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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Dominican Republic: Tropical Storm Isaac

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRDO005
GLIDE n° [TC-2012-000152-DOM](#)
3 September 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 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.

CHF 290,116 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 12,500 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The effects of Tropical Storm Isaac were felt since 23 August as it approached the island of La Hispaniola, although the storm's centre passed over Haiti's southwest peninsula in the early morning of Saturday 25 August, approximately 80 kilometres west of Port-au-Prince. On 29 August, 5,029 homes were reported as flooded, 280 had partial damages, and 55 were destroyed or severely affected.

This DREF-supported operation will assist 2,500 families, both Dominican and Haitian, in the Polo Municipality, province of Barahona. In an effort to reduce health risks after the passage of Tropical Storm Isaac, the National Society will complete emergency health and water sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities, with the support of some 150 Red Cross volunteers.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by December 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by March 2013).

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



Red Cross volunteers continue to visit communities affected by the flooding produced by Tropical Storm Isaac in order to assess their needs. Source: Gerardo Escalante/IFRC

The situation

The effects of Tropical Storm Isaac began to be felt in the Dominican Republic since 23 August, as the storm passed near the southern coast of La Hispaniola island although the storm's centre passed over Haiti's southwest peninsula in the early morning of Saturday 25 August, approximately 80 kilometres west of Port-au-Prince. Since then, torrential rains caused flooding and landslides in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. But even after the centre of the storm had passed the island, the torrential rains associated with the system

continued to fall for the two following days. This caused several floods and landslides, and affected homes, power lines, crops, as well as interrupting road connections.

In the Dominican Republic the most affected areas were the provinces of Azua, Barahona, and Independencia where first rapid assessments indicate the following situation:

Shelter: As many as 25,845 persons evacuated their homes and moved towards collective centres and homes of friends and family in safer areas. As of 29 August, some 5,029 homes were reported as flooded, 280 had partial damages, and 55 were destroyed or severely affected, and 1,579 persons were still in 18 collective centres. In the Municipality of Polo, the area of interest of the current DREF-supported operation, 550 persons had to evacuate their homes.

Health: although the health infrastructure of the country did not undergo damages, the National Society is concerned with the possible deterioration of the health situation due to the accumulation of water and flooding of sanitation infrastructures. Leptospirosis has been active in the last four weeks in the provinces of Barahona, Distrito Nacional, Duarte, Espaillat, Hermanas Mirabal, Santiago and Santo Domingo. There is also a green alert for malaria in the provinces of Azua, Dajabón, Elías Piña, and San Juan, while cholera is once again a concern for the Tamboril municipality, which has 61 per cent of the cases reported across the country during the last epidemiological week. Furthermore, two dengue serotypes, two and four, are circulating in the country, with 504 suspected cases reported in the last four weeks. A yellow alert has been issued in six provinces (Distrito Nacional, María Trinidad Sánchez, Monseñor Nouel, Montecristi, Santo Domingo and Valverde) and a green alert in nine provinces (Bahoruco, Barahona, Duarte, Hermanas Mirabal, La Vega, Monte Plata). Puerto Plata and San Pedro de Macorís. The province of Barahona is of particular concern for the National Society because the three aqueducts that service Polo municipality have been damaged, affecting access to safe water for 12,538 persons. It must also be mentioned that Barahona was the province that reported the first case of cholera in the southern region and its also home of many Haitian immigrants. In epidemiological week 32, Barahona province showed an increase of dengue and leptospirosis.

Food Security: assessments of damages to crops and livestock are still ongoing, but first reports from Polo Municipality in Barahona indicate that about 60 per cent of the crops suffered damages, seriously affecting the livelihoods of the inhabitants that depend on their crops of banana, coffee, and other fruits for their subsistence. This affectation directly impacts the food security of the affected population which could also increase their health risks. The National Armed Forces have dispatched by land and air some 30,000 pounds of dry food to the provinces of Azua, Barahona Pedernales and San José de Ocoa.

Logistics: passage to the southern region has been re-established after the bridge in Palmar de Ocoa was repaired. Secondary roads are currently being cleared with the support of the Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Electricity: the last report from the National Emergency Operation Centre informed that 8,000 metres of electric lines were affected, as well as 66 poles. Overall, almost 20 per cent of the country had the service interrupted.

Coordination and partnerships

The Dominican Red Cross coordinates with the National Emergency Commission (Comisión Nacional de Emergencias), the entity leading all response, which is integrated by the State ministries, public authorities and relief organizations.

In addition, there is a direct line of coordination with the Municipal Committee of Prevention and Response of Polo, integrated by all institutions and organizations present in the municipality: City Hall, the National Institute of Potable Water and Sewage (Instituto Nacional de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado, INAPA), Public Health, Public Works, and Plan International among others. In its auxiliary role to the government, the National Society will support with health water, sanitation and hygiene promotion needs and will, therefore work in close partnership with INAPA's municipal office.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Dominican Red Cross has mobilized their volunteers in support of the most vulnerable. Together with the Prevention, Mitigation and Response Committees from the different municipalities, the National Society has been working in the following areas:

1. Response: assisting in preventive evacuations, search and rescue, opening of shelters, removing fallen trees and objects. In addition, teams from the National Society continue to carry out damage and needs assessments in the affected communities.
2. Health: the health teams have been mobilized to support the Ministry of Public Health and are maintaining epidemiological surveillance and completing educational talks in shelters about health promotion and disease prevention -with an emphasis on cholera. All the activities are being completed in coordination with the local public health authorities.
3. Water and Sanitation: teams have been mobilized at national level to evaluate the water systems and availability of potable water to delineate possible lines of action. They are also assessing conditions in collective centres and keeping the population informed on how to prevent diseases both at home and in the shelters. In complement, the Dominican Red Cross has prepositioned all their water and sanitation teams, which are currently supporting the affected communities with 530 gallon water storage tanks that are being filled with potable water by government agencies.
4. Communications and advocacy: the General Director of the Dominican Red Cross participated in the National Press Conference carried out from the Presidential Palace.

In addition, IFRC Disaster Management delegates were deployed to the Dominican Republic to support the operation and to facilitate a Regional Intervention Team training. The participants of the training were instrumental in the assessments of affected communities and the development of the national plan of action.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached:

The National Society has been providing assistance to communities affected by the storm across the country; for the DREF-supported operation, the Dominican Red Cross will be reaching 2,500 families in the province of Barahona, specifically the municipality of Polo.

The Municipality of Polo was selected by the Dominican Red Cross for several reasons. Firstly, it is an area with a high percentage of Haitian migrants. Secondly, the habitants are persons with a low income that face constant difficulties which are now exacerbated after the emergency. In addition, the communities in this municipality have a previous history of acute diarrheal disease, a situation that could worsen due to the damage of the three main water lines that provide these communities with safe water. Thirdly, the municipality which is located in a mountainous area had some 250 km of road damaged due to overflowing rivers. As a result, several communities were cut off, including Los Arroyos, Los Fondos, La Lanza, Los Lasos, Los Charquitos, Monte Ada Nueva and La Hoz.

Some of the main needs identified after the assessments are: distribution of safe water, the means to safely treat and ensure storage of water at household level, food, psychosocial support, vector control measures, bags for disposal of solid waste, and hygiene promotion. With part of the population being of Haitian origin, the educational materials will need to be available in both Spanish and Creole. +

The proposed operation

Through this DREF-supported operation, the Dominican Red Cross will be able to reach 2,500 families, both Dominican and Haitian, in the Municipality of Polo, province of Barahona. In an effort to reduce health risks after the passage of Tropical Storm Isaac, the National Society will complete emergency health, water sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities. Some 150 volunteers will be involved in the response who will be supported with transportation, meals and insurance. In addition, two community promoters, a

communications expert (as a consultant) and a national coordinator will be hired for the duration of the operation. Additionally, a lessons learned workshop will be carried out at the end of the operation.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion for 2,500 families (or 12,500 beneficiaries) in the Municipality of Polo, province of Barahona.

Output1: Safe water is distributed to 2,500 families.

Activities planned:

- Identification of water sources to use for treatment.
- Acquisition of 50 tanks for water storage to be installed at the community level.
- Deployment and installation of water treatment plants.
- Distribution of water following Sphere standards.
- Distribution of water storage (jerry cans and buckets) equipment at household level.

Output 2: some 2,500 families are reached with basic sanitation and vector control measures to reduce the risk of diarrheic diseases and dengue.

Activities planned:

- Creation of a cleaning and disinfection brigade.
- Hiring of a facilitator with skills in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion that resides in affected area.
- Disinfestations with chorine solution of schools and health centres.
- Community cleaning days.
- Educational campaigns on dengue prevention both in Spanish and Creole.
- Fumigation to control mosquito breeding grounds.

Output 3: At least 80% of the target population in Polo Municipality is reached with hygiene promotion

Activities planned:

- Conduct a refresher course for volunteers on the PHAST methodology.
- Community trainings using PHAST methodology both in Spanish and Creole.
- Distribution of one hygiene kit per family to 2,500 families.
- Creation and distribution of informative materials (brochures and posters) on personal hygiene and health both in Spanish and Creole.
- Transmission of key messages through the local radio and loudspeakers.

Emergency health

Outcome: The health risks have been reduced through the provision of preventive information, epidemiological surveillance and psychosocial support to 2,500 families (or 12,500 beneficiaries) in Polo Municipality, province of Barahona.

Output 1: At least 90% of the target population in Polo Municipality is reached with epidemic control measures

Activities planned:

- Carry out community talks on the prevention of dengue, malaria, cholera and leptospirosis both in Spanish and Creole.
- Hire a promoter on community health that resides in affected area.
- Support the Ministry of Health with epidemiological surveillance.
- Complete community cleaning days.
- Distribute 2 mosquito nets per family to 2,500 families
- Coordinate with Ministry of Health officials to complete community and households fumigations.

Output 2: The effect of stress is reduced through the provision of psychosocial support in seven communities affected by floods

Activities planned:

- Conduct a refresher course for volunteers on psychosocial support.
- Conduct stress management activities with children and adults.
- Provide psychological first aid.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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1. DREF budget [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 (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.



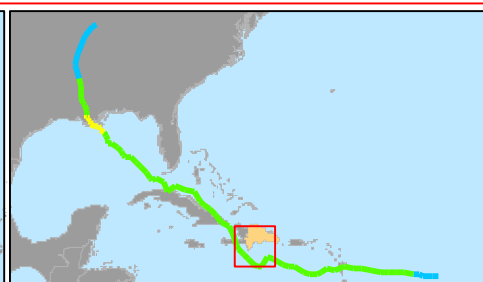
The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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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Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	19,178
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	77,191
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	40,466
Ustensils & Tools	38,931
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	175,766
Storage, Warehousing	0
Dsitribution & Monitoring	7,623
Transport & Vehicle Costs	36,822
Logistics Services	3,581
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	48,027
National Society Staff	10,356
Volunteers	7,096
Total PERSONNEL	17,452
Consultants	2,877
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	2,877
Workshops & Training	7,671
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	7,671
Travel	1,918
Information & Public Relations	10,068
Office Costs	2,877
Communications	2,877
Financial Charges	2,877
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	20,616
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	17,707
Total INDIRECT COSTS	17,707
TOTAL BUDGET	290,116



Dominican Republic: Tropical storm Isaac



- Most affected areas
- Isaac**
- HURRICANE-1
- TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION