



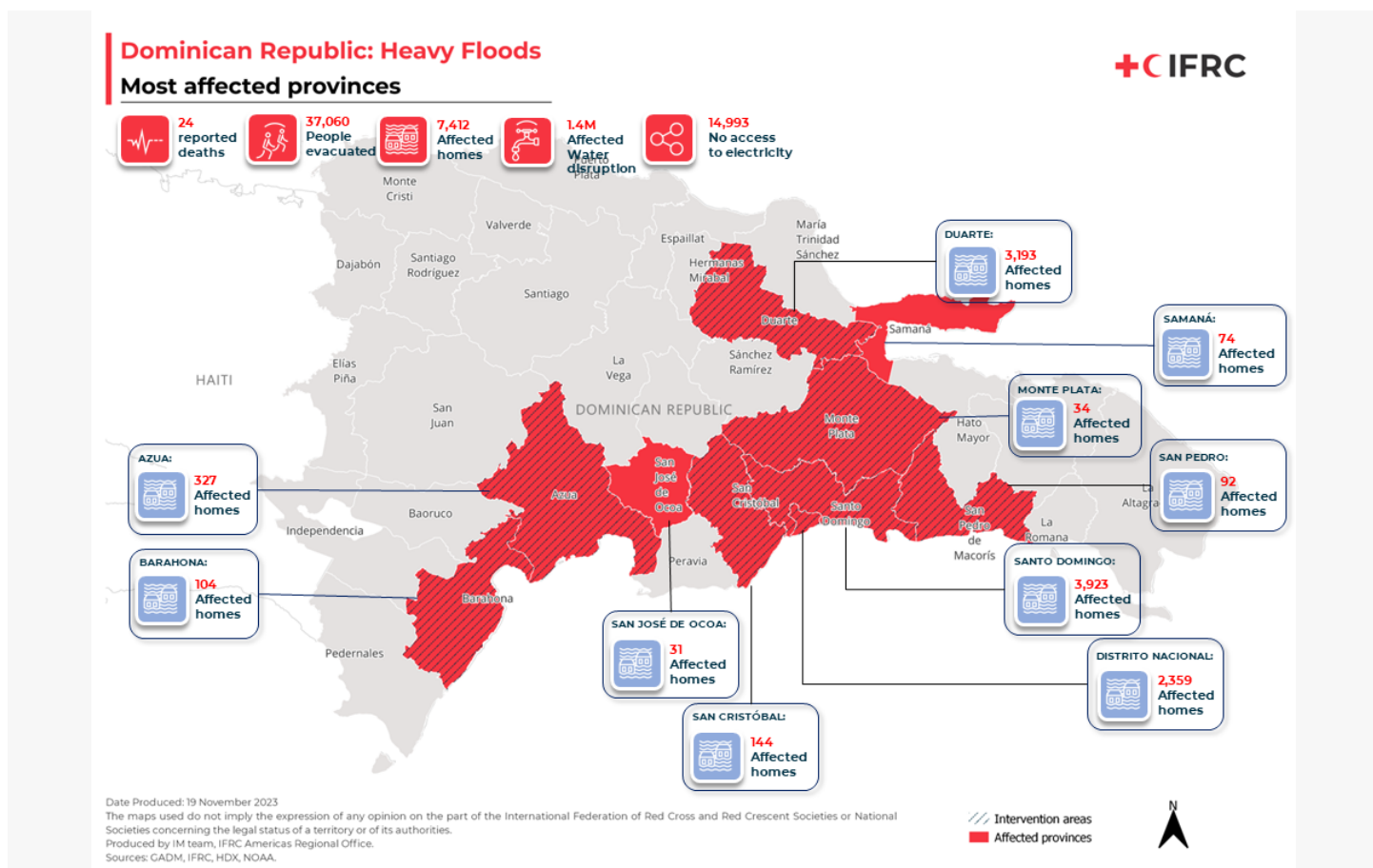
Bridge collapse on the community of Cuca, Duarte province.

Appeal: <b>MDRDO016</b>	Country: <b>Dominican Republic</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 465,386</b>	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>37,060 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>7,500 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>2023-11-29</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>5 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>2024-04-30</b>	DREF Published: <b>2023-11-30</b>

Targeted Areas:

**Azua, Barahona, Distrito Nacional, Duarte, Monte Plata, San Cristobal, San Pedro de Macoris, Santo Domingo**

# Description of the Event



Map of areas affected and areas prioritized by the Dominican Red Cross for intervention

## What happened, where and when?

Since November 17, the Dominican Republic experienced an increase in average rainfall levels, reaching record highs. On November 18, numerous incidents began to be reported both in rural and urban areas of the country due to flooding, overflowing of rivers, streams, and creeks, and landslides, among other related events. Unprecedented rainfall was recorded, with more than 431 mm of rain in just 24 hours (1).

On November 18, the President of the Dominican Republic issued Decrees 584 and 585, which ordered the suspension of professional work from November 18 until November 20, and declared an emergency for the purchase and contracting of goods and services necessary for humanitarian aid, rescue, construction and reconstruction work (2). These decrees were issued for the entire country.

The National Meteorological Office (ONAMET) attributed these events to heavy downpours, thunderstorms, and wind gusts, associated with the tropical disturbance number 22 that moved from the eastern portion of Cuba. The area affected by the phenomenon expanded to almost the entire national territory, including the provinces of Pedernales, Independencia, Bahoruco, Azua, Barahona, Elías Piña, San Juan, San José de Ocoa, Azua, Peravia, San Cristóbal, Distrito Nacional, among others.

On 19 November, the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) established alerts in the 30 provinces of the Dominican Republic. Of this, 14 provinces were put on red alert, 11 provinces on yellow alert and five others on green alert. These actions were taken in response to potential risks in terms of flooding, overflowing rivers, streams, and creeks, as well as the possibility of landslides.

Initial reports from the Dominican Red Cross branches located in the different regions of the country indicated various damages to homes, businesses, warehouses, and other livelihoods. In addition to this, essential services such as water, telecommunications, and electricity were suspended in some cases as a safety measure, while in other cases due to the disruption of related infrastructure.

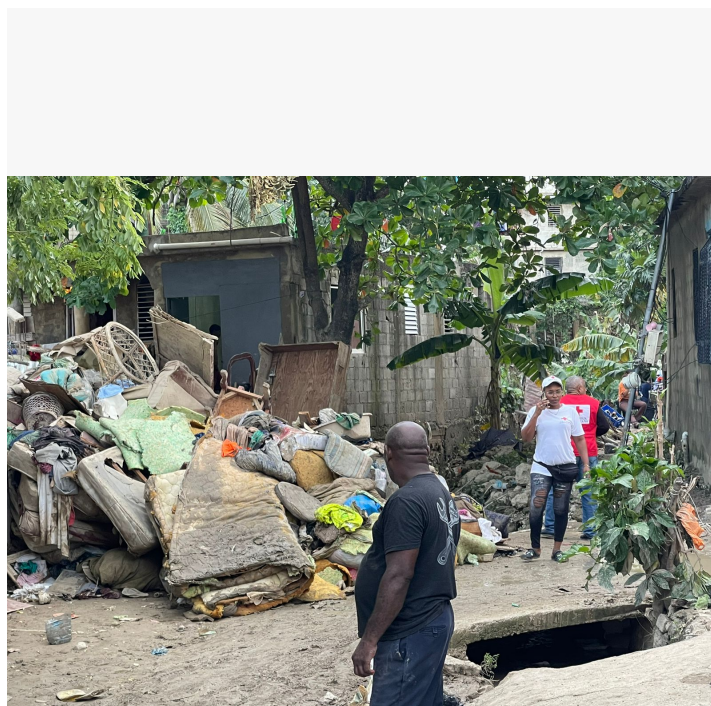
Sources:

(1) <https://coe.gob.do/index.php/alertas/emision-de-alertas/category/115-noviembre>

(2) <https://www.presidencia.gob.do/decretos/585-23>



Command Post installation



Neighborhood affected by the floods in Haina, San Cristobal Province

## Scope and Scale

According to Situation Report No. 11, issued on 22 November by the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), the rains of 18 and 19 November left a balance of approximately 7,412 houses affected, of which 29 were destroyed. Similarly, 24 people were reported dead, 37,060 people were mobilized to safe areas, 55 communities were uncommunicated, and 8 roads, 5 bridges and 1 overpass were affected. Up to 22 November, 4 shelters were active and 158 people remained housed in them. In the electricity sector, 14,993 users were affected due to 39 branch circuits that were damaged, while in the water sector, 4 aqueduct systems were affected and 55 aqueducts remained out of service, affecting more than 1,415,195 people (1)

Other organizations present in the country have made their assessments, showing some differences in the number of houses affected, however, the damage related to aqueducts and electrical systems is consistent. Also, the World Food Programme (WFP) surveyed the impacted areas using Advanced Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM). The results of ADAM were:

- Estimated # of people in flooded localities: 349,525
- Estimated area of flooded cropland: 29,498 (hectares)
- Satellite-detected flooded area: 47,475 (hectares).

The Dominican Red Cross deployed damage assessment teams from branches near the affected areas to conduct rapid assessments and corroborate the data from situation reports. With the evaluations carried out so far, approximately 10,281 homes have been identified as affected by the floods, as follows:

- Santo Domingo: 3,923
- Duarte: 3,193

- Distrito Nacional: 2,359
- Azua: 327
- San Cristóbal: 144
- Barahona: 104
- San Pedro: 92
- Samaná: 74
- Monte Plata: 34
- San Jose de ocoa: 31

Furthermore, the breakdown of affectation per region includes:

**NATIONAL DISTRICT:** In the La Puya sector due to a landslide, three houses collapsed, resulting in displaced families. In addition, in the sector of Gualey, 18 houses were flooded in the Callejón Canquiñeros, but there were no displaced persons. In the Peralejos sector, 12 houses were flooded and people were displaced. In the sector of Cristo Rey, a house was affected by a landslide of rock and earth.

**SANTO DOMINGO:** Due to the heavy rains, 9 people were trapped in their homes, they were rescued and moved to the homes of family and friends.

**AZUA:** Due to the flooding of the Yaque del Sur River, Padre Las Casas and Las Yayas were cut off.

**SAMANA:** Due to the overflowing of the Yuna River, the communities of Jurungo and Palmar Nuevo were cut off, the inhabitants of these communities refused to be displaced and opted to remain in their homes.

**SAN CRISTOBAL:** Due to the heavy rains, 360 houses were flooded and 850 people were displaced to the homes of friends and relatives. In addition, there was a sinkhole in the Lavapiés sector, and 2 houses collapsed and people were displaced to the homes of friends and family. Due to the heavy rains, a tree fell on a vehicle with three occupants, one was injured, and the driver and the others were unharmed. The injured was transported by the 911 system.

**SAN JOSÉ DE OCOA:** Due to a landslide, a house collapsed in La Ciénega. The family was displaced to a relative's house.

**MONTE PLATA:** Due to the overflowing of the Cañada Yuna, the communities of Yabacao and Los Mameyes were completely cut off.

**BARAHONA:** A landslide occurred in the community of San Rafael at Kilometre 45 of the Enriquillo road, the stretch of road was temporarily closed in order to prevent accidents. Due to the heavy rains, 63 houses were flooded and one totally collapsed, resulting in 187 people being displaced to the homes of friends and family.

**BAHORUCO:** Due to the overflowing of the irrigation canal of the Consorcio Azucarero some 70 houses were flooded. In addition, due to the overflowing of the Yaque del Sur River, 140 houses were flooded and people were displaced.

**SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS:** Due to heavy rains, there was urban flooding where 2 houses were affected and people were displaced to the homes of friends and relatives. In addition, in the Toconal sector due to urban flooding, some 40 houses were flooded, no one was displaced. Two people were also rescued after being trapped inside their homes due to flooding. They were moved to the homes of friends and relatives.

Source:

(1)<https://coe.gob.do/phocadownload/2023/NOVIEMBRE/informe%20de%20situacion%20No%2011%20potencial%20ciclone%202021112023%202011%20am%20CAR.pdf>

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
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Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRDO015 (2023), MDRDO014 (2022)

**If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:**

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#### **Lessons learned:**

Although past occurrences of comparable events did not impact the same regions or demographic groups, the Dominican Red Cross has launched IFRC-DREF operations to address emergencies stemming from the common hazard of floods, influenced by hydro-meteorological events.

Specifically, the recent IFRC-DREF operations in response to Hurricane Fiona (MDRDO014) in 2022 and floods (MDRDO015) in 2023 provided a series of lessons learned at various levels that have been considered during the development of this Plan of Action and will continue to be taken into account during its implementation, including:

At the level of policies, strategies, and standards, the aim is to strengthen the protection mechanisms, Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) from the planning to the closure of the operation. In the last IFRC-DREF in response to floods, the Dominican Red Cross had its first approach to CEA, reaching 100% of the beneficiaries with satisfaction surveys and feedback mechanisms. Having a separate lessons-learned workshop with the communities allowed the National Society (NS) to prioritize interventions, such as Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), based on actual feedback from the people affected.

In terms of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), the National Society is working on including minimum standards for the protection of the most vulnerable groups. In this sense, the delivery of household items will be based on special needs and household composition and the PSEA approach will be strengthened at the headquarters and branch level.

In terms of analysis and planning, under the framework of the last IFRC-DREF, the National Society participated in IFRC- DREF Training with support from the IFRC. This has allowed the formation of an interdisciplinary team within the National Society for the formulation of action plans and budgets to anticipate and/or respond to emergencies. Likewise, the branches have been considered for each of the stages of the formulation of the IFRC-DREF as a primary source of information.

In terms of operational capacity, volunteers deployed for the initial flood assessment have been instructed on the importance of expanding their capacity to report beyond damage and focus on prioritizing needs. They have also been instructed to create debriefing spaces at the end of their activities. Lessons learned also pointed out that to have a quicker assessment of the emergencies, a specialized DANA National Team has to be trained for future interventions.

Concerning operational support, the communications department will be constantly involved in making the National Society's actions visible and linking efforts with CEA's activities for better reception and response in the affected communities.

Also, it is important to mention that the last IFRC-DREF operation allowed the NS to install strong capacity in terms of Cash and Voucher Assistance. With the use of the Red Rose platform, it was possible to reach 500 families effectively. For the actual intervention, it is planned to replicate this process and reach 1,000 families with this type of assistance. The feasibility study done put evidence that the Dominican Republic has a solid financial service provider (Money Gram) for the beneficiaries to access cash assistance.

Finally, in the IFRC-DREF Hurricane Fiona, the implementation of climate-smart micro-projects for livelihood restoration was piloted. This experience allowed the National Society to implement environmental diagnostic tools such as NEAT+ to complement the specialized livelihood assessment. For the current operation, the NS aims to go deeper into community

resilience and have the full diagnosis of 20 communities affected using the EVCA and the NEAT+ tools. The idea is to generate community resilience plans with a climate-smart focus.

## Current National Society Actions

<p><b>National Society EOC</b></p>	<p>The National Society keeps its crisis management room active with monitoring of its 156 branches and branches are in coordination with community networks at the national level.</p>
<p><b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b></p>	<p>The National Society is providing support to state institutions in the shelters that have been set up, and is also carrying out assessments of housing and basic services in the communities.</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>Integration of focal points in the Crisis Management Room of the Dominican Red Cross, EOC, and the sectoral groups of EOC Health and CASH for coordination and information exchange.</p> <p>Activation of rapid response teams for mobilization as the event progresses and conditions allow for their deployment.</p> <p>Permanent communication with health coordinators for notification of incidents.</p> <p>Rapid health assessments are carried out in Santo Domingo, National District, Barahona and San Cristóbal.</p> <p>As a first response, psychosocial support teams have been activated in the provinces of Barahona, San Cristóbal, Santo Domingo Oeste, and the south and northwest districts. Psychological first aid is being provided to families who have been displaced. Debriefing volunteers who have been displaced as a first response team.</p> <p>Community-based epidemiological surveillance activities and disease prevention and control actions are being carried out.</p>
<p><b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b></p>	<p>Information exchange through Group Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (GASH). The GASH functions for thematic coordination in the area of Water and Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion in emergency and emergency situations and preparedness at the national local and local levels. The Provincial Health Directorate (DPS), Health Areas and local authorities make up the Provincial GASH.</p> <p>The Ministry of Public Health, through its Vice-Ministry of Environmental Health of Environmental Health (former DIGESA), coordinates the National GASH in coordination in coordination with UNICEF and PAHO. Members of the GASH members are all those institutions, organizations, agencies, and actors that carry out activities in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sector are members of the GASH, Sanitation and Hygiene sector in emergencies or disasters.</p> <p>Activation of rapid response teams for mobilization as the event progresses and conditions allow for their deployment.</p> <p>Rapid water, sanitation, and hygiene assessments are carried out, verifying the conditions of water supply infrastructures, starting with the province of Barahona. This includes water quality assessments at water supply sources and the household level.</p>

	Basic hygiene promotion and vector control activities are being carried out, including the distribution of mosquito nets in communities with the highest incidence rates of dengue fever.
<b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b>	The National Society has been in contact with the protection, gender, and age advisory team (EC-PGE) of the National Emergency Commission to monitor shelters to follow up on the conditions of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly.
<b>Other</b>	<p>Before, during and after the torrential downpours, the Communications Department published key messages posts.</p> <p>After the phenomenon, the NS made several publications (10) in networks and WhatsApp groups, where it called on citizens to take the necessary precautions before leaving or returning to their homes. The NS made visible actions developed by volunteers in the national territory in the three stages, and prepared a statement signed by the president of the National Society, Dr. Miguel Sanz Flores, where he offered condolences to the families of those who died as a result of the rains, reported on the damage assessment process carried out by volunteers and urged the population to stay informed through official institutions, as well as to act with caution in the face of the rain forecast that persists for the Dominican Republic.</p> <p>The NS has also responded to national and international journalists who have approached it with concerns about the consequences of the floods.</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	The National Society through its branches and the national Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis team has conducted EDAN assessments as well as rapid health assessments and shelter assessments, which has allowed it to have a broader perspective of the national situation. There are still communities that are cut off, so the assessment teams remain active and on the ground awaiting access to these communities. More than 50 community damage assessments have been carried out so far.
<b>Coordination</b>	The Dominican Red Cross has maintained constant coordination with the community networks through the branches throughout the national territory, as well as through the branches there has been active participation in the municipal prevention, mitigation and response committees, and from the headquarters there has been constant coordination with the Emergency Operations Centre.
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	The National Society activated its crisis management room to ensure the implementation and compliance with its national emergency response plan.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in the Dominican Republic has been in permanent contact with the Dominican Red Cross for the coordination of the Response. The disaster Risk Management Coordinator participated in all coordination meetings at the Crisis Management Room and coordinated all efforts to request IFRC-DREF funds. At the same time, the CCD has been in contact with the Americas Regional Officer to coordinate all response efforts.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The Italian Red Cross (IRC) delegation has been in constant contact with the Dominican Red Cross and has participated in response coordination meetings. The situation has been reported to the Italian Red Cross headquarters in Rome and the IRC's delegation vehicle was made available to the Dominican Red Cross on 18 November.

# Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>The Office of the Presidency has maintained constant communication with the Emergency Operations Center to keep the high command informed regarding the development of the event and to support the necessary resources through the Social Plan of the Presidency and the Economic Canteens.</p> <p>The Ministry of Defense (MIDE) activated its Lightning Plan. Together with the Air Force (FARRD), the Army (ERD), the Fire Department, and the Civil Defense, aerial and aquatic operations were carried out to rescue some 2,500 people who were in danger (trapped) in the Duarte province, especially in the Bajo Yuna.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources activated its contingency plan and is in permanent session with the emergency authorities. In addition, it ordered the closure of the country's protected areas to visitors and tourists, evacuation protocol, and surveillance to prohibit recreation and reduce risks, the day before and during the passage of this phenomenon.</p> <p>The COMIPOL (Military and Police Commission) has held coordination meetings, and the director of COMIPOL has assigned special responsibilities to members of the senior staff and departmental managers. Contingency brigades were activated and formed and close coordination has been maintained with MIDE's C5i and the EOC.</p> <p>The Directorate for Out-of-Hospital Emergency Attention (DAEH) has activated the Emergency and Disaster Plans and Committees.</p> <p>The Epidemiology Department has issued an epidemiological alert for floods due to the risk of an increase in diseases in the populations affected by the rains. The purpose is to ensure the care of the population; strengthen the surveillance system for notifiable diseases (ENO) and establish response and control measures in case of disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Electrical companies from the South region and the East region (EDEESUR and EDEESTE) inform that currently around 3 circuits and 39 branch circuits are affected, impacting 14,993 customers. The corresponding actions are being taken to reestablish the electric service as soon as possible.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>The World Food Programme (WFP) is carrying out a survey in the impacted areas through Advanced Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM).</p> <p>This information has been shared with the Dominican Red Cross for necessary actions and decisions.</p>
<b>Are there major coordination mechanism in place?</b> <p>The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sectoral Group (WASH) was activated at national and local levels to facilitate the exchange of information, identification of needs and joint actions. Information is exchanged and joint actions are conducted with the Directorates of Risk Management, Health Promotion and Education, Epidemiology, and the Environmental Health Department of the Ministry of Public Health (MSP).</p>	

# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The agricultural sector is in agony at the moment. More than 400 millimeters of rain, an event "never before recorded" in the Dominican Republic, wiped out agricultural production in the most vulnerable provinces in just one day.

The swollen rivers destroyed rice, beans, onions, and musaceous crops (bananas and plantains), as well as some areas of greenhouses, causing considerable economic losses.

"In Bajo Yuna (Duarte province, where the largest production takes place) thousands of rice fields were swept away and flooded by the rising (rivers)," said yesterday the deputy minister of Production and Marketing of the Ministry of Agriculture, Eulalio Ramirez.

This illustrates how the well-being of the most impacted communities is affected. It's important to highlight that a significant number of affected families depend on agriculture either for income or personal sustenance. Consequently, the repercussions on this sector, coupled with the lack of emergency funds among these families, place them in a state of food insecurity. Additionally, the adult population in these communities bears the brunt of chronic illnesses, necessitating medications for which they lack the financial means to procure.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The affected population requires information such as assistance and key messages that will allow them to face the emergency with greater knowledge and tools. By allowing community participation, more efficient activities will be carried out, thus embracing the real needs of the target communities and strengthening them in case of future eventualities.

Although there were media outlets that were responsible for disseminating information from the Emergency Operations Centre in a timely manner, many of the communities did not have timely information because they did not have adequate information channels, and in many of the communities the electrical circuits were affected, leaving the communities without relevant information.

The National Society initiated the dissemination of key messages through social networks from the first levels of alert.

The National Society through its branches developed actions in terms of prevention and response such as; support to preventive and emergency evacuations, pre-hospital and first aid assistance, rescue, however these actions were not envied and disseminated by the media leaving the community need to know the interventions of the Red Cross in this eventuality.



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

The historic increase in rainfall on 17 and 18 November in the Dominican Republic affected more than 10,000 families as a result of its associated effects, specifically flooding. Water levels in streams and creeks were so high that the water passed through homes, affecting mainly household goods and belongings. In terms of infrastructure, houses were structurally weakened. For the most part, damage to walls, floors, windows, and soil sedimentation was recorded.

In urban areas that were affected by the flooding, the effects were exacerbated by the poor condition of access roads, which are littered with debris, and the lack of adequate drainage and solid waste management.

The tragic aftermath of this catastrophe forced families to prolong their stay in temporary shelters and the homes of family and friends while they made arduous efforts to rebuild their homes. The damage is not limited to physical structures but extends to the loss of essential household goods such as cooking utensils, mattresses, furniture, and blankets.

The damage assessment carried out by specialized teams and the Dominican Red Cross reveals the magnitude of the disaster,

identifying approximately 10,281 households affected by the floods. The figures by locality paint a bleak picture, with areas such as Santo Domingo, Duarte, and the National District leading the list of flooded homes.



## Health

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MISPAS), through the General Directorate of Epidemiology (DIGEPI), issued an epidemiological alert for floods on 17 November, given the risk of an increase in diseases in the populations affected by the rains. The aim is to ensure the care of the population, strengthen the surveillance system for notifiable diseases (ENO) and establish response and control measures for disease outbreaks. Recommendations were made to the general population, health personnel, Provincial and Area Health Directorates (DPS/DAS), the National Health Service (SNS), Regional Health Services (SRS) and Health Zone Managers.

The rapid assessments demonstrated the need to strengthen the promotion and prevention of emerging diseases associated with floods of this nature, as well as the early identification of health situations that may arise for rapid containment. Among the main concerns are those associated with gastrointestinal diseases, vector-borne diseases, and acute respiratory infections, skin diseases, tetanus, and conjunctivitis. It is therefore imperative to support the affected population with the provision of hygiene items, options for adequate household water treatment and storage, and to address special needs such as cholera and dengue prevention and control kits, as well as mental health and psychosocial support in emergency contexts.

In total, 54 health structures were affected by flooding and leaks in the Metropolitan, Valdesia, North Central, Northeast, Enriquillo, and Eastern health regions.

Rapid health assessments in Santo Domingo, the National District, Barahona, and San Cristóbal have revealed needs for drinking and cooking water, personal hygiene and cleaning supplies and materials, food, mattresses, sheets and blankets, clothes and shoes, mosquito nets, water chlorination kits, tanks or water tanks, buckets for storing water, oral rehydration salts, and basic medicines, as well as health personnel for medical evaluations.

The Ministry of Health has also instructed the Provincial Health Directorates and Health Area Directorates (DPS/DAS), together with the National Health Service, to provide a timely response and activate local rapid response mechanisms, including the Health Clusters and WASH, of which Dominican Red Cross is a member.

In addition, analysis of surveillance data so far this year shows that concerning vector-borne diseases, during the last four weeks (SE 39 to SE 42), 5,252 cases were reported, for a cumulative total of 15,606 cases. The case fatality rate is 0.1% (16 deaths). The Ministry of Public Health and multisectoral actors have implemented various actions to address dengue by implementing the campaign "Stop Dengue for My Family and My Country". These actions include prevention information, control measures in risk areas, and case management. In the last four weeks, the provinces of Monte Cristi, Hermanas Mirabal, Santiago Rodríguez, Monseñor Nouel, and San José de Ocoa are on red alert for dengue and the rest of the provinces are on yellow alert. Likewise, at the national level, 25 provinces show an upward trend in the number of cases in the last four weeks.

In relation to malaria, five cases were confirmed this week, three male and two female, from the San Juan and Azua foci. During the last four weeks (SE 39 to SE 42), 22 confirmed cases were reported. Geographically, the cases come from: San Juan (17), Azua (4), and imported (1). The Ministry of Public Health has intensified the active community search for febrile cases, treatment, and investigation of identified cases, taking into consideration the risk level of each of the reported cases.

Concerning acute diarrhoeal diseases and foodborne illnesses, the frequency of cases (episodes\*) during the last four weeks (SE 39 to SE 42) is within the expected range compared to the same period of the last five years. The epidemic indices (EI) for both diseases are 0.97 and 0.83 respectively (reference range of EI=0.75 to 1.25).



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

In addition to the emergency implications, the existing contamination of streams and communities exacerbates the potential epidemiological risks associated with the event. It is important to note that exposure to flood water can lead to skin infections, wounds, as well as transmission of diseases such as leptospirosis, gastrointestinal diseases, cholera, dengue and malaria. Considering the current state of water and basic sanitation-related diseases, especially the outbreak of acute diarrhoeal disease

and cholera in Barahona and response to the alert issued by the Ministry of Public Health, it is imperative to strengthen measures to safeguard water quality and the health of individuals and families in affected communities. These measures include the promotion of proper hand washing with soap and water, adequate water treatment and disinfection, comprehensive vector control, and the implementation of other prevention and control measures.

Rapid assessments carried out in Barahona show damage to water supply systems in the communities of La Ciénaga, Bahoruco, Chifino, Arroyo, Quemaito, and Juan Esteban, as well as the presence of cases of diarrhoeal water disease, and cases of cholera confirmed by the Ministry of Public Health. In the homes of these communities, the residual chlorine ranges from 0 to 0.5 and the pH from 7.2 to 7.8.

In addition, it is imperative to support the affected population with the provision of hygiene items such as hygiene kits, water filters for safe water consumption, and basic sanitation supplies.

In the report provided by INAPA for 18 November, 76 aqueducts in the provinces of Elías Piña, San Juan, Bahoruco, Barahona, Azua, San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal, Hato Mayor, Monte Plata, Samaná, Sánchez Ramírez and María Trinidad Sánchez were damaged, affecting 1,315,232 inhabitants. In response to these situations, sectoral diagnoses and coordination meetings have been held to formulate an adequate response. Currently, the need to activate water purification plants has not been determined; however, there is a recognized need to establish hand washing stations and temporary water access infrastructures in communities and strategic locations in Azua, San Cristóbal, and Barahona. As of 20 November, a total of 110 aqueducts were reported out of service in the provinces of Elías Piña, San Juan, Bahoruco, Independencia, Barahona, Pedernales, Azua, San José de Ocoa, Peravia, San Cristóbal, San Pedro de Macorís, Hato Mayor, La Altagracia, El Seibo, Monte Plata, Samaná, Sánchez Ramírez, María Trinidad Sánchez and Duarte.

To ensure effective response operations, mobilized teams are equipped with sector-specific training. It is crucial to have specialized training and essential resources to deliver the necessary and timely assistance required in this situation.



## **Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery**

As a result of the heavy rains and the increase in water levels, it became evident that the communities have a general lack of knowledge about disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness. The communities did not respond promptly to the events and did not take action to safeguard their personal belongings. Although warnings were issued by the authorities, it was evident:

- Lack of knowledge of community response plans
- Lack of knowledge of evacuation protocols at the community level.
- Absence of community early warning systems
- Disconnection of the community with response agencies and local authorities
- Lack of social cohesion

In addition, it was evident that flooding was exacerbated by the absence of eco-friendly practices such as solid waste disposal, contamination of water sources, and misuse of land and/or natural resources.

### **Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment**

Although the Dominican Red Cross has a large database of volunteers at the national level, many of these people are not trained in specialized subjects that would allow them to perform better in an emergency such as the one presented by the floods. In this regard, the deployment of damage assessment and needs analysis (DANA) teams has taken longer than expected, causing delays in response planning and implementation.

## **Operational Strategy**

### **Overall objective of the operation**

Through this IFRC-DREF Application, the Dominican Red Cross aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 1,500 families (7,500 people) affected by the floods through the implementation of actions under Shelter, Health, WASH and Multipurpose Cash

Assistance, as well as the dissemination of key messages with a Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community, Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach in the provinces of Santo Domingo, Duarte, Distrito Nacional, Azua, San Cristobal, Barahona, San Pedro de Macoris and Monte Plata.

## Operation strategy rationale

The development of this IFRC-DREF Action Plan has been based on the initial Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) carried out by the National Society in 8 provinces of the Dominican Republic. In addition, information provided by the branches, secondary data from government reports and alerts and reports issued by the Emergency Operations Centre, the Ministry of Public Health, the Directorate of Epidemiology and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sectoral Group (GASH) have been used.

Summary of intervention:

### MULTIPURPOSE CASH:

The National Society aims to assist a total of 1,000 families with multipurpose cash, concurrently conducting awareness programs on the proper use of cash to enhance its impact on family recovery.

Considering the impact on livelihoods, the agricultural sector, shelter and emergency needs, the distribution of cash is viewed as a strategic action enabling families to address immediate requirements by acquiring goods or services crucial to each family. This approach also facilitates the revitalization of the local economy. Leveraging the National Society's recent experience in multipurpose cash implementation and familiarity with the Red Rose platform, this ensures a swift and efficient distribution of funds to reach the population at the time of greatest vulnerability.

Selected families will receive a total of 13,000 Dominican pesos, equivalent to 200 Swiss francs. This amount is determined based on the previous distribution of 10,500 pesos, which proved adequate for food purchases according to beneficiary feedback. This time, an increase of 2,500 pesos is proposed to cover additional needs identified in assessments, such as acquiring medicines, kitchen utensils, house repair tools, cleaning products, among others. However, it's important to highlight that this amount will be confirmed after the feasibility study.

### HEALTH:

The National Society aims to reach a total of 1,500 people with health related activities, including:

- Community surveillance implemented in selected provinces and communities. Volunteers attached to the branches in the 8 identified provinces will be deployed to identify suspected cases in the communities and refer them to the nearest primary health care Centre, if necessary. The Dominican Red Cross community surveillance protocol has been activated in the selected provinces.
- Health assessments, including mental health and psychosocial support, promotion, education and communication actions to promote health and prevent diseases with epidemic potential (cholera, dengue, leptospirosis, others).

### WASH:

The National Society aims to reach a total of 1,500 families (7,500 people) with WASH-related activities, including:

- Installation of 10 provisional supply and distribution systems for access to water and hygiene services (water tanks, sinks).
- Distribution of water in affected communities.
- Distribution of 1,500 hygiene kits to families in affected communities.
- Cleaning and disinfection days in 20 communities affected by the floods and those areas with a high incidence of water-borne or water-related diseases.
- 6 Health and hygiene promotion campaigns on the prevention and control of acute communicable diseases.

### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RECOVERY:

Many of the impacts at the community level were due to a clear lack of community preparedness and a disconnection with local prevention, mitigation and response systems. This gap can only be closed through community diagnostics and the generation of community resilience plans to be worked on by the NS in the short, medium and long term through programme initiatives outside of the emergency.

Taking into account the gaps identified at the community level in terms of emergency preparedness and their capacity to execute

basic disaster response actions, the Dominican Red Cross seeks to identify and implement the expanded Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment methodology in 12 of the communities most affected by the floods. This will allow to close the gaps at the community level and develop community resilience plans that will allow the selected communities to be better prepared for a future event. This will be achieved through:

- Training of Dominican Red Cross volunteers in EVCA and NEAT+.
- Identification of the most vulnerable communities
- Community diagnostic sessions using the EVCA and NEAT+ methodology in 12 communities.
- Printing of risk maps of the selected communities.
- Basic community DRR equipment

#### COMMUNITY, ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

The National Society prioritizes a community participation and accountability approach in all its activities. This approach is implemented by all areas of work and is continuously monitored and advised by the National Society's National Communication Department. Among the activities prioritized in the early response and recovery strategy are those related to community participation in the different stages of the processes, the dissemination of information and key messages and the establishment of feedback mechanisms at the community level.

Communities that participated in interviews during rapid assessments and during the distribution of relief items will be continuously consulted on the usefulness and proposals for improvement. Additionally, feedback mechanisms and satisfaction surveys will be carried out to strengthen the National Society's interventions in the future.

#### PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI):

With the aim of protecting the fundamental rights of the people who receive the services and assistance of the Dominican Red Cross, the doctrine and protection department intends to develop training and awareness actions, focused on our volunteers and beneficiaries on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Two (2) training sessions on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse will be carried out for volunteers from the branches in the affected areas who will participate in field operations, in order to prevent them from incurring in this type of misconduct during the development of their functions and at the same time to identify situations of abuse and / or exploitation and to make the required referrals in these cases.

As far as the beneficiaries are concerned, the NS will conduct sensitization sessions so that they can identify if they are being victims of sexual violence and they will receive didactic material on this subject elaborated for children and adults. During the planned distribution of hygiene kits to 1,500 families, a space will be created in which each beneficiary will be sensitized on issues of sexual exploitation and sexual violence. The idea is that at least one person from each of the beneficiary families will be sensitized on these issues.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

Through this IFRC-DREF operation, the Dominican Red Cross aims to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by the floods in provinces initially prioritized by the National Society (Santo Domingo, Duarte, Distrito Nacional, Azua, San Cristobal, Barahona, San Pedro de Macoris, Monte Plata). The provinces to be assisted are still being evaluated by both the state institutions and the corresponding teams of the National Society.

Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups such as women, migrants, children, and the elderly. The National Society has networks at the community level that allow it to identify these groups and also collaborates with migrant care institutions that facilitate the identification of this specific population.

The rationale behind targeting these specific groups is to ensure that aid reaches those who are most at risk and least able to recover from the disaster on their own. By prioritizing vulnerable households, marginalized communities, and people with specific needs, the National Society aims to provide targeted and tailored support, maximizing the impact of the IFRC-DREF operation and promoting equitable relief work. Taking into account that there are a few communities with double affectation (affected by the floods in June), particular attention will be given to these high vulnerable families specifically aiming to strengthen DRR capacities

through EVCA.

It is important to mention that while in previous interventions the NS has reached a larger number of beneficiaries with the same budget, it is important to highlight that it was done with the delivery of household items. For the current intervention, the Dominican Red Cross planned a more integral help to the families, where they will not be reached only through relief actions and delivery of kits, but also through the delivery of cash with an amount that allows them to cover their basic needs and acquire those elements that allow them to partially address the damages caused by the water. Furthermore, community assessments (AVCA) are planned to build community capacity and develop community resilience plans. All these actions will be complemented with health and WASH actions so that the communities to be assisted are in a better situation than they were before the flooding.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

To effectively reach the 1,500 households (7,500 people) directly targeted by this IFRC-DREF, the National Society will work with local authorities, community leaders, and relevant stakeholders with knowledge of the affected areas and populations. Assessments will be carried out to identify households and communities requiring immediate assistance.

The selection criteria to be taken into account for the selection of those to be assisted are as follows:

- Families whose homes have suffered considerable damage or destruction of personal belongings.
  - Families whose homes have been flooded
  - Families with at least one member who has a pre-existing illness and whose health is adversely affected by the floods.
  - Families with at least one member under 5 years of age, or over 60 years of age, pregnant women, and/or persons with disabilities.
  - Families in communities with possible outbreaks of acute communicable diseases.
- Affected migrants.
- Families whose livelihoods have been affected by flooding.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	3,113	Rural	43%
Girls (under 18)	1,275	Urban	57%
Men	2,142	People with disabilities (estimated)	0.5%
Boys (under 18)	970		
Total targeted population	7,500		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Cholera	Provide comprehensive training to staff and volunteers on cholera prevention, including proper hygiene practices, safe water handling, and sanitation measures.
Burnout syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implement a rotating schedule to distribute the workload evenly and prevent volunteers from becoming overwhelmed.</li><li>- Offer psychological support services, including counseling or debriefing sessions, to help volunteers cope with stress and emotional challenges.</li></ul>

Limited access to the areas with affected population due to the deterioration of the security situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NS with the support of IFRC will update its Security Plan and will constantly assess the situation to implement additional security mitigation measures.</li> <li>- Constant coordination with information sources to avoid dangerous areas.</li> <li>- Coordination with other Members of the movement in the area of security and Duty of Care.</li> </ul>
New rains or storms hamper operational logistics.	Follow-up activities by identifying possible immediate actions to be taken.
Difficulty in coordination	Strengthen liaison with government agencies by establishing effective communication channels. Cross-checking information collected with data from secondary sources.
Delays in receiving humanitarian aid items	Immediate involvement of Logistics in the procurement/supply movement strategy to meet established operational deadlines. Use of local stock.
Health risks	Ensure that staff and volunteers deployed to areas where there are acute disease outbreaks are protected according to basic health protocols (PPE) and conduct internal surveillance to identify possible positive cases.

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

In terms of the main safety issues that may occur during the operation, it is worth mentioning possible injuries while assisting in the affected areas. To this end, volunteers will be provided with insurance and the necessary safety equipment to carry out the activities.

## Planned Intervention



### Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

**Budget:** CHF 30,672

**Targeted Persons:** 1,200

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained in EVCA and NEAT+	20
# of community resilience plans developed	12
# of risk maps developed	12

### Priority Actions

- Training of Dominican Red Cross volunteers in EVCA and NEAT+.
- Identification of the most vulnerable communities
- Community diagnostic sessions using the EVCA and NEAT+ methodology.
- Printing of risk maps of the selected communities.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 26,625

**Targeted Persons:** 7,500

### Indicators

Title	Target
# Lessons learned workshop with headquarters	1
# of community focus groups formed for lessons learned (internal and external community)	8
# Number of people reached through dissemination of information and key messages	7,500
# CEA workshop conducted	1

### Priority Actions

- CEA workshop for National Society volunteers and staff
- Creation and distribution of key messages
- Creation of a social media campaign to disseminate key messages.
- Lessons learned workshop for communities
- Lessons learned workshop for volunteers and staff.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 34,293

**Targeted Persons:** 1

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of rapid response personnel deployments	2
# vehicles rented for the operation	2

### Priority Actions

- Surge deployments:
  - 1x Surge Ops manager for 2 months
  - 1x Surge CVA for 1 month
- Maintenance for 2 VRP vehicles
- Rent of 2 VRP vehicles for the operation



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 51,613

**Targeted Persons:** 350

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of damage assessment and needs analysis workshops conducted.	1
# of volunteers insured.	350
# cargo vehicles repaired	1
# of visibility kits for volunteers	350
# of DANA workshops for volunteers	1

## Priority Actions

- 1 training in damage assessment and needs analysis for volunteers.
- 2 inductions for volunteers in the framework of safer access
- Repair of 1 trucks to transport humanitarian aid to the communities.
- purchase of visibility for 350 Volunteers
- Insurance for 350 volunteers



## Multi-purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 222,585

**Targeted Persons:** 5,000

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of CVA feasibility study	1
# of households assisted with multi-purpose cash	1,000
# of sensitization and training workshops with the communities regarding Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) component	10
% of satisfaction from people receiving CVA assistance	90

## Priority Actions

- Gathering of information for the study.
- Beneficiary selection.
- Sensitisation and information on multi-purpose cash.
- Monitoring, follow-up.
- Support to beneficiaries through a telephone hotline.



## Health

**Budget:** CHF 26,093

**Targeted Persons:** 1,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of health assessments, including mental health and psychosocial support, promotion, education and communication actions to promote health and prevent diseases with epidemic potential	8
# of people reached with Socio-educational activities for health and hygiene promotion, violence prevention and stress management in the context of emergencies	1,500

## Priority Actions

- Community surveillance will be implemented in selected provinces and communities. Volunteers attached to the branches in the 8 identified provinces will be deployed to identify suspected cases in the communities and refer them to the nearest primary health care centre, if necessary. The Dominican Red Cross community surveillance protocol has been activated in the selected provinces.
- Health assessments, including mental health and psychosocial support, promotion, education, and communication actions to promote health and prevent diseases with epidemic potential (cholera, dengue, leptospirosis, others).
- Socio-educational activities for health and hygiene promotion, violence prevention, and stress management in the context of emergencies aimed at 1,500 children and adolescents in the 8 selected provinces.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 70,311

**Targeted Persons:** 7,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of people families with Higiene kits	1,500
# of people provided with water distribution	5,000
# of volunteers trained on health promotion methodologies	29
# of communities reached with cleaning and disinfection sessions	20
# people reached with health and hygiene promotion activities	5,000

## Priority Actions

- Installation of 10 provisional supply and distribution systems for access to water and hygiene services (water tanks, sinks).
- Distribution of water in affected communities where aqueducts and routine water supply systems are still affected.
- Distribution of 1,500 hygiene kits to families in affected communities.
- Cleaning and disinfection campaigns in 20 communities affected by the floods.
- 6 Health and hygiene promotion campaigns on the prevention and control of acute communicable diseases.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 3,195

Targeted Persons: 1,550

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers from branches in affected areas have received training on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	50
# of people sensitized on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	1,500

## Priority Actions

- 2 Training and Sensitization Workshops for PSEA Volunteers.
- Sensitization of beneficiaries on PSEA issues.

# About Support Services

## How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

350 volunteers will be mobilised in the field for the different activities, in addition to staff from national technical areas to support operations. Depending on the operational needs and the contextual situation, human resources will be mobilised for early recovery. In addition, volunteer technicians from the National Intervention Team (NIT) will be deployed to support the branches.

In order to assure the success and proper follow up to the operation, the NS will hire the following positions:

- 1x Ops. Coordinator in charge of following up and making sure that the action plan is being followed. This person will be the liaison between the NS and the IFRC for operational matters. Also, this profile will be responsible for creating a monitoring tool with the established indicators. In coordination with the NS DRR and relief director, all decision making will be done.
- 1x WASH technician to support proposed activities. This person will be responsible for the temporary hand washing facilities, Hygiene promotion activities and the distribution of water in selected communities.
- 1x Admin assistant to support the area in terms of registering all expenses from the operation and preparing the journals to be presented to IFRC.
- 2x drivers for the rented vehicles.

## Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

- 1 Surge Ops manager for 2 months
- 1 Surge CVA for 1 months

## If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The National Society has the Humanitarian Logistics Corridor for Haiti, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic; this corridor has the purpose of supplying relief items for the 3 countries. The Logistics unit can purchase locally available supplies. In addition, this area of the Dominican Red Cross is in permanent contact with the IFRC Logistics Unit, and all repositioning of Non-Food Items (NFI) will be done through the Regional Logistics Unit.

## How will this operation be monitored?

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting will be carried out by the overall operation coordinator and under the leadership of the Directorate of Relief and Risk Management, with technical support from health, protection and logistics.

## Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society has a communications department, which will be responsible for communicating the actions carried out by the National Society within the operation.

In this sense, and to disseminate the National Society's humanitarian action and to strengthen the processes of community participation and accountability to the community, different activities will be carried out, among them:

- Audiovisual recording of the main activities of the IFRC-DREF operation.
- Review and eventual design and printing of graphic pieces for workshops and activities related to health promotion.
- Production and editing of testimonial and accountability audiovisual pieces.
- Design of a final accountability of the operation to be presented to the community and strategic partners.
- Creation of a virtual resource (virtual folder) with an audiovisual record of the operation.
- Review and development of key messages for volunteers in the field and references for the implementation of the response strategy.
- Press actions to accurately disseminate the activity to different audiences and subsequent news clippings (subject to situation analysis).

# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRDO016 - Dominican Red Cross Dominican Republic: Floods

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>379.481</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	222.585
Health	26.093
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	70.311
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	3.195
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	30.672
Community Engagement and Accountability	26.625
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>85.906</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	34.293
National Society Strengthening	51.613
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>465.386</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

# Contact Information

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

**National Society contact:** Altagracia Capellán Castaño, Director, Relief and Risk Management, [dir.sgr@cuzroja.org.do](mailto:dir.sgr@cuzroja.org.do)

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Elias Ghanem, Head of Delegation, [elias.ghanem@ifrc.org](mailto:elias.ghanem@ifrc.org)

**IFRC Project Manager:** Nicolas Segura, Coordinator, Disaster Risk Management, [nicolas.segura@ifrc.org](mailto:nicolas.segura@ifrc.org)

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Nicolas Segura, Coordinator, Disaster Risk Management, [nicolas.segura@ifrc.org](mailto:nicolas.segura@ifrc.org)

**Media Contact:** Eduardo Rosario, Head of Communications, [enc.com@cuzroja.org.do](mailto:enc.com@cuzroja.org.do)

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