will deliver relief items to these households. Volunteers will be responsible for collecting signatures on the beneficiary lists and ensuring an orderly distribution process.

This small-scale relief operation will serve as an excellent exercise for the testing of the recently revised governmental National Response and Contingency Plan. The response operation has already highlighted several shortcomings in the country's disaster plan and the need for revision will be assessed once the emergency has finalized.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society provided emergency food packages to families temporarily displaced by the event on 1 October 2011 and met with the Food & General Supplies and Welfare Sub-Committees in an emergency session to plan assistance measures for the affected households without duplicating efforts. As mentioned previously, the DRCS also carried out first assessment alongside governmental authorities

### The needs

#### **Selection of people to be reached:**

The government of Dominica has indicated that it will require external assistance to repair the damages caused by Tropical Storm Ophelia, particularly as the families living in vulnerable areas and whose houses were destroyed will need to relocate to safer locations. The DRCS will focus its efforts on assisting affected families with basic household items.

The assessments carried out by the DRCS evaluated the following areas:

- Health and care: The health centres in the affected areas were not damaged although flood waters entered the grounds of the Mahaut Health Centre from an adjacent ravine.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion: potable drinking water supply to the affected communities was restored within 48 hours after the event. However, water pipes leading to the damaged households were washed away in many cases. The affected families need recipients to carry and contain water that can be collected from friends and neighbours.
- Shelter and community/social infrastructure: Shelters were not activated before the event due to the unexpected quick onset of the flash flooding. After the event, families from destroyed homes sought shelter from family, friends or neighbours.

- Disaster preparedness and risk reduction: There are diverse mitigation activities which can help prepare communities for flood risks and this will, in some instances, need the relocation of houses located too close to rivers and streams. The National Emergency Planning Organization, coordinating the governmental response, has taken note of the DRCS' recommendations.
- Food security, nutrition and livelihoods: In the immediate days after the floods, 34 damaged households were prioritized to receive a single distribution of food items. However, it was concluded that food was not a continuing need as livelihoods had not been affected by the flooding. Nevertheless, kitchen sets will be distributed to families whose kitchens and utensils have been damaged or destroyed to ensure their ability to prepare food.

After carrying out a detailed needs assessment of affected households, the National Society identified 79 households to receive household items consisting of mattresses, bed linen, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and jerry cans. The beneficiaries are located in the communities of Canefield, Massacre, Mahaut, Cochrane, Coulibistrie and Campbell.

## The proposed operation

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>
<b>Outcome: The immediate needs of the disaster-affected population in the communities of Canefield, Massacre, Mahaut, Cochrane, Coulibistrie and Campbell are met through the provision of non-food items.</b>
<b>Outputs: Up to 79 households affected by Tropical Storm Ophelia will receive non-food items such as kitchen sets, mattresses and bedding materials.</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies to end user in collaboration with the Disaster Committee Members of affected communities.</li> <li>• Replenishments of relief items distributed</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>

After the flooding families from the destroyed homes sought shelter with relatives, friends or neighbours. In many cases these families do not have appropriate bedding, thus there is a need for mattresses, linens and blankets to be distributed to these families.

All 79 families will receive mattresses. Based on the number of persons per each household they may receive one double and one single. This will be delivered through a voucher system. Only 37 families will receive kitchen sets (based on house to house assessments). The 48 families receiving hygiene kits will receive 3 towels per household. The Dominica Red Cross already has prepositioned non-food items in country. The Regional Logistics Unit will replenish the items distributed through this DREF supported operation.

<b>Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion</b>
<b>Outcome: reduction of the risk of waterborne and water related diseases in the disaster affected population in the communities of Canefield, Massacre, Mahaut, Cochrane, Coulibistrie and Campbell.</b>
<b>Outputs: Up to 79 families can appropriately store safe water and have access to items for personal hygiene.</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply</li> <li>• Provision of containers for the safe storage of drinking water to 79 families while their homes and damage pipes are restored.</li> <li>• Replenishment of relief items distributed.</li> <li>• Distribution of hygiene kits to end user in collaboration with the Disaster Committee Members of affected communities.</li> </ul>

The provision of jerry cans to affected households will enable families to carry and store water from standpipes or from neighbours who were not affected. As mentioned in the Relief Distribution outcome, the National Society will distribute hygiene kits to ensure adequate sanitary standards are maintained. The

Dominica Red Cross Society has distributed jerry cans and hygiene kits through their prepositioned items, which will be replenished through this DREF allocation by the IFRC's regional logistics unit (RLU).

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## Contact information

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

- **In the Dominica Red Cross Society:** Kathleen Pinard-Byrne, Dominica Red Cross Society director general; phone: +1.767.448.8280; email: [directorgeneral@redcross.dm](mailto:directorgeneral@redcross.dm)
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**Click here**

1. DREF budget **[below](#)**
  2. Map of affected areas **[below](#)**
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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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# DREF OPERATION

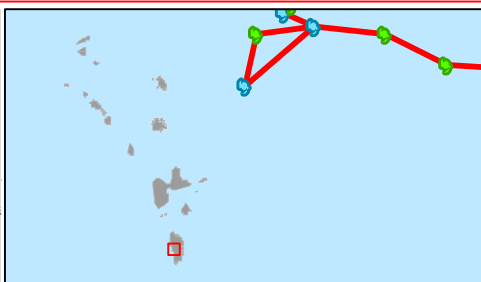
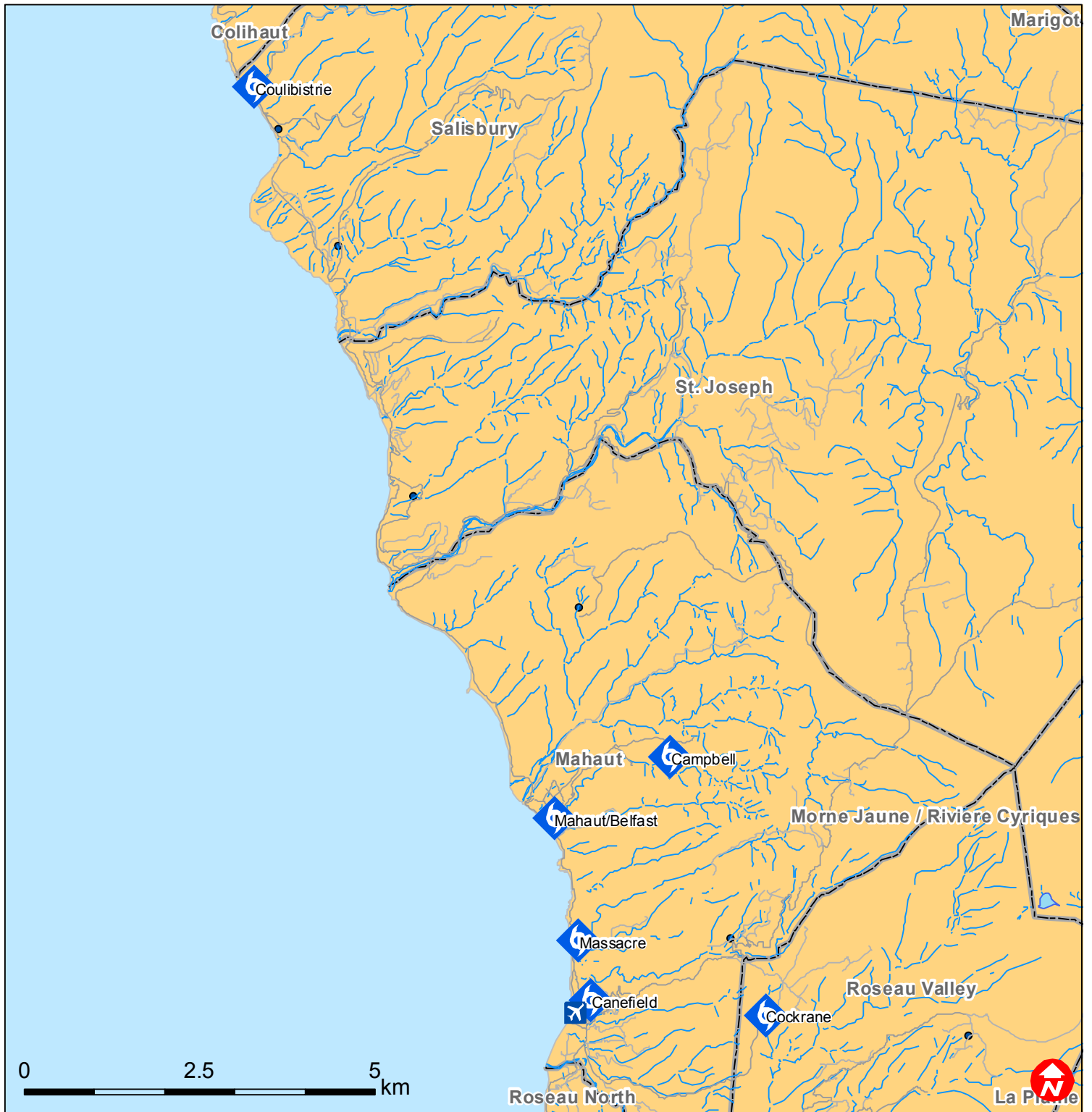
10/10/2011

MDRDM001 Dominica - Tropical Storm Ophelia

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	15,080
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	927
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	1,214
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>17,222</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machiney & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	
Dsitribution & Monitoring	2,300
Transport & Vehicle Costs	920
Logistics Services	221
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>3,441</b>
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	966
Volunteers	
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>966</b>
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	1,840
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	230
Communications	138
Financial Charges	2,000
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>4,208</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	1,679
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>1,679</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>27,516</b>



# Dominica: Hurricane Ophelia



**6** Most affected places

**Ophelia**

- HURRICANE-4
- HURRICANE-3
- HURRICANE-2
- HURRICANE-1
- TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION