

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Operation Update

The Bahamas: Hurricane Dorian

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal: n° MDRBS003	GLIDE n° TC-2019-000099-BHS
Operation update n° 5 (18-month update) Date of issue: 15 April 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 3 September 2019 – 28 February 2021
Operation start date: 2 September 2019	Operation timeframe: 28 months End date: 31 December 2021
Funding requirements: CHF 32 million	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 500,000
N° of people being assisted: 14,940 people ¹	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS), American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Government of The Bahamas: National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA), Ministry of Environment and Housing, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development. United Nations agencies: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Children' Fund (UNICEF). The European Commission - DG ECHO and several foreign governments both within and outside the region. Non-governmental organisations: Samaritans' Purse, Mercy Corps, CORE Community Organized Relief Effort, World Central Kitchen (WCK), Water Vision.	
On behalf of BRCS, IFRC wishes to thank all Red Cross Red Crescent partners who have contributed to this operation: American Red Cross, British Red Cross and its Overseas branches in Bermuda, British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands, Canadian Red Cross Society, China Red Cross – Hong Kong branch, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Irish Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross Society, Japanese Red Cross Society, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, The Netherlands Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent Society, Singapore Red Cross Society, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. IFRC also thanks the European Commission - DG ECHO and governments of United States of America (Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance-OFDA), Canada, Cyprus, Malta, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, and Switzerland as well as private and corporate donors and partners for their generous contributions towards this appeal.	
For more detail on donor response, please click here.	

Summary of revisions made to the emergency plan of action:

This operation update documents the following changes to the emergency plan of action:

- A No-Cost Extension of the appeal operational timeframe from 30 June 2021 to 31 December 2021 to accommodate the construction of the new National Society branch building in Grand Bahama, and support to BRCS in preparing for the annual hurricane season;
- Shelter: increased targets for both house repair and rental assistance programmes, and removal of several shelter training activities due to COVID-19 restrictions;
- Livelihoods and basic needs: an increased target from 130 to 148 small and medium enterprises;
- National Society Development activities, including an increase in budget allowance for the reconstruction of the BRCS branch building in Grand Bahama, training in First Aid and Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA), additional volunteer recruitment projects and the procurement of 500 uniforms for volunteers.

¹ Or 3,735 families, calculated at 4 people per household/family.

The operational timeframe extension is largely to support the Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS) in overseeing the reconstruction of its branch building in Grand Bahama. Funding for this construction is supported with a Canadian Red Cross pledge made through the IFRC emergency appeal. A minimal number of essential IFRC staff will be retained to support BRCS in continuing the implementation, financial reporting and administration of NSD activities under the EPoA, such as training for First Aid and BOCA, enhancing volunteer recruitment and engagement, and preparedness activities for the annual hurricane season between June and November, apart from the branch building construction.

The increase in target beneficiaries under both the Shelter and Livelihood programmes was made possible from budget savings through reduced travel and limited training conducted due to government restrictions in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. These beneficiaries were identified during implementation of both programmes, and assistance was expanded to cover those who fulfilled the vulnerability criteria.

Under **Shelter**, the overall programme targets have been increased due to needs identified and availability of funding as follow:

- Increase of the house repair target from 500 to 572 households (i.e., from 300 to 352 in Abaco, and from 200 to 220 in Grand Bahama). This also includes an overall corresponding increase in selected household toilet repairs (under WASH) in conjunction with the shelter repair programme. To date, this intervention in Abaco has been completed, and is nearing completion in Grand Bahama.
- Increase of the rental assistance target from 235 to 238 households in Grand Bahama. This includes 20 highly vulnerable families who were provided an extra three months' rental support. The rental assistance programme was completed in November 2020.

The proposed Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) training of trainers as well as the PASSA activities for youth have been removed due to challenges caused by COVID-19 movement and safety restrictions.

In **Livelihoods**, the overall target was also increased from 130 to 148 small and medium enterprises (SME) given the availability of funding and current needs of vulnerable beneficiaries. These include 78 SMEs in Grand Bahama and 70 in Abaco.

For **National Society capacity building**, IFRC is supporting the National Society to recruit additional volunteers and in procuring 500 uniforms for these volunteers to enhance volunteer recognition and visibility as planned.

The costs of the BRCS branch building construction in Grand Bahama increased from the estimated USD470,000 to USD775,000 following the engineers' assessment of the previously existing structure. While plans were initially to rehabilitate and refurbish the old building, it was decided full demolition and subsequent reconstruction of a new structure would be more structurally secure, sustainable and cost-effective. The decision to proceed as such was made with full consultation and cooperation with the BRCS, and the additional cost of the new building will be covered by Canadian Red Cross through the IFRC emergency appeal.



Demolition of the BRCS Grand Bahama branch building was completed in January 2021 (Photo: BRCS)

A. Situation Analysis

Description of the disaster

Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas on 1 September 2019 as the strongest Atlantic Hurricane documented to directly impact a landmass. The islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama and the surrounding Cays sustained the worst impacts with homes, public buildings and other properties swept away or destroyed by massive storm surges. To date, the official overall death toll is 74 with 282 people still unaccounted for. The Government estimates USD3.4 billion in loss and damages caused by Dorian.

Among the government's efforts to support people in Abaco and Grand Bahama to recover in the aftermath of the hurricane were:

- Provision of home repair assistance, debris removal and reconnection to the main power grid;
- Support for business recovery programmes, educational services, and other social services;
- Support in rebuilding businesses and key infrastructure, including support for small businesses and individual livelihoods;
- Designation of Abaco and Grand Bahama as Economic Recovery Zones with economic concessions such as tax-free food and construction items up to June 2021;
- Disbursement of funds to assist hundreds of micro and small businesses affected by Dorian;
- Support with rent payments to landlords, and vouchers for purchase of household items for those displaced by Dorian.

The after-effects of Hurricane Dorian have also figured largely in the 2020/2021 National Budget such the extension of tax relief for affected areas, balanced against the economic pressure on public coffers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, losses suffered by the tourism and hospitality sector, and increased support for public health spending, unemployment services, food assistance and other social welfare services².

COVID-19 situation in the Bahamas: The first case of COVID-19 was reported in the Bahamas on 18 March 2020, prompting the government to implement measures to mitigate and prevent spread of the disease such as night-time curfews, weekend lockdowns, restriction on international travel, limitations on domestic travel and reduced operation times for essential businesses and services. Physical distancing, mandatory face masks and hand sanitization protocols continue to be in place. The government also updates the general public regularly through [press releases](#) and features around the situation and recently, the rollout of the nation-wide vaccination programme. Government interventions in the context of COVID-19 include:

- Insurance pay-outs to people affected by Dorian and COVID-19 by the National Insurance Board;
- Unemployment assistance payments to affected residents in Grand Bahama;
- Provision of meals and food items through the National Feeding Task Force interventions (in which BRCS provided support for three months)

In line with government efforts, BRCS has continued to respond with actions to curb spread of the disease; reduce psychological impact on people affected; enhance awareness of and encourage good hygiene practices; and provide food and cash grants to mitigate household economic stress. The National Society maintains close coordination with government authorities to support response efforts, and is in the process of updating its response plan to the current situation. The BRCS COVID-19 response plan activities are also supported under the IFRC's global appeal and are regularly reported on the IFRC [GO](#) platform and through [IFRC appeal updates](#).

The COVID-19 situation in the Bahamas has affected implementation of the initial programmes under this appeal, all of which have had to be adapted, postponed, revised or removed in observation of movement limitations and safety protocols.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS) has its national headquarters in Nassau, two branches in Abaco and Grand Bahama, and 14 groups (small branches) on different islands, with 436 volunteers and 84 staff members. Before Hurricane Dorian, its main programmes focused on first aid and social assistance (Meals on Wheels, and clothing donations to vulnerable groups). In the wake of Dorian, BRCS volunteers and staff provided first aid services, pre-hospital care, psychosocial support (PSS), household items and Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to people affected. Since then, BRCS has significantly expanded its scope of work to address needs of people affected by the hurricane. Click here for details on BRCS's work under the latest [Revised Emergency Appeal](#) and [operation updates](#).

Under this appeal, BRCS's response to Dorian up to February 2021 has reached the following vulnerable groups:

² <https://www.pwc.com/bs/en/assets/bahamas-budget-2020.pdf>



572 homeowners through
house repair support



238 households through
rental support



148 small and medium
businesses through
livelihoods grants and training



3,055 through
multi-purpose cash grants



87 volunteers **trained**



8,706 people with
**services to reduce
health risk factors**



2,094 people with
hygiene promotion



877 households with
PGI actions

In coordination with World Central Kitchen and with support from American Red Cross (ARC), BRCS delivered Meals on Wheels and hygiene items to vulnerable groups in Nassau up to the end of August 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number and need of vulnerable households, especially older people and those who have lost regular income sources. IFRC is also supporting BRCS with access to funding for COVID-19 response activities through its [global appeal](#).

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in-country

Partners in-country are American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross Society working together with BRCS both in support of the IFRC emergency plan of action and bilaterally. All partners continue to coordinate all interventions, meeting regularly to update, identify challenges and adapt to best support the National Society in the current evolving context. See the latest [EPoA](#) for further detail.

Since the last [operation update](#), **American Red Cross** has supported BRCS through:

- Continuing its digital cash initiative in support of 135 people affected by Hurricane Dorian together with 500 others supported by BRCS.
- Completing repairs of the BRCS National Headquarters with road paving and termite remediation.
- Clearing overgrowth and reinforcing BRCS NHQ perimeter fencing and access gates to improve security.
- Completing the design of the kitchen refurbishment.
- Delivering BRCS's first ever lifeguard training and training of trainers.
- Purchasing equipment for BRCS's emergency operations unit, including screens, tents and a generator.

Since the beginning of the response operation, American Red Cross worked with partners in removing tonnes of debris; distributing unconditional cash transfers; providing families with rental assistance, delivering hot meals, producing and delivering potable water to over 16,500 people; providing grants to restart small businesses; distributing assistance to replace household assets, and pledging funds for National Society Development through the IFRC multi-donor appeal. American Red Cross has also supported BRCS in developing a three-year strategic plan, training staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness; expanding the reach of the existing Meals on Wheels programme; developing a communications strategy and purchasing equipment to support it; purchasing vehicles, machinery and electronics to facilitate BRCS activities; covering salaries of key operations staff and consultant fees; and conducting learning activities together with other RCRC partners.

The current American Red Cross delegation in-country comprises a field representative, a programme manager, an information and reporting delegate, a finance manager, a communications delegate, and administration and logistics staff.

Also, since the last update, the **Canadian Red Cross** has supported BRCS with:

- Completion of comprehensive Protection, Gender, Inclusion and Community Engagement (PGIE) in Emergencies training.
- Completion of Results-Based Management training for BRCS headquarters staff and Family Islands volunteers.
- Moving forward on the BRCS's Response Plan and Strategy for approval by the Board in March 2021.
- Provision of equipment to retrofit its emergency operations centre (EOC) which is anticipated to commence in March 2021.
- Confirmation of team members developing the BRCS's Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy and the approaches to engage internal and external stakeholders.
- Finalising the volunteer recruitment and retention strategy and the relevant SoPs for spontaneous event-based volunteers.
- Developing content for epidemic prevention training scheduled for late March 2021.

Bilaterally, Canadian Red Cross is supporting enhancing BRCS's emergency response capacity through a Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER) project which included a virtual pre-assessment in mid-2020 and self-evaluation to prioritise areas for development, culminating in a two-year workplan. Updating of BRCS's disaster response plan is ongoing with cross-cutting themes being integrated. Procurement of the equipment for retrofitting the EOC together with technical support for the integration of PGIE into data tools is also ongoing, beginning with volunteer registration, and will be expanded to include other data collection tools. Both national societies have signed a project cooperation agreement.

The **IFRC Hurricane Dorian operation team** is based in Nassau, Grand Bahama and Abaco. While restrictions due to COVID-19 have limited inter-island travel, the team has continued to conduct activities as best they can in their respective locations while obeying the safety protocols and movement restrictions.

At the regional level, technical support is provided through the IFRC's Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean in Port of Spain (POS), Trinidad and Tobago; and the IFRC's Americas Regional Office (ARO) in Panama. Since 1 May 2020, the Bahamas Hurricane Dorian operation has been under the management of the POS CCD office.

Coordination among the RCRC Movement partners continues through:

- Weekly meetings with BRCS, IFRC, American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross;
- Bi-weekly coordination meetings with the Abaco and Grand Bahama field teams and sectorial leads, to which American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross are invited;
- Monthly email updates to the BRCS President from the operational team leads;
- Participation in the weekly regional operation meeting led by the IFRC ARO.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The initial response to Hurricane Dorian's impact was led by the Government of the Bahamas, through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). During the emergency phase, IFRC chaired the Red de Fondos Ambientales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (RedLAC) Shelter Working Group and Global Shelter Cluster lead agency for natural disasters, and at the request of NEMA, deployed a Shelter Coordination Team (SCT) to support existing coordination mechanisms and lead the Bahamas Shelter Sector (BSS).

In December 2019, the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction transferred the overall shelter response to the Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA) coordination for NEMA to transit back to preparedness. BRCS and IFRC coordinate closely with the DRA, especially in shelter programming in Abaco and Grand Bahama. UN agencies, IOs and I/NGOs are present in the Bahamas. While most base their operations in Nassau, response efforts focus on central and north Abaco and in Freeport, Grand Bahama. To date, several NGOs have left the country or have had to limit activities due to COVID-19 travel and movement restrictions.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The needs analysis and scenario planning based on assessment data and the recovery phase of the Bahamas Hurricane Dorian operation are specified under the [Revised Emergency Plan of Action no. 3](#). This operation update

reports against this plan of action, while serving to record changes to this plan highlighted at the beginning of this document, i.e., the no-cost extension to the operational timeframe, the increase in Shelter and Livelihoods targets, and the revision of some activities and costs, as the global COVID-19 pandemic has hamstrung many of the initial planned activities as well as added extra challenges for people already dealing with the effects of Hurricane Dorian. Pandemic conditions have increased pressure on livelihoods and contracted household incomes while raising the need for food and hygiene items such as face masks and hand sanitizers, psychosocial support (PSS) and reliable information. IFRC is supporting BRCS in related response through the IFRC's multi-donor [global/regional COVID-19 emergency appeal](#).

Operation Risk Assessment

Identified Risk	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
COVID-19 mitigation measures and Government restrictions result in limited movement of people, enhanced curfews, closure of businesses and loss of jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced staff and volunteer mobility Lack of access for selected beneficiaries to building materials/labour for house repairs Limited mobility for field monitoring visits Increased vulnerability due to income loss BRCS response to the COVID-19 situation reduces availability of staff and volunteers to support Hurricane Dorian response interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constant monitoring of the ongoing situation. Adaption of working models. BRCS developed a contingency plan for the outbreak, mapping of resources and actions to be conducted. RC partners in-country are supporting BRCS to access new funding sources to respond to the effects of COVID-19. When possible, activities will be carried out by phone or using online means.
Possibility of high impact from hydrometeorological events during the annual hurricane season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected communities are again exposed, leaving them more vulnerable More communities may be impacted, and require additional response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor risks with Government counterparts, NOAA, and Weather Network. Continue supporting preparedness efforts of BRCS in coordination with other partners in-country.
Lack of Status Agreement in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFRC international personality is not recognised or legal status is cancelled. The agreement does not guarantee the IFRC privileges, immunities, and exemptions. <p>There is a continued risk, due to possible changes in future government strategies and policies, which could impact IFRC's position. At worst, this could limit the effectiveness of IFRC as an organisation and jeopardise its position, or create divisions within BRCS, who act as in-country Red Cross lead. The risk at this point is seen as medium, but could escalate with any significant change, be it personnel or events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hiring of local staff is conducted through BRCS. BRCS has a bank account for IFRC to use. IFRC legal advisor (ARO) continues dialogue with the Bahamas attorney general's office to move ahead with the Status Agreement. A Nota Verbale from the IFRC SG was sent to the Bahamas Permanent Mission in Geneva requesting to expedite the process through diplomatic channels. Consistent monitoring of international staff visas to ensure adherence to immigration protocols.

B. Operational Strategy

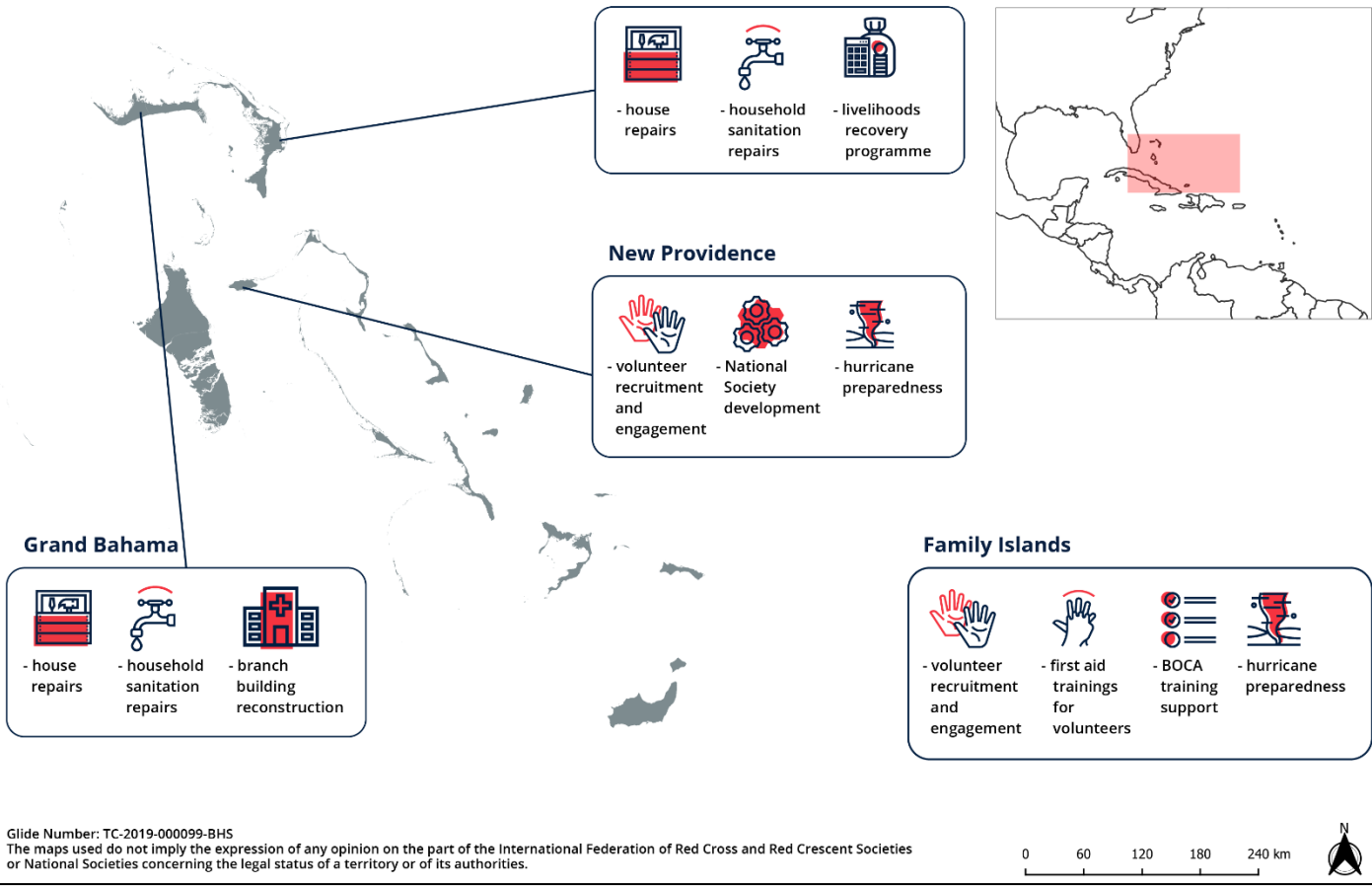
Strategy under implementation

The overall objective of this operation is to provide immediate life-saving and longer-term support for recovery to 3,735 families (14,940 people) affected by Hurricane Dorian. The focus areas of the operation include Shelter; Livelihoods and Basic Needs (through Multi-Purpose Cash Grants); Health; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH); Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI); Migration and Restoring Family Links (RFL); Disaster Risk Reduction; and National Society Capacity Strengthening.

For beneficiary selection and vulnerability criteria, IFRC and BRCS harmonised its respective criteria, specifically for the Shelter and Livelihoods sectors in the recovery phase. Some selection criteria remained sector-specific (such as classification of house damage, business ownership, etc.) The multi-purpose cash grants (MPCGs), livelihoods, shelter and WASH interventions did not target the same affected population, but overlap was possible wherein some households being reached with a variety of interventions.

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Geographical distribution of recovery activities currently ongoing in response to Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.



Shelter

People targeted: 8,000 (2,000 households)
 Male: 4,000 | Female: 4,000
People reached: 9,276 (2,319 households)
 Male: est. 4,545 | Female: est. 4,731

Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of surveyed people who report that the shelter solution they implemented has helped in their longer-term recovery	80%	Survey findings being analyzed

Shelter Output 1.1: Short-term and mid-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance (at least one of the following items: shelter toolkits, tarpaulin, kitchen sets, cleaning sets and blankets)	2,000	2,319 ³
# of displaced households provided with mid-term shelter and settlement assistance through cash and voucher assistance (rental support)	235	238
# of households provided with shelter assistance to repair non-structurally damaged homes.	500	572

Shelter Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in P&B safe shelter design and settlement Shelter planning and improved Output building techniques are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of community members that received orientation on Build Back Safer.	500	Not conducted

³ Items were distributed according to need and availability.

% of surveyed people demonstrate knowledge of safer building practices in their shelter solutions	80%	Not conducted
# of BRCS volunteers and staff trained in Build Back Safer, All under one Roof and PASSA ToT	20	10

Progress towards outcomes

Rental Support in Grand Bahama

The Rental Support Program in Grand Bahama started in December 2019 and successfully concluded in November 2020. The programme targeted affected households whose homes were moderately to severely damaged, and whose household members would require rented accommodation while their homes were being repaired. Following assessments, 235 households were selected to receive BSD700 monthly rental support for six to nine months. Taking into account that not all households collected all the instalments due to changes in displacement status, the programme managed to reach 238 households altogether. This included 20 families who were identified to still be highly vulnerable after six months, and were provided an extra three months' rental support. In total, 1,412 tranches were disbursed up to end-October 2020, and the programme concluded in November 2020.

In August 2020, a post-distribution monitoring survey was conducted with 94 of the households to gauge the immediate results of the programme, beneficiary satisfaction with the results of the programme, and beneficiary plans for durable shelter solutions. Some findings highlighted from the survey included:

- Overall, the rental assistance programme had positively contributed towards resuming livelihood activities, supporting the rental market and towards beneficiary dignity.
- There were varying levels of awareness regarding the selection criteria, with 64% understanding the stipulated criteria while others cited different reasons they were chosen.
- 98% were clear about receiving BSD700/month.
- 96% knew the correct duration of assistance.
- 80% reported the rental amount as sufficient and corresponded to the monthly rent receipts submitted.

Full results of the survey are available [here](#).

House repair programme in Abaco and Grand Bahama

- **Abaco**

The house repair support programme in Abaco was successfully completed in January 2021, reaching 347 households over its original target of 300 households. IFRC and BRCS partnered with the NGO, Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE) to provide additional support on top of the USD6,000 provided by IFRC.

Selection of beneficiaries commenced in April 2020. BRCS, CORE and the beneficiaries selected signed tripartite agreements under this programme, with the first 20 signed in May 2020, and the disbursement of the first instalment in June 2020. Up to 352 households received the first instalment, but five left the programme afterwards for different reasons. One house was repossessed by the bank, whereas another was found to be heavily infested by termites and could not be repaired. The remaining three were unable to complete the agreed repair work, and their agreements were terminated.

Subsequently, 347 households received the second and third instalments, thus concluding the house repair programme in Abaco under the IFRC appeal. The total disbursement totalled some USD2 million.

CORE provided 346 households with fourth and/or fifth instalments (USD1,500 to USD5,000) depending on the level of damage. One household was found ineligible for the final instalment. Following these disbursements, CORE also concluded their contribution to this programme.

Disability-inclusive shelter repair support: Following further technical surveys, 11 households were selected for additional disability-inclusive shelter repair support (i.e., USD2,400 per household). These included modifications to repaired houses to accommodate access for disabled people. Beneficiaries signed an agreement with the contractor, which was added to the original contract, allowing home improvements such as ramp construction, widening of toilet doors, and installation of grab bars in the toilets. All 11 households have received their instalments for this purpose.

- **Grand Bahama**

As of end-February 2021, 220 beneficiary households had received their first instalment; 214, the second; and 193, the third. Two new beneficiaries were also identified as being in dire need of house repair support. Proof of payment for house repairs was collected from beneficiaries as far as possible in view of COVID-19 movement restrictions.

House-to-house visits were also conducted to observe the actual progress of work per household. During this time, it was found that nine beneficiary households were unable to fix their roofs properly. These included fixing only half the roof with the uncovered part of the house still leaking; or, having laid non-durable roofing materials such as plywood with no shingles; felt; or, peel-n-stick materials instead of shingle or other durable material. One household had fixed half its roof over rooms used frequently, leaving the unused part of the house still leaking. Detailed assessment of these cases was done and recommendations to provide additional funding support of USD3,000 was made to IFRC management.



Measuring doors: The BRCS/IFRC Shelter Officer in Grand Bahama assesses the house entrance and other access points for a participant of the BRCS Home Repair program supported under this Appeal. People with limited mobility and other challenges have been considered and consulted regarding the repair of their homes. The program has also made design alterations and extra funding to accommodate households with disabled members. (Photo: IFRC)

Access improvement for those disabled was also considered. Agreements to make these improvements were signed with two beneficiaries with multiple disabilities. IFRC also facilitated contracts between beneficiary and contractor, and provided funds for these changes.

Post-distribution monitoring was prepared and is being conducted at time of reporting. This survey will be completed by mid-March and its findings analysed. Also, an exit plan is being finalised in consultation with BRCS.

Overall, the house repair programme in Abaco and Grand Bahama covered 572 households over its original 500 target, despite some people dropping out of the programme mid-way. The programme also ensured an owner-driven approach that increased buy-in and ownership of the work by the beneficiary households, as well as had the added value of improving access for disabled and older people through home improvements.

Coordination with the Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA) continued with weekly meetings and included BRCS, IFRC, UN agencies and NGOs. BRCS/IFRC worked closely with CORE in Abaco, while in Grand Bahama, Red Cross partners worked closely and exchanged relevant information with the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) and the Department of Social Services (DoSS), and other NGOs in the field. Face-to-face meetings have been suspended due to COVID-19, and to date, most NGOs have not resumed operations in Grand Bahama.

Challenges

- Restrictions on movement and public gatherings due to COVID-19 delayed implementation of most activities such as distribution of rental cheques to households.
- Changes in beneficiary contact numbers, lack of response or re-location without informing caused some difficulty in communication.
- Technical assessment of houses or actual progress of house repairs were delayed or could not be conducted due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.
- Lack of certified electricians/Bahamas Power and Light company staff to check electrical wiring and connect it to the main power grid, which is key in considering if a house is repaired or not.

For more detail on beneficiary selection and other aspects of the house repair programme, click [here](#).

Awareness-raising on Build Back Safer has been highly challenged by the restrictions on movement and gathering due to COVID-19. As of this reporting time, in observance of personal safety and respecting government regulations, it was not possible to conduct the orientations, awareness-raising or training on safer building practices as planned.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 12,224 (3,056 households)

Male: 6,112 | Female: 6,112

People reached: 3,055 households

Male: est. 6,111 | Female: est. 6,111

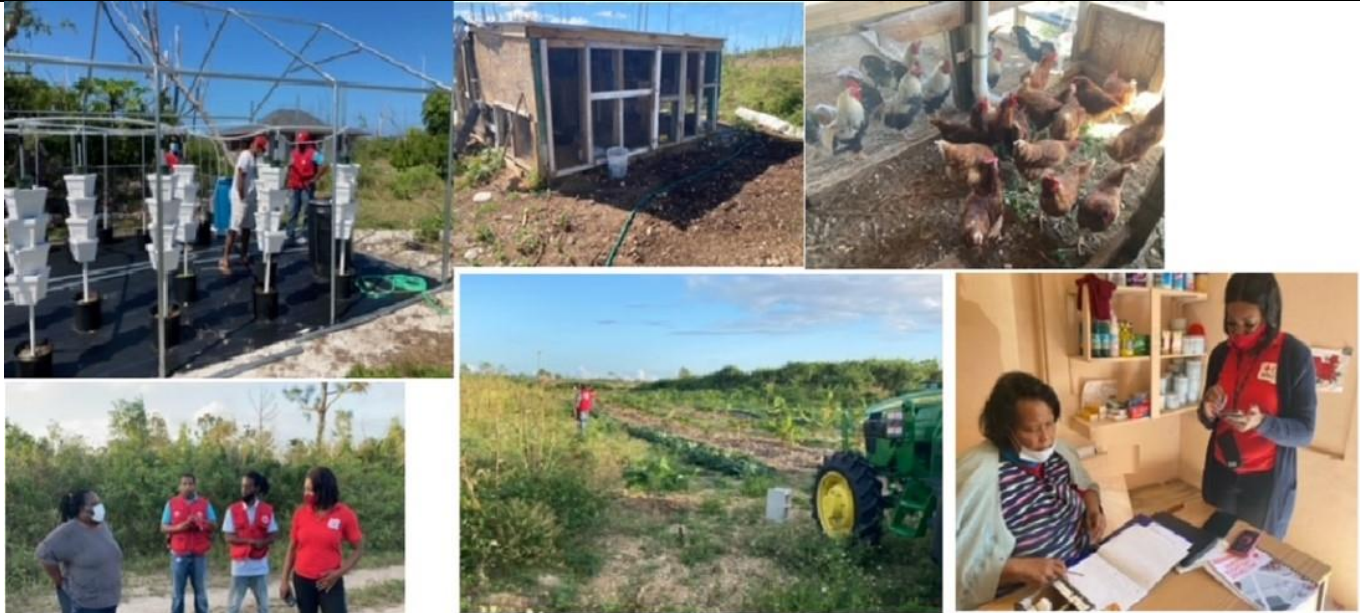
LLH Outcome 2: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted households have enough cash or income to meet their survival threshold ⁴	3,056	3,055
# of targeted population whose livelihoods are restored to pre-disaster level	130	148
LLH Output 2.1: Skills development and/or productive assets and/or financial inclusion to improve income sources are provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households supported with in-kind assets or cash or vouchers for recovering or starting / strengthening economic activities	130	148
# of target MSME apply new acquired knowledge and skills promoted by the project to strengthen and protect their livelihoods	130	148
LLH Output 2.2: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by public awareness and education on sustainable livelihoods.	20	11
LLH Output 2.3: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assisted households able to meet Minimum Expenditure Basket needs (including food items, food-related and non-food items) for 3 months	3,000	3,055 ⁵
# of households assisted with multipurpose cash grants (MPCGs)	250	Not conducted ⁶
% of people targeted expressing satisfaction with cash assistance	80%	97%
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The Livelihoods programme targeted 50 SMEs in Abaco and 80 in Grand Bahama for a total of 130 households under this intervention. However, given the availability of funding⁷ and the current needs of vulnerable SMEs, 148 SMEs were reached altogether, with 70 in Abaco, and 78 in Grand Bahama. For the latter, two of the original 80 selected beneficiaries were unable to meet the agreed commitments and so pulled out of the programme. <i>For more detail on beneficiary selection, grant allocation and methodology applied in the Livelihoods programme, click here.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Bahama Following the revision of the IFRC EPoA, 80 small business owners affected by Hurricane Dorian in Grand Bahama were selected to participate. The Red Cross partnered with the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) to implement this programme under the name Small Business Recovery Grant (or SBR grant), which launched on 1 May 2020. <p>Of the 80 original businesses chosen, 78 were supported under the Red Cross/GBPA SBR programme, after two business owners dropped out of the programme due to incompleteness of the training sessions. A further 25 businesses vetted using the same process were also funded by the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) together with the GBPA. More information on the SBR programme is here. In Grand Bahama, all activities and instalments were completed for the 78 target businesses in December 2020.</p> <p>Through focus group discussions with programme recipients in Grand Bahama, and key informant interviews with industry groups, the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce, and other agencies, the SBR methodology used was adapted by BRCS for implementation in Abaco.</p> <p>A short documentary on the SBR programme has been produced and approved by both the GBPA, BRCS and IFRC. This film comprises one four-minute version for broadcast, and one 60-second version for social media. An official launch of the documentary is being planned by the BRCS communications focal point together with the IFRC POS CCD Communications team.</p>		

⁴ For more detail on this activity, click [here](#) to visit the dashboard on IFRC GO Platform.

⁵ Following reconciliation of data since the last reported figure of 3,056

⁶ This was not conducted as BRCS was running a bilateral cash activity in parallel.

⁷ Availability of funding was possible due to the highly reduced travel costs of staff and volunteers as well as the cancellation of planned face-to-face training sessions due to movement restrictions related to COVID-19.



In Abaco, BRCS and IFRC staff made physical inspections of several farms selected for support under this Appeal. During the reporting period, the livelihood programme in Abaco had achieved some 75% of implementation, and seen 33 participants graduate from the first cohort of online business skills training. (Photo: BRCS/IFRC)

- **Abaco**

The advent of COVID-19 in Abaco delayed the launch of the Livelihood Recovery Programme until September 2020. Applications were made through phone interviews without physical inspections due to movement restrictions; instead, applicants were required to provide supporting evidence for loss and damages. Applications closed at the end of the month.

By the end of February 2021, the livelihood programme had achieved 75 per cent implementation wherein:

- 70 selected businesses had received their first instalment (comprising 60 per cent of the total individual grant)
- 35 selected businesses had taken the PDM survey and participated in the online business trainings, and were therefore eligible for the second and final instalment (40 per cent of the total grant).

February also saw the first cohort of 33 participants conclude their business online training, which began on 13 January, and the second cohort of 37 (including two Abaco BRCS branch staff) begin their training on 8 February. These were conducted via Zoom, with presenters on accountability, insurance, online payment platforms, and the Abaco Chamber of Commerce, among others. The training service provider submitted a progress report of the training. The first cohort also expressed 100 per cent satisfaction with the training.

Online training courses

All selected participants of the livelihood programme were required to complete courses in business and financial management; digital marketing and social media; and disaster preparedness to support business continuity. Sessions were conducted twice a week for two hours over four weeks. Disbursement of the second tranche of the grant was contingent on them completing these courses. A service provider was engaged to run these online training sessions, and supporting reading material was distributed to each participant. These training courses were funded by GBPA in Grand Bahama, and by the IFRC Emergency Appeal in Abaco.

A baseline survey was conducted in December 2020 through January 2021 for all selected businesses, followed by a PDM in February 2021 to verify at least 80 per cent of the grant was spent on business rehabilitation, and subsequently disburse the second instalment.

In Abaco, a one-day first aid training was conducted in December 2020. Due to COVID-19 protocols, these were facilitated in small groups with local BRCS first aid trainers. While first aid training was not mandatory, it was recommended by the BRCS President for additional capacity building.

Coordination

RCRC partners exchange data with Mercy Corps and World Central Kitchen on the selected businesses in these livelihood recovery efforts in both Abaco and Grand Bahama. This data will support assessment of remaining gaps and help measure collective impact in the local economies.

Monitoring

Dashboards have been set up on the GO Platform, showing key figures and impact of the Livelihoods recovery programmes in both [Abaco](#) and [Grand Bahama](#). Baseline and end-line surveys in both locations are also used to monitor the effects and impact of the programme for programme recipients in their communities. Post-distribution monitoring surveys have also been conducted to ensure how expenditure of the grant is made and online training completed as well as to help tweak the programme if needed. Findings of the PDMs can be found [here](#).

IFRC will conduct a Lessons Learned workshop to assess the livelihood interventions in both Grand Bahama and Abaco prior to the close of the emergency appeal.

Training for staff and volunteers

To date, the following orientation and training sessions have been conducted.

- Livelihoods orientation for 11 BRCS staff and volunteers in September 2020. This included Red Cross Red Crescent orientation, community engagement and accountability (CEA), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and restoring family links (RFL).
- A four-week Livelihoods Programming training was run in September/October 2020 for 22 Family Island representatives, BRCS staff and volunteers as well as participants from National Societies in the Caribbean, and IFRC.

Challenges

There were several challenges encountered by the field teams in both Grand Bahama and Abaco surrounding the selection of beneficiaries mainly due to restrictions posed by COVID-19 as people were unable to physically go to the branch offices to submit their documents, and were not always able to access digital facilities or equipment, or network coverage. This also affected the quality of applications received. The loss of documents and business assets also caused challenges. It was also difficult for BRCS to verify information as they could not conduct site inspections. Technical difficulties using online tools to assess the applications were also experienced by the selection committee.

In January 2021, strong winds, sometimes above 40 knots, hindered physical inspections of businesses located in the Cays. Also, with a team member tested positive for COVID-19, the BRCS branch office was closed for several days for cleaning and sanitization.

Currently, Abaco is experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases, prompting the government to tighten restrictions around curfew times and testing for travellers. This could hinder finalizing the physical inspections of selected businesses and PDM surveys, and cause delays in implementation.

For information on the multi-purpose cash grants programme, click [here](#), and [here](#).



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 8,000 (2,000 households)

Male: 4,000 | Female: 4,000

People reached: est. 8,524 (est. 2,131 households)

Male: est.4,262 | Female: est.4,262

WASH Outcome 3: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with WASH support during the emergency phase	4,000 ppl	2,000 households with WASH items, 2,094 people with hygiene promotion

WASH Output 3.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with safe water during the emergency phase	2,000	4,731 ⁸

WASH Output 3.2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

⁸ Households which received at least 2 jerry cans and/or one bucket.

# of households reached with hygiene promotion	500	523 ⁹
WASH Output 3.3: Hygiene-related goods which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use these goods is provided to the target population		
# of households provided with essential hygiene items	2,000	2,300
WASH Output 3.4: Improved access to and use of adequate sanitation by the target population is provided		
# of people with access to temporary sanitation facilities (toilets and handwashing stations) in collective centres	N/A	1,682
# of households with access to an improved sanitation facility in Abaco/Grand Bahama	500	542
Progress towards outcomes		
All planned WASH activities conducted during the relief phase of the operation were completed in early 2020. Click here for details in previous operation updates.		
Under the Shelter programme, WASH support was also provided through the repair and rehabilitation of household toilets and handwashing facilities. These were included under the house repair programme, and have reached a corresponding 542 households in Grand Bahama and Abaco to date.		



Health

People targeted: 8,000 (2,000 households)

Male: 4,000 | Female: 4,000

People reached: 8,706

Male: 4,266 | Female: 4,440¹⁰

Health Outcome 4: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached by BRCS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors	8,000	8,706

Health Output 4.1: Target population is target with rapid medical management of injuries and disease

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people trained by BRCS in first aid	50	87
# people assessed and transferred to appropriate care and support with EMT services on arrival in Nassau from Abaco and Grand Bahama	400	400

Health Output 4.2: Epidemic prevention and control measures carried out

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with health and hygiene promotion messages (including vector control)	2,000	2,318
# of volunteers trained in key messages on health and hygiene promotion	50	23
# of households reached with LLITNs	2,000	1,067 ¹¹

Health Output 4.3: Psychosocial support provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of PSS recipients receiving information on positive coping strategies and grounding techniques	2,000	1,720
# of BRCS staff and volunteers trained in PSS	60	36

Health Outcome 5: The medium-term risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people transported to appropriate clinical care or support facilities	n/a	n/a

Health Output 5.1: Gaps in medical infrastructure of the affected population filled


Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people trained to operate new ambulance	10	5
# of ambulances supported with operational costs	2	2

⁹ 2,094 people

¹⁰ Estimate based on the national average of men (49%) and women (51%). <https://countrymeters.info/en/Bahamas>

¹¹ 2,134 mosquito nets distributed - 2 x per household for a total of 167 households.

Health Output 5.2: Community-based disease prevention and health promotion measures provided		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of community members engaged in e-CBHFA activities	n/a	n/a
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>All planned Health activities under this operation were completed in the relief phase. Click here for details in previous operation updates.</p> <p>The global COVID-19 pandemic has had its effects on the implementation of interventions under this operation as well. Due to government restrictions on inter-island travel, mandatory testing, curfews and limitations on public gatherings, activities have had to be suspended, revised, adapted, postponed or cancelled.</p> <p>Regarding response to the pandemic itself, BRCS is part of the global/regional emergency appeal and is currently conducting activities in-country in line with government initiatives. With IFRC support, the National Society has also been able to procure equipment and protective items to enhance response activities in conjunction with local hospitals and other partners.</p> <p>For information on BRCS/IFRC activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, click here.</p>		

 <p>Protection, Gender and Inclusion People targeted: 3,460 (865 households) - indirectly Male: 1,730 Female: 1,730 People reached: 3,508 (877 households) Male: est.1,754 Female: est.1,754</p>		
PGI Outcome 6: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and non-respect of their human rights, and address their distinct needs		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with PGI actions	865	877
PGI Output 6.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of sector programming which integrates sex, age and disability disaggregated data	80%	80% ¹²
# of BRCS staff and volunteers trained in Minimum Standard Commitments	20	0 ¹³
PGI Output 6.2: Emergency response operations prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and all forms of violence against children.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers equipped with knowledge on how to prevent and respond to SGBV and child protection - basic training	10	19
# of NS staff and volunteers who have attended specialized/focused training on SGBV and child protection	10	0
Referral fact sheet developed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders	1	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>To date, up to 877 households have been reached with PGI actions. These involve multiple sectors, including the shelter house repair, and the livelihoods programmes. Three PGI delegates on rotation from September 2019 through July 2020 helped support PGI considerations across the different programme sectors during the emergency to recovery phase.</p> <p>Data for the shelter rental programme and house repairs as well as the livelihoods programmes disaggregated data by sex, age, and disability. Disability data was disaggregated using the Washington Group Questions, making this</p>		

¹² Approximately 80% of programmes. Shelter rental and house repairs, and livelihoods programmes utilize SADD data. MPCGs did not integrate sex, age and disability disaggregated (SADD) data.

¹³ Training could not be conducted by the PGI delegate due to COVID-19 restrictions.

IFRC's first operation to systematically use this methodology to collect such information. A [dashboard](#) was created on the IFRC GO platform with information on different vulnerabilities and the disaggregation of beneficiaries assisted through RCRC programmes. IFRC continues to support BRCS in disaggregation of programme data across each sector.

The Child Protection Policy for BRCS was approved by the BRCS Board in 2020. Also, an action plan for policy implementation was developed and shared with the BRCS President. Technical support and follow-up were provided by the IFRC NSD delegate. Planned activities for child protection referrals and child protection training were not conducted due to lack of a NS focal point as well as pandemic restrictions in place.

Training of staff and volunteers in the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response training in the Family Islands could not take place due to COVID-19 restrictions and lack of a BRCS focal point. SGBV prevention training materials are available, and there is the possibility of future training or refresher courses for all BRCS member groups annually. However, two PGI training sessions, which included elements of psychosocial support (PSS) were conducted for BRCS in Nassau on 23-24 September 2020, to support staff and volunteers in service delivery to affected people.

While PGI SoPs for case management including safe protection referrals were developed with the support of a PGI delegate, continuous monitoring of referral pathways has been a challenge with the lack of a National Society focal point. IFRC continues to support BRCS in including PGI in its long-term planning and development where possible.

The policy draft for Prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for BRCS following input from different departments and management, is still under review by the National Society President and Director-General. IFRC will support the National Society in further drafting and implementation of the policy as needed. Coordination under Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER) for BRCS seeks to integrate PGI, and has been supported by Canadian Red Cross through training in Protection, Gender, Inclusion and Engagement (PGIE) in Emergencies which was completed on 26 February 2021.



Migration and Restoring Family Links (RFL)

People targeted: 200
Male: 100 | Female: 100
People reached: 128
Male: 74 | Female: 74

Migration Outcome 7: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families, and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)

Migration Output 7.1: Awareness-raising and advocacy addressing xenophobia, discrimination and negative perceptions towards migrants are implemented.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of advocacy spaces on the needs of the migrant or internally displaced population	1	1

Migration Output 7.2: Family links are restored for people separated from, or without news of, their loved ones as a result of the disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of RFL cases/services	200	128

Progress towards outcomes

Restoring Family Links (RFL) services were conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in coordination with BRCS during the relief phase of this operation. The ICRC team on-site included an RFL delegate, one RFL data manager, and two forensics experts. During this time, nine BRCS volunteers were trained in RFL, including RFL emergency response activities, interview techniques and conducting family tracing as well as centralizing family tracing information. Work of the forensic experts included evaluating the feasibility of an advisory role to affected families, and the authorities in identifying human remains. With the departure of and handover by the ICRC team, BRCS has continued follow-up on family tracing cases on different islands through its contacts.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 1,000

People reached: 0

Male: 500 | Female: 500

DRR Outcome 8: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through RCRC programmes for DRR and community resilience (excluding public awareness and education campaigns)	1,000	0

DRR Output 8.1: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached through disaster preparedness and community resilience activities	250	0
# of people reached with public awareness and education campaigns using harmonized messages to reduce, mitigate and respond to identified risks.	250	0

DRR Outcome 9: Communities affected in disaster and crises-affected areas adopt climate risk-informed and environmentally responsible values and practices

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communities which develop longer-term risk reduction plans to address long-term adaptation needs and unexpected climate-related risks	tbc	0

Output 9.1: Contribution to climate change mitigation is made by implementing green solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability awareness-raising campaigns	1,000	0

Progress towards outcomes

All Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities planned under the EPoA are on hold as there has been no additional funding to support these. Also, the current COVID-19 environment limits the number of community-based actions. The recruitment of the DRR delegate was ceased, and BRCS does not currently have a DRR department or focal point. Given this Area of Focus remains underfunded and progress is due to limitations in human and financial resources as well as COVID-19 restriction measures, the activities in this sector will not be implemented as originally planned.

Indirectly, however, IFRC has been supporting BRCS in several initiatives which contribute towards disaster risk reduction at multiple levels. These include:

- Supporting BRCS in its partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Through this partnership, TNC shares technical knowledge and information with BRCS regarding climate and environmental changes that may affect the Bahamas. For its part, BRCS maintains communication with its local communities to garner information on how climate change affects them. Together with the technical knowledge provide by TNC and the BRCS's presence in its local communities, long-term risks and strategies to mitigate these risks are identified. IFRC supports BRCS in conducting assessments and consultation with communities, and will continue to support projects for mitigation of the effects of climate change. This is a pilot programme working with TNC, and may be expanded to include other partners next year if deemed feasible.
- A disaster simulation exercise as part of volunteer recruitment and engagement. The BRCS volunteer management department and the BRCS disaster management department are being supported by IFRC in creating and conducting a hurricane simulation exercise to inform, engage and prepare volunteers for the annual hurricane season. The simulation is planned for 8 May 2021.
- As part of the COVID19 awareness raising and PSS support, BRCS is reaching some 3,000 children with information and activities in schools. With the support of volunteers, these school children are also provided simple checklists on how to be prepared in case of hurricanes and other disasters. This activity is planned to continue until the end of the year.

Strengthening the National Society

S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that BRCS has the necessary humanitarian, legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained by the operation (disaggregated by gender and type of training)	>100	87
Output S1.1.4: The BRCS has effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	100	436
Output S1.1.6: The BRCS has the necessary infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of BRCS branches rehabilitated	1	1 currently in progress
# of policies and procedures of BRCS updated and put in place	n/a	4 ¹⁴
Output S1.1.7: NS capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on standards for disaster response and preparedness	10	0

Progress towards outcomes

The IFRC National Society Development (NSD) advisor and liaison has continued to support the BRCS leadership while maintaining close coordination with Red Cross partners in-country through regular fortnightly meetings. Also, IFRC is supporting BRCS in its 2016-2019 audits with the support of a finance development delegate, and to ensure an accountable transparent financial system is in place to ensure timely and accurate reporting.

Volunteering

BRCS approved their Volunteering Development Strategy in October 2020, and are currently working on its implementation. The BRCS volunteering manager made a visit to Abaco to assess the situation of volunteers there, and discuss concrete plans for recruitment, participation and training. Also, a potential candidate to oversee and manage volunteering there was identified.

Several procurement processes are ongoing to better equip volunteers with uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE). Also, at the headquarters in Nassau, BRCS is seeking a better space for volunteer gatherings and training. All these will contribute to BRCS readiness to respond when needed, support volunteer identification with and loyalty to BRCS, and acknowledge their contributions of time and effort towards BRCS activities and programmes. All BRCS volunteers are insured when carrying out National Society activities, while national health insurance provides coverage for COVID-19 related expenses for Bahamian residents.

Training of volunteers

Training for BRCS volunteers and staff has been ongoing. Up to 87 staff and volunteers from different departments have been trained in first aid, including CEA, warehousing, WASH activities in relation to COVID-19, and as WASH ambassadors also in relation to COVID-19 prevention and safety measures.

Youth development strategy

The Youth Development Strategy was approved by the BRCS board in February 2021, which helps strengthen and expand the National Society's youth programme. Also, since February, BRCS has been in contact with schools about their related school programmes both directly and through social media. Up to end-February, 80 schools have been contacted, of which 50 have solicited more information. Initial contact was also made with the Ministry of Youth to establish closer cooperation and potentially, an MoU.

BRCS Workplans and Budget preparation

The NSD delegate continues to support the BRCS Director-General and Deputy Director-General in strengthening management of the National Society. A 3-day management workshop for senior managers was started with its first day on 3 February 2021. Following this first day, all departments began preparing their respective workplans and budgets for the rest of the fiscal year up to September 2021. A format for these was developed with collective effort by the BRCS PMER officer and BRCS Finance officer with support from the IFRC PMER, Finance Development and NSD delegates. Completion of these plans is ongoing, and the workshop days 2 and 3 postponed to March, to allow the departments to complete their plans with IFRC support where needed. Once final, these plans will be

¹⁴ Approved: A Youth Development Strategy, a Volunteering Development Strategy, and a Data Protection policy. Currently under review is a PSEA policy, and under discussion is a Procurement Policy for the National Society.

integrated into the National Society annual plan and budget with clear linkages to the BRCS Strategy 2030. This plan preparation exercise has had the added value of facilitating teamwork among departments for related activities.

BRCS Audits

Auditing of the National Society for 2016 through 2019 is currently ongoing. At present, completion of audits for 2016 and 2017 are in progress. This is being supported by a Finance Development delegate and the NSD advisor.

BRCS Statutes

The BRCS drafting committee for the revision of the BRCS statutes for approval by the General Assembly in June 2021 has been appointed, with the first meeting to take place in early March.

Reconstruction of the BRCS Grand Bahama branch building

While it was initially planned that the old branch building be refurbished, assessments by engineers deemed the old structure to be unsafe, and recommended a full demolition of the building, followed by reconstruction of a new structure that would be safer, more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. On 22 January 2021, the old building was demolished, and the building permit for reconstruction of the new premises received on 10 February 2021. The tender was set for opening in March, with the proposed groundbreaking ceremony to take place in April 2021.



The proposed design for the Grand Bahama branch building. The design is modular and will be constructed in stages.

While this will incur increased cost in overall construction from an estimated USD470,000 to some USD775,000, the decision to proceed as such was made with full consultation and cooperation with BRCS, and the additional cost of the new building will be covered by Canadian Red Cross through the IFRC emergency appeal. Savings on other activities which were not implemented during this operation due to COVID-19, etc., will also serve to support this project. The building has been designed to be modular, divided into three sections. As such, the office building with kitchen and the warehouse will be built first, followed by construction of the multi-purpose hall in the second phase, pending budget availability.

Staff expected to continue under this Appeal from July 2021 are one international manager and two national staff for finance and administration. This small team will essentially support BRCS to manage, monitor and report against the ongoing work under NSD already planned in the EPoA, which includes:

- Construction of the Grand Bahama branch building through to completion;
- Transitioning the CEA Hotline and feedback mechanism to a volunteer-based activity;
- Supporting volunteer identification and engagement activities;
- Supporting BRCS in its preparedness activities for the upcoming hurricane season.

Challenges

- In the Grand Bahama branch building construction, COVID-19 restrictions and delays in design completion delayed this project by four months. Construction is expected to be completed in December 2021.
- While the BRCS volunteer base has grown, it has been difficult for the BRCS volunteer manager based in New Providence to visit other islands to promote volunteering and its related activities.
- Throughout the Bahamas, COVID-19 restrictions continue to be revised in correspondence to case numbers per island, including extension of curfew hours, PCR testing and daily check-in with health authorities where necessary. This reduces mobility for activities and has constrained many planned activities as with other sectors.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
-------------	--------	--------

# of surge personnel deployed to support the operation	87	87
Output S2.1.4: Target communities dialogue with BRCS and are able to provide feedback, complaints and influence decisions that affect them.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of targeted population satisfied that they have access to information, feedback mechanisms and can influence the programme/response	80	98 ¹⁵
# and type of channels established that allows for two-way communications between selected communities and BRCS	3	4
% of complaints and feedback received on programme(s)/operation(s) responded to within 2 weeks	80	100
Output S2.2.5: Shared services in areas such as IT, logistics and information management are provided		
Output S2.2.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# partners mapped and contributing to the shelter sector response	28	28
# Shelter sector and technical meetings (co)chaired and documented	28	28
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Staff deployment and recruitment</p> <p>Up to 87 people under the FACT, RIT, ERU and SIMS¹⁶ surge response mechanisms were deployed in the emergency phase of this operation. These included team leaders, specialists in relief distributions, livelihoods, shelter, WASH, PSS, cash distributions, PGI and CEA as well as Finance, Administration, PMER, IM, Communications, and Logistics. Click here for more information on surge deployments under this operation. Staff from the Americas Regional Office, Panama and the Country Cluster Office in Port of Spain were also deployed to provide technical and coordination support during the emergency phase of this operation.</p> <p>Shelter support was also provided during the emergency phase by the Shelter Sector Coordination Team (SCT) which helped in coordination with the government authorities, Ministries and other partners, including BRCS and RCRC Movement partners. The SCT also helped finalize core documents for response coordination which can be found here. The SCT phased out in February 2020. More information on the SCT's role, key challenges and reflections can be seen here (page 39-40).</p> <p>Staff to support relief through recovery operations in-country were also recruited, including international staff (i.e., the Operation Manager, Deputy Operation Manager, Finance and Administration, PMER, Logistics, NSD, HR, IM, Field Coordinators, and Case Management staff) together with national staff in the corresponding sectors.</p> <p>For the extended period of this appeal from July through December 2021, one manager, and two national staff will be in place to oversee the construction of the Grand Bahama branch office, support NSD activities in-country and ensure the remaining reporting and accountability requirements are fulfilled.</p> <p>Information management support</p> <p>Rollout of the Open Source Case Management and Recordkeeping system (OSCaR) software did not take place as plans for case management implementation were ceased due to lack of a National Society focal point. Funds originally allocated for this project have been moved over for construction of the Grand Bahama branch building, with agreement from Canadian Red Cross who was funding the project.</p> <p>At present, there are eight dashboards for this operation on the GO Platform: two documenting achievements during the relief phase, and six covering the recovery phase.</p> <p>Community Engagement and Accountability</p> <p>To date, CEA has received feedback from over 2,100 people, most of which were fielded over the BRCS toll-free Hotline with over 1,800 calls. To date, 1,266 cases have been responded to and closed, with 514 currently under process and 281 being referred for further assistance. While most queries dealt with financial and food assistance, others were related to general aid, livelihoods, shelter, psychosocial support (PSS) and health issues. Other forms of feedback were made through the dedicated financial assistance hotline, in person or through WhatsApp. Most of the feedback received was requests, followed closely by questions. Service users also paid compliments and made a few complaints while others called to clarify rumours or to make suggestions. The BRCS hotline is currently</p>		

¹⁵ Aggregate percentage taken from post-distribution monitoring surveys for Financial Assistance (2), Relief distributions, Livelihoods, Shelter Rental and Shelter House Repairs programmes.

¹⁶ Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), Regional Intervention Team (RIT), Emergency Response Unit (ERU), Surge Information Management Support (SIMS)

managed by one CEA staff with the help of two volunteers. Due to COVID-19, the BRCS Hotline team worked on-site on alternate days or remotely.

In January 2021, BRCS facilitated The Mass Fatality Management Virtual Conclave together with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The primary objective of this was to produce petitions to include management of mass fatality incidents (MFI) into existing legislation, such as was experienced from Hurricane Dorian, but not limited to natural disasters. The conclave was supported by both government and NGOs, and viewed as ground-breaking, proactive and innovative.

Induction and training related to CEA practices for staff and volunteers were conducted in 2020. Click [here](#) (page 28) for more information.

Challenges

The greatest challenge to all endeavours under this sector has been the COVID-19 pandemic and its related restrictions imposed by the authorities to curb spread of the virus and enhance public safety. Social media and online platforms were used extensively to engage target audiences, but this limited communication to those who had access to internet connectivity, electronic media or knowledge how to use them. As such, there were delays in implementation of activities, including implementing use of the toll-free hotline, and other programme activities requiring community consultation.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.

Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved

Progress towards outcomes

The IFRC ARO regional communications unit provided communications support to BRCS through deployment of surge staff during the emergency phase for technical assistance, and implementation of a communications plan. This was also supported by the American Red Cross communications delegate based in-country.

One-year commemoration of Hurricane Dorian

Given the pandemic restrictions throughout the country in 2020, commemoration of Hurricane Dorian on 1 September 2020 was made mostly through social media, press releases and online platforms. These include:

- [One year after Hurricane Dorian](#)
- [Hurricane Dorian: One year later in the Bahamas](#)
- [Hurricane Dorian anniversary](#)

IFRC also supported the BRCS communications officer with developing commemorative communications pieces for the event. These together with a one-year report on the National Society's response prepared by the BRCS PMER officer were shared with government, local institutions and partners, showcasing the National Society's reach in response to Dorian.

Legal status agreement

Discussions continue among IFRC, BRCS and the Government of the Bahamas. A letter from the IFRC SG's office was recently sent to the Bahamian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding this matter, together with highlights of IFRC support to BRCS's response to Hurricane Dorian and its longer-term commitment towards National Society capacity development.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Progress towards outcomes

Audit of BRCS 2016-2019 finances

IFRC is currently supporting BRCS in auditing its finances from 2016 through 2019. A finance development delegate has been brought in-country to assist in this effort as well as to provide guidance in budgetary planning for the rest of the 2021 fiscal year. This activity is also linked directly to NSD.

Final Evaluation and Lessons Learned Workshop

IFRC is currently preparing for the final evaluation of the overall MDRBS003 operation as most of its programmes have either concluded or will be complete by April 2021. Scheduled to begin in the second half of April/first half of May, this final evaluation will assess the IFRC response to Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas from September 2019 through April 2021. The evaluation will highlight achievements, challenges, areas for improvement and determine the quality of the programmes and services delivered to those affected, covering aspects of the overall operation, with special focus on the relevance and effectiveness of Shelter and Livelihoods programming in transition from the emergency to recovery phases.

Key informant interviews and focus group discussions will be conducted according to the COVID-19 pandemic context. Findings from the evaluation will provide valuable insight to help inform future operations. Preparations for this final evaluation are now underway. Following the e-approval process, an advertisement for an evaluation consultant team will be placed on the IFRC vacancies page.

Also in preparation is a half-day Lessons Learned Workshop which will bring together BRCS, IFRC technical and operation staff, and other partners. This is scheduled for the second week of May 2021.

Challenges

Monitoring visits by IFRC and other partners in-country have been limited due to restrictions and requirements governing inter-island movement, and curfews imposed to curb the spread of the virus. Adaptations have been made to conduct such monitoring activities online where possible.

D. Financial Report

Please see [annex](#).

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

Bahamas Red Cross Society

Alicia Pinder, Disaster Manager | + 1 242 535 0073 | lpinder@bahamasredcross.com

IFRC, Nassau, The Bahamas

Baylar Talibov, Operations Manager | +1 242 824 3604 | baylar.talibov@ifrc.org

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Abdul Nasir Khan, Programme Manager, CCD for the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean | nasir.khan@ifrc.org

IFRC Americas Regional Office, Panama

- Felipe del Cid, Continental Operations Coordinator | +507 317 3050 | felipe.delcid@ifrc.org
- Susana Arroyo, Communications Manager | susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledge support

Marion Andrivet, Emergency Appeals and Marketing Senior Officer | marion.andrivet@ifrc.org

In-kind Donations and Mobilization Table support

- Mauricio Bustamante, Head of Logistics | +507 6677-9675 | mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org;
- Stephany Murillo, Logistics Manager | +507 6679 9674 | stephany.murillo@ifrc.org

Performance and Accountability support

- Maria Larios, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Manager | maria.larios@ifrc.org

IFRC Secretariat, Geneva

- Antoine Belair, Operations Coordination Senior Officer for Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery) | antoine.belair@ifrc.org

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 Humanitarian 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.

Emergency Appeal

Interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/9-2021/2	Operation	MDRBS003
Budget Timeframe	2019/9-2021/6	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Apr 2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBS003 - Bahamas - Hurricane Dorian

Operating Timeframe: 02 Sep 2019 to 30 Jun 2021; appeal launch date: 03 Sep 2019

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	600,000
AOF2 - Shelter	6,200,000
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	13,700,000
AOF4 - Health	400,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	900,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	200,000
AOF7 - Migration	200,000
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	4,500,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	5,000,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	300,000
Total Funding Requirements	32,000,000
Donor Response* as per 06 Apr 2021	27,682,885
Appeal Coverage	86.51%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	5,375	11,421	-6,046
AOF2 - Shelter	5,374,691	5,463,323	-88,632
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	13,089,846	13,106,494	-16,648
AOF4 - Health	81,621	86,611	-4,990
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	759,183	693,629	65,555
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	57,473	86,210	-28,737
AOF7 - Migration	137,234	46,783	90,450
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	3,634,515	2,347,331	1,287,184
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	3,444,781	2,945,468	499,313
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	205,862	32,402	173,460
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	101,175	58,575	42,600
Grand Total	26,891,756	24,878,247	2,013,509

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2021/02

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	27,386,116
Expenditure	-24,878,247
Closing Balance	2,507,869
Deferred Income	177,642
Funds Available	2,685,511

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	500,000	Reimbursed :	500,000	Outstanding :	0
----------------------------------	--------	---------	--------------	---------	----------------------	----------

Emergency Appeal

Interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/9-2021/2	Operation	MDRBS003
Budget Timeframe	2019/9-2021/6	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Apr 2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRBS003 - Bahamas - Hurricane Dorian

Operating Timeframe: 02 Sep 2019 to 30 Jun 2021; appeal launch date: 03 Sep 2019

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
Amazon	23,506	382,829			406,334		
American Red Cross	19,391,720				19,391,720		
Australia - Private Donors	6,300				6,300		
Austria - Private Donors	9,792				9,792		
British Red Cross	887,214				887,214		
British Red Cross (from ELMA Relief Foundation*)	484,795				484,795		
China Red Cross, Hong Kong branch	25,223				25,223		
European Commission - DG ECHO	543,699				543,699		
Fondation Didier & Martine Primat	65,104				65,104	34,896	
Government of Malta	21,700				21,700		
IFRC at the UN Inc	34,093				34,093		
Iraqi Red Crescent Society	1,870				1,870		
Irish Government	109,059				109,059		
Irish Red Cross Society	5,386				5,386		
Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund	109,697				109,697		
Jamaica Red Cross	4,803				4,803		
Japanese Red Cross Society	36,457				36,457		
Marriott International Inc.	9,832				9,832		
Netherlands - Private Donors	7,263				7,263		
Norwegian Red Cross	6,039	189,549			195,587		
On Line donations	8,299				8,299		
Red Cross of Monaco	43,902				43,902		
Samsung Electronics Co.,LTD.	34,907				34,907		
Singapore Red Cross Society	9,981				9,981		
Spanish Red Cross	75,000				75,000		
Swiss Government	300,000				300,000		
Swiss Red Cross	200,000				200,000		
Switzerland - Private Donors	198				198		
The Canadian Red Cross Society	1,586,571	103,688	151,019		1,841,278		
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	375,699				375,699		
The Government of Portugal	32,680				32,680		
The Netherlands Red Cross	43,382				43,382		
The Republic of Cyprus	10,900				10,900		
Turkish Red Crescent Society	20,000				20,000		
United States Government - USAID	1,983,124				1,983,124	142,746	
United States - Private Donors	199				199		
UPS foundation	74,143				74,143		
Write off & provisions				-23,506	-23,506		
Total Contributions and Other Income	26,582,537	676,065	151,019	-23,506	27,386,116	177,642	
Total Income and Deferred Income					27,386,116	177,642	