

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Caribbean: Drought

DREF operation n° MDR49005
GLIDE n° DR-2010-00029-TTO
19 February 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

A total of 23,986 Swiss francs (22,379 US dollars or 16,340 euros) have been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to deploy two Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members to affected Red Cross Societies, to perform initial damage and needs assessments and provide support to the National Societies of Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago as a result of the effects of the drought. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since January 2010 several Caribbean countries have been experiencing severe water shortages due to the lack of rain which is also affecting the agricultural sector. The Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology in Saint James, Barbados, has issued drought alerts for the south-eastern Caribbean. This DREF operation will enable the RITs deployed to carry out detailed assessments to evaluate food and water related issues and work with the Red Cross Societies on their potential response.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 18 April 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 18 July 2010).

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

The situation

The Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIHM) in St. James, Barbados, has issued drought alerts for the Eastern Caribbean. From October 2009 to January 2010 Dominica southward to Guyana experienced moderate to extremely dry conditions for the four-month period. Saint Lucia, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada have been particularly affected. Water levels are dropping quickly in several Caribbean countries, prompting officials to limit availability and impose water restrictions as the region enters its peak dry season.

Many farmers in the south eastern Caribbean have been heavily impacted by this drought, either due to limited rainfall for rain-fed crops and pastures as well as a reduction of irrigation water. Since below normal rainfall for the region between January to March have been reached, in January, water resources managers were being urged to be extremely vigilant and monitor their water supplies as much as possible.

At this time drought alerts have been emitted for **Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago**. Regional technical specialists classify this as an agricultural drought (short term), although there are communities in each country which are severely affected. The unusually dry conditions are also causing bush fires in Trinidad and Saint Lucia, raising concern regarding watershed damage and increased flood risks later in the year.

On 28 January, the CIMH reported that current dry conditions in **Barbados** are expected to intensify. The wettest month of the year is recording below normal rainfall and the next five months are also predicted to

have low rainfall. These immediate three months may only affect agriculture, however, an extended period of six months can affect ground water levels.

Severe drought conditions in **Grenada** are expected to persist over the next three months. Analyses show that severe dry conditions were experienced in Grenada in 2009, with the last three to six months being extremely dry. This resulted in an increased demand for irrigation water, a reduction in stream flow and a general depletion in water resources.

On 15 February, Guyanese authorities acknowledged the drought conditions in **Guyana** caused by a lingering El Niño phenomenon. This is threatening to cause billions of dollars in damage to the agricultural sector. Government officials have stated that actions to limit the losses are being taken. The country is struggling with water shortages and the Minister of Agriculture stated that the resulting losses could be around 14.7 million US dollars. The Ministry is aiming to minimize losses by ensuring that water is being provided where it is needed. The Minister informs that 10,000 acres of rice land are affected, as well as livestock and other crops. Resources have been mobilized in all the regions and local officials are working closely with farmers to develop a system to respond, address the problem and provide the type of assistance needed in all areas. Since the drought started, the government has allocated 1.2 million US dollars in infrastructure works to support farmers countrywide.

The Ministry had been investing in drainage and irrigation systems, however its resources are overstretched. Awareness is being raised amongst farmers that resources need to be shared during this difficult time. The Ministry will be conducting a second round of distributions whereby dietary supplements, molasses, feed and veterinary assistance will be provided.

In **Trinidad** water conservation is being encouraged through legislation and enforcement. Persons have already been charged for not following water conservation statutes. A number of food outlets acknowledge they may need to close as their water supply is not sufficiently regular at the moment.

Saint Lucia is also rationing water and has alerted the public that they will be affected by shortages in their water supply. The authorities are attempting to preserve and manage the depleted stock of water at various catchment sites.

Coordination and partnerships

All the governments in the drought-affected countries have issued alerts to their populations and have begun promoting water conservation measures. In Grenada the national water institution is also seeking to reactivate over 20 old wells and has begun to purchase water and to ship it to their small northern islands, for example, shipping 90,000 gallons of water to Carricou due to the water shortage there. The water authority in Trinidad and Tobago is rationing water supplies and also trucking water to areas experiencing shortages.

For the National Societies this kind of emergency is a rare threat and support has been requested to help them respond to this emergency. They will coordinate closely with the national disaster offices, the water authorities and the ministries of agriculture in each country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

All these National Societies have undertaken disaster preparedness programmes, focusing on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA), community disaster response teams (CDRT), micro-mitigation programmes and have trained National Intervention Teams. This is supported by regional training in these areas, as well as sharing lessons through the Regional Disaster Management Network. Nevertheless, as mentioned above, the majority of the affected National Societies do not have experience in responding to this type of emergency.

The National Societies of Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia have been in constant communication with the IFRC's Caribbean Regional Representation in Trinidad and Tobago and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in order to coordinate actions.

The needs

The Red Cross Societies of the affected countries, with the support of the RITs deployed will carry out the collection of information in the different high risk areas to estimate the severity of the hazard on income levels and the livelihoods of the affected population. This initial assessment will determine the level of the

food security and water resources of the families through food intake patterns, food and water sources and activities to generate family income. In addition, this assessment will determine which activities the Red Cross Societies can best undertake in response to this situation.

The proposed operation

Detailed Assessments: The two RITs, in coordination with the respective National Societies, will conduct rapid assessments to evaluate food and water related issues. The assessment will ascertain the following: a) identification of immediate needs and type of assistance needed; b) identification of number of people affected and most vulnerable groups; d) identification of water sources and relief items needed; e) if required, drawing up of a plan of action to be carried out with a time frame and budget.

Damage and need assessments

Objective: Two RIT members, with the Red Cross Societies of Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia, will perform damage and needs assessments in the Caribbean countries affected by the drought and will define the plan of action to address the needs.

Activities planned:

- Conduct four assessment workshops for volunteers.
- Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments.
- Elaborate a plan of action (if/as required).

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Trinidad and Tobago: Tanya Wood, Caribbean Regional Representative; phone: (868) 624 1557; fax: (868) 627 9627; email: tanya.wood@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Mauricio Bustamante, Acting Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Ghotai Ghazialam, Disaster Management Delegate; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org.
- In Panama: María Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41 22) 730 42 74; fax: (41 22) 733 03 95; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

MDR49005

Caribbean Drought Evaluation**BUDGET CHF****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	-
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	-
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	-
Total Relief Needs	-

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	-
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	-
Distribution & Monitoring	-
Transport & Vehicles Costs	534
Service fee & Recovery	-

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,476
National Staff	
National Society Staff	-
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	5,126
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	7,689
Information & Public Relations	-
Office running costs	534
Communication Costs	534
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	534
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

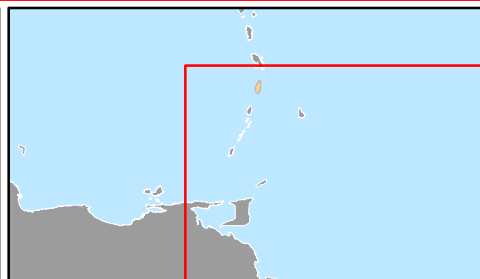
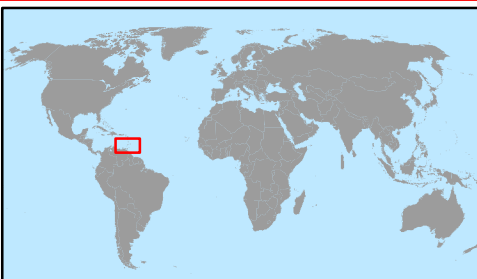
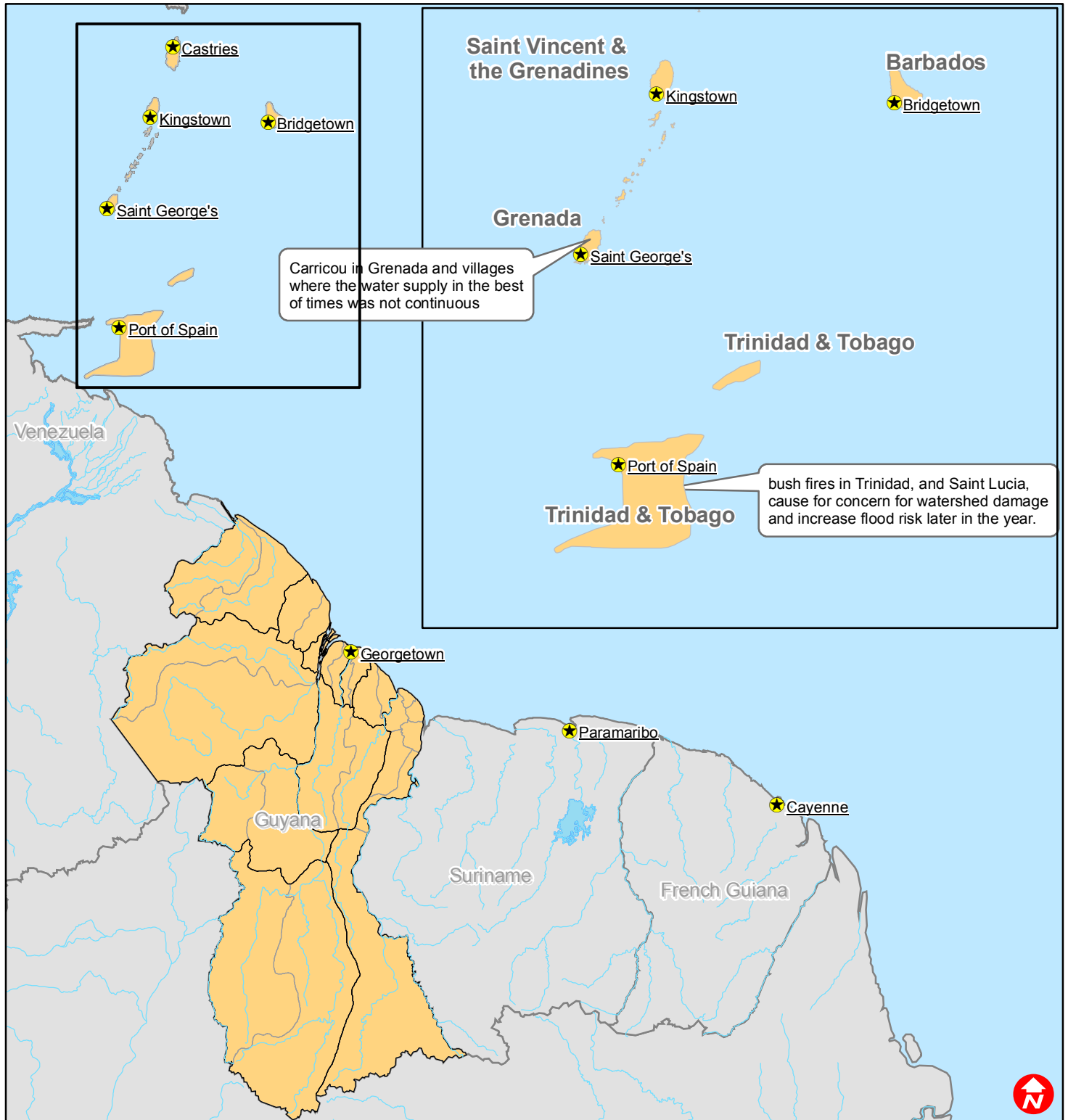
Programme Support - PSR	1,559
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Total Operational Needs **23,986**

DREF ALLOCATION **23,986**



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- ★ Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes