



DRC distributes family hygiene kits in La Higuera, El Seibo during February

Appeal: MDRDO018	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 137,683	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Pluvial/Flash Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 15,000 people	People Targeted: 2,000 people	People Assisted: 3,042 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 17-11-2024	Operational End Date: 28-02-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months
Targeted Regions: Duarte, El Seibo, Espaillat, Hato Mayor, La Altagracia, Maria Trinidad Sanches, Puerto Plata, Samaná			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Provinces on alert 14 November 2024. Source: DRC

Approximate date of impact

Weather satellite images showed clouds of moderate vertical development, generating moderate to heavy rains, isolated thunderstorms, and potential wind gusts over the country due to a frontal system. Additionally, tropical storm Sara, although not directly threatening the country, threaten to worsen conditions in the coming days. On 14 November 2024, rainfall models predicted 60 to 100 mm of rain over the course of 24-48 hours, with 40-80 mm expected in 72-120 hours in higher in isolated areas.

Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

The situation in the Dominican Republic was of critical heavy rains which saturated soils after several days of persistent rainfall. According to meteorological forecasts, the country was under the influence of two cold fronts and two troughs that affected the weather generating a significant rainy period in a large part of the country. Furthermore, the opening of dam floodgates increased river and stream flows, raising the risk of overflows and potential flooding in both urban and rural areas.

Heavy rainfall put at risk of flooding of rivers and ravines, especially in the north, northeast, Cordillera Central, south, southeast and southwest regions of the country.

Authorities closely monitored conditions and adjusted alerts to respond to the high-risk scenario.

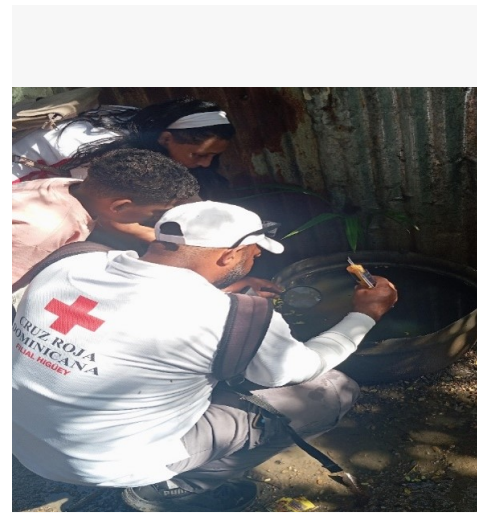




Delivery of personal hygiene kits in Los Peinados, Villa Riva, Duarte province.



Volunteer delivers and explains the use the water bucket in Higüey



Identification of disease outbreaks in Las Palmeras, La Altagracia province.

Scope and Scale

November was typically a dry month in the Dominican Republic, with average rainfall around 60 mm (2.4 inches) and lower chances of precipitation compared to other months. However, according to a special report issued by INDOMET (Dominican Institute of Meteorology) on 14 November 2024, rainfall models had predicted 60–100 mm of rain over the following 24–48 hours, followed by an additional 40–80 mm in the subsequent 72–120 hours.

Given the typically dry conditions in November, where precipitation was brief and irregular, such an increase represented more than double the usual monthly rainfall in just a few days. This created a high-risk scenario, with potentially severe impacts on lives, livelihoods, well-being, and critical infrastructure. Anticipated flooding from overflowing rivers and streams was expected to severely impact both urban and rural areas, damaging homes, schools, healthcare facilities, and obstructing access routes in vulnerable provinces. Local economies reliant on agriculture suffered, as farmlands in low-lying areas were affected by waterlogging and erosion, threatening food security and incomes for farming communities.

According to figures gathered by the national statistics office and reports from the EVCAs implemented, approximately 15,000 people were at risk of flooding due to prolonged periods of rainfall, 85% of whom were inhabitants of rural communities.

The most vulnerable groups included elderly individuals, children, people with disabilities, and low-income families in rural and low-lying areas, who often had limited resources and fewer options to relocate. These populations were further challenged by limited infrastructure, which heightened their exposure to flooding and hampered quick response and evacuation efforts.

Historically, similar weather events had left widespread damage, resulting in severe flooding, infrastructure collapse, and mass displacement, particularly in rural areas and regions with poor drainage systems. In 2023, for example, flooding from heavy rains displaced thousands and resulted in long-term economic hardship for affected communities.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. ECHO Daily Flash of 08 November 2024	https://reliefweb.int/report/dominican-republic/dominican-republic-floods-and-landslides-onamet-noaa-media-echo-daily-flash-08-november-2024
2. Dominican Institute of Meteorology	https://onamet.gob.do/index.php/pronosticos/informe-del-tiempo
3. Emergency Operations Center	https://www.coe.gob.do/index.php/noticias

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
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IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC Americas Regional Office provided direct support to the Dominican Red Cross to develop the implementation for this DREF operation. The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic also supported the National Society with the coordination and follow-up meetings for the implementation of this operation.
Participating National Societies	The Italian Red Cross supported during the emergency with technical and operational tasks as requested by the Dominican Red Cross.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The Emergency Operations Center (COE) of the Dominican Republic coordinates the national emergency response; monitoring weather conditions and issues alerts and warnings to the population. It also organizes and supervises the evacuation of people in high-risk areas, coordinates the delivery of humanitarian aid, and manages the mobilization of resources and rescue teams in coordination with other institutions, such as the Civil Defense and the Armed Forces, to ensure the safety and protection of affected communities. The Administrative Minister of the Presidency visited flood-affected areas such as Las Terrenas in Samaná, La Altagracia, El Seibo, Hato Mayor, Duarte, Maria Trinidad Sanchez, Espaillat, Puerto Plata and among other locations. He was accompanied by officials from the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INDRHI), local government, and Civil Defense to assess the damage, which included overflowing rivers, destroyed homes, and damaged roads. Also, following President directive, the government deployed Public Works brigades to begin infrastructure repairs. Humanitarian aid was also distributed to affected residents, and a comprehensive disaster mitigation strategy was announced, which included improving drainage systems and implementing measures to prevent future river overflows. https://presidencia.gob.do/noticias/gobierno-entrega-enseres-del-hogar-familias-afectadas-por-inundaciones-en-provincias-de
UN or other actors	The UN Resident Coordinator's Office in the Dominican Republic played a central role in coordinating the response among UN agencies. This included assessments, resource mobilization, and aligning efforts with the Dominican government (https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/dominican-republic). The WFP prepared for emergency response, particularly in areas vulnerable to landslides and flash UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) monitored the situation closely. ECHO reported that by November 8, around 1,390 people had been displaced and nearly 280 homes were damaged, especially in Dajabón and Santo Domingo provinces (https://www.gdacs.org/report.aspx?eventtype=FL&eventid=1102991).



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The anticipated event did not result in widespread damage to housing or require emergency shelter assistance. As a result, the initially identified shelter needs did not materialize. However, the pre-positioning of shelter-related items and the planning carried out under this operation enhanced the readiness of the National Society and its volunteers to respond effectively in case of future events, contributing to institutional learning and logistical preparedness.



Health

The health needs of affected communities were significant, with an increased risk of injuries from floods and debris. Psychological impacts were also prevalent, as people face displacement and the loss of homes, livelihoods. Mental health support was essential to address anxiety, stress, and trauma, especially for vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions. Healthcare facilities might be overwhelmed, requiring increased support for both physical and mental health services.

In the end, the forecasted event did not materialise in a way that caused widespread physical harm or a significant increase in vector- or water-borne diseases. However, preventive and community health actions, including PSS, were still implemented as anticipatory measures, particularly in high-risk areas. These efforts helped strengthen local capacities and preparedness levels, with no major changes observed in the initially identified health needs.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Although the rains did not lead to severe impacts, the relevance of anticipatory actions in WASH remained intact. The initial needs assessment remained largely unchanged, and the focus shifted to strengthening preventive hygiene measures and vector control in at-risk communities. Implemented activities contributed to reducing exposure to diseases such as dengue and diarrhoea, especially in areas with inadequate water storage practices.

Additionally, maintaining proper waste disposal systems will be critical to prevent further contamination and safeguard public health.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Although the anticipated flooding did not occur, the PGI-related needs remained relevant. Efforts focused on identifying and prioritising vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and migrants. These groups were reached through targeted hygiene promotion, psychosocial support, and community outreach. The operation also reinforced the importance of mainstreaming PGI in anticipatory action planning and highlighted the need to ensure inclusive approaches regardless of whether an emergency fully materialises.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Affected communities needed timely, clear, and accessible information about the risks they face, evacuation plans, and available resources. This helped individuals make informed decisions about their safety and wellbeing.

Establishing feedback channels where communities can voice their concerns and needs were critical for ensuring that the response is appropriate and responsive to the actual needs of the population. Active community engagement also helped build trust and ensure that aid is distributed equitably and transparently.

The initially identified needs related to risk communication and community access to timely and reliable information remained valid, regardless of the absence of a severe event. The CEA strategy proved essential for promoting safe behaviours and managing community expectations during the anticipatory phase. It also enabled feedback mechanisms that allowed real-time adjustments to the intervention.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through the DREF Operation, the Dominican Red Cross aimed to implement anticipatory actions targeting 2,000 people to mitigate or reduce the impact of heavy rains and potential floods.

At the end of the operation, at least 3,042 people (975 families) were reached through activities in the areas of Health, WASH, and Disaster Risk Reduction. These actions were carried out with a cross-cutting focus on Community, Commitment, and Accountability, as well as Protection, Gender, and Inclusion, over an initial period of three months.

Operation strategy rationale

Anticipatory actions were scheduled both at the National Society and community-level to mitigate the risks and potential effects of heavy rains in prioritized departments. The planned intervention was planned to impact the communities through the following sectors of intervention:

MULTIPURPOSE CASH:

The Dominican Red Cross conducted a feasibility study for cash transfers and assessed the logistical, economic, and social conditions needed to implement for effectiveness of this intervention. By identifying potential challenges and opportunities, this activity ensured that cash transfers can be a useful response tool that provides affected households with the flexibility to meet their specific needs.

HEALTH:

The distribution of disease prevention and control kits controlled the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, which are common after floods due to contaminated water sources and poor sanitation conditions.

The disease prevention and control kits assembled and distributed by the health department considered the needs of the people in the communities, but are usually composed of:

- Insect repellent.
- Hygiene: hand disinfectant.
- Environmental protection: Bags for solid waste management and disposable gloves.
- Education: Brochures with information on prevention of diseases such as dengue, malaria and leptospirosis.

Additionally, mental health and psychosocial support services were provided to address the emotional distress that populations experience both during the anticipatory action phase and/or response phase, such as anxiety, trauma, and grief from displacement, property loss, or injury. MHPSS services include, among others:

- Emotional preparedness workshops: Group activities to learn pre-emergency stress management techniques.
- Community support: Identification of points of contact where communities can receive basic psychological first aid counseling.
- Strengthening of local support networks: Training of community leaders to provide basic emotional support and detect cases requiring referral.

By supporting mental wellbeing, these services can improve resilience, helping individuals and communities cope more effectively during and after the emergency.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

Raising awareness about water management and solid waste disposal is crucial in preventing waterborne diseases, as flood conditions often lead to water contamination and an increase in waste accumulation. Communicating safe water practices in both Creole and Spanish ensures inclusivity, especially for vulnerable groups like migrant communities. The distribution of family and individual hygiene kits, along with water buckets with taps, will further support good hygiene practices, reduce disease transmission, and provide immediate access to clean water, which is critical when normal water sources are compromised.

As part of anticipatory actions, family hygiene kits were distributed to families at the time of their evacuation. These kits ensure that families relocating to shelters or the homes of relatives and friends have access to essential hygiene supplies, reducing the risk of disease transmission in these transitional settings. For individuals already in shelters, individual hygiene kits were distributed to support personal hygiene and prevent the spread of illnesses in communal living environments.



Individual hygiene kits contain: 1x laundry soap bar, 2x hand soap, 2x shampoo, 1x toothpaste, 1x toothbrush, 1x disposable razor, 1x hand towel, 2x toilet paper, 1x comb. In the case of women, the kit also includes additional sanitary pads.

Family hygiene kits(for 5 people) contain: 5x laundry soap bar, 11x hand soap, 2x shampoo, 4x toothpaste, 5x toothbrush, 5x disposable razor, 4x packages (20 units) of sanitary pads, 5x hand towel, 12x toilet paper, 2x comb, 1x plastic bag.

Additionally, 270 water buckets with taps are prepositioned in prioritized branches, but these are aimed at the response phase to ensure that clean water can be rapidly distributed if flooding materializes. Additional water buckets are prepositioned at the National Society warehouse ready for dispatch. These water buckets are vital for providing safe drinking water to affected populations, particularly in areas where regular water sources may be contaminated or inaccessible due to flooding.

DISASTER, RISK REDUCTION (DRR):

The dissemination of early warning messages through printed materials and social media campaigns plays a crucial role in enhancing community preparedness and resilience. Educational sessions at the community level were conducted to raise awareness about evacuation routes, the importance of preparing a 72-hour emergency backpack, and strategies to stay safe during heavy rains and potential flooding. Such activities empower communities with practical knowledge, enabling them to take proactive steps to protect themselves and their assets. Additionally, the operation will support the evacuation of at-risk individuals and households to safe locations, prioritizing those in flood-prone areas or with limited mobility. Together, these actions aim to reduce disaster risks and safeguard lives and livelihoods in vulnerable communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

The National Society prioritizes a community participation and accountability approach in all its activities. Among the activities prioritized was the establishment of feedback channels where communities expressed their concerns, provided input, and communicated their needs ensuring that the response remains community-driven and tailored to actual requirements. These channels enable real-time adjustments to the operation, ensuring that support reaches those who need it most and aligns with the evolving needs of the affected population.

Community feedback was collected through community meetings and quick surveys conducted during initial visits. These tools will help assess specific risks and identify priority needs before the climate event significantly impacts the area. The information gathered will guide adjustments to anticipatory activities, such as the distribution of supplies and communication strategies, ensuring that actions are relevant, inclusive, and aligned with local expectations. Additionally, virtual communication via WhatsApp and telephone will be used as a feedback mechanism.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI)

Refresher workshops for volunteers on protection in emergencies aim to reinforce their capacity to identify and address the unique vulnerabilities of affected individuals, such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This ensures that emergency response efforts are inclusive, equitable, and sensitive to the diverse needs of all community members. Similarly, the workshop on safer access equips volunteers with the skills to safely and effectively reach affected populations, even in complex or insecure environments. Together, these activities enhance the preparedness of volunteers, fostering a response that is both protective and accessible to everyone in need.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The operation targeted 2,000 people (500 families) living in communities most at risk of flooding due to heavy rains. Priority was given to those in low-lying or flood-prone areas, where vulnerability to flooding is highest due to factors such as inadequate drainage, substandard housing, and limited resources to manage the effects of prolonged rains. Within these communities, the operation was focus on reaching particularly vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, people with disabilities, and low-income families, who often face greater challenges in preparing for and responding to disasters.

Anticipatory actions also included measures to ensure that marginalized groups, such as migrant populations who might face language barriers, receive clear and accessible information and equal access to support. By focusing on these vulnerable groups, the operation aims to reduce the potential impacts on those most likely to experience severe hardship in the event of flooding.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

For this operation, beneficiary selection criteria included:

- Vulnerability: Communities in low-lying and flood-prone areas were prioritized, as these locations were more susceptible to severe flooding due to inadequate infrastructure, such as poor drainage systems at high risk for waterborne diseases when water sources are contaminated.
- At-risk groups: Within these communities, the operation focused on households with elderly members, children, people with disabilities, and pregnant or single women, as they often face heightened physical, social, and economic challenges during disasters.
- Socioeconomic conditions: Low-income families were prioritized, as they lack the resources to prepare for or recover from flood impacts, such as securing alternative housing or purchasing necessary supplies.
- Accessibility: Hard-to-reach areas and communities in areas with a high density of affected population.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	971	Rural	80%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	556	Urban	20%
Assisted Men	861	People with disabilities (estimated)	2%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	654		
Total Assisted Population	3,042		
Total Targeted Population	2,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	No
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	No
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	No

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Heavy rains and flooding pose significant risks, including injuries from debris, exposure to contaminated water, and increased transmission of waterborne and vector-borne diseases. Responders may also face mental health challenges due to the stress of working in hazardous environments and witnessing the impacts on affected communities.	To address these risks, responders received training on safety protocols and be equipped with protective gear such as waterproof boots and gloves. Health checks, vaccinations, and access to medical support will be provided. Psychosocial support will help manage mental health strain, while hygiene promotion will reduce disease transmission. Coordination with local authorities and contingency planning will ensure safe operations and rapid response to changing conditions.



Disruptions in the supply chain due to infrastructure damage (such as roads and ports) could hinder the timely distribution of aid and essential supplies.	Establishing local stockpiles of essential items, securing backup suppliers, and engaging with partners and IFRC regional logistic unit to ensure additional logistical support.
Weather-related delays and access challenges: Given the operation's focus on areas vulnerable to floods, adverse weather conditions could delay aid delivery and restrict access.	Pre-positioning relief supplies in key locations, using alternative routes for logistics, and coordinating with local authorities to ensure swift access to prioritized areas despite weather challenges.
There is a risk of community dissatisfaction if the selection process for aid recipients is not seen as transparent or fair.	Implementing a clear and participatory selection process, engaging community representatives, and establishing clear communication channels to ensure transparency and equitable distribution of aid.
The scale of the response and ongoing monitoring could lead to volunteer and staff fatigue, affecting operational efficiency.	Rotating shifts for staff and volunteers, providing psychosocial support, and ensuring adequate rest periods to maintain high performance and well-being.
Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation: Flooded regions faced multiple hazards that posed risks to volunteers, staff, and beneficiaries. These hazards included debris, deep water, and unstable ground. To mitigate the associated risks, teams were equipped with necessary safety gear, including life jackets and protective footwear, and are trained on how to safely navigate flood-prone areas. Regular assessments of terrain conditions are conducted before deployment to ensure the safety of all personnel.	
Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No

Implementation



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 2,130
Targeted Persons: 0
Assisted Persons: 0
Targeted Male: 0
Targeted Female: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of feasibility studies conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

The Dominican Red Cross conducted a feasibility study to prepare for the implementation of a multipurpose cash programme in case necessary. The methodology used to carry out the feasibility study consisted of direct observation and the application of a questionnaire in each of the seven provinces involved in the project. The questionnaire included key questions on aspects such as local market behaviour, access to financial institutions and the presence of commercial businesses in the different areas, among others. The data collection was carried out with the collaboration of trained volunteers, as well as a technician specialized in data processing and management and an analyst. As a result, the National Society has a comprehensive feasibility study of the seven provinces, which can serve as a basis for the implementation of multipurpose cash, if necessary.

• Findings of the study:
Needs



- It was identified that 84% of households reported interruptions in their means of income during weather events.
- The majority of the surveyed families depended on informal work, trade and agriculture.
- The main needs were found to be water and sanitation, food and shelter.
- 49.43% of the families surveyed were single-parent families living in highly vulnerable conditions.
- Many families did not have continuous access to safe drinking water, and some relied on wells or had to buy water.
- Most families stored water and applied some form of treatment before consumption.

Regulations

- It was confirmed that there were no legal restrictions on implementing cash transfer programmes in emergencies.

Market assessment

- It was identified that local markets continued to function even during floods.
- People interviewed said that there were no shortages of products or significant price increases.
- In small communities, there were grocery stores that supplied basic commodities.
- When more specific products were required, families travelled to the provincial capitals.
- The capitals or head municipalities were less than 30 minutes away by public transport or motorcycle (motoconcho).
- It was concluded that markets could absorb the increased demand generated by the transfers.

Financial services

- Branches of the country's main banks were confirmed to be present in all provincial capitals.
- Banreservas, Banco Popular and Banco BHD were present and offered remittance services.
- In the more remote municipalities, people were able to travel without difficulty to use these services.
- Communities were found to have adequate access to financial services, although not always in their locality.
- It was concluded that the banking infrastructure was sufficient to implement the programme.

Delivery modalities

- Three modalities were assessed: cash on hand, product delivery and remittance transfers.
- Hand delivery of cash was discarded due to high security risks and limited time.
- Product delivery was considered inflexible and more logistically costly.
- Remittance agency transfers were identified as the best option.
- MoneyGram through the Red Rose platform was preferred because of its efficiency and previous experience.
- Households surveyed showed a preference for receiving cash through this channel.
- This modality reduced operational risks for the Red Cross and accelerated the delivery of aid.

Lessons Learnt

- The teams recommend strengthening specific guidance to branch presidents so that they can provide the necessary information on their volunteers in a timely manner. In addition, implementation teams suggest working with the volunteering department to identify the necessary measures to ensure that, in future projects, compliance with these requirements is achieved.
- During the lessons learned workshop, areas for improvement were identified, such as the time required for the procurement process, the availability of vehicles and drivers, and the lack of knowledge about the proactive approach in the branches involved.
- The need for more volunteers in some branches was mentioned. It is essential that these actions for improvement are considered for future operations (especially those related to anticipatory action).
- Although no MPCG distribution was implemented in this operation, early discussions with local authorities and communities highlighted the potential for using cash-based modalities in future flood response. These discussions provided useful insights into the feasibility of market-based interventions in the targeted provinces.

Challenges

- The Dominican Red Cross recognized the invaluable role of volunteers and the importance of ensuring their safety as the fundamental objective of this area of implementation. However, due to time constraints and the outdated database of volunteers the implementation multipurpose cash initiatives faced challenges.
- The absence of pre-crisis market assessments and agreements with financial service providers limited the ability to activate MPCG in the immediate aftermath of the floods. Cash feasibility assessments should be prioritised in preparedness planning to enable rapid activation in similar contexts.



Budget: CHF 27,158



Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 2,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached through mental health and psychosocial support services	1,000	1,000
Number of people reached with disease prevention and control kits	2,000	2,000

Narrative description of achievements

- Anticipatory psychosocial support actions are essential to strengthen the resilience and well-being of the population. For this reason, mental health and psychosocial support services were provided to 1,000 people during community visits. These initiatives are critical to enhancing mental wellbeing capacities and helping individuals and communities to proactively cope with emergencies, both during and after catastrophic events that threaten their health and safety.
- During the implementation of the Anticipatory DREF, Community-Based Epidemiological Surveillance actions were strengthened through home visits to 5,608 homes. These visits made it possible to identify people with symptoms of acute communicable diseases, especially those with epidemic potential, to whom guidance was provided on the prevention of complications and the importance of visiting the nearest health centre. These initiatives included the distribution of 2,000 smear kits, provided to families most at risk of acute diseases with epidemic potential, such as acute diarrhoeal diseases, cholera and dengue.
- Vulnerable groups were identified, including 127 people with comorbidities, 125 with disabilities, 243 pregnant women, 452 in special situations, 265 migrants and 413 lactating mothers. There were also 373 cases of fever and 335 cases of diarrhea or vomiting, reflecting the need for timely follow-up and care in these populations.

- The health teams distributed disease prevention and control kits to 2,000 people. In El Seibo, 326 kits were distributed to 159 families in three communities: La Higuera, Ginandiana, and Los Mameyes, benefiting a total of 326 people. In La Altagracia (Higüey), 536 kits were delivered to 261 families in seven communities, reaching 536 people. In Samaná, 250 kits were distributed in four communities, benefiting 122 families and 250 people. In María Trinidad Sánchez, 185 kits were delivered to 90 families in three communities, reaching 185 people. In Duarte (Villa Rivas), 203 kits were distributed to 99 families, benefiting 203 people. Finally, in Espaillat, 164 kits were delivered to 80 families in three communities, reaching 164 people. In Puerto Plata, 336 kits were distributed in five communities, benefiting 164 families and 326 people.

Lessons Learnt

Health promotion activities were effectively integrated into hygiene and risk reduction interventions, ensuring a consistent public health message. The decision to use pre-positioned health materials reduced costs and avoided procurement delays, allowing for immediate implementation.

Challenges

While stocks were sufficient for this operation, the lack of replenishment creates a gap in preparedness for future events. In addition, some planned health interventions could not be fully implemented due to access constraints in isolated communities during peak flooding.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 53,783

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 3,042

Targeted Male: 1,515

Targeted Female: 1,527



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of family hygiene kits distributed	500	500
Number of individual hygiene kits distributed	1,500	1,508
Number of people reached through dissemination of key messages	2,000	3,042

Narrative description of achievements

The objective was achieved, resulting in a successful distribution. A total of 3,042 people from 975 households benefited, surpassing the initial goal of 2,000. This increase was due to the distribution of printed materials provided by the National Society, reaching the entire population of the 28 communities, regardless of their eligibility for humanitarian assistance. The selection of beneficiaries was made considering indicators such as vulnerability level, family composition, previous impacts, exposure to risks, and socioeconomic status. Once the selection was completed, coordination was carried out with local authorities for the delivery process.

Distribution Details

El Seibo

Pre-positioning and delivery of:

125 buckets with taps

303 family hygiene kits

Benefited Communities: La Higuera, Ginandiana, Los Mameyes (Miches)

Benefited Families: 159

Benefited People: 568

La Altagracia, Higüey

Pre-positioning and delivery of:

126 buckets with taps

65 family hygiene kits

575 personal hygiene kits

Benefited Communities: Barrio Lindo, Villa Palmera, La Palma, Mama Tingo, Villa Rey, Los Morales, Villa María

Benefited Families: 261

Benefited People: 900

Samaná

Pre-positioning and delivery of:

68 buckets with taps

190 personal hygiene kits

Benefited Communities: Sánchez, Los Rieles, Samaná; Sector Wilmore, Dm. El Limón; La Caoba, Barrio, Las Terrenas; Caño Seco

Benefited Families: 122

Benefited People: 396

María Trinidad Sánchez

Pre-positioning and delivery of:

40 buckets with taps

82 family hygiene kits

68 personal hygiene kits

Benefited Communities: La Islita, Río Mar, Cabrera; La Llanada

Benefited Families: 90

Benefited People: 294

Duarte, Villa Rivas

Pre-positioning and delivery of:

40 buckets with taps

200 personal hygiene kits

Benefited Communities: Los Peinados, Los Contreras

Benefited Families: 99



Benefited People: 309

Espailat

Pre-positioning and delivery of:

50 buckets with taps

50 family hygiene kits

150 personal hygiene kits

Benefited Communities: Gaspar Hernández: La Piña and Villa Progreso Dm San Victor: La Lambada

Benefited Families: 80

Benefited People: 250

Puerto Plata

Pre-positioning and delivery of:

51 buckets with taps

325 personal hygiene kits

Benefited Communities: Las Tres Palmas, Los Bordas, La Grúa, Villa Melesia, Cabarete

Benefited Families: 164

Benefited People: 325

Breakdown of the Population Reached

Total Population: 3,042

Total Children (0-17 years): 654

Total Girls (0-17 years): 556

Total Women (18-60 years): 758

Total Women over 60 years: 213

Total Men (18-60 years): 715

Total Men over 60 years: 146

Total Men: 1,515

Total Women: 1,527

Lessons Learnt

The timely distribution of family hygiene kits and buckets with taps, combined with hygiene promotion, directly addressed the increased risk of waterborne diseases after the floods. The use of existing WASH stocks reduced procurement time and ensured immediate availability of critical items. Beneficiary feedback indicated high satisfaction with the quality and usefulness of distributed items.

Challenges

Access constraints due to damaged roads delayed distributions in certain rural communities. Additionally, some communities required further follow-up to reinforce proper use of hygiene items, especially where sanitation facilities were heavily damaged.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,130

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Number of volunteers reached with refresher workshop on PGI and safer access	40	81
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Narrative description of achievements

- In the context of Safer Access and Gender Protection and Inclusion, three activities were carried out: a full-day workshop in Puerto Plata, which included a more extensive programme where the topics of security, sexual harassment, Gender Protection and Inclusion were discussed in depth, and two 4-hour talks, one in the municipality of Higüey and the other in Samaná; these initiatives strengthened the security-related actions of both volunteers and community members, thus guaranteeing a safe process for all participants.
- The use of the premises and chairs provided by the branches in the area of intervention was fundamental for the execution of the PGI and safer access refresher workshop, saving resources that were redirected to cover other logistical aspects, such as food for the volunteers. The objective of three workshops in different provinces was achieved, which allowed for a greater number of participants and surpassed the initial goal of 40 volunteers, reaching 81 participants.

Lessons Learnt

- Targeting criteria prioritised the most vulnerable, including households headed by women, elderly people, and persons with disabilities. Volunteers were trained to identify protection concerns during household visits, facilitating referrals to relevant services when needed.

Challenges

- The operation faced challenges in collecting disaggregated data for all PGI indicators, which limited the ability to fully measure reach and inclusivity. Additional PGI-specific tools and training should be integrated into preparedness plans to strengthen data collection in future operations.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 2,663

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 2,008

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached through educational sessions on key preparedness topics	2,000	2,008
Number of people reached through the dissemination of early warning messages	2,000	1,031

Narrative description of achievements

- Risk reduction, climate change adaptation and recovery are vital lines of intervention. For this reason, during the implementation of the DREF, various talks were held in the communities involved. The main topics addressed were risk management and the explanation of the family emergency plan. At least one representative from each household received training on such topics and this supported the lasting knowledge in the communities, thus strengthening their response capacity.

The National Society's social networks were used to disseminate key messages and raise awareness of the various interventions carried out by the project. As a result, 12 publications, 502 interactions (likes and comments) and 7,502 views were achieved.

- The Dominican Red Cross director of Relief and Risk Management participated in two monitoring visits. They were an opportunity to observe the methodology applied in the community censuses as well as to interact with local authorities and members of the



communities. At the same time, the vulnerable areas were visited. The DRM director also participated at the provincial meetings in Puerto Plata which were attended by local authorities and served as an opportunity for National Society staff to explain the characteristics and guidelines of the IFRC DREF.

- The reach of the key message transmission was significant, reaching 1,031 people directly (in-person) and successfully raising awareness through messages such as "Listen, act, prepare: the alert is a signal, not a wait" and "An early alert is not an alarm; it is an opportunity to protect ourselves." However, the goal was not fully achieved, as the invoices issued by the social media providers had dates that exceeded the project's validity period upon contracting their services. This hindered a complete and effective dissemination within the established timeframe due to the providers' billing policies.

Despite these challenges, educational sessions were conducted that reached 2,008 people, highlighting the importance of preparedness in the face of early alerts in various communities. The breakdown of the population reached through early alert messages shows that, out of the 1,031 participants, 374 were male, 655 female, and 2 identified as other. Below is the distribution by community:

Caño Seco/Las Terrenas: 4 Male, 27 Female, 1 Other (Total: 32)

El Limón: 17 Male, 21 Female (Total: 38)

Los Rieles/Sánchez: 9 Male, 34 Female, 1 Other (Total: 44)

Wilmore/Samaná: 9 Male, 32 Female (Total: 41)

La Grúa/Sosua: 8 Male, 13 Female (Total: 21)

Callejón de la Loma/Cabarete: 24 Male, 26 Female (Total: 50)

Veragua/Gaspar Hernández: 6 Male, 13 Female (Total: 19)

La Lambada/San Víctor: 11 Male, 15 Female (Total: 26)

Las Tres Palmas/Puerto Plata: 3 Male, 9 Female (Total: 12)

Villa Melecia/Montellano: 12 Male, 20 Female (Total: 32)

Mama Tingo/Higüey: 9 Male, 23 Female (Total: 32)

Barrio Lindo/Higüey: 32 Male, 35 Female (Total: 67)

Villa Palmera/Higüey: 27 Male, 36 Female (Total: 63)

La Palma/Higüey: 21 Male, 47 Female (Total: 68)

Villa Rey/Higüey: 17 Male, 25 Female (Total: 42)

La Higuera/El Seibo: 9 Male, 28 Female (Total: 37)

Ginandiana/El Seibo: 22 Male, 28 Female (Total: 50)

El Tamarindo/El Seibo: 11 Male, 44 Female (Total: 55)

Miches/El Seibo: 16 Male, 35 Female (Total: 51)

Los Peñados/Villa Rivas: 32 Male, 37 Female (Total: 69)

Los Contreras/Villa Rivas: 15 Male, 45 Female (Total: 60)

La Isleta/Nagua: 39 Male, 46 Female (Total: 85)

La Llanada/Cabrera: 21 Male, 16 Female (Total: 37)

TOTAL: 374 Male, 655 Female, 2 Other (Total: 1,031)

Lessons Learnt

The integration of community risk management talks and the promotion of family emergency plans proved highly effective in strengthening local preparedness in targeted provinces. Early engagement with community leaders facilitated trust-building and ensured higher participation rates, particularly in rural areas. The use of pre-developed educational materials allowed volunteers to deliver consistent messages, enhancing community understanding of early warning systems and evacuation procedures.

While the operation focused primarily on immediate response, some activities—such as promoting water storage and safe sanitation practices—had clear climate adaptation co-benefits by reducing vulnerability to recurrent flood events. The integration of these messages into hygiene promotion and risk reduction sessions ensured a multi-sector approach that contributes to longer-term resilience.

Challenges

- Adverse weather conditions during the initial days of the intervention limited access to some communities, delaying the start of certain awareness activities. The geographic dispersion of the targeted population required additional logistical coordination and increased volunteer travel times. In some cases, community members had limited prior exposure to structured risk reduction concepts, requiring more time than anticipated for effective knowledge transfer.
- Due to the short operational timeframe and the nature of the DREF mechanism, opportunities for more structured climate adaptation interventions (e.g., community-based infrastructure improvements) were limited. There was also a lack of baseline data to measure the potential climate adaptation impact of the implemented actions.





Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 472

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community feedback channels established	-	1

Narrative description of achievements

A feedback mechanism was initially planned but could not be implemented due to the unique nature of the operation, which was an imminent DREF covering a vast geographical area and heavily reliant on forecasts. Consequently, the decision was made to conduct a final survey in some of the identified areas. This survey served as a community feedback mechanism, allowing individuals to share their opinions on the entire process. Although it was conducted after the activities had concluded, the results were compiled and discussed in the lessons learned workshop. A total of 472 satisfaction surveys were conducted at the community level and 47 volunteers.

•This process not only allowed for the collection of diverse opinions from the people interviewed but also ensured the transparency of the operation. Concerns raised by some members of the community were addressed.

Synthesis of the DREF Pluvial Intervention Report - Northern and Eastern Zones

The report presents an evaluation of the interventions carried out in specific localities of the provinces in the Northern and Eastern Zones, highlighting the conditions found, community response, and suggestions to improve future actions.

Northern Zone

Main localities evaluated: Puerto Plata, Espaillat, Duarte, María Trinidad Sánchez, Samaná

Puerto Plata: Lack of institutional support (except Red Cross), need for better advance planning, and little collaboration with municipal authorities. The community manages aid on its own without major issues.

Espaillat: Poor infrastructure; high risk of flooding; problems accessing potable water in homes. High number of migrants; houses in poor condition near the river; community well-organized with empowered leaders and very good relationship with the Red Cross.

Duarte: Children barefoot; scarcity of resources and potable water; unequal distribution of aid kits with the most vulnerable areas not receiving them.

María Trinidad Sánchez: Communities at high risk due to rivers and ravines in very poor condition; disparity in kit content, some kits arrived incomplete according to community members. Deliveries were made without prior censuses because some kits were left over and could not be returned. Need for personnel with Creole language skills since 80% of the population speaks this language.

Samaná: Aid should be given to the most vulnerable such as elderly and disabled individuals. Deliveries should be better distributed, coordinating whether to deliver door-to-door or at a meeting point. Aging population mostly over 65 years old; main activity is agriculture. It is recommended to do door-to-door distribution given many elderly and disabled have difficulty moving around.

Eastern Zone

Main localities evaluated: El Seibo, La Altagracia

El Seibo: Lack of potable water (available only once a week); droughts affect agriculture. Flooding hinders access to basic services; structural assistance needed for homes. High vulnerability due to street contamination; this community stands out as a fishing area; lack of support in aid distribution.

La Altagracia: Complaints that aid was given to uncensored persons. Problems with equitable distribution since different criteria had to



be used to select beneficiaries. Lack of basic supplies and medical assistance. Beneficiaries absent due to Christian religious retreats held twice a week. Difficulty locating beneficiaries due to lack of information; the actual recipients of aid were never found.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Communities have significant deficiencies in access to essential resources, health, and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid.

It is recommended to strengthen planning, supervision, and training of personnel and volunteers.

Ensure equity in distribution of resources and better support for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with disabilities.

Improve coordination with local authorities and announce delivery activities in advance. •

Lessons Learnt

The integration of CEA into all stages of the operation enhanced community trust and improved the targeting of assistance. Feedback mechanisms, including direct volunteer engagement and community meetings, allowed rapid adjustments to distribution plans to better meet local needs.

Challenges

Limited connectivity in rural areas hindered the use of digital feedback tools, requiring reliance on in-person collection methods. Ensuring two-way communication with all affected groups, particularly people with disabilities and the elderly, required additional volunteer time and targeted approaches.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 2,130

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of monitoring visits	2	2

Narrative description of achievements

• The General Directorate of the Dominican Red Cross held a control and follow-up meeting with the different teams involved in the implementation. The National Society's Planning Department provided support with monitoring the compliance with the indicators. The operation's reports were in line with the IFRC's minimum reporting standards for the DREF. As part of the operation, a lessons learned workshop was held where feedback and findings were gathered and discussed by the implementation teams (including participants from branches). In addition, the IFRC adopted a country-focused approach, with the Disaster Risk Management Coordinator of the CCD providing specific support to the team and the operation. The IFRC's PMER and finance teams provided support and guidance of IFRC policies and procedures for DREF operations.

Lessons Learnt

Close coordination between the IFRC CCD and the Dominican Red Cross ensured timely technical support and oversight, particularly in planning, reporting, and financial monitoring. The operation benefitted from existing relationships with government agencies, enabling smooth access to affected areas.



Challenges

Time constraints for finalizing procurement and financial processes, combined with simultaneous operations in the region, placed additional strain on Secretariat resources. This highlighted the need for contingency planning within the Secretariat to manage multiple overlapping emergencies.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 47,691

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 455

Targeted Male: 237

Targeted Female: 210

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of insured volunteers	40	0
Number of PPE kit distributed to volunteers	40	40
Number of vehicles rented	2	2
Number of personnel hired for the operation	2	2
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

In order to contribute to the strengthening of institutional capacities, the health teams integrated 455 volunteers from the 8 targeted provinces (217 women and 238 men). All of them participated in the activities and reinforcement of the methodologies of health and hygiene promotion, rapid sectoral health assessments including mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies, water, sanitation and hygiene and community-based epidemiological surveillance.

The work of the staff involved in the implementation of the project covered a number of key tasks, including the creation of forms, handling and processing of information, monitoring of forecasts, development of feasibility studies and coordination of community censuses. In addition, their involvement was crucial in the delivery of inputs and facilitation of key issues such as risk management, family emergency plan, health, psychosocial support and water management. An administrative team was also in place to follow up on the various requests and requirements. The contribution of each of these professionals was key to the success of the project.

•For the implementation of the operation, two people were hired as follows:

1x operations coordinator in charge of monitoring and ensuring that the planned intervention was carried out as set out in the DREF Application. This person was the liaison between the National Society and IFRC for operational matters.

1x driver for rented vehicles.

•The procurement for this operation consisted of the replenishment of stocks that the Dominican Red Cross had already pre-positioned in its warehouse and which were distributed as part of the planned intervention. Including 500 family kits, which were covered by the SN and later replenished by the IFRC.

The National Society coordinated with the IFRC logistics focal point to determine whether the items were procured locally or through the Regional Logistics Unit and ensured that IFRC standard procedures were followed and the minimum standards of the field were respected.



Lessons Learnt

- The implementation teams recommend strengthening the guidance provided to branch presidents so that they can provide the necessary information on their volunteers in a timely manner. Also, it is suggested that the identification of volunteers can be improved to ensure compliance with the number and profile of volunteers necessary for DREF operations.
- During the lessons learned workshop, the remarkable success in the implementation and fulfilment of the main lines of intervention was highlighted.
- During the workshop, areas for improvement were also identified, such as the time required for the procurement process, the availability of vehicles and drivers, and the lack of knowledge about the proactive approach in the branches involved, as it is a new approach.
- The need for more volunteers in some branches was mentioned.
- The operation strengthened the Dominican Red Cross' ability to rapidly mobilise volunteers, pre-position and distribute relief items, and coordinate multi-sector interventions. Internal coordination between branches improved through the use of centralised planning and reporting tools. The experience reinforced the value of maintaining updated contingency plans and clear SOPs for rapid-onset events.

Challenges

- Difficulties and constraints that arose throughout the process were effectively managed and overcome. It is important to note that this was the first proactive action project carried out by the national society.
- Limited surge capacity in some provincial branches created pressure on the existing volunteer base, especially given the concurrent need to maintain regular Red Cross services. Short timeframes for procurement and reporting also placed significant demands on administrative and logistics teams.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRDO018 - Dominican Republic - Pluvial/Flash Flood

Operating Timeframe: 17 Nov 2024 to 28 Feb 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/11-2025/6	Operation	MDRDO018
Budget Timeframe	2024-2025	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 30/Jul/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	137,683
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	137,683
Expenditure	-87,882
Closing Balance	49,801

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	2,000	5,098	-3,098
PO04 - Health	25,500	2,137	23,363
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	50,500	43,918	6,582
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,000	1,165	836
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	15,103	1,822	13,281
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	95,103	54,139	40,964
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	2,000		2,000
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	40,580	33,743	6,837
Enabling Approaches Total	42,580	33,743	8,837
Grand Total	137,683	87,882	49,801

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 137,683 was allocated from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the implementation of this operation. By the end of the operation, total expenditures amounted to CHF 87,882. The unspent balance of CHF 49,801 will be returned to the DREF.

The most notable variances between the budgeted and actual expenditures include:

-Risk Reduction has a variation greater than 10%, but it corresponds to the fact that in the budget, the PSSR is under the AP103.

-Health – AP108 Budget CHF 25,500.00 / Expenditure CHF 2,137. The National Society utilized materials and supplies available in stock and



did not incur in the purchase of new materials for replenishment. This decision was made due to the need to free up space in the warehouse and the time constraints for the purchasing process.



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

