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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Dominican Republic: Hurricane Sandy

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRDO007 3 November 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 199,637 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 900 families (4,500 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Hurricane Sandy caused strong winds and rains in the Dominican Republic, displacing over 22,000 people and affecting 1,957 houses. This DREF operation is supporting a total of 900 families affected in the provinces of Azua, Barahona, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo providing immediate relief items including hygiene kits and mosquito nets, as well as a shelter kit to 100 targeted families who have lost their homes. The operation is also supporting vectorborne disease control and community water, sanitation and hygiene activities.



Clean water distribution in Azua by the Dominican Republic Red after the passage of Hurricane Sandy. Photo: Dominican Red Cross.

This DREF operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 2 February 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 2 May 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget;
here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Background

The National Emergency Operation Centre declared 14 provinces under yellow alert and 18 provinces under green alert on 24 October before Hurricane Sandy hit. Torrential heavy rains affected the country between 24 and 27 October as a result of the passage of the hurricane. The report issued by the government on 28 October states that the most affected areas are: Duarte, Monte Plata, Peravia, San Juan de la Maguana, Santo Domingo, Azua, San José De Ocoa and the Distrito Nacional. The situation in shelters as shown in the table below is based on official reports by the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) with data for the period 27 to 30 October:

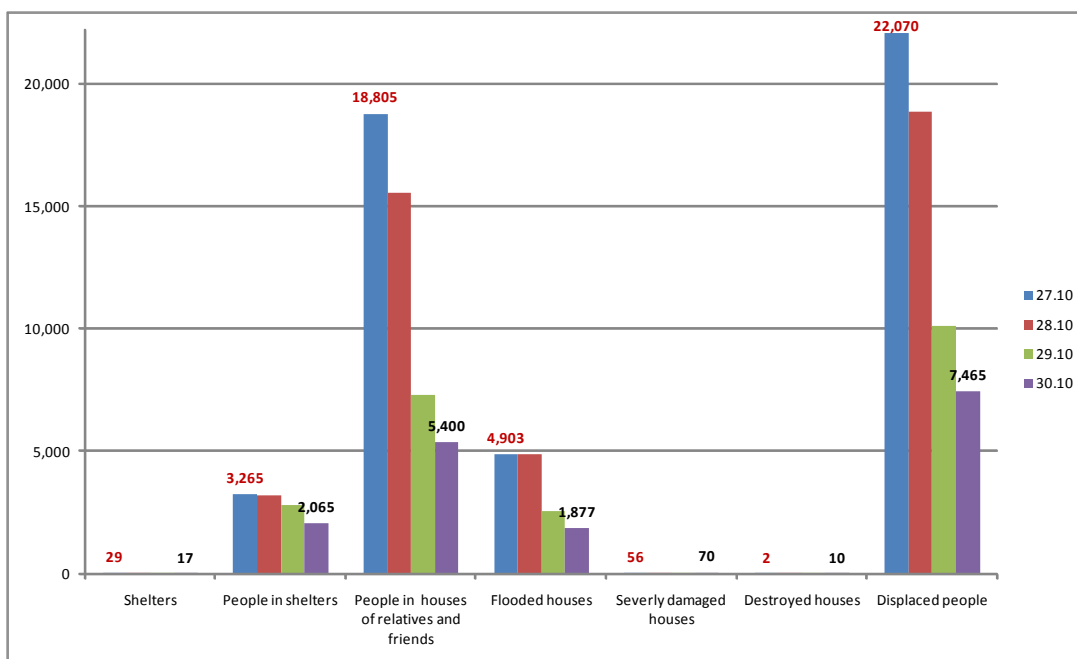


Figure 1. Official numbers for affected areas in the country

According to the NEOC the areas most affected are in La Barquita Oriental, Los Solares Del Perla, El Manguito and La Cañita. To date, the total number of houses affected in these four areas is 1,957. Some areas continue to be inaccessible and the National Society will assess Santo Domingo Norte, San José de Ocoa and Monte Plata in the upcoming days.

Health: No damage has been reported to hospital infrastructure. The epidemiological report from week 42 before Hurricane Sandy reached the Dominican Republic (up to 20 October 2012), records that the dengue outbreak continues with some 442 cases per week. The total number of suspected cases to date is 5,510 of which 70 per cent have been confirmed. Based on the Ministry of Health bulletin, the outbreak of dengue continues in Santo Domingo and the Distrito Nacional, which represent 55 per cent of all cases in the country. Some provinces have been on yellow alert for the past four weeks: Azua, Barahona, Pedernales, Duarte, María Trinidad Sánchez, Monte Cristi, Hermanas Mirabal, La Romana, Sánchez Ramírez, San Pedro de Macorís and Monseñor Nouel. A green alert is also in force in the provinces of: El Seibo, Espaillat, Puerto Plata, San Juan, San Cristóbal and Santiago Rodríguez.

The epidemiological report for week 42 also states that the number of suspected cases of leptospirosis stood at 165 with most cases in Santo Domingo, Santiago, the Distrito Nacional and Duarte, and the number of malaria cases was of 807 (most cases were in Azua, Dajabón and Independencia).

With the impact of hurricane Sandy, the number of cases of vectorborne disease could increase as a result of pools of water left by flooding as well as inadequate management of solid waste and poor hygiene,

threatening the lives of the most vulnerable. Hygiene promotion is also needed in view of the risk of diarrhoeal diseases.

People in shelters have been provided with food and water; however, a nutritional assessment has not been carried out. Governmental institutions are making an effort to ensure access to food for people who are displaced in shelters.

Water and sanitation: Hurricane Sandy affected the major water supply systems to communities in Santo Domingo, Azua, San José de Ocoa and Barahona. Nationally of a total 135 aqueducts, 99 were affected in the aftermath of the hurricane (44 were not functioning due to electricity cuts, 55 due to damages). However, electricity has since been restored in the country and many water supply systems have resumed. According to the National Institute of Water and Sewage System (INAPA), the most affected areas with water systems which continue not to function are: San Cristóbal (22), Azua (15), Peravia (14), Monte Plata (13), and San José de Ocoa and San Juan de la Maguana. According to INAPA reports, the areas that have required emergency water supply are as follows: municipality of Barahona, the coast from Barahona up to San Rafael, Quita Coraza, Fondo Negro, El Higuito, El Memiso and Las Minas, Vicente Noble, Canoa, Fundación, Peñón, Palo Alto, Jaquimelles, La Hoya, Hato Viejo, Pescadería, Cabral and Cachón.

Interventions took place to improve sanitation and waste water management as well as to install portable toilets and water tanks in affected areas. Distribution of chlorine as well as rubber boots took place.

As of 31 October the National Society together with INAPA has distributed a total of 380,991 litres of water in Azua, Barahona, Monte Plata, San José de Ocoa, and Santo Domingo. In the Monte Plata province, a portable generator has been set up for three water systems in the community of Talao; in addition, a distribution to Javilla was carried out on 31 October with a total of 18,500 litres of water distributed to some 150 families. Furthermore, two teams of ten volunteers equipped with community cleaning equipment, cleaned affected areas in the town centre of Polo and in Barahona. This activity was carried out in collaboration with Civil Defense and local authorities.

Shelter: Official government reports as of 30 October state that 1,957 households have been affected with a total of 80 destroyed or severely damaged houses, and 22,070 people who were initially displaced either in shelters or were staying at home with relatives or friends. As of 30 October, 2,065 people continued to stay in 17 collective centers that remained open. Dominican Red Cross reports nationwide indicate that it is possible that many more homes and families have been affected in 215 communities as assessments continue.

Livelihoods: Currently there is no sectoral data regarding damage to subsistence livelihoods; however, as a result of prolonged power outages, persons in urban areas have incurred losses to family stocks. Damage assessments continue to be carried out by the government. It should be noted that many areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy had previously incurred damage in August as a result of Tropical Storm Isaac which caused damages to crops and livelihoods. OXFAM is conducting assessments of crop losses and livelihoods in the provinces of Azua and Barahona, which will be shared once they are finalized.

Coordination and partnerships

The NEOC was open until 31 October and has now been officially closed. The National Society worked in close coordination with the National Emergency Operation Centre in the city of Santo Domingo, and all the branches worked in close communication and coordination with the regional and local emergency centres in regards to evacuations, search and rescue, first aid and assessments,

The Dominican Red Cross has also been working in close coordination with INAPA in order to support the families affected by Hurricane Sandy in the municipalities of Azua, Barahona, Monte Plata, San José de Ocoa and Santo Domingo. Red Cross volunteers are working in coordination with the Civil Defense, and communities are carrying out clearing of roads in Cabral, Polo and Barahona. The Ministry of Public Health is coordinating a dengue prevention campaign and the Red Cross is supporting communities with activities carried out by DRC volunteers.

The DRC has reinforced communication with the Haiti Red Cross Society through their branches on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. These activities are coordinated by the headquarters of each National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Dominican Red Cross activated their communications network country-wide; 30 coordination centres included 117 DRC branches at national level. Community networks were activated with the support of the National Society, and support was distributed as follows: 17 in San Juan de la Maguana, 20 in Bahoruco, 24 in Barahona, 8 in Elías Piña, 14 in Independencia, 17 in Azua and 9 in Pedernales.

The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) was activated in the National Society in accordance with the national response plan and contingency plan for hurricanes, whereby all sectors were included: health, shelter, water and sanitation. Eleven situation reports have been issued through the EOCs, with the information coming from the branches at national level.

The shelter team of the National Society was activated and deployed to the field to support the government in the shelter management in 16 shelters. The DRC team assisted in the evacuation of people in San Rafael and also in the San Antonio and La Colina areas where landslides occurred. In San Luis, teams assisted with the evacuation of families due to floods. Youth volunteers are currently carrying out psychosocial support activities focusing on children located in shelters.

The DRC is working with the Ministry of Health by supporting the campaign for community outreach and social mobilization for prevention and control of dengue. Governmental authorities inform that is necessary to continue with prevention activities in the communities in order to avoid an increase of dengue cases in the affected areas. Currently, DRC volunteers are working on the dengue prevention campaign coordinated by the Ministry of Health in the shelter in Barahona. The National Society also continues with the epidemiological surveillance of malaria, cholera and leptospirosis - a daily report is issued and key messages continue to be sent to families in affected areas. Furthermore, a truck was deployed by the DRC for epidemic control and disinfection purposes.

The water and sanitation team of the National Society as well as the health and psychosocial support teams, have been activated and deployed to the affected areas to carry out technical assessments in coordination with the civil defense. The DRC has worked especially with water, sanitation and hygiene and a total of 150 hygiene kits and 100 blankets were sent from Santo Domingo and distributed in Azua in the shelters established by the government. In addition, 100 mattresses, 50 hygiene kits, and 50 mosquito nets have been distributed in Barahona specifically in Peñon. In Guandales, 10 water tanks have been installed and 12 buckets have been distributed to families. The DRC has carried out distributions of water as detailed in this table:

Water distribution by Dominican Red Cross					
Province	Municipality	Location	Amount in litres	# of beneficiaries	Details
Santo Domingo	Distrito Nacional	Shelters and communities	154,162	4,323	Shelter
	Santo Domingo East			16,750	Isolated communities
	Santo Domingo North				
Santo Domingo	Santo Domingo North	La Victoria	20,845	5,600	Isolated communities
Monte Plata	Monte Plata	Chirino, Mata Los Indios , Talao	79,590	5,600	Isolated communities
Santo Domingo	Distrito Nacional	Hospitals	11,370	3,950	Water and Sewage Company in Santo Domingo CAASD
Azua	Azua	Municipality	115,024	1,000	Community
TOTAL			380,991	37,223	

The DRC has been working with the Coca Cola Company to provide bottled drinking water for the shelters. An IFRC delegate specialized in water and sanitation was deployed to the Dominican Republic in order to support the National Society in the assessments, and to develop the plan of action in coordination with the National Society.

The Needs

Beneficiary selection: Families who have incurred severe damage to houses and livelihoods and with large numbers of *children; disabled people; elderly people, single female-headed households and people living with HIV* – who have no possibility of support from family or relatives and lack insurance.

The proposed operation

With the support of the IFRC's Regional Logistics Services in Panama, the Dominican Red Cross is planning to distribute the following relief items to 900 families affected by Hurricane Sandy:

- Shelter kit (for 100 worst-affected families).
- 4 community cleaning kit per province – total of 16.
- 1 hygiene kit per family.
- 1 bucket per family.
- 2 mosquito nets per family

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 900 affected families from Santo Domingo, Azua, Barahona and San Cristóbal provinces benefit from the provision of essential non-food items to alleviate the effects of the emergency.

Output 1: 900 vulnerable families receive essential relief items.

- Conduct rapid emergency need and assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Organize distribution relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

Emergency health

Outcome: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced in Santo Domingo, Azua, Barahona and San Cristóbal.

Output 1: Community-based disease prevention, hygiene promotion and community epidemic control is provided to the target population.

- Provide hygiene promotion and epidemic control for 900 families using CBHFA and ECV methodologies (three community trainings per province).
- Distribute 1,800 mosquito nets to targeted beneficiaries to prevent vector-borne diseases.
- Provide pre-hospital care to 1,000 persons affected during the emergency.

Output 2: Psychosocial support (PSP) is provided to 900 families in the target population.

- Deploy one PSP support team per province.
- Carry out three psychological support activities per province.
- Provide PSP support to volunteers working in the operation.

Water and sanitation

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation to 900 of families in Santo Domingo, Azua, Barahona and San Cristóbal.

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

- Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply.
- Ensure water distribution to 900 families following the SPHERE standards in terms of quality and

quantity.

- Train community leaders in chlorine control for their water systems as part of the hygiene promotion activities.
- Install 20 water tanks in the communities where water systems have been affected.
- Distribute 900 buckets to families in the affected areas.
- Distribute 900 hygiene kits to families in the affected areas.

Output 2: Hygiene promotion activities meeting SPHERE standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items are provided to the target population.

- Carry out solid waste management campaigns in the communities targeted in coordination with the Ministry of Health and local authorities.
- Clean 200 wells in the affected communities which are targeted by the National Society.
- Distribute 4 community cleaning kits per province.

Emergency shelter:

Outcome: Reduce the vulnerabilities related to shelter of 100 families affected in Santo Domingo, Azua, Barahona and San Cristóbal.

Outputs: Emergency shelter support is provided to the targeted population.

- Conduct rapid emergency needs assessments
- Procurement and transport of shelter kits through the Regional Logistic Unit.
- Provide volunteers with training in use of the shelter kit.
- Distribute 100 shelter kits to targeted families based on most vulnerable criteria mentioned above.

For the support of this DREF funded operation a RIT will be deployed for three months. Additionally, a project coordinator will be hired by the National Society, as well as a health promoter for three months. In addition to the above mentioned activities, the DREF will support the DRC to procure protective gear including masks and gloves for volunteers working in the affected areas.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Dominican Red Cross:** Gustavo Lara, general director, Dominican Red Cross; phone: +1.809.6291.673; email: ejecutivo1crd@gmail.com
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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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

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[Click here](#)

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.

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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

01/11/2012

MDRDO007 Dominican Rep. Hurricane Sandy

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	4,411
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	6,904
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	60,842
Medical & First Aid	4,795
Teaching Materials	35,671
Utensils & Tools	13,041
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	125,664
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	6,616
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,740
Logistics Services	1,665
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	12,022
International Staff	12,082
National Staff	
National Society Staff	5,466
Volunteers	20,760
Total PERSONNEL	38,308
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	6,712
Information & Public Relations	1,438
Office Costs	719
Communications	1,151
Financial Charges	1,438
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	11,459
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	12,184
Total INDIRECT COSTS	12,184
TOTAL BUDGET	199,637