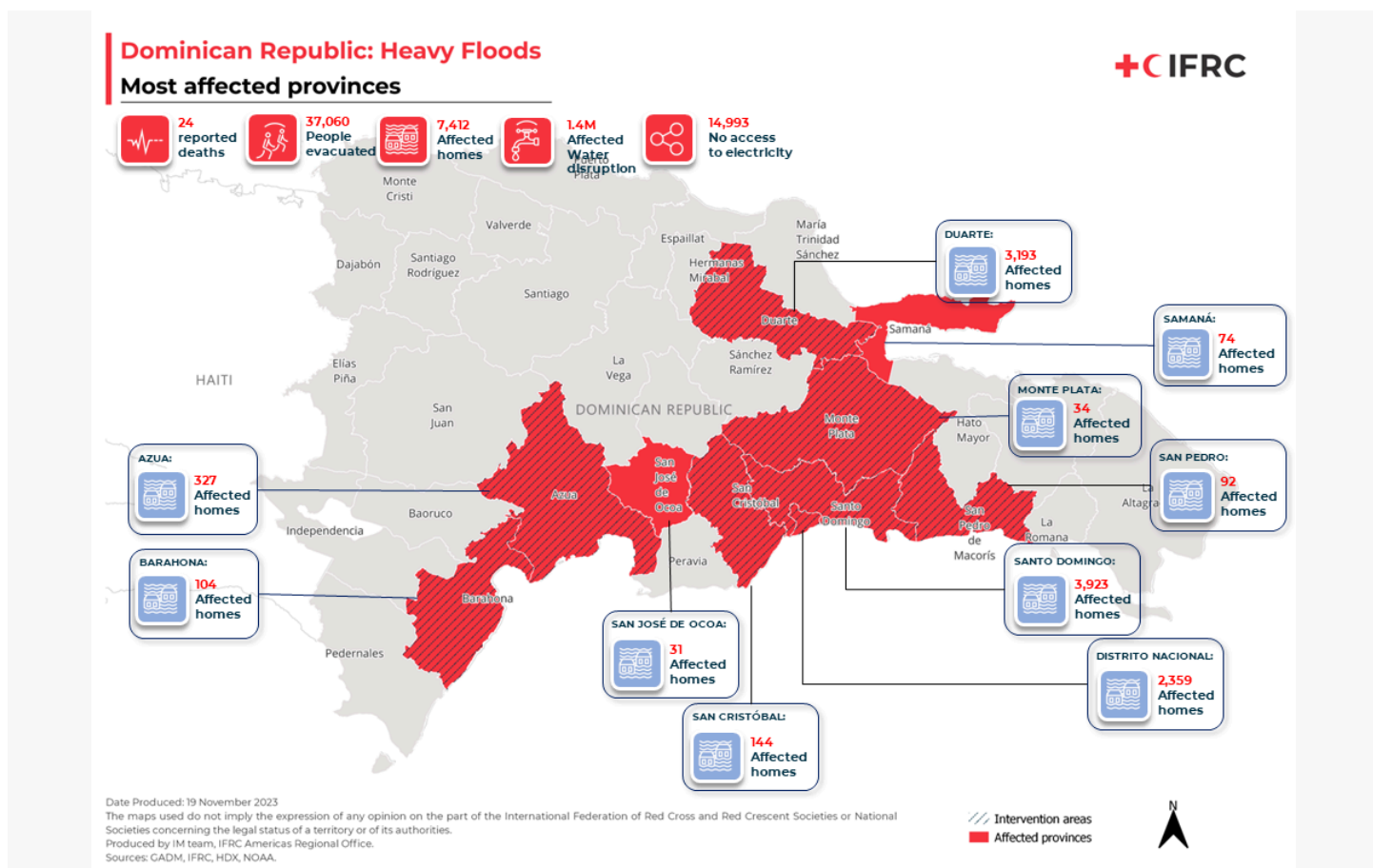




DRC Volunteers working on epidemiological surveillance and hygiene promotion activities, February 2024. Source: Twitter (<https://twitter.com/crdominicana/status/1754521516883034160/photo/1>)

Appeal: MDRDO016	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 465,386	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 340,000 people	People Targeted: 7,500 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 29-11-2023	New Operational End Date: 31-05-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 29-11-2023		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 15-04-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		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. Source: GADM, FRC, HDX, NOAA

Date of event

2023-11-18

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 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, Batoruco, 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, by its initials in Spanish) 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.





CVA - Beneficiary Data Validation. Source: DRC



Hygiene Kit Distribution - Villa Riva, Duarte. Source: DRC

Scope and Scale

According to report No. 2 issued by the United Nations resident coordinator's office in the Dominican Republic, an estimated 340,000 people were affected in the provinces of Duarte, Santo Domingo, San José de Ocoa, Barahona, Bahoruco, San Juan de la Maguana, Sánchez Ramírez, Peravia, Azua, Distrito Nacional and San Cristóbal. The damage was very significant in the agricultural sector, with more than 63,000 cultivated areas flooded, more than 1.5 million square metres of greenhouses damaged and the loss of livestock. More than 7,000 producers have been affected in the provinces of Bahoruco, Independencia, Barahona, Peravia, San José de Ocoa, Azua and San Juan.

The National Government announced that the damage caused by the rains amounted to more than 460 million USD (not including the budget of the Ministry of Public Works and Communications).

The health situation has been a cause for concern, as diseases such as cholera and dengue fever have increased the number of suspected and confirmed cases as a result of the floods. As for cholera, 1109 suspected cases, 115 confirmed cases, and one death have been registered nationally. Similarly, dengue in the country, which was already a cause for concern, is intensifying.

As the situation improved a little bit, the saturation of the soil increased, and the different agencies began their response and recovery work. The Dominican Red Cross accompanied the affected communities to provide some relief items. Non-food item kits, health actions, community assessments, plans, and support through cash transfers have been distributed. All of the above to close the gaps identified as a result of the different needs assessments carried out by the different branches of the Dominican Red Cross at the beginning of the emergency.

Source:
 (1)<https://coe.gob.do/phocadownload/2023/NOVIEMBRE/informe%20de%20situacion%20No%2011%20potencial%20cicl%C3%B3n%202021112023%202011%20am%20CAR.pdf>

(2)<https://reliefweb.int/report/dominican-republic/inundaciones-en-republica-dominicana-informe-de-situacion-no-2-6-de-diciembre-de-2023>

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
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1. Inundaciones en República Dominicana: Informe de Situación No. 2 - 6 de diciembre de 2023	https://reliefweb.int/report/dominican-republic/inundaciones-en-republica-dominicana-informe-de-situacion-no-2-6-de-diciembre-de-2023
2. COE: Rains during December 2023: Situation Reports	https://www.coe.gob.do/index.php/alertas/emision-de-alertas/category/116-diciembre

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	Yes

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operations Update No. 1, the Dominican Red Cross aims to inform about:
 - A 1 month no-cost timeframe extension (new end date: 31 May 2024)

The National Society has previous experience in implementing AVCA and NEAT+. However, this is their first experience applying these tools, particularly AVCA, within the context of an IFRC-DREF operation, and the unforeseen circumstances that arose during their implementation were not adequately estimated. Specifically, these activities required holding additional community-level meetings with community leaders, which were delayed due to their unavailability. This was largely due to municipal authority elections last March, where leaders were busy supporting their respective candidates.

Furthermore, the Reference Center for Disaster Preparedness (CREPD, by its initials in Spanish) did not have the availability to conduct the volunteer training workshop during January and February. This resulted in the postponement of this crucial activity until early March and its subsequent implementation in the communities.

Currently, the National Society is in the process of implementing community AVCA and needs an additional month to ensure that the required quality standards are met. It is important to note that this extension does not imply a modification of the approved budget or the objectives of the target group but rather seeks to ensure effective and high-quality implementation.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

2023-11-18

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	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.
Health	<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 that 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>
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<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> <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.</p>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>The National Society has been in contact with the protection, gender, and inclusion 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.</p> <p>PGE is a cross-cutting focus of this IFRC-DREF emergency. Permanent support and advice are provided to the branches and GQ of the Dominican Red Cross.</p>
Coordination	<p>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.</p>
Assessment	<p>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 on 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 of the affected provinces have been assessed so far.</p>
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>The National Society activated its crisis management room to ensure the implementation and compliance with its national emergency response plan.</p>
National Society EOC	<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>



Other	<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 National Society has also responded to national and international journalists who have approached it with concerns about the consequences of the floods.</p>
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IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in the Dominican Republic continues to provide support and advice to the Dominican Red Cross for the coordination of the Response. The disaster Risk Management Coordinator keeps weekly and monthly meetings with its counterparts at the National Society at managerial and technical levels. At the same time, the CCD has been in contact with the Americas Regional Officer to coordinate all response efforts.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Italian Red Cross (IRC) delegation has been in constant contact with the Dominican Red Cross and has participated in response coordination meetings.</p>

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	<p>No</p>
National authorities	<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</p>



diseases (ENO) and establish response and control measures in case of disease outbreaks.

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.

UN or other actors

The World Food Programme (WFP) is carrying out a survey in the impacted areas through Advanced Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM).

This information has been shared with the Dominican Red Cross for necessary actions and decisions.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

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).

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The historic increase in rainfall on November 17 and 18 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.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The agricultural sector is still heavily affected by the floods, despite the efforts of the National government.

The most affected crops were rice, beans, onions, and musaceous crops (bananas and plantains), as well as some areas of greenhouses, causing considerable economic losses.

It's important to highlight that a significant number of affected families depend on agriculture either for income or personal sustenance. Through the support of the Dominican Red Cross with cash transfers, these families have been able to recover from the crisis and ignite/recover their livelihoods.



Health

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MISPAS, by its initials in Spanish), through the General Directorate of Epidemiology (DIGEPI, by its initials in Spanish), issued an epidemiological alert for floods on November 17, 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, by its initials in Spanish), 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, 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.

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 the 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 have shown an upward trend in the number of cases in the last four weeks.

Concerning 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 diarrheal 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, and 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 diarrheal 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 the National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewerage, for November 18, 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.



Community Engagement And Accountability

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

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 for preventive and emergency evacuations, pre-hospital and first aid assistance, and rescue. However, these actions were not envied and disseminated by the media, leaving the community needing to know the interventions of the Red Cross in this eventuality.

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 National Society 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 their 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 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
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.
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">- Implement a rotating schedule to distribute the workload evenly and prevent volunteers from becoming overwhelmed.- Offer psychological support services, including counseling or debriefing sessions, to help volunteers cope with stress and emotional challenges.
Limited access to the areas with affected population due to the deterioration of the security situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- NS with the support of IFRC will update its Security Plan and will constantly assess the situation to implement additional security mitigation measures.- Constant coordination with information sources to avoid dangerous areas.- Coordination with other Members of the movement in the area of security and Duty of Care.
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.

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.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 222,585

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of CVA feasibility study	1	1
# of households assisted with multi-purpose cash	1,000	723
# of sensitization and training workshops with the communities regarding Cash and Vocher Assistance (CVA) component	10	12
% of satisfaction from people receiving CVA assistane	90	0

Progress Towards Outcome

With the support of an IFRC delegate from CVA, a feasibility study of the CVA was carried out.

944 households are within the Redrose system to receive multipurpose cash transfer assistance. As of April 30th, 2024, 723 heads of families had withdrawn funds at the different Moneygram banks in the different implementation locations.

12 community sensitization workshops have been conducted; with the participation of 944 people. This was supported by brochures with detailed information on the multipurpose cash transfer programme.

The National Society has two volunteers with experience in CEA issues and extensive knowledge of satisfaction surveys who are assisting beneficiaries, and currently, we have assisted 50 beneficiaries. This experience with CVA has allowed the National Society to increase its response capacities and to include an area of effective intervention in its humanitarian catalog, such as the distribution of cash and vouchers. Staff at headquarters and volunteers at branch level have been sensitised to the RedRose platform, which has enabled them to effectively monitor the distribution programme, becoming the backbone of the operation.



Health

Budget: CHF 26,093

Targeted Persons: 1,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of health assesments, including mental health and psychosocial support, promotion, education and communicationactions to promote health and prevent diseases with epidemic potential	8	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	2,774

Progress Towards Outcome

- A community surveillance mechanism was established in the 8 branches in the affected territories. These teams, who are part of the same communities, follow up on any type of epidemiological alert (identification of symptoms and cases in the community) to make the corresponding reports and liaise with the Ministry of Public Health.



136 volunteers from the 8 provinces have been trained in health promotion methodologies.

- Through the 6 health and hygiene promotion campaigns on the prevention and control of acute communicable diseases, 2,774 people have benefited. The increase in the initial objective is due to the complementarity with other actions carried out by partners in the field, such as the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, among others.

The assessments were carried out within the framework of the emergency and have been complemented by response and early recovery actions. These assessments have allowed us to corroborate the needs identified at the beginning of the operation. Based on these assessments, hygiene promotion campaigns were carried out and key messages were developed based on the field assessments and complemented by CEA activities, keeping the community at the center of the intervention.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 70,311

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people families with Higiene kits	1,500	1,500
# of people provided with water distribution	5,000	11,500
# of volunteers trained on health promotion methodologies	29	136
# of communities reached with cleaning and disinfection sessions	20	18
# people reached with health and hygiene promotion activities	5,000	2,774

Progress Towards Outcome

- 1500 families in more than 60 communities in the 8 targeted provinces have received hygiene kits.
- Water has been distributed to more than 11,500 people in the affected communities where aqueducts and regular water supply systems are still affected.
- 136 volunteers have been trained in health promotion methodologies.
- 2,774 people have benefited from 6 health and hygiene promotion campaigns on the prevention and control of acute communicable diseases.
- An aqueduct has been rehabilitated, changing damaged elements such as the chlorine system in line, the process of sanitation of the storage tank of 30 thousand gallons of water was made, thus benefiting more than 100 families.
- Five hand washers were installed, five bathrooms were repaired and a pump was installed to facilitate the water pumping process, benefiting more than 100 families.
- 19 community cleaning and disinfection sessions were held in 20 communities affected by the floods.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 3,195

Targeted Persons: 1,550

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers from branches in affected areas have received training on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	50	56
# of people sensitized on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	1,500	1,500

Progress Towards Outcome



Two PSEA workshops were held with the participation of 56 volunteers from 16 branches of the 8 provinces of the Operation.

Another two workshops were held strategically in two provinces, one in Santo Domingo at the Red Cross headquarters and the other in Duarte province at the San Francisco de Macorís branch.

These workshops with volunteers from the different branches allowed the National Society to get closer to the affected communities and to address issues such as sexual exploitation and abuse. These workshops provided the necessary tools to develop key messages and dissemination campaigns in the 8 provinces to raise awareness. So far 1,500 people have been reached directly through the distribution of hygiene kits. During these distribution activities, brochures with key messages were handed out to each head of household and sensitisation was carried out within the framework of the distributions. Additionally, taking into account the availability of resources, 2 additional workshops are being developed in order to increase the number of people sensitised.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 30,672

Targeted Persons: 1,200

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in EVCA and NEAT+	20	29
# of community resilience plans developed	12	10
# of risk maps developed	12	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The EVCA process for this IFRC-DREF started with the training of 29 volunteers (from 16 branches), and staff from the Dominican Red Cross headquarters in a workshop in which they were trained in the different tools offered by this methodology. The workshop aimed to carry out a community resilience assessment in 12 communities affected by the floods last November. This training had a special focus on climate change to follow the guidelines of the National Society's national climate and environment programme.

For the selection process of the communities, we proceeded to go to each of the 8 provinces and their municipalities, and according to their risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities, 12 communities were selected.

The communities are the following by Provinces and municipalities:

Duarte Province:

Municipality of San Francisco de Macorís

Community (Barrio Azul)

Municipality of Pimentel.

Communities (Chulin or Duarte)

Municipality of Hostos.

Communities (La Barca and Acicate).

Municipality of Villa Rivas.

Communities (La Verde, Los Naranjos, Los Riels).

Municipality of Arenoso

Community (Los Platanito)

Province of Monte Plata

Municipal District of Chirino

Communities (Los Mameyes, Yabacao, Pueblo Nuevo)

Province of San Cristobal

Municipal District of Quita Sueño

Community (Cañada Honda)

Province of Barahona

Municipality of Polo

Community (Los Arroyos)





Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 26,625

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# Lessons learned workshop with headquarters	1	0
# of community focus groups formed for lessons learned (internal and external community)	8	3
# Number of people reached through dissemination of information and key messages	7,500	0
# CEA workshop conducted	1	1

Progress Towards Outcome

So far, the Dominican Red Cross has formed 3 community focus groups for lessons learned. The communities formed are: Chirino (Monte Plata), Juan Guzman (Santo Domingo West), and Arroyos Bonitos (Santo Domingo West).

Two workshops have been held in each community.

The CEA workshop for staff and volunteers was done between the 9th and the 11th of February in Bocachica.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 34,293

Targeted Persons: 2

Indicators

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

Progress Towards Outcome

The IFRC Health, Disaster and Crises team, through its Surge mechanism, deployed two operation managers (each for one month) to support the implementation of the IFRC-DREF Floods November 2023 operation.

One Cash and voucher delegate supported the National Society in the development of the cash transfer actions, where the feasibility study of the operation was completed, and cash vouchers were delivered to x% of the target population.

The two leased vehicles were delivered in the second week of January 2024. In compliance with IFRC standards, the two vehicles being used by the field teams have received maintenance.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 51,613

Targeted Persons: 350

Indicators



Title	Target	Actual
# of damage assessment and needs analysis workshops conducted.	1	1
# of volunteers insured.	350	191
# cargo vehicles repaired	1	1
# of visibility kits for volunteers	350	321
# of DANA workshops for volunteers	1	1

Progress Towards Outcome

An Damage and Needs Assessment workshop was held from January 26 to 28, 2024 at the facilities of the Dominican Red Cross Headquarters with the participation of 28 volunteers from more than 16 branches of the 8 provinces (Province Duarte, Azua, Monte Plata, San Cristobal, Barahona, Santo Domingo) of the operation.

191 volunteers with insurance in the operation.

300 volunteers received visibility kits (waterproof suit, polo shirt, cap and cloth backpack).

A cargo truck at the National Society's facility was repaired and used to distribute hygiene kits in Santo Domingo West, National District, Consuelo, Polo de Barahona, Chirino de Monte Plata, Haina de San Cristóbal.

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?

All repositioning purchases of non-food kits were carried out from the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit in order to ensure a permanent stock in the Dominican Red Cross humanitarian warehouse. This allowed for a quicker and more timely distribution to the people affected by the floods.

The rest of the purchases involved in the operation outside of repositioning have been made locally, following the National Society's procurement policies, which are framed within the IFRC's general guidelines.



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).





DREF OPERATION

MDRDO016 - Dominican Red Cross Dominican Republic: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	379.481
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
Enabling Approaches	85.906
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	34.293
National Society Strengthening	51.613
TOTAL BUDGET	465.386

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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