

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Jamaica: Tropical Storm Nicole

DREF operation n° MDRJM002
GLIDE n° TC-2010-000192-JAM
Update n° 1
28 December 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.

Period covered by this update: 11 October to 18 November 2010

Summary:

150,644 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 11 October 2010 to support the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) in delivering assistance to 500 families (2,500 beneficiaries) affected by Tropical Storm Nicole.

During the last week of September, Tropical Storm Nicole struck Jamaica with heavy rains and winds, leaving behind 13 deaths, 26 injured and 437 people taking refuge in collective centres. To date, the Jamaica Red Cross has delivered emergency relief to some 2,480 beneficiaries and offered psychosocial support to families who were victims of Tropical Storm Nicole.

This operation is expected to be implemented in 3 months, and be completed by early January 2011. In line with Federation reporting standards, a Final Report will be available three months after the end of the operation (by early April 2011).

ECHO contributed 70,000 euro to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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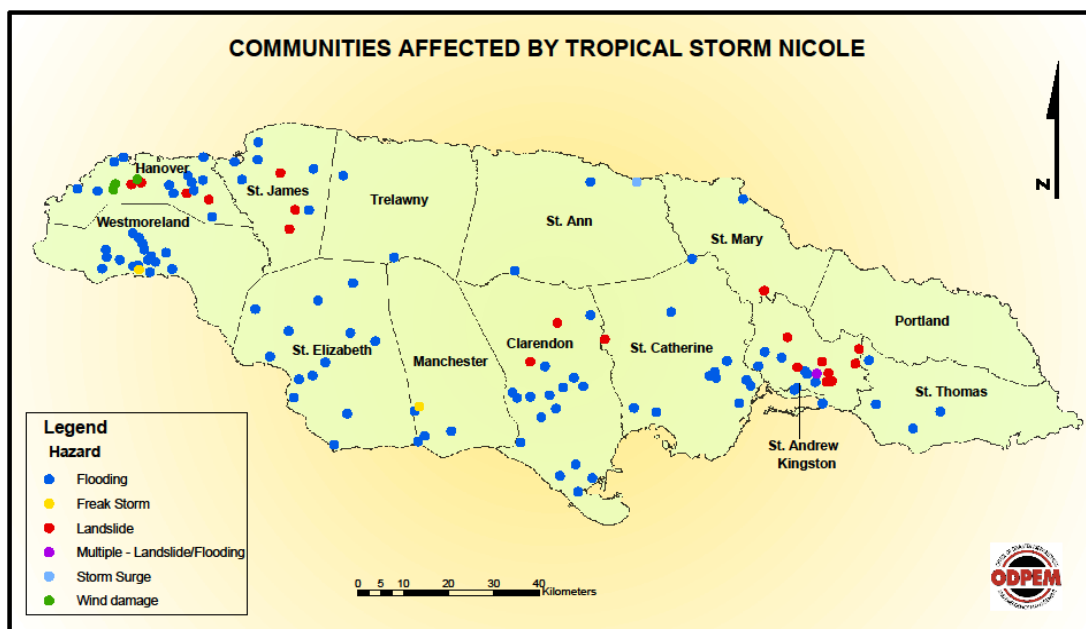
A joint damage and needs assessments carried by the Jamaica Red Cross and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security shows that at least 45 houses were destroyed during Tropical Storm Nicole. Source: JRC.

The situation

During the week of 27-30 September 2010, heavy rains and winds from Tropical Storm Nicole resulted in flooding and destruction in a number of communities across Jamaica. Several roads were rendered impassable by debris and flood waters, isolating communities in seven parishes. Furthermore, a number of urban communities were flooded by water contaminated with sewage, and several others were without electricity.

Overall, the impact ranged from flooding, landslides, collapsed and damaged houses, storm surges, blocked roads and collapsed bridges. Statistics from the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) indicate that 13 persons died as a result of the adverse weather conditions while 2 are reported missing, and 26 were injured. The worst affected communities were those located in the central and western parishes of the island, particularly Westmoreland. At least 45 houses have been destroyed islandwide while 356 homes were severely damaged.

The twenty two collective centres that were activated in the parishes of Saint James, Trelawny, Saint Catherine, Kingston and Saint Andrew, Westmoreland, and Saint Mary housed 437 people.



Source: Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management.

Coordination and partnerships

From the onset of the emergency, the Jamaica Red Cross has been in constant communication with its branches and partners. They also participated in coordination meetings with ODPEM to ensure a smooth transition of relief activities and took part in the Western Caribbean Donor Group meeting.

Additionally, there is close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS). Volunteers and staff of the JRC conducted damage and needs assessments and provided assistance to persons in collective centres in conjunction with MLSS representatives.

In the case of coordination within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the JRC has been in close contact with the Head of delegation from the French Red Cross based in Guadeloupe, who has been providing assistance as required. Furthermore, the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the Caribbean Regional Representation collaborated in developing the Plan of Action to assist those affected by Tropical Storm Nicole.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Approximately 200 volunteers (from branches and Headquarters) were mobilized to support the current operation. Many of the volunteers had received trainings such as those for National and Regional Intervention Team members.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions
<p>Outcome: The impact of the rains and floods on the daily routines and food security of 500 families in the communities of Saint Catherine, Clarendon, Saint James, Hanover, Saint Mary, Saint Elizabeth, Saint Ann, Kingston, Saint Andrew and Westmoreland is reduced.</p>
<p>Output 1: 500 families are assisted to return to normalcy through the provision of relief items and food packages during the first 8 weeks.</p> <p>Output 2: 3 collective centres will be supplied with 3 meals per day during the first 3 weeks.</p>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Rapid Assessment. • Deployment of shelter managers to be in charge of emergency shelters. • Prepared meals for Emergency Shelters in Kingston. • Distribute food and non-food relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to target families. • Coordination with the National and Local Emergency Operations Centres and local partners. • Information and Data Management. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The Jamaica Red Cross started distributions based on their damage and needs assessments of the affected parishes. The following table summarizes the number of families assisted:

Branch	# of Volunteers	# of Families Assessed	# of Families Served	# of Communities Assessed	# of Communities Served
Kingston & St. Andrew	15	9	118	4	4
St. Catherine	35	862	334	23	13
Clarendon	21	471	326	63	34
Trelawny	5	10	10	5	5
St. Elizabeth	25	302	316	45	60
Westmoreland	10	123	665	32	38
Hanover	12	45	30	9	8
St. James	12	87	32	12	6
St. Ann	4	19	28	1	1
St. Mary	3	12	5	2	1
Total	142	1,940	1,864	196	170

As the table shows, some parishes had particular situations that created the illusion of more families assisted than assessed. In the case of Kingston and Saint Andrew, the JRC did not complete their assessment as this was continued by the MLSS. However, the local branch was also requested by ODPEM to prepare and serve meals to the people who lost their homes and were living in collective centres. Even though the JRC did not assess these persons, they assisted them with food.

The situation in Saint Elizabeth and Westmoreland was somewhat different. These parishes had the majority of their beneficiaries isolated by rising waters and access to the communities was not possible. In response, ODPEM, the Jamaica Red Cross and other relief agencies decided to set up registration centres which allowed beneficiaries to record the effects of the storm on their households. After the water subsided, the information from these centres was used as a basis to conduct joint assessments and distribute relief items.

JRC received the first transfer of funds on 26 October 2010, which was used to support local expenses. Approximately 50 per cent of the DREF was used to purchase non-food Items (NFI) from the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) to replenish the National Society's stock. These items were shipped via sea but incurred delays en route, arriving in Jamaica on 5 November 2010, and cleared customs on 15 November 2010.

Based on the adjustments made by PADRU, the DREF provided the following items:

Items purchased from the RLU:

- 1,000 tarpaulins
- 1,000 mosquito nets
- 750 light thermal blankets
- 750 medium thermal blankets
- 500 kitchen sets

Items purchased locally:

- 500 cleaning kits
- 500 food packages
- 350 prepared meals for shelters
- Printing of educational brochures about the installation of tarpaulins



142 volunteers of the Jamaica Red Cross have been working in assessment and relief distribution. Source: JRC

The following table shows the relief items that were distributed by 19 November 2010:

<u>Item</u>	<u>KSab</u>	<u>St. Catherine</u>	<u>Clarendon</u>	<u>St. Elizabeth</u>	<u>Westmoreland</u>	<u>Hanover</u>	<u>St. James</u>	<u>Trelawny</u>	<u>Total</u>
Kitchen Kit	0	2	44	63	63	4	0	0	176
Hygiene Kit	3	802	150	134	365	16	39	0	1,509
Tarpaulin	30	963	367	177	513	22	4	10	2,086
Blanket	5	913	203	120	257	31	15	10	1,554
Buckets	0	0	24	30	40	15	0	0	109
Food Packages	0	180	80	100	0	0	80	20	460
Cleaning Kits	0	8	70	6	191	0	0	5	280
Jerry Cans	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	10	68
Stove	0	7	28	13	0	18	0	0	66
Mosquito Nets	0	13	0	43	202	0	0	0	258
Bedding	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	13
Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mattresses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Flashlights	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	12
Mosquito Spray	0	0	5	152	400	0	0	0	557

Two separate activities were undertaken to support the needs of affected families in relation to food. First, the JRC procured and packed food items (contents of the package are listed in the DREF Bulletin published on 11 October). Four hundred and sixty packages of food had already been distributed when this report was drafted, while the remaining 40 packages were delivered during the last week of November.

Secondly, between 30 September and 5 October, the Kingston and Saint Andrew Branch served 312 meals to 118 persons who sought refuge in three collective centres in the city: Sandy Park, Harbour View and Langston Road.

Challenges:

The assessments of families were delayed because some communities were isolated by persistent rainfall and rising flood waters. As of mid November, some families were still not able to return to their homes because water levels have yet to recede.

Additionally, during the last week of October and the first week of November 2010, the island was placed on high alert for Hurricane Tomas. In order to prepare for this new situation, the JRC placed on hold some of their relief activities related to Tropical Storm Nicole.

Emergency health and psychosocial support

Outcome: The risks from waterborne and vector-borne diseases are reduced through the provision of preventive health including hygiene promotion activities to 500 households.

Outputs: Reduced risk of outbreaks of water and vector borne diseases because of enhanced disease surveillance at the community level.

Output 2: Families in emergency shelters have received psychosocial support.

Activities planned:

- Carry out training on epidemic control for volunteers and WASH for 30 volunteers who will train affected communities on hygiene promotion at household level.
- Provide psychosocial support to families living in emergency community shelters.
- Carry out health promotion and disease prevention campaigns focusing on diseases with epidemic potential and the prevention of vector-borne diseases including dengue and malaria.
- Support the Ministry of Health in meeting basic health care needs of the flood affected population through preventive and health promotion activities.
- Conduct hygiene campaign at a community level.

Progress:

The JRC has developed educational books on psychosocial support techniques and leaflets on the use of mosquito nets to prevent vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. This educational material is now being printed and distributed with the support of the DREF funding as part of the emergency health programme.

Additionally, one psychosocial intervention was conducted with persons who occupied the Sandy Park collective centre in Kingston. This support took the form of an informal group meeting with the inhabitants of the collective centre, followed by individual interventions for those who wanted to speak privately with the psychologists. The psychosocial support group session is a space created to give the opportunity to express feelings. The session focused on grief, loss and coping skills as seven people died in Sandy Park when their house collapsed in a gully.

The psychosocial support team also included a specialist who works with children, helping them to express their thoughts and feelings through play. The JRC also used play dough, crayons, sketch pads and similar items to facilitate interactions with the children.

The JRC offered psychosocial support to communities in Saint Catherine, Westmoreland and Saint Elizabeth, but they are yet to confirm a date for these interventions.

Finally, the JRC initiated a dialogue with the Ministry of Health to collaborate on an existing Local Health Promotion Programme on epidemic control, water and sanitation, and with their hygiene campaign.

Challenges: Similar to the relief activities, the health activities were put on hold while preparing for Hurricane Tomas. However, health activities are expected to be completed on time.

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:

- **In Jamaica:** Yvonne Clarke, Director General, Jamaica Red Cross; phone: (876) 984 7861 email: yvonneclarke@jamaicaredcross.org
- **In Trinidad and Tobago:** Tanya Wood, Regional Representative for the Caribbean; phone: 1 (868) 628-2439; email: tanya.wood@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Chiran Livera, PADRU Disaster Management Delegate; phone: (507) 316 1001; email: chiran.livera@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeira, PADRU Coordinator, phone: (507) 316 1001; email: jorge.zequeria@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; phone (41) 79 217 3376; and email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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