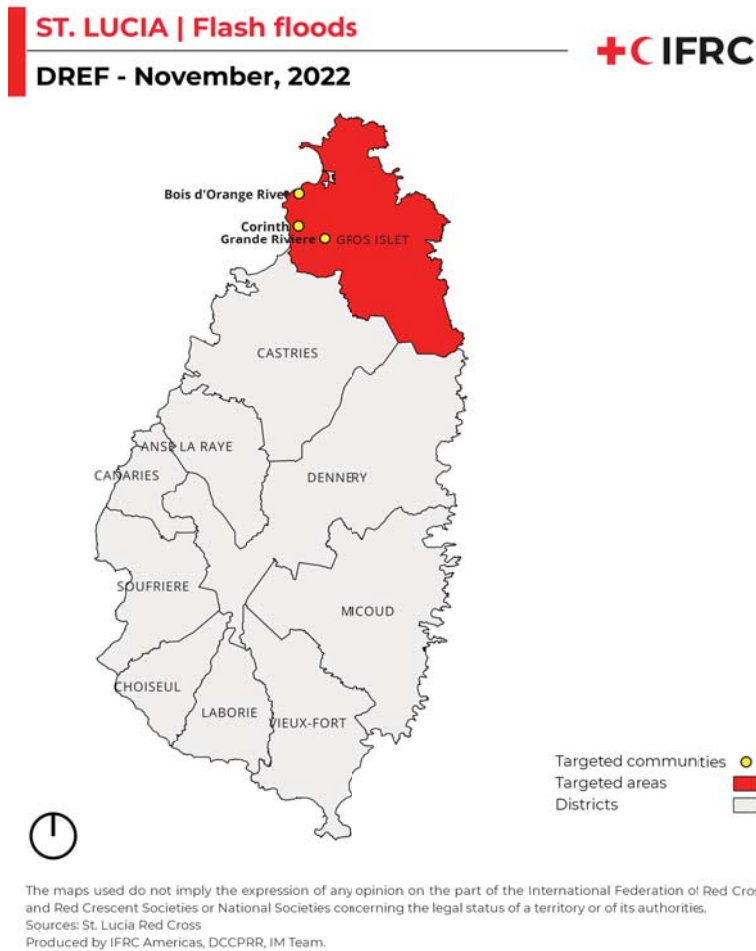




Image of 6 November flash flooding in St. Lucia. Source: thecaribbeannewnow.com

Appeal: <b>MDRLC005</b>	DREF Allocated: <b>CHF 112,696</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>
Glide Number:	People Affected: <b>5,500 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>1,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>2022-11-18</b>	Operation End Date: <b>2023-03-31</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>4 months</b>
	Targeted Areas:	<b>Gros Islet</b>	

# Description of the Event



Map of areas affected by Flash Flooding in northern St. Lucia. Source: IFRC.

## What happened, where and when?

On 6 November 2022, heavy rains associated with an upper-level trough caused widespread flooding and landslides in a number of communities in the north of St Lucia. Nearly 200 families have been displaced from the flooding. Whilst some displaced persons are with families and friends, a number of affected persons continue to occupy the impacted residences. Approximately 5,500 people overall have been impacted across the communities of Corinth, Bois d'orange, and Grande Riviere in Gros Islet District, as well as isolated cases in other districts.

Rapid needs assessments indicated that most families have suffered damage and loss of household items and personal belongings. The most urgent needs include sleeping items such as mattresses as well as food and clothing.

The general population has returned to normal daily routines with the clearance of road networks and the restoration of electricity and water. Although clean-up of the homes continue, families are at different stages of clean-up. There are increased levels of stress and anxiety amongst the affected population



Image of flooded community.



Image of household assessment. Source: St. Lucia Red Cross.

## Scope and Scale

As the rainy season peaks, the island of St Lucia has continued to experience persistent rainfall over the last two months contributing to heavily saturated soils.

On 6 November, the northern part of the island experienced massive flash flooding and landslides caused by torrential rains associated with the passage of an upper level-trough. The Meteorological Office has described the event as “unexpected and isolated” as only communities in the north and Bexon experienced rainfall and flooding. A weather report issued by the Saint Lucia Met Services on 7 November, indicated that up to 42.5mm of rainfall was registered at George FL Charles Airport in Castries, as compared to 5.7mm at the Hewanorra International Airport in Vieux Fort during a 24 hour period.

Reports received by the Saint Lucia Red Cross indicate that communities in Marc/Bexon, Beausejour, Bois d’orange, Grande-Riviere, Corinth and Assou Canal had been submerged in deep water causing residents to be trapped in their homes. Rescue teams including police and fire-service personnel reported having to rescue families from their homes. Additionally, roads were made impassable as rivers had overflowed their banks and poured onto the main highways and roadways of these communities. Businesses along the highway were also impacted resulting in closure of business. Two educational institutions remain close to undergo cleaning associated with the flooding of these institutions.

No deaths or injuries have been reported.

Based upon an initial rapid assessment by SLRC volunteers of impacts of the flooding, families have been displaced, and partial and complete loss of household items have been reported including furniture, bedding and sleeping material, clothing, personal documents and food. The National Society estimates there are approximately 200 displaced families. No shelters were opened as persons sought shelter with family members, friends and relatives.

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	<b>No</b>
Did it affect the same population groups?	<b>No</b>
Did the National Society respond?	<b>No</b>

Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	<b>No</b>
If yes, please specify which operations	-
<p><b>Specify how the lessons learnt from these previous operations are being used to mitigate similar challenges in the current operation</b></p> <p>During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the National Society conducted a CVA Programme with a budget of CHF 280K and utilized both the IFRC Debit cards (CHF 52K) and food vouchers (CHF 228K) with one of the region's major supermarket chains. Both operations went well and incorporated lessons learned to ensure the targeted population were involved in finalizing the methods of transfer and accepted distribution processes as well as timeframe.</p> <p>The NS has experienced personnel in country to carry out the current intended CVA programme.</p>	

## Current National Society Actions

<b>Assessment</b>	Staff and volunteers from community-based branches and CDRT teams have conducted damage and needs assessments. Assessments continues.
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	The St. Lucia Red Cross Society (SLRCS) activated its Response Plan and Flood Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
<b>Coordination</b>	SLRCS has coordinated with the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO).
<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	Cleaning Kits and Hygiene Kits have been distributed to assessed affected person. More resources are required. 152 cleaning kits distributed.
<b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b>	Blankets and cots have been provided. 100 blankets, and 25 cots were distributed.
<b>Health</b>	10 PFA sessions conducted in the field. Sessions were conducted briefly with 90% being females who had expressed high levels of stress and anxiety during the assessments. This intervention was during the process of assessments and distributions.

## Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>IFRC</b>	Response guidance and support on the way forward. The IFRC English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) is supporting and coordinating with the SLRC to develop its response plan to the crisis and ensuring that identified needs are met.
<b>ICRC</b>	Not present in country. No direct support provided to date. Coordination if required, will be supported by IFRC.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>The national government is coordination actions through the national Emergency management Office (NEMO). Authorities have provided some support with food items, water and non-food items (NFIs). The government infrastructure ministry has also reopened access to affected areas, clean areas and removed debris.</p> <p>Counsellors have been deployed and engaged at the Wellness Centres in the communities. The NEMO coordinated with agencies resulting 1 in ,003 households assessed and food packages, water, mattresses, and WASH items being distributed. A needs list has been compiled and a call for assistance to the Diaspora has been made.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	
<b>Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?</b>	
	The NEMO coordination structure has been activated.

# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

WASH-related activities were limited to ensuring that households had access to cleaning supplies. Some needs were addressed with initial distribution of 152 cleaning kits to affected families in the communities. Through this DREF Plan of Action, these kits will be replenished. Further assessment is also being done.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The majority of families affected by the floods are middle to low-income families. Given the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on low- and middle-income families, these families are less able to replace their household items immediately. The affected population will need support to complement their basic household needs of food or items that may have been lost during the floods, thus supporting initial recovery actions.



## Health

As it is the rainy season, the floods have the potential to contribute to increased vector-borne diseases including dengue due to stagnant water in the areas. Therefore, educational sessions on vector-control and the distribution of mosquito nets to 200 families is necessary to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases.

Interactions with beneficiaries suggest there is evidence of stress and anxiety amongst community members given the level of loss of personal items and in some cases employment tools. As a result, SLRC volunteers have been conducting PFA sessions with beneficiaries whilst in the field. PFA interventions in the communities and amongst volunteers will be addressed under this component.



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

Floods and heavy rains have caused partial or total loss of households' goods and personal belongings. A number of families have been displaced (approximately 200) and living with family members or friends.

Based on the initial rapid assessments conducted, a number of families which were directly affected by the flooding were tenants. There is a need for support with replacement of household items including bedding and support for meeting rent.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF Plan of Action, the St Lucia Red Cross (SLRC) aims to provide humanitarian assistance to protect the lives, health and dignity of 150 families affected by flash flood with a specific focus on Shelter and Essential



Household Items (EHI), Livelihood & Basic Needs, Health and Psychosocial support (PSS), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) with protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) cutting across all sectors.

## Operation strategy rationale

Initial rapid assessments indicate that the needs of the community are associated with loss of personal property, household items including beds, clothing and food. Whilst persons continue to undertake cleaning, the level of stress and anxiety is evident. The proposed operation strategy/plan will comprise two components:

### 1. Replenishing of existing stock

The National Society has conducted initial distribution of stock from its warehouse, and these will be replenished. The replenishing of stock will be conducted through the support of the IFRC procurement teams and include blankets, cots and cleaning kits. The items will be replenished through the logistical unit in Panama.

### 2. Distribution of relief assistance in areas of:

**Shelter:** Whilst an initial distribution of blankets has been undertaken, affected families are in need of sleeping material (beds, mattresses, pillows). Based on the vulnerability criteria, the SLRC will distribute mattresses to 50 households which meet the criteria. Priority will be given to those households with elderly, disabled and shut-ins. Distribute of IEC materials on vector-control especially mosquitos will be conducted in all communities. The distribution of mosquito nets to 200 families is necessary to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases.

**Multi-purpose Cash (Basic Needs):** Vouchers will be distributed to affected families for a period of three months to help meet basic household needs including food, hygiene or household items. 150 families will receive a monthly voucher of XCD\$300.00 (Approximately CHF 110) each month for a period of three months.

**Health (including MHPSS):** Self-care and mental health promoting messages including leaflets will be complemented with the provision of PFA interventions in the communities on a needs basis. All volunteers will be debriefed after every session.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

The SLRC intends to address the needs of 200 vulnerable households/families (approximately 1,000 people) affected by the floods including:

- 50 families to be reached with shelter support (mattresses and sleeping items)
- 150 families to be reached with cash assistance to meet their basic needs (one voucher valued at XCD\$300 [approx. CHF 110] per month for three months)
- 200 families to be reached with mosquito nets.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The affected areas consist of mixed income-level individuals/families and have varied employment status/categories. Assessment results will be used to identify the most vulnerable groups targeted for this intervention.

Vulnerability criteria include:

- Households with children under the age of five, older adults, pregnant women, people with disabilities and/or people with chronic diseases
- Households whose main source of livelihoods have been affected
- Single mothers (heads of household) with children.

# Total Targeted Population

Women:	450	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	70	%	%
Men:	410	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	70	2.00 %	
Total targeted population:	1,000		

## Risk and security considerations

### Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Rains continue resulting in: Additional number of people affected by the floods and increased needs for humanitarian assistance.	Continuous risk communications efforts, temporary shelter preparedness and continuous follow up of evolving situation.  The response is expanded additional funding support requested from IFRC and partners.
Lack or poor of integration of communities in the implementation of actions.	Ensure community engagement and accountability (including feedback mechanisms), participation, and proper local organization involved.
Impacts from other tropical cyclones as we are still in the Atlantic Hurricane Season.	Continuous monitoring of the events and necessary precautions to ensure the safety of volunteers, staff, and community members. If necessary, raise the corresponding alerts to increase the risk category of the current response.

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

In general, the risk of rainfall remains as it is the peak of the hurricane season and soils are highly saturated. Whilst humanitarian interventions do not face major security threats all relief work will be undertaken during the day. The risk of COVID-19 still remains high on the island and complications may arise from increased exposure of volunteers to persons possibly infected with COVID-19. There is potential expectation from those affected that the SLRC will provide for all their needs.




Another risk arises from the politicizing of response in the communities. This will be reduced through humanitarian diplomacy, and emphasis on humanitarian principles and role of the SLRC as auxiliary.

In keeping with the National Society security guidelines, all staff and volunteers will be encouraged to complete the Stay Safe security course and abide by the Code of Conduct. All relief activities will be conducted during the day and within the Safer Access action framework.


Volunteers will be provided with protective equipment (including hand-sanitizers and facemasks) and visibility equipment, as well as clear mechanisms for psychosocial support, debriefing and onboarding.





# Planned Intervention

	<b>Shelter Housing And Settlements</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 29,288
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	1000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Number of families who received mattresses		50	
Percentage of targeted population reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, respectful, accessible, accountable and participatory manner		100	
Number of families to receive mosquito nets		200	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement (replenishment) of blankets, and cots.</li> <li>• Procurement and distribution of mattresses (50 mattresses - 1 per family)</li> <li>• Selection of targeted population</li> <li>• Post-distribution evaluation</li> <li>• Procurement and distribution of mosquito nets (200 nets - 1 per family)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 1,172
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	1000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Percentage of persons satisfied with intervention programmes		100	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote participation and accountability - deliver information on Red Cross Principles and reporting mechanisms, use of cleaning kits and hygiene practices (talks/printed material)</li> <li>• Conduct feedback survey (during and post distributions)</li> </ul>	
	<b>National Society Strengthening</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 14,804
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	

Indicators	Target
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire Project Officer</li> <li>• Stationery services</li> <li>• Telecommunication services</li> <li>• Vehicle maintenance</li> <li>• Local Transport services</li> <li>• Lessons learnt workshop</li> <li>• Bank charges/fees</li> <li>• Courier services</li> <li>• Red Cross Visibility</li> </ul>

	<b>Secretariat Services</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 4,260
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	
Indicators	Target		
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring visit</li> <li>• Communication Support</li> </ul>		

	<b>Health</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 2,556
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	750
Indicators	Target		
Number of education and awareness sessions held with target population	2		
Percentage satisfaction with educational sessions	100		
Number and type of materials distributed	450		
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of self care and health promotion materials</li> <li>• Education on mosquito and vector-borne diseases and other communicable diseases</li> </ul>		

	<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 4,918
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	250
Indicators	Target		
Presence and utility of equipment	1		

Number of households assisted	50
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of cleaning kits (for replenishment)</li> <li>• Procurement of cleaning equipment to assist households still in cleaning process</li> </ul>

	<b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 55,700
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	750
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Percentage of families satisfied with voucher assistance programme		100	
Number of families successfully accessing voucher assistance		150	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct market assessment</li> <li>• Design Voucher Assistance to meet basic needs of the affected population</li> <li>• Voucher distribution to 150 families for three months (only) to cover food and basic household needs</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation of the voucher transfer programme</li> </ul>	

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

The National Society has a cadre of volunteers and staff trained in areas of Disaster Management, Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA), Shelter, WASH, Emergency Assessment, Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA), Health and Care, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Finance to support the implementation of the operation.

The St. Lucia Red Cross will assign a dedicated team from the National Society to manage the planned disaster relief operation. These positions include a Disaster Management Officer, Communications Officer and a Finance Officer who will dedicate 50 per cent of their time to the management of this DREF operation for the entire timeframe of implementation. In addition, 15 volunteers are expected to be involved in the implementation of this DREF Plan of Action.

The President of the National Society, who has extensive experience in disaster response, has the overall oversight and will set the direction of the operations. This DREF operation will also be supported by a logistics officer, the volunteer engagement officer, and the health focal point from the National Society.

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

At this time, local procurement is not anticipated as the National Society holds a cache of stock that can support the initial operation. Any stock utilized will be replenished via IFRC procurement. All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standard procurement procedures and Sphere Standards for household item purchases. The National Society and IFRC CCD will coordinate with the Americas Regional Logistics Unit for any major procurement. The National Society will conduct procurement of services related to voucher programme and operational overheads.

**How will this operation be monitored?**

The SLRC with support from the IFRC, will be responsible for all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of this response. Consequently a M&E plan will be developed to guide the process. Field visits, photos, distribution records will support verification of operational activities. All narrative and financial reports will be prepared according to IFRC guidelines.

A lesson learned workshop will be conducted towards the end of operation to draw lessons from the operation and a report of the workshop will be produced and shared. The CEA focal point will also establish complaints mechanisms to receive feedback from the communities.

**Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.**

Regular news bulletins and briefing of the response will be circulated to the media. When possible media houses will be invited to the field during implementation of distributions. The National Society social media platforms will also serve as a hub for accurate and timely information on the operation. The Communication Officer for the Dutch & English-Speaking Caribbean will also provide support the communications regarding the operations.

# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRLC005 - St. Lucia Red Cross Floods

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>93,633</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	29,288
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	55,700
Health	2,556
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4,918
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	1,172
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>19,064</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	4,260
National Society Strengthening	14,804
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>112,696</b>

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

# Contact Information

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

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- **IFRC Project Manager:** Horace Glaze, Disaster management coordinator, horace.glaze@ifrc.org, +18768257761
- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:**  
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[Click here for the reference](#)