

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Dominican Republic: Cholera outbreak prevention

DREF operation n° MDRDO002
28 October 2010

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

CHF 78,852 (USD 80,618 or EUR 57,968) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The recent cholera outbreak in the neighbouring country of Haiti led the Ministry of Public Health in the Dominican Republic to issue an epidemiological alert on 23 October 2010. The Dominican Red Cross, with its close ties with the Haitian Red Cross Society (HRCS), is offering support in containing the outbreak of cholera in Haiti, while working on preventing the outbreak of the disease in the Dominican Republic through a public awareness campaign. The Dominican Red Cross is also working on strengthening its capacity to respond to a potential cholera outbreak in the country.



Dominican Red Cross volunteers place a hygiene promotion poster in a community centre located on the border, Jimani. Source: Dominican Red Cross

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 27 January 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 27 April, 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget and map of the target areas;](#) [here for contact details>](#)

The situation

With the emergence of cholera outbreaks in several communities in Haiti, with thousands of people hospitalized and more than 250 deaths suspected, the national authorities of the Dominican Republic have activated emergency plans to prevent and control possible cases and outbreaks in their territory. On 23 October the Ministry of Public Health in the Dominican Republic issued an official epidemiological alert.

A holistic approach to the cholera outbreak is being adopted across the island of Hispaniola and the Dominican Red Cross has a close relationship with Haitian Red Cross Society. As the two countries share many links, with an active cross-border movement of people and goods, the potential epidemic in Haiti cannot be treated in isolation from the situation in the Dominican Republic.

The water and sanitation sector can become a major problem since it must guarantee an adequate supply of water fit for human consumption, both for the hospitals as well as to vulnerable populations in the border area in the first instance.

Coordination and partnerships

The Dominican Ministry of Public Health issued an epidemiological warning on 23 October 2010, activating emergency plans in order to prevent and control possible cases and outbreaks of cholera on Dominican territory. The authorities have requested the DRC to begin preparing for a possible cholera outbreak. The DRC has been convened by the Government as one of the institutions to support in prevention, preparedness and response activities as needed in the event of the emergence of an outbreak in its territory. It has supported the development of bio-safety data sheets, and a document containing general information on prevention of cholera.

The Spanish Red Cross, in support of the work prepared by the DRC, has arranged the shipment of oral rehydration solutions which will be distributed immediately in the border area.

The IFRC, through its Regional Representation for the Latin Caribbean in Santo Domingo and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit in Panama, is in constant communication with the DRC to provide support and monitor the situation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The DRC will continue working on the prevention of the outbreak with messages and guidance to volunteers and the general public about the use of water and good hygiene practices. The DRC is also working on preparedness for response through its health emergency equipment and the pre-positioning of water purification units at the border, in order to assist in the safe water supply to hospitals and to populations in high-risk areas.

The needs

Currently there are no reported cases of cholera in the Dominican Republic. However, the people vulnerable to the outbreak do not have guaranteed access to safe water for consumption, cooking and personal hygiene. There is also a strong need for awareness and prevention activities as most people living in the border provinces do not have the knowledge, or the means to protect themselves against the illness. Finally there is a need to increase the DRC's capacity in epidemic control preparedness.

The proposed operation

The DRC is focusing on prevention and community preparedness actions for an effective response, as well as assisting in rapid recovery, according to the different stages of a cholera outbreak.

In order to achieve its mandate, the DRC will make a cholera contingency plan linked with the various levels of the National Risk Management system. The plan seeks to incorporate elements of health in emergencies, communication and preparation for response, thus enhancing the public image of the organization at the forefront of responding to disasters.

All activities of the programme will be carried out through active coordination with the authorities, community leaders and other actors involved in joint development of information materials. Furthermore, the DRC will establish a framework of bilateral cooperation with the Haitian Red Cross Society for the exchange of information and joint efforts which will serve to educate, prevent and control any situation related to the outbreak of cholera.

Emergency health

Outcome: Increased awareness and prevention of cholera through an awareness raising campaign in five provinces in the Republican Dominican-Haitian border.

Outputs:

- The knowledge on epidemic control of 60 volunteers will be reinforced.
- Communities in five provinces (approximately 90,000 people) have improved their coping mechanisms against the threat of an outbreak of cholera.

Activities planned:

- Carry out hygiene promotion talks in five border provinces.
- Conduct epidemic control workshops for the communities.
- Conduct epidemic control workshops for volunteers.
- Print and distribute public Information Education Communication awareness materials such as brochures and posters.

Water and sanitation

Outcome 1: The DRC has provided support for a sustainable water supply and sanitation to hospitals and to communities at risk of an outbreak of cholera and other water-borne diarrhoeal diseases.

Outcome 2: Members of the DRC are better equipped to protect themselves and their families and can efficiently provide services in an epidemic situation

Outputs:

- 300 DRC volunteers will receive personal protection equipment.
- Communities in the five provinces on the Dominican border will have access to safe water.

Activities planned:

- Coordinate and implement a national preparedness plan in accordance with the accepted roles and responsibilities of the DRC in the National Risk Management System.
- Pre-position water and sanitation equipment at the border of the Dominican Republic.
- Deliver protective equipment (gloves, pants, masks and other items) to volunteers working on the Dominican Republic border.

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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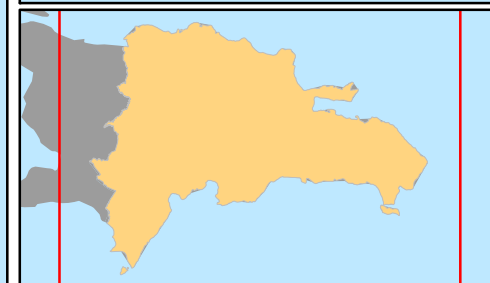
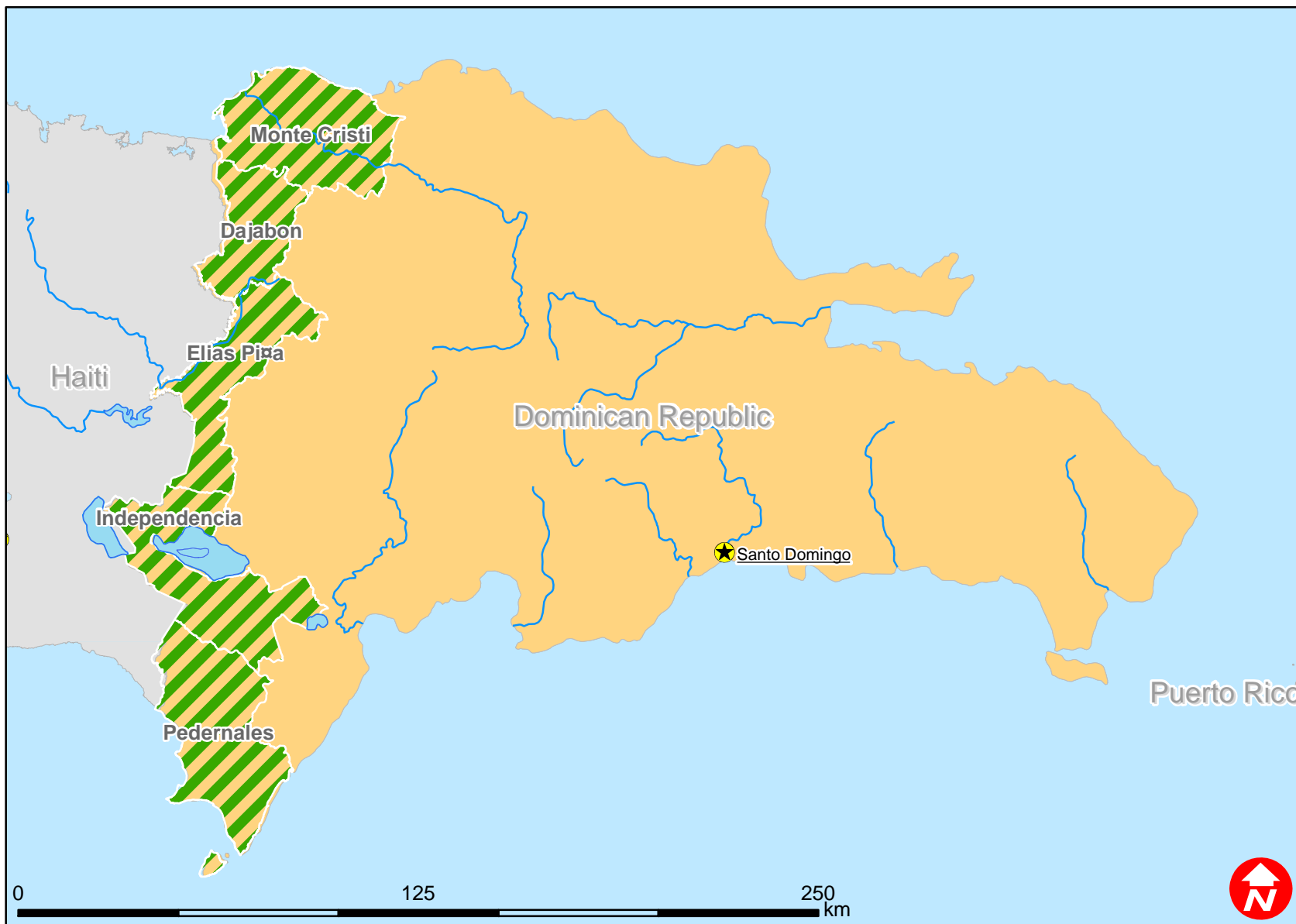
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)


BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		
Shelter - Transitional		
Construction - Housing		
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		
Construction - Materials		
Clothing & Textiles		
Food		
Seeds & Plants		
Water & Sanitation		
Medical & First Aid	12,364	12,364
Teaching Materials		
Ustensils & Tools		
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		
Total Supplies	12,364	12,364
Land & Buildings		
Vehicles		
Computer & Telecom		
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		
Medical Equipment		
Other Machinery & Equipment		
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		
Distribution & Monitoring	3,091	3,091
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,091	3,091
Total Transport & Storage	6,182	6,182
International Staff		
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,400	3,400
National Staff		
National Society Staff	9,273	9,273
Other Staff benefits		
Consultants		
Total Personnel	12,673	12,673
Workshops & Training	27,148	27,148
Total Workshops & Training	27,148	27,148
Travel	2,782	2,782
Information & Public Relation	6,559	6,559
Office Costs	2,061	2,061
Communications	618	618
Professional Fees		
Financial Charges	3,550	3,550
Other General Expenses	103	103
Total General Expenditure	15,673	15,673
Cash Transfers to National Societies		
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	4,813	4,813
Total Programme Support	4,813	4,813
Services & Recoveries		
Shared Services		
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	78,852	78,852



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 Provinces for the operation