

DREF operation n° MDRBS001 Glide n° TC-2011-000114-BHS 18 May 2012

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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

Summary: CHF 71,014 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 31 August 2011 to support the Bahamas Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 1,000 beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Irene.

Floods, as a result of Hurricane Irene affected as many as five islands in the Bahamas in late August, destroying crops and infrastructure and affecting up to 10,000 persons. The Bahamas Red Cross Society responded accordingly in all affected areas in cooperation with local authorities. The National Society supported evacuation efforts and provided affected families with drinking water, and food as well as first aid services.



A disaster management delegate from the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) supported the Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS) during the first days of the emergency operation. Source: BRCS

With support from IFRC's DREF, the Bahamas Red Cross Society assisted 1,000 people with relief items and provision of safe water, and also conducted hygiene promotion and health messaging activities in four provinces.

The DREF operation has made a positive impact on the Bahamas Red Cross Society so that it has become institutionally stronger and able to respond better in future disasters.

From the DREF allocation of CHF 71,014, an amount of CHF 54,430.91 was spent. All activities were successfully carried out, and this report is final in terms of narrative and financials. The operation is now closed, with a final balance of CHF 16,583.09 unspent and returned to DREF.

The Canadian Red Cross and ECHO contributed to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. IFRC, on behalf of the Bahamas Red Cross Society, would like to thank all partners for their generous contribution to the DREF, which continues to be an important resource in initiating first response in disaster. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, the Danish Red

Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. Details of all donors can be found on

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>

The situation

Category 2/3 Hurricane Irene passed over the Bahamas from 23 August to 26 August 2011. Moving across the entire archipelago, hurricane force winds and rain impacted the entire chain of islands causing damage and disrupting services in some islands. Hurricane Irene also passed over the Turks and Caicos Islands on 24 August 2011 as a Category 1 hurricane resulting in damage.

Preliminary reports are that impact occurred on the Southern and Central Islands: Cat Island, Great Exuma, Long Island, Crooked Island, and Eleuthera affecting up to 10,000 persons. There are no reports of deaths or injuries. Approximately 150 houses were damaged and an additional number of schools and public buildings incurred varying degrees of damage. Several of the islands' fishermen sustained wind damage to fishing boats but impacts on health systems were limited and did not disrupt health services. Downed power lines to the electricity grid caused the most severe impact and an approximate 10,000 persons were left without power. Due to these power outages, food security and water systems, which rely on consistent power, were affected.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the hurricane, volunteers were activated in all the islands of the country and provided immediate support such as first aid in collective centres, distribution of food and non-food items and undertaking rapid needs assessments. On the affected islands, volunteers trained through the Office for Disaster Assistance of USAID and American Red Cross Readiness to Respond project, responded in line with their training. They were especially useful in undertaking the needs assessment and distribution of relief items. The Bahamas Red Cross Society activated its EOC and participated in the National EOC through sharing of information from the affected islands and disseminating information to the public on the situation.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food security)
Outcome: Immediate food needs of the disaster affected population are met
Output: Appropriate food rations are distributed to 200 vulnerable households.
Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute appropriate food rations to 200 vulnerable households for 3 weeks • Monitor, report, and evaluate relief activities

Achievements:

All planned food distributions were completed on time and according to budget. The distributions occurred in the Southern and Central Islands of Cat Island, Great Exuma, Long Island, Crooked Island, and Eleuthera. Several local groups and the authorities in each of the islands planned and distributed food rations on an informal basis. The Bahamas Red Cross Society planned the distributions with the authorities and largest local organizations in order not to duplicate food rations and ensure the most vulnerable and difficult to reach were receiving required assistance. During the assessment alongside the civil protection agency, the Bahamas Red Cross Society identified 200 families across the five islands and shared the beneficiary list with local organizations and provided information on Red Cross support with food rations over a three week period.

The distributions were based on the needs of beneficiaries, taking into account the family size and level of vulnerability. The beneficiary selection process was carried out by the BRCS national intervention teams and other branch volunteers.

Utilising civil protection agency transportation – ships and airplanes – the Bahamas Red Cross Society procured food rations according to Sphere standards and local dietary preferences in consultation with an independent nutritionist who provided his services pro bono. An agreement was made with a national supermarket distributor and bulk food rations were procured and packed in the Bahamas Red Cross Society's headquarters before sending them to each island. A member of the local Red Cross committee received the food rations and ensured personal delivery of the aid to identified families.

Emergency health

Outcome: Immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Output 1: Target population is provided with rapid first aid attention of injuries and diseases.

Output 2: Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population.

Output 3: Epidemic prevention and control measures are carried out

Activities planned:

- Assessments conducted based on standard IFRC and/or WHO assessment guidelines
- Monitor, report, and evaluate activities
- First aid provided to vulnerable persons
- Community based health activities implemented with vulnerable communities.
- Complete “*Epidemic Control for Volunteers*” workshop.

Achievements:

During the first hours and days following the hurricane, Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteers across the five islands provided personalized first aid services to persons injured. A total of 14 persons received assistance for minor to medium scale injuries that did not require hospitalization.

Due to contaminated water sources, the Bahamas Red Cross Society decided to undertake emergency health promotion campaigns to prevent vector and water borne diseases and provide advice to persons showing symptoms. Building on the annual community based health and first aid programmes, volunteers received rapid training in the identification of symptoms and health messaging. In the islands of Eleuthera, Cat and Long Island, volunteers distributed health messages around preventing vector and water borne diseases and advised individuals to seek medical attention if symptoms materialized.

Finally, in Nassau city, a workshop on epidemic control for volunteers was organized to train community based health and first aid volunteers in the methodology of identification and treatment of epidemics. 19 participants took part in the workshop which was facilitated by an American Red Cross bilateral delegate. Following the workshop, participants undertook a field exercise in Nassau city targeting migrant communities. As the epidemic control for volunteers methodology is rolled out in the Caribbean, the experience in Bahamas provided an opportunity for a first field test with the methodology for other Caribbean national societies.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.

Output 1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Output 2: Safe water practice messages provided to target populations.

Activities planned:

- Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out
- Monitor, report, and evaluate activities
- Provide 3 litres of safe water to 200 persons for 3 weeks
- Implement a safe water promotion campaigns

Achievements:

Alongside the food distributions, the Bahamas Red Cross Society procured and distributed bottled water for 200 persons for three weeks. The distributions were completed without any challenges. In addition to the distributions, volunteers in each of the five islands ensured messaging on safe water practices were disseminated to households.

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

- **Bahamas Red Cross:** Caroline Turnquest, Director General, Bahamas Red Cross; phone: +1 242 323 7370; email: directorgeneral@bahamasredcross.com
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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Sandra Lombardo; resource mobilization senior officer; phone: +507.317.3050; and email: sandra.lombardo@ifrc.org

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

- **In IFRC Zone:** Jane Grimshaw, PMER manager; phone: +507.317.3050; and email: jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org
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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 30 August 2011 for CHF 71,014 for three months to assist 1,000 beneficiaries.
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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 (NGO's) 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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/8-2012/4
Budget Timeframe	2011/8-2012/4
Appeal	MDRBS001
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	71,014					71,014	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	71,014					71,014	
C4. Other Income	71,014					71,014	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	71,014					71,014	
D. Total Funding = B +C	71,014					71,014	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	71,014					71,014	
E. Expenditure	-54,431					-54,431	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	16,583					16,583	

MDRBS001 - Bahamas Hurricane Irene

Appeal Launch Date: 24 aug 11

Appeal Timeframe: 24 aug 11 to 30 nov 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/8-2012/4
Budget Timeframe	2011/8-2012/4
Appeal	MDRBS001
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		71,014					71,014	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food	43,200	40,891				40,891	2,309	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4,880	195				195	4,685	
Medical & First Aid	2,000						2,000	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	50,080	41,086				41,086	8,994	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring		2,662				2,662	-2,662	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,400						2,400	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,400	2,662				2,662	-262	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	2,400						2,400	
Volunteers	600	937				937	-337	
Total Personnel	3,000	937				937	2,063	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	4,000	4,660				4,660	-660	
Total Workshops & Training	4,000	4,660				4,660	-660	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,400	1,235				1,235	1,165	
Information & Public Relations	1,200						1,200	
Office Costs	400						400	
Communications	200	284				284	-84	
Financial Charges		245				245	-245	
Other General Expenses	3,000						3,000	
Total General Expenditure	7,200	1,764				1,764	5,436	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	4,334	3,322				3,322	1,012	
Total Indirect Costs	4,334	3,322				3,322	1,012	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	71,014	54,431				54,431	16,583	
VARIANCE (C - D)		16,583				16,583		