

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Saint Lucia: floods

DREF operation n° MDRLC001
GLIDE n° FF-2010-000204-LCA
Update n° 1
28 January 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.

Period covered by this update: 16 October 2010 to 15 January 2011.

Summary:

42,068 Swiss francs has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15 October 2010 to support the Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC) in delivering assistance to some 200 beneficiaries, as well as to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

This report reflects the progress of the activities carried out by the SLRC in the area of Dennery after the flooding took place on the first week of October. During the time covered by this update, volunteers distributed food parcels and non-food items to 200 families, conducted house-to-house hygiene education, and distributed brochures about psychosocial support. Due to the impact of Hurricane Tomas on 31 October, a health activity was delayed and there are ongoing discussions to evaluate the existing need for it.

ECHO contributed 27,197 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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The situation

During the first week of October 2010, heavy rainfall fell over Saint Lucia culminating in a flash flood in the Dannery Valley, a recognized flood-prone area of the island. Approximately 600 households live in the lower flat section of the village, the location with the highest vulnerability. The initial rapid assessments conducted by the Dannery Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) once the floodwaters receded, highlighted that the water levels ranged from 3 to 5 feet, significantly affecting 400 households and the schools in the community. The affectation included the absence of electricity and pipe-borne water, the loss of clothing and schoolbooks as well as household items.

The population received support from the government and the Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC), but the absence of electricity and pipe-borne water for several days made the situation difficult. Unfortunately, on 31 October Hurricane Tomas severely affected the island and the community of Dannery once again, among many others. The emergency caused by Hurricane Tomas created new needs and the SLRC was required to momentarily halt and rearrange some of its activities in order to respond better to the new situation.

Coordination and partnerships

The SLRC attended the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) coordinating meetings to guarantee efficient emergency relief. During these meetings, the SLRC was given the responsibility to distribute non-food items.

The National Society is working in Dannery alongside several organizations and government institutions. This includes the Seventh Day Adventist Church who is in charge of distributing meals; Duboulay's Bottling Company, who is distributing drinking water; the Water Sewerage Authority, who is assessing the pipes in the area; and the Ministry of Communications and Works, who is assessing the electrical and building retrofitting.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Diana, a member of the Community Disaster Response Team, hands out a poster with information about stress to a resident of Dannery. Source: SLRC

This update reflects the progress of the activities completed by the SLRC in the area of Dannery. Volunteers distributed food parcels and non-food items to 200 families, conducted house-to-house hygiene promotion and health education, and distributed brochures about psychosocial support. Hurricane Tomas struck Saint Lucia a couple of weeks after this operation started, affecting not only Dannery one more time, but also other regions. The SLRC resources were stretched and some activities were temporarily halted or integrated with those related to the affectation of Tomas.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 200 most vulnerable households have received basic non-food items based on the assessment and selection criteria of the Saint Lucia Red Cross. The provision of these items aims to meet the immediate needs of the affected families to enable them to return to everyday life as quickly as possible.

Outputs: Relief items (household kits) are provided to 200 households in Dennergy.

Activities planned:

- Assessment and selection of the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries.
- Organization of the transport and distribution system for the basic household kit.
- Distribution of basic household kits with an appropriate recording system.
- Replenishment of utilized stocks.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Progress: On Thursday 7 October, members of the SLRC National Intervention Teams (NIT) supported by the Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) started assessments in the Dennergy village to guide relief and response efforts. The assessments were carried out alongside volunteers from NEMO. Distribution of some relief items were carried out during the two following days, 8 and 9 October 2010.

A more detailed assessment was carried out again by the various teams on 17 October 2010 when members of the SLRC went to various households to verify information on beneficiaries. During this process, the ID number of beneficiaries was taken, and a red mark was placed alongside the house to verify that the house had been assessed. A ticket was given at this time, which would enable the target families to collect items on the distribution day.

This was followed up with a distribution of non-food items along with food parcels and water on the 18 and 21 October. During this distribution, the people targeted were also given another ticket, which would entitle them to collect a cleaning kit when they were available.

Some of the characteristics of the targeted people are described below:

Category	Total per category
Single-headed households	125
Single-headed households with elderly persons	60
Average No. of children/household	3
Total number of children	437
Single-headed households with unemployed parent	90

The SLRC distributed the following items:

- 200 kitchen kits
- 200 hygiene kits
- 200 mosquito nets
- 200 tarpaulins
- 100 jerrycans
- 50 baby kits
- 200 buckets
- 200 blankets
- 200 bed sheets

Emergency health

Outcome: The risks of waterborne and hygiene related diseases are reduced through hygiene promotion for Red Cross volunteers and 200 of families in Dennergy.

Outputs: Community based health and first aid skills training is provided to volunteers and 200 of the most affected families.

Activities planned:

- Training on Community Based Health and First Aid for 15 Red Cross volunteers in Dennergy village.
- Organization of community-based door-to-door visits by the volunteers to conduct education sessions for families in need.

Progress: On 17, 18 and 21 October, the SLRC completed house-to-house health and hygiene education activities through the use of informative posters. The posters focused on the following topics:

- Preventing diseases through hygiene promotion (waste disposal, hand washing, daily showering, proper use of latrines, and water storage).
- The need for safe water.

Due to the passage and impact of Hurricane Tomas, the National Society needed to focus its resources and relief operations in Dennery and other communities affected. Thus, the Community Based Health and First Aid project was not carried out in the scheduled time. The IFRC and the National society are currently evaluating the existing need and the timeframe for this activity.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risks to the flood-affected people from waterborne or water and sanitation related diseases are reduced through the provision of cleaning materials and hygiene promotion for 200 households and drinking water to schools in Dennery village.

Outputs: 200 families in Dennery have received cleaning kits, buckets and hygiene promotion information.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of water sanitation and hygiene situation.
- Selection of the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries.
- Distribution of drinking water to schools.
- Distribution of cleaning materials.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Progress: The SLRC volunteers have completed the distribution of 200 cleaning kits to assist families with reducing the possibility of infections related to poor sanitation conditions. Each cleaning kit contained:

- Mop and mop bucket
- Bleach
- Scrubbing brush and broom
- Gloves

The SLRC has also distributed 350 cases (3,150 litres; each case has 9 litres) of drinking water to 200 households. Additionally, 200 cases of water were distributed to 5 schools as detailed below:

- Clendon Mason Memorial Secondary School: 80 cases (720 litres)
 - Dennery Primary School: 40 cases (360 litres)
 - Dennery Infant School: 40 cases (360 litres)
 - Dennery Pre-School: 20 cases (180 litres)
 - Dennery Day Care: 20 cases (180 litres)
- 1,800 litres in total.**

Psychosocial support

Outcome: 200 of the most affected families are assisted with psychosocial support to help them cope.

Outputs: 200 vulnerable families have received psychosocial support in Dennery.

Activities planned:

- Training and coaching on psychological support for Red Cross volunteers in Dennery village
- Organization of community-based psychological support (door-to-door visits by Red Cross volunteers) for families in need.
- Organization of various community psychosocial activities.

Members of the National Intervention Teams of the Saint Lucia Red Cross and other volunteers assisted the affected people to cope with the psychological impact of the flood. Members distributed IFRC's brochures from the "Helping to Heal" series. The psychosocial support activities were conducted at various points in time during the operation:

- During the initial emergency assessment (7 October)
- During the second assessment (17 October).
- While conducting the distribution of relief items (18, 19 and 21 October).

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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