

www.ifrc.org  
Saving lives,  
changing minds.

# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Dominican Republic: Hurricane Irene

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRDO003**  
**GLIDE n° TC-2011-000114-DOM**  
**2 September 2011**

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

**81,845 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** By 21 August 2011, a tropical wave travelling from Africa became Hurricane Irene and caused damages through the Caribbean on its way to the east coast of North America. The hurricane left extensive damage, affecting around 120,000 people in the Dominican Republic, displacing families and isolating at least 70 communities.

Since the onset of the emergency, the Dominican Red Cross has been monitoring the situation throughout the country, carrying out comprehensive response including search and rescue missions and distribution of non-food items in the Azua, San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal, and Santo Domingo provinces. The current DREF-funded operation aims to restock the DRC warehouse and provide assistance to up to 1,000 vulnerable families, especially those living in collective centres.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 1 December, 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 1 March 2011).

[<Click here for the DREF budget and here for contact details;](#)

## The situation

Hurricane Irene reached the Dominican Republic on 21 August 2011. While the category 2 hurricane detoured north and did not fully impact the island, it caused flooding and infrastructure damage across the country. Even though the eye of Hurricane Irene passed north of La Hispaniola, the hurricane was producing rains days before and after its passage. Despite its distance, Irene produced extreme rainfall in southern parts of the country that led to many secondary effects. Severe impact has been reported, especially in the



**On 25 August 2011, the Dominican Red Cross carried out further assessment on the deterioration of roads and house infrastructure in San José de Ocoa. The overflow of rivers has isolated several communities. Source: Dominican Red Cross**

provinces of **San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo**. On 24 August, 37,473 people were reported as affected by the disaster. Current figures provided by National Society report 75 isolated communities in San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo and 1,340 people living in official collective centres, mostly churches and schools that should be vacated in order for children to continue their academic year. Even though the population is slowly returning home, 192 houses of 1,407 damaged houses were destroyed.

Flooding combined with deteriorating water and sanitation conditions increase the vulnerability of people already prone to epidemic water-related diseases such as cholera, dengue and leptospirosis.

Due to the complex emergency situation in La Hispaniola, the passing of Hurricane Irene could have serious consequences and bring an increased need for assistance. Part of the goal of the DREF-supported operation is to ensure that disease prevention campaigns are not interrupted and that communicable diseases, such as cholera, do not increase. The Dominican Ministry of Health reported 16,505 suspected cases of cholera in the Dominican Republic and 118 deaths by the epidemiological-week no. 33 since the start of the outbreak.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Dominican Red Cross is part of the national disaster management system working closely with the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), sharing information through its branch network. The DRC has been assisting the Ministry of Education in the establishment of its own EOC to track the situation of schools which are used as collective centres. The National Society also took part in the Ministry of Health's EOC, while it was active and is part of the Humanitarian Working Group including UNICEF, OCHA, UNDP, AECID and ECHO. The Dominican Red Cross coordinates with the National Water and Sanitation Administration (DINAPA), municipalities, province governors, the firemen, and the Civil Defence System. In addition, the Dominican Red Cross worked alongside the association of amateur radio operators to gather information and facilitate coordination between different areas of the country affected by Hurricane Irene.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Building on experience acquired during its response to Hurricane Emily, the Dominican Red Cross activated its EOC on 15 August 2011 in order to track the incoming tropical wave that would become Hurricane Irene. The EOC and the overall National Society response system has been integrating an emergency health approach as well as improved information-sharing tools in order to keep information flowing through its network of 2,356 volunteers and partners.

Since the onset of the emergency the DRC deployed search and rescue teams to affected provinces. It also carried out assessments in affected areas and in official collective centres. In coordination with other humanitarian institutions, the DRC has distributed food and non-food relief items for more than 1,000 families sheltered in collective centres in the provinces of San José de Ocoa, Azua, Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal. For instance, 350 hygiene kits were prepositioned for distribution and at least 100 families are receiving safe water in San Cristóbal. Families in affected communities also received psychosocial support and assistance for evacuation when needed.

The Dominican Red Cross continues assessing the needs of the vulnerable population as the situation evolves. This DREF supported operation will focus on the areas affected by floods due to the passing of Hurricane Irene which are also vulnerable to the spread of diseases due to water contamination and overcrowding in collective centres. As the country is already working to prevent the increase of cholera cases, the National Society has mobilized teams specialized in water and sanitation to start preventive measures. Although this DREF-supported operation is linked to the [cholera Emergency Appeal operation](#), the DRC will be working with different families in each of its responses. The IFRC's regional representation for the Latin Caribbean is supporting the National Society and will support the coordination between staff working in both operations.

## The needs

**Selection of people to be reached:** 1,000 affected families (5,000 people), especially those living in government collective centres and people returning to their homes will be assisted. Figures of the last assessment indicate that 60 per cent of the people confirmed by the National Society to be living in collective centres on 29 August are women and around 5 per cent are children under 5 years old.

The main identified needs are to:

- Support 150 families that have lost their homes with household items, including kitchen kits, blankets and mosquito nets.
- Supply water for 600 families living in collective centres for up to 2 months.
- Conduct hygiene promotion activities in official collective centres and affected areas in order to reduce the risk of epidemic diseases.
- Prevent diseases through epidemic control activities in official collective centres and affected areas,

## The proposed operation

The proposed operation aims to provide assistance to up to 1,000 affected families, including those who lost their homes and/or are living in collective centres. The operation will also replenish National Society stocks used during the onset of the emergency as well as cover the assessments carried out by the Dominican Red Cross. Replenishing and prepositioning of stock will enable the National Society to cope with future disasters during the hurricane season. The support to be provided by the National Society will increase affected families' resilience to epidemic diseases and will reduce risks through adequate water supply and epidemic control and hygiene training.

### Relief distributions (non-food items)

**Outcome: Supply up to 150 families that have lost their homes with kitchen kits, blankets, mattresses, and mosquito nets in order for them to cope with the displacement situation.**

**Output: 150 families receive 1 kitchen kit, 2 mosquito nets, 2 mattresses and 2 blankets.**

#### Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with national authorities.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user, including training in vector diseases.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The Dominican Red Cross will assist 150 of 194 families that have lost their homes with household items such as kitchen kits, blankets, mattresses and mosquito nets. The distribution is supplementary to food and non-food relief item distribution carried out by the National Society with assistance of other institutions such as UNICEF.

Families will receive 2 mosquito nets and 2 mattresses, and will receive training in the use and maintenance of mosquito nets.

### Emergency health

**Outcome: The risk of epidemic diseases for 1,000 families in San José de Ocoa, Azua, Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal is reduced.**

**Output: 1,000 families in 4 affected provinces receive information on prevention of diseases such as cholera, dengue, AH1N1 and leptospirosis.**

#### Activities planned:

- Carry out a health communication campaign among the population still living in collective centres and most vulnerable people returning home.

The campaign aims to reduce the risk and spread of diseases in shelters and affected locations due to overcrowded shelter facilities and environmental contamination resulting from the floods. The communication campaign and workshops will emphasize prevention of diseases such as cholera, dengue, AH1N1 and leptospirosis. This campaign will focus on people living in shelters and it is complementary to the activities carried out as part of the Cholera operation. The National Society is improving its coordination with National Authorities and joint work has led National Health authorities to share IEC material and templates to be used.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome 1: The risk of epidemic diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water to 1,000 of families (or 5,000 beneficiaries) in San José de Ocoa, Azua, Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal for up to a two-month period.**

**Outcome 2: The risk of epidemic disease has been reduced through the distribution of WASH material (buckets, chlorine, hygiene kits) and training.**

**Output 1: 1,000 families receive safe water during a 2-month period.**

**Output 2: 1,000 families receive 1 bucket, 1 litre of chlorine and 1 hygiene kit per family.**

**Activities planned:**

- Assess the existing coverage with a view to ensuring the availability of an adequate water supply.
- Provide safe water to 1,000 affected families, especially those living in collective centres
- Provide appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion for 1,000 families in San José de Ocoa, Azua, Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal.
- Carry out disinfection spraying in collective centres and houses.
- Distribute buckets, chlorine and hygiene kits for up to 1,000 families.

The National Society understands that in order to reduce vulnerability of the affected families, water supply and hygiene should be ensured among the affected population living in overcrowded collective shelters and isolated communities. In coordination with the water and sanitation authority and local government, the Dominican Red Cross has distributed hygiene kits to 350 families and aims to supplement this distribution with chlorine and buckets in addition to purified water. In San Cristóbal, the National Society has prepositioned two water tanks from where families can cover their water needs.

The Dominican Red Cross aims to extend this support to 650 more sheltered families as well as to carry out disinfection spraying in collective centres and houses as families return home. The hygiene promotion talks and the distribution of information, education and communications (IEC) materials is an integral part of the comprehensive response of the Dominican Red Cross.

## Contact information

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

- **Dominican Red Cross:** Gustavo Lara, General Director, Dominican Red Cross; phone: +1.809.6291.673; and email: [ejecutivo1crd@gmail.com](mailto:ejecutivo1crd@gmail.com)
- **IFRC regional representation:** Alexandre Claudon, regional representative for the Latin Caribbean : +1.809.334.4545; and email: [alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org](mailto:alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org)
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, operations quality assurance senior officer; phone: + 41.22.730.4381; fax: + 41.22.733.0395; and email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org)
- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Douglas Baquero, regional logistics coordinator; phone: +507.6747.3146; fax: +507.316.1347; and email: [douglas.baquero@ifrc.org](mailto:douglas.baquero@ifrc.org)

**For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:**

- **In IFRC Zone:** Sandra Lombardo; resource mobilization senior officer; phone: +507.317.3050; and email: [sandra.lombardo@ifrc.org](mailto:sandra.lombardo@ifrc.org)

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

- **In IFRC Zone:** Jane Grimshaw, PMER manager; phone: +507.317.3050; and email: [jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org](mailto:jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org)



**Click here**

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
2. Click [here](#) to view the DREF budget

---

## How we work

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

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



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

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

# DREF OPERATION

01/09/2011

APPEAL Dominican Republic Hurricane Irene

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	6,600
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	44,000
Medical & First Aid	5,000
Teaching Materials	1,000
Ustensils & Tools	4,200
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>60,800</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machiney & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	
Dsitribution & Monitoring	2,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,500
Logistics Services	
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>5,000</b>
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,000
Volunteers	5,000
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>6,000</b>
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	1,000
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	1,250
Communications	1,300
Financial Charges	1,500
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,050</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,995
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>4,995</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>81,845</b>