

DREF final report

Dominican Republic: Hurricane Irene

DREF operation n° MDRDO003 GLIDE n° TC-2011-000114-DOM 22 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 81,845 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 2 September 2011 to support the Dominican Red Cross in delivering assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Irene.

Floods as a result of Hurricane Irene affected as many as four provinces in the Dominican Republic in late August, destroying crops and infrastructure and affecting up to 37,000 people. Dominican Red Cross branches responded accordingly in all affected areas in cooperation with local authorities. The National Society supported evacuation efforts and provided affected families with drinking water as well as first aid services.

With support from IFRC's DREF, the Dominican Red Cross assisted 5,000 people with relief items and provision of safe water, and also conducted hygiene promotion and health messaging activities in four provinces.

Although the implementation of the DREF was effective, there is still a need to develop response capacity in DRC structures at all levels to meet local needs for future operations. Standard operating procedures for the DRC would benefit from revision and more resources need to be directed towards the development of community response teams and training of the national intervention team to increase capacity to carry out needs assessments. More emphasis needs to be placed on risk reduction and preparedness in order to reduce local vulnerability and optimize future use of resources for response activities.

The DREF operation has made a positive impact on the Dominican Red Cross as it becomes institutionally stronger and able to respond better to future disasters.

From the DREF allocation of CHF 81,845, an amount of CHF 53,037.30 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 28,807.70 unspent and returned to DREF.

The Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Government, and the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands government contributed to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. IFRC, on behalf of the Dominican Red Cross, would like to thank all partners for their generous



Volunteers of the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) distributed relief items and carried out hygiene promotion for the safe use of water to reduce the risk of epidemics. Source: DRC

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. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of all donors can be found on

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/responding/disaster-response-system/financial-instruments/disaster-relief-emergency-fund-dref/>

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

The situation

Hurricane Irene reached the Dominican Republic on 21 August 2011. While the category 2 hurricane detoured north and did not fully impact the island, it caused flooding and infrastructure damage across the country. Even though the eye of Hurricane Irene passed north of La Hispaniola, the hurricane was producing rains days before and after its passage. Despite its distance, Irene produced extreme rainfall in southern parts of the country that led to many secondary effects. Severe impact was reported, especially in the provinces of San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo. On 24 August, 37,473 people were reported as affected by the disaster. Figures provided by National Society reported 75 isolated communities in San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo and 1,340 people living in official collective centres, mostly churches and schools that should be vacated in order for children to continue their academic year. Even though the population is slowly returning home, 192 houses of 1,407 damaged houses were destroyed.

Part of the goal of the DREF-supported operation is to ensure that disease prevention campaigns are not interrupted and that communicable diseases, such as cholera, do not increase. The Dominican Ministry of Health reported 16,505 suspected cases of cholera in the Dominican Republic and 118 deaths by the epidemiological-week no. 33 since the start of the outbreak.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As Hurricane Irene was nearing the Dominican Republic, volunteers were activated and warehouses across the country were alerted to ready distribution teams and necessary logistics. Several hundred families were evacuated prior to the hurricane, and volunteers assisted at collective centres. Once the hurricane impacted and rains decreased to levels whereby volunteers could travel safely, rapid needs assessments were undertaken while search and rescue operations continued across the country. The assessments were conducted in collaboration with the civil protection agency and other local agencies where relevant.

Humanitarian assistance provided by the DRC began immediately in the form of non-food item distributions from warehouses throughout the country. The relief activities focused on San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo provinces which were the most impacted. The DREF operation allowed the DRC to deploy the national intervention team to support branches when support was required and to distribute humanitarian aid.

The DRC reached the targeted 5,000 people affected by Hurricane Irene. The distribution process began in late August and was completed by middle of September in the provinces of San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo. All activities were carried out in close collaboration with national and provincial authorities.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Supply up to 150 families that have lost their homes with kitchen kits, blankets, mattresses, and mosquito nets in order for them to cope with the displacement situation.

Outputs: 150 families receive 1 kitchen kit, 2 mosquito nets, 2 mattresses and 2 blankets.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with national authorities.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user, including training in vector diseases.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Achievements:

Planned distributions were completed; however, it was decided not to distribute kitchen kits as this was not considered a priority. 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 DRC national intervention teams and other branch volunteers.

The activities were coordinated with UNICEF and a number of small agencies which carried out food and non-food item distributions in order to ensure non-duplication and coverage of assistance for the most vulnerable families.

Relief kits containing mosquito sets, mattresses and blankets were distributed according to the plan of action. Families also received on-site instructions from the volunteers on how to set up a mosquito net and ensure its care.

Emergency health

Outcome: The risk of epidemic diseases for 1,000 families in San José de Ocoa, Azua, Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal is reduced.

Outputs: 1,000 families in 4 affected provinces receive information on prevention of diseases such as cholera, dengue, AH1N1 and leptospirosis.

Activities planned:

- Carry out a health communication campaign among the population still living in collective centres and most vulnerable people returning home.

Achievements:

A total of 18 formal awareness sessions and informal one-to-one sessions benefited an estimated 5,000 people. This number is based on counting participants during the organized formal sessions and during the time of distribution of the non-food items. Persons staying in collective centres were targeted in the provinces of Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal and several group health communication sessions were held in neighbourhoods of families who returned after the floods. Due to the mobilization of volunteers from on-going and previously concluded cholera prevention activities, the health messaging sessions were implemented without logistical challenges. The Dominican Red Cross ensured that messages encompassed all health risks, including working with the water and sanitation teams on hygiene promotion messaging when the same communities were targeted.

At the national and provincial level, the Dominican Red Cross coordinated the messaging with the Ministry of Health. This included sharing of materials and messaging which families were receiving and training materials of the volunteers. All the messaging focused on multi-health risks and basic prevention and symptom identification for cholera, dengue, AH1N1 and leptospirosis.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome 1: The risk of epidemic diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water to 1,000 of families (or 5,000 beneficiaries) in San José de Ocoa, Azua, Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal for up to a two-month period.

Outcome 2: The risk of epidemic disease has been reduced through the distribution of WASH material (buckets, chlorine, and hygiene kits) and training.

Output 1: 1,000 families receive safe water during a 2 month period.

Output 2: 1,000 families receive 1 bucket, 1 litre of chlorine and 1 hygiene kit per family.

Activities planned:

- Assess the existing coverage with a view to ensuring the availability of an adequate water supply.
- Provide safe water to 1,000 affected families, especially those living in collective centres
- Provide appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion for 1,000 families in San José de Ocoa, Azua, Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal.
- Carry out disinfection spraying in collective centres and houses.
- Distribute buckets, chlorine and hygiene kits for up to 1,000 families.

Achievements:

In coordination with the other non-food item distributions, 1,000 families received water, sanitation and hygiene promotion items in the form of buckets, chlorine and hygiene kits. In addition, through the water production units, safe water was provided to 800 families over a two month period until provincial and national water systems could be restored.

The water distributions took place in San Cristobal, where the Dominican Red Cross has two-water tanks pre-positioned. Over a period of eight weeks, 550 families received safe water. In addition, in partnership with the authorities, volunteers assisted in the trucking of water in Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal to 250 families, with a focus on those living in collective centres.

The distribution of buckets, chlorine and hygiene kits occurred in all four provinces. Alongside distributions, water and sanitation volunteers provided each family with hygiene promotion messages and when possible, general health messaging related to the health activities above. Only limited disinfection spraying activities in collective centres were carried out as the authorities managed this intervention.

The hygiene promotion talks and the distribution of information, education and communications materials was an integral part of the comprehensive response of the Dominican Red Cross. The awareness-raising by the volunteers contributed to the containment of waterborne diseases, given that the campaign started from the onset of the operation and most of the affected persons and other community members were reached with awareness-raising activities.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 1 September 2011 for CHF 81,845 for three months to assist 5,000 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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MDRDO003 - Dominican Republic - Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 01 sep 11

Appeal Timeframe: 01 sep 11 to 01 dec 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/9-2012/4
Budget Timeframe	2011/9-2012/4
Appeal	MDRDO003
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	81,845					81,845	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	81,845					81,845	
C4. Other Income	81,845					81,845	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	81,845					81,845	
D. Total Funding = B +C	81,845					81,845	
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	81,845					81,845	
E. Expenditure	-53,037					-53,037	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	28,808					28,808	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/9-2012/4
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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)		81,845					81,845	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	6,600	11,154				11,154	-4,554	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	44,000	24,043				24,043	19,957	
Medical & First Aid	5,000						5,000	
Teaching Materials	1,000						1,000	
Utensils & Tools	4,200	7,484				7,484	-3,284	
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	60,800	42,681				42,681	18,119	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500						2,500	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,500	5,035				5,035	-2,535	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	5,000	5,035				5,035	-35	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	1,000	992				992	8	
Volunteers	5,000	1,091				1,091	3,909	
Total Personnel	6,000	2,084				2,084	3,916	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,000						1,000	
Office Costs	1,250						1,250	
Communications	1,300						1,300	
Financial Charges	1,500	1				1	1,499	
Total General Expenditure	5,050	1				1	5,049	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	4,995	3,237				3,237	1,758	
Total Indirect Costs	4,995	3,237				3,237	1,758	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	81,845	53,037				53,037	28,808	
VARIANCE (C - D)		28,808				28,808		