

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Guyana: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRGY001  
GLIDE No. FL-2008-000246-GUY  
7 October 2009

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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

**Summary:** CHF 80,000 (USD 72,507 or EUR 52,105) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 23 December 2008 to support the Guyana Red Cross Society (GRCS) in delivering emergency relief assistance to 1,000 families. During December 2008, Guyana had reached the height of the rainy season. As a result, many communities were flooded with three feet of water and completely covered with mud and debris.

Distributions of non-food relief items such as hygiene and cleaning kits were completed successfully in April 2009. Safe drinking water was also provided in jerry cans (2 per family) to an additional 540 families through a partnership with the state owned Guyana Water Inc.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found at : <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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A yard and latrine covered by flood waters in Beehive along the east coast of the Demerara River. Source: Guyana Red Cross Society.

## The situation

Non-stop rain began during the week of 8 December 2008, causing communities including Greenfield, Dazzel-Paradise, Haslington, and Foulis along the east coast of the Demerara River and part of the capital city of Georgetown to flood. After the rains ceased, flood waters were slow to recede, leading to hygiene and sanitation concerns. The health concerns identified were: skin rashes, vomiting, diarrhoea and other water borne diseases. Sanitation was also a concern, as latrines and septic tanks were flooded. The government of Guyana made efforts to clear and dig canals and mobilized pumps to carry out cleaning activities. Fortunately, water wells were not flooded. However, cash crop farms and some livestock were affected by

the floods. Some families had to raise their personal and household belongings to save them from the flood waters.

The Guyana Red Cross Society carried out rapid assessments between 17 and 18 December 2008, and the major problems were identified in the sectors of water, sanitation and hygiene. The flood water was at knee level in some communities and six inches deep in others. The Guyanese government estimated that 20,000 families were affected by the emergency. The GRCS identified four communities with an average of 1,000 families to be assisted with hygiene and cleaning kits. These kits were sourced locally and a system of vouchers was used. The vouchers were distributed to affected families and kits were collected from the suppliers. A total of 4,000 jerry cans were handed over to the Guyana Water Inc. in order to provide safe drinking water to families in need.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

GRCS volunteers conducted assessments in 15 communities. Volunteers from OXFAM's Local Emergency Committees (LEC) were present in some communities to assist with assessments as well as the distribution of bleach and vouchers. In the communities in which Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)-funded project was active, community members who participated in the GRCS Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) training, carried out assessments in their communities. After the completion of assessments, the GRCS focused relief efforts in four communities: Beehive, Dazzel-Paradise, Foulis and Haslington.

The International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) dispatched 4,050 jerry cans to Guyana. However, before these arrived, the GRCS donated 1,080 jerry cans to Guyana Water Inc. (GWI) from pre-positioned stock, which were then distributed by GWI. The GRCS stored the remainder of jerry cans in the warehouse as pre-positioned stock.

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, some 300 beneficiaries who received distributions of bleach did not receive additional relief items (hygiene and cleaning kits) as the Civil Defense Commission provided these families with a combination kit, containing items from both kits.

While beneficiaries did not complain about having to collect their kits from the suppliers, they were dissatisfied with their operating hours (the suppliers closed at 5 pm.) and the fact that they were not in close proximity with each other. Overall, however, beneficiaries were happy to receive this assistance.



The Guyana Red Cross Society volunteers carried out assessments along the Mahaica River. Source: Guyana Red Cross Society.

## Progress towards objectives

This DREF operation assisted the Guyana Red Cross Society in providing the most affected people with essential relief items. The funds allocated also covered shipping costs for the jerry cans as well as local transportation and volunteer mobilization costs.

## Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: 1,000 families in the most affected areas of Guyana will benefit from the provision of essential relief items to recover from the effects of the emergency.**

Activities completed:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure local items.
- Distribute relief supplies procured and received.
- Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

The distributions of bleach were carried out on a house-by-house basis by GRCS volunteers, reaching a total of 1,000 families from the communities of Greenfield, Dazzel-Paradise, Haslington and Foulis to assist them in sanitizing their water to make it safe for use.

The GRCS had a committee in charge of purchasing the items for hygiene and cleaning kits. The committee sourced the items taking into consideration prices and quality. The GRCS initiated a voucher system, where beneficiaries would collect kits from two locations (selected by the committee), using vouchers that were previously distributed. A total of 1,000 families benefited from cleaning kits and 865 families benefited from hygiene kits sourced locally. Each cleaning kit included work gloves, plastic bags, disinfectant, a large broom and buckets.

As mentioned before 1,080 jerry cans were donated to Guyana Water Inc. for the company to provide families in other affected communities with safe drinking water.

### Results:

- 1,000 families benefited from bleach distributions to treat water.
- 1,000 families received cleaning kits.
- 865 families received hygiene kits.
- 540 families received potable water in jerry cans (2 jerry cans per family carried out in partnership with GWI).

### Challenges:

- DREF funds were released over a 5 month period delaying the procurement of items.
- The voucher system did not work as well as expected as beneficiaries had to walk a long way to collect their kits from the suppliers.
- Difficulties with customs delayed the arrival in Guyana of the jerry cans from the Regional Logistics Unit.
- 51 hygiene kits were outstanding from the supplier due to a misunderstanding. The matter was resolved between the GRCS and the supplier in April 2009, when GRCS made the decision not to receive the 51 additional kits, as the relief operation was closed.



Distribution of bleach for safe water in Beehive. Source: Guyana Red Cross Society.

## Conclusion

### Lessons learnt:

- In comparison to previous operations, the GRCS felt that house-to-house distributions were more effective in assisting beneficiaries in a timely manner.
- It is important to establish agreements with customs authorities in order to expedite the arrival of humanitarian items dispatched from the International Federation's RLU.

## 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

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

- **In Guyana:** Dorothy Fraser, Secretary General, Guyana Red Cross Society; email: [guyanaredcross@yahoo.com](mailto:guyanaredcross@yahoo.com); phone: 592-624-0528.
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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRGY001 - Guyana - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/12-2009/9
Budget Timeframe	2008/12-2009/9
Appeal	MDRGY001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	80,000					80,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	78,246					78,246
<b>C5. Other Income</b>	78,246					78,246
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	78,246					78,246
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	78,246					78,246
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	98%					98%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	78,246					78,246
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-78,246					-78,246
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	0					0

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**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>80,000</b>					<b>80,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Water & Sanitation	5,000	2,076				2,076	2,924	
Utensils & Tools	35,640	11,742				11,742	23,898	
Other Supplies & Services	22,000	49,001				49,001	-27,001	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>62,640</b>	<b>62,819</b>				<b>62,819</b>	<b>-179</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	1,500						1,500	
Distribution & Monitoring	6,360	6,864				6,864	-504	
Transport & Vehicle Costs		75				75	-75	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>7,860</b>	<b>6,939</b>				<b>6,939</b>	<b>921</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	2,000	2,239				2,239	-239	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,239</b>				<b>2,239</b>	<b>-239</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel		291				291	-291	
Office Costs	1,000	892				892	108	
Communications		138				138	-138	
Financial Charges	300	-1,514				-1,514	1,814	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>-193</b>				<b>-193</b>	<b>1,493</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	5,200	4,992				4,992	208	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>4,992</b>				<b>4,992</b>	<b>208</b>	
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries	1,000	1,450				1,450	-450	
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,450</b>				<b>1,450</b>	<b>-450</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>78,246</b>				<b>78,246</b>	<b>1,754</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>1,754</b>				<b>1,754</b>		