



National Society volunteers conducting assessment in San Cristobal. Source: DRC.

Appeal: MDRDO019	Hazard: Cyclone	Country: Dominican Republic	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 499,080	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 1,274,237 people	People Targeted: 6,750 people	
Operation Start Date: 30-10-2025	Operation Timeframe: 5 months	Operation End Date: 31-03-2026	DREF Published: 12-11-2025

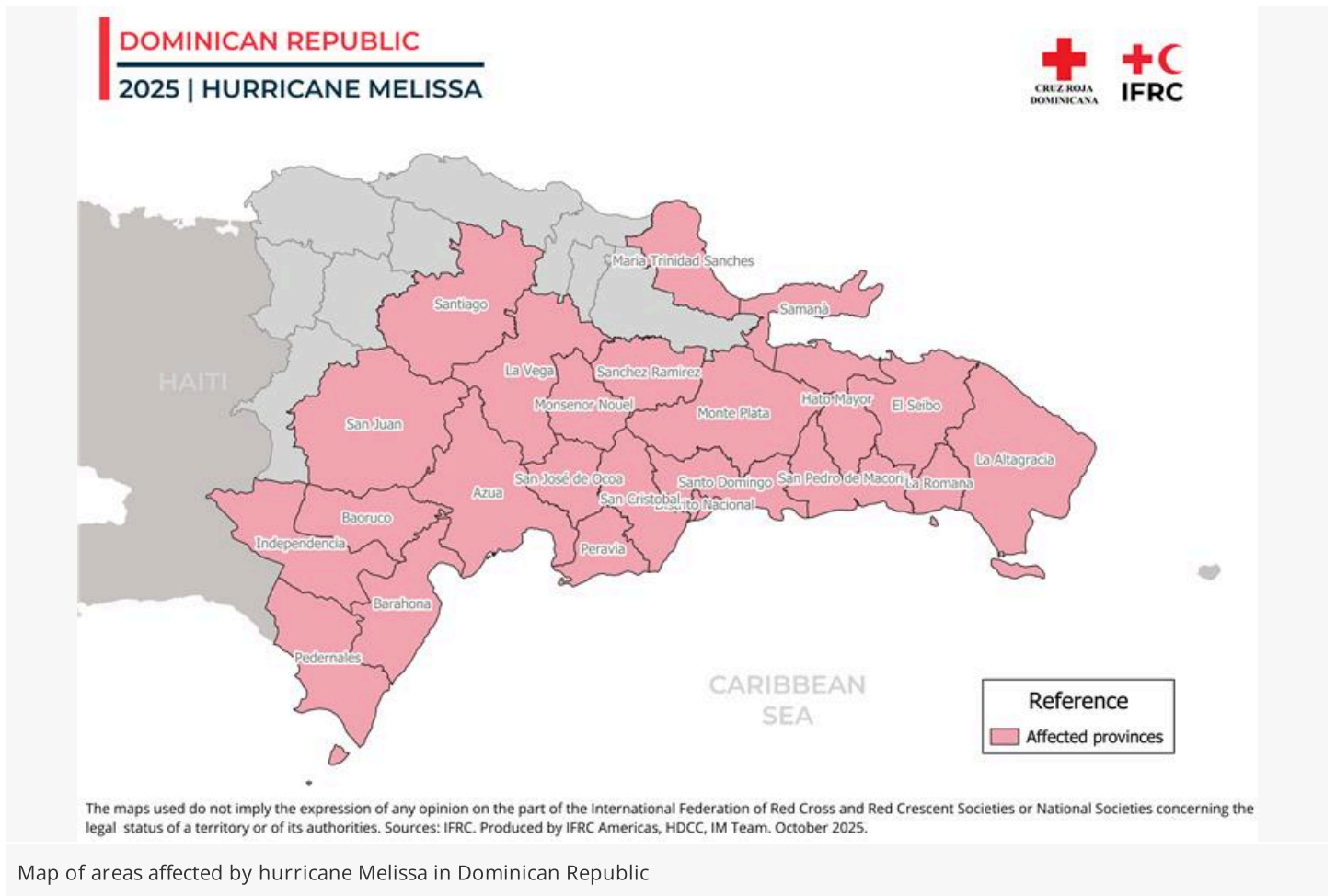
Targeted Regions:

Azua, Barahona, Distrito Nacional, Elias Pina, Peravia, San Cristobal, San José de Ocoa, San Juan, San Pedro de Macoris, Santo Domingo

Description of the Event

Date of event

23-10-2025



What happened, where and when?

From 21 October 2025 onward, the Dominican Republic experienced heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides as outer bands of Hurricane Melissa impacted the southern and central provinces. The country's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) declared yellow and green alerts in 22 provinces and the National District, and later red alerts in Barahona, Pedernales, Independencia and Bahoruco, while yellow alerts covered San José de Ocoa, Elías Pina, Dajabón, Azua, San Cristóbal, Peravia, Monte Plata, San Juan and Monte Cristi.

Intense rain-induced flooding and landslides severely disrupted water supply and essential services—dozens of aqueducts were out of operation, and several health facilities experienced outages. Based on preliminary estimates the population exposed to the event is approximately 1.8 million people.

The disruption of safe water access and power outages heightened the risk of waterborne disease; ongoing soil saturation and forecast for further rainbands maintained an elevated risk of renewed flooding and landslides.



Volunteer monitoring children's health in Barahona shelters. Source: DRC

Scope and Scale

The emergency caused severe damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, and the well-being of affected populations. The greatest impact was on the water and sanitation sector, with 61 aqueducts out of operation, leaving 1,274,237 people without access to safe water. Earlier reports indicated that the number of affected users peaked when the CAASD (Corporación del Acueducto y Alcantarillado de Santo Domingo) also failed. According to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 757 homes were reported affected—16 partially damaged and at least one destroyed—forcing 3,765 people to leave their homes. Forty-eight communities were cut off due to the collapse of bridges and road sections, while 1–4 highways sustained damage, isolating entire areas and limiting access to basic goods and services. Families lost belongings and faced structural damage to their homes, with many seeking refuge with relatives or in temporary shelters.

Hurricane Melissa's impact extended beyond infrastructure to livelihoods and health. The destruction of key crops such as plantain, cassava, and coffee in provinces like San Juan and Barahona has worsened food insecurity and economic hardship for smallholder farmers, increasing the risk of indebtedness and deepening poverty levels. Health risks have also escalated due to stagnant water and limited sanitation, raising the likelihood of outbreaks of diarrheal diseases and leptospirosis. These risks are compounded by the ongoing cholera outbreak in neighboring Haiti, which has heightened the need for cross-border health surveillance. Psychosocial distress has emerged among displaced families and those who lost their homes or livelihoods, particularly among women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Historically, the Dominican Republic's vulnerability to tropical systems has been amplified by deforestation, precarious housing, and limited drainage infrastructure. Previous hurricanes have shown that flooding and landslides often result in prolonged isolation of communities, disruption of water systems, and rapid outbreaks of communicable diseases. The current situation mirrors those past events, underscoring the need for immediate humanitarian action to restore essential services, protect livelihoods, and strengthen community resilience against future disasters.

Source Name	Source Link
1. Emergency Operations Center	https://www.coe.gob.do/



2. Periódico Diario Libre	https://www.diariolibre.com/actualidad/nacional/2025/10/26/danos-de-tormenta-melissa-735-viviendas-afectadas-y-3765-desplazados/3290916
3. Dominican Institute of Meteorology	https://onamet.gob.do/index.php

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRDO009, MDRDO010

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

Although the Dominican Republic is accustomed to seasonal rains and occasional flooding, the current event cannot be considered recurrent. The flooding and damage caused by Hurricane Melissa far exceeded typical seasonal patterns, with widespread impacts on housing, infrastructure, and livelihoods across several provinces. The combination of hurricane-force winds, prolonged and intense rainfall, and the overflow of major rivers created an emergency well beyond the scope of regular preparedness measures.

More than 1,500 families—approximately 6,750 people—require urgent humanitarian assistance, including shelter, water and sanitation, health, and cash support. These needs surpass the capacity of local branches and available contingency resources. In addition, the operational context is highly complex, with displacement, service disruptions, and increased protection concerns that demand a coordinated, multi-sectoral response aligned with IFRC standards.

For these reasons, the use of DREF funds is fully justified, as this event represents an exceptional emergency rather than a recurrent or predictable situation that could have been managed through normal contingency planning.

Lessons learned:

The strategy for this DREF operation builds on lessons learned from previous operations:

One of the clearest lessons relates to the critical importance of water and sanitation systems and supply chain readiness. In past emergencies—including the 2018 cholera outbreak and the 2022 floods and Hurricane Fiona—administrative bottlenecks and procurement delays slowed the delivery of essential items. These experiences have highlighted the need for a more agile logistics system capable of rapidly mobilizing and replenishing key stocks at the branch and national levels. In the current operation, the Dominican Red Cross is working closely with IFRC logistics and procurement teams to streamline processes and ensure the timely arrival of supplies to affected communities.

The National Society has also prioritized training and coordination as a cornerstone of its response. Previous operations revealed gaps in the use of IFRC tools and methodologies, such as Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA) and Cash Transfer Programming (CTP). To address this, the current response includes the deployment of trained interdisciplinary teams experienced in DANA, operational planning, and CTP management. The adoption of digital tools like RedRose—successfully tested in prior operations—enhances the traceability, security, and speed of cash assistance delivery.

Another key lesson is the value of community participation. Feedback from the 2023 floods demonstrated that interventions are more effective when communities are actively involved in the design and implementation of aid activities. The Dominican Red Cross is therefore strengthening its Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms to maintain continuous communication and feedback channels with affected populations. These mechanisms ensure that assistance reflects people's priorities and that activities—such as hygiene promotion or cash distributions—are implemented in culturally appropriate and accessible ways.

Finally, cross-cutting approaches have been fully integrated from the outset. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) considerations are guiding all phases of the operation to ensure that the specific needs of women, children, older adults, and people with disabilities



are addressed. The combined application of PGI, CEA, and technical tools like EVCA and NEAT+ contributes to a more precise understanding of local vulnerabilities and capacities, ensuring that assistance is both relevant and equitable.

Together, these lessons form the backbone of the current operation, enabling the Dominican Red Cross to deliver a faster, better-coordinated, and more accountable response to those most affected by Hurricane Melissa.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?	No
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Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

23-10-2025

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

In direct response to the collapse of 61 aqueduct systems (affecting over 1.2 million people) and the heightened health risk aggravated by the cholera outbreak, WASH actions are a critical priority:

Infrastructure Assessment: Teams have been deployed to conduct Rapid Assessments of the water and sanitation infrastructure conditions. This intervention began in Barahona province, one of the most affected, to determine the status of community aqueducts, water points, and basic sanitation needs.

Hygiene Assistance and Promotion: The distribution of personal and family hygiene kits has begun in affected communities and shelters. The objective is to provide the immediate means to maintain basic hygiene and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. The kits include essential items such as soap, towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, and sanitary napkins, among other basic items.

Coordination

At the national level, the DRC actively participates in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), sharing real-time information, supporting the activation of contingency plans, and aligning multisectoral actions. Technical focal points for health, shelter, WASH, and cash assistance are integrated into the Crisis Room and work directly with the corresponding sectoral groups (clusters) of the EOC. The DRC also plays an active role in Municipal Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Committees, strengthening coordination with local authorities and communities.

Inter-institutional coordination has been reinforced with key government and humanitarian actors, including:

- Ministry of Public Health (MISPAS): Joint epidemiological surveillance, activation of sanitary alerts, and response coordination for waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as cholera and dengue.
- Ministry of Defense (MIDE): Activation of Plan Relámpago and deployment of air and water operations for rescue activities, particularly in Duarte province.
- Ministry of the Environment: Activation of its contingency plan, temporary closure of protected areas, and coordination with emergency authorities.
- COMIPOL and DAEH: Coordination on logistics, road safety, and pre-hospital care in affected areas.
- Electric companies (EDEESUR and EDEESTE): Collaboration to restore electrical service in damaged circuits.
- United Nations System: Activation of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH/GASH) sectoral group, with the participation of UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, and MISPAS, to coordinate actions on safe water, hygiene promotion, and vector control.

At the community level, DRC branches have maintained direct contact with local networks, leaders, and volunteers to identify urgent needs, support preventive evacuations, and disseminate key messages. More than 50 community Damage and Needs Assessments (EDAN/DANA) have been completed, providing timely feedback to



	<p>inform decision-making. Community communication mechanisms—including social media, WhatsApp, and local media—were activated to keep the population informed and engaged.</p> <p>The continuous operation of the NCMC and the Emergency Response Team (ERT) serves as the central hub for operational management. The system ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centralized information and decision-making: Field data from the 156 branches are validated and consolidated through the NCMC, enabling the rapid production of Situation Reports (SITREPs) shared with the EOC and IFRC. - Strategic coordination: Technical focal points for key sectors (Health, Shelter, WASH, and Livelihoods/Cash) participate in both EOC sectoral tables and Red Cross Movement coordination platforms to align actions and avoid duplication. <p>IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in the Dominican Republic has acted as a bridge for coordination with various actors within the movement, providing technical support in operational strategy, logistics, and finance. As part of this coordination, the prepositioned kits in the Dominican Red Cross warehouse were made available for dispatch according to emerging needs. This collaboration has been essential to ensure a rapid and effective response to the current situation.</p>
Assessment	<p>The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) deployed Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) teams in the nine most affected provinces: Barahona, San Cristóbal, Peravia, San Juan, Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional, San Pedro de Macorís, Monte Plata, and San José de Ocoa. More than 50 community assessment teams were mobilized, allowing for the rapid consolidation of information from the field and continuous coordination with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and local authorities. This facilitated the timely mobilization of prepositioned relief supplies, human resources, and a more agile response to emerging needs.</p> <p>The official information provided by the EOC continues to guide the DRC's response. Ongoing field assessments are still being conducted to capture the full extent of the damage, as rainfall persists in the southern region and may lead to additional flooding and landslides. Consequently, the number of affected people and the scale of losses are expected to rise in the coming days.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) responded immediately to the impact of Hurricane Melissa by activating its National Crisis Management Room (DRC-NCMC). This room was established as the operational center for coordinating the national response. The DRC-NCMC has functioned continuously to monitor the situation in real-time in affected provinces and facilitate strategic decision-making, including the coordination and deployment of the National Rapid Intervention Unit (UNIR).</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in the Dominican Republic has maintained continuous communication with the Dominican Red Cross to ensure effective coordination of the response efforts. The Disaster Risk Management team has actively participated in all coordination meetings held in the Crisis Management Room, overseeing the collective efforts to secure IFRC-DREF funding. Additionally, the CCD has collaborated closely with the Americas Regional Officer to synchronize all response initiatives, ensuring a cohesive and well-organized strategy in addressing the current challenges.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>Although only the Italian Red Cross has a permanent presence in the Dominican Republic, the IFRC has been actively sharing situation updates and briefings with interested Partner National Societies, enabling potential in-kind or financial contributions through regional coordination channels. The Italian Red Cross has participated in coordination meetings and expressed its willingness to collaborate. Additionally, other organizations not present in the country, such as the PIRAC (Platform for Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Caribbean), Canadian Red Cross, and</p>



German Red Cross, have been in contact through the Americas regional office to offer support if needed.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) maintains permanent contact and coordination with the Dominican Red Cross, in line with its mandate. The ICRC's regional delegation, based in Caracas, is actively monitoring the evolution of the emergency and its potential humanitarian consequences, ensuring the Movement's coherent response and adherence to the Fundamental Principles.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>National authorities have demonstrated robust leadership and multisectoral coordination in managing the emergency caused by Hurricane Melissa, effectively mobilizing resources and expertise to address the crisis. Central to this effort is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which has led inter-institutional coordination and served as the primary platform for issuing and updating early warnings, activating sectoral contingency plans, and facilitating collaboration among ministries, armed forces, technical agencies, and local governments.</p> <p>Key actions executed by governmental entities include the Ministry of Defense (MIDE), which immediately activated the "Plan Relámpago," deploying specialized units from the Army, Navy, and Air Force to carry out critical operations such as rescuing trapped individuals, conducting preventive evacuations, and transporting humanitarian assistance. The Ministry of Public Works and Communications (MOPC) mobilized brigades to clear drainage systems, remove debris, and restore affected roads, ensuring unhindered humanitarian access. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MISPAS) issued sanitary alerts and coordinated active epidemiological surveillance to prevent outbreaks of diseases like cholera and dengue, thereby reinforcing healthcare efforts in impacted areas.</p> <p>The Presidency of the Republic played a crucial role by maintaining direct communication and support with the EOC, backing the response with logistical resources and implementing essential administrative measures, such as the suspension of classes and work in provinces under red alert. This cohesive approach reflects a rapid and articulated response focused on protecting vulnerable populations, laying the groundwork for effective collaboration with the Dominican Red Cross and other humanitarian partners. The involvement of national authorities not only enhances the efficiency of the response but also ensures that it aligns with the specific needs of affected communities.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>The United Nations System (UN System) has activated its humanitarian response mechanisms in close coordination with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Dominican Red Cross. Their participation has ensured technical complementarity in key areas:</p> <p>World Food Programme (WFP): Has contributed with rapid geospatial analysis of the affected areas, utilizing the ADAM (Assessment, Damage and Analysis Mapping) tool. This information has been shared to optimize decision-making and the prioritization of interventions.</p> <p>UNICEF: Has focused its efforts on critical areas for children and adolescents, ensuring access to safe water, sanitation, and child protection in vulnerable communities and shelters. Furthermore, it actively supports the epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases.</p>



Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO): Has collaborated directly in the national health response, especially in the monitoring of epidemic outbreaks (given the risk of cholera and dengue) and the provision of medical supplies and specialized assistance.

The intervention of the UN System, along with other international and local actors, has been crucial for achieving a multisectoral, complementary response aligned with international humanitarian standards.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

More than 750 houses are identified as affected (flooded or with significant structural damage) in key communities, including Villa Nizao (Barahona), Cambita (San Cristóbal), Sabana Larga (Ocoa), Santo Domingo East and West, and San Juan de la Maguana. Immediate needs include:

Housing and Shelter Assistance: Displaced families and those with damaged homes require immediate access to temporary shelters and housing protection solutions. It is essential that these spaces ensure dignified living conditions, including access to safe water, sanitation, food, and Psychosocial Support (PSS).

Non-Food Items (NFI): There is an urgent need to distribute essential kits for temporary accommodation and recovery. Required supplies include plastic sheeting (for roof repairs), mosquito nets, kitchen kits, cleaning kits, jerrycans, buckets, and basic tools for minor emergency repairs.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The impact of Hurricane Melissa has severely disrupted the livelihoods of countless families in the Dominican Republic, leaving many struggling to meet their basic needs. The destruction of homes, crops, and essential infrastructure has created an urgent situation where food security, access to clean water, and economic stability are at risk. As communities grapple with the aftermath, it is crucial to implement targeted actions that not only address immediate needs but also lay the foundation for long-term recovery and resilience.

Urgent actions are essential to support livelihood recovery and foster economic resilience in the wake of this disaster. One critical intervention is Cash Transfer Programming (CTP), which should prioritize the delivery of multi-purpose cash transfers. This approach will help cover basic needs, reduce immediate food dependency, and inject liquidity into local economies, thereby facilitating economic reactivation. By empowering families with financial resources, CTP can enable them to make choices that best suit their circumstances, whether that be purchasing food, rebuilding homes, or investing in their small businesses.



Multi purpose cash grants

Hurricane Melissa has imposed a severe economic and subsistence crisis on rural and peri-urban areas, critically impacting the livelihoods of thousands of families. Field assessments by the Dominican Red Cross in key provinces such as Barahona, San Juan, San Cristóbal, and Ocoa have confirmed devastation that goes beyond structural damage.

The main need identified is the catastrophic loss of productive assets. Farmers have witnessed torrential rains and floods annihilate entire harvests of high-value crops (plantain, cassava, rice, coffee, and cocoa), instantly wiping out their seed capital and income source for the next cycle. Simultaneously, the interruption of the informal economy has paralyzed the daily cash flow of small family businesses, street vendors, and local transporters. Road damage and displacement halted these activities, creating an income vacuum that pressures families into negative coping strategies, such as falling into debt. Finally, this dual loss of production and income has generated an imminent pressure on food security, requiring families to secure immediate liquidity to cover their basic needs.

The response strategy must be rapid, flexible, and multifaceted. Therefore, the implementation of Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPCG) stands as the central pillar of the intervention. This cash assistance modality is the most efficient tool that best respects the autonomy of



families to prioritize their spending, which is fundamental when they must decide between acquiring food, medicine, or investing in the repair of a damaged roof.



Health

The slow movement and extensive accumulation of rainfall from Hurricane Melissa have generated a high-risk scenario for public health, shifting the priority from immediate trauma care to prevention and control of epidemic outbreaks. The damage to the safe water supply for over a million people and the saturation of sanitation systems have created an environment conducive to the rapid spread of diseases.

The primary risk is the imminent threat of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, including acute diarrheal illnesses, leptospirosis, and, crucially, the potential resurgence or dissemination of cholera, which is severely compounded by the persistent humanitarian crisis and active outbreaks in neighboring Haiti, significantly elevating the epidemiological risk in border provinces. Additionally, the prolonged stagnation of water increases breeding grounds for the mosquito that transmits dengue.

Beyond the biological risk, the situation has created a profound need for Psychosocial Support (PSS). Families who have lost their homes and have been displaced to temporary shelters require immediate intervention to mitigate acute stress, grief, and anxiety, ensuring their dignity and emotional well-being.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The impact of Hurricane Melissa has resulted in a significant public health crisis directly linked to the collapse of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services. According to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), more than half a million people are affected by damage to aqueducts, compromising the potable water supply for over one million individuals. The extensive flooding in both urban and rural areas has severely saturated and damaged sanitation systems, exacerbating the situation.

The fundamental need is to restore sanitary barriers to halt water contamination and prevent disease outbreaks. Flooding has contaminated wells, aqueducts, and surface water sources by mixing with sewage, which exponentially increases the risk of diseases such as cholera—a latent threat given the ongoing situation in Haiti—acute diarrhea, and leptospirosis. Additionally, the destruction of latrines and the flooding of septic systems in vulnerable communities have left families without access to safe sanitation facilities. This situation forces unsafe hygiene practices, perpetuating the cycle of contamination during the emergency.

Furthermore, displaced families and those returning to their flooded homes have lost all their basic hygiene supplies, including soap, detergents, and brushes, making it impossible to maintain safe hygiene practices and elevating the risk of infection among the affected population.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Hurricane Melissa highlights the growing vulnerability of communities to hydrometeorological events intensified by climate change. Extreme rainfall, storm surges, and sustained winds not only caused immediate damage but also exposed structural gaps in community resilience and institutional preparedness. The response must go beyond immediate relief and incorporate actions that reduce future risks, strengthen adaptive capacity, and promote sustainable recovery.

In the short term, it is essential to ensure the safe rehabilitation of homes, schools, and community centers, integrating resilient construction standards and flood and landslide protection measures. At the same time, it is necessary to restore livelihoods through support for small producers, access to agricultural inputs, and strategies to diversify income sources, reducing dependence on activities highly exposed to climate risks.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The affected population requires information regarding available assistance and key messages that will empower them to face the emergency with greater knowledge and tools. By facilitating community participation, more effective activities can be conducted, addressing the actual needs of the target communities and strengthening their resilience for future events.



Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The rapid assessment conducted after Hurricane Melissa provided critical insights into the immediate needs of affected communities; however, several gaps and limitations remain:

Unmet Needs

Certain sectors, such as shelter, WASH, and education, continue to face significant unmet needs. Many families remain in overcrowded shelters without adequate privacy or sanitation facilities. Access to safe drinking water and hygiene supplies is limited, and damaged schools have not yet been fully rehabilitated, affecting continuity of education.

Resource Shortages

There are insufficient financial resources to cover the full scope of identified needs, particularly for large-scale infrastructure repairs and livelihood restoration. Shortages of trained personnel, including psychosocial support staff and technical experts for shelter and WASH, further constrain the response. Supply chain disruptions have delayed the delivery of essential items such as tarpaulins, water purification tablets, and educational kits.

Operational Challenges

Logistical constraints due to damaged roads and bridges have hindered access to remote communities, delaying assessments and distributions. Limited storage capacity for relief items and fuel shortages have also impacted transportation and field operations. Additionally, the rapid onset of the disaster left little time for pre-positioning supplies in high-risk areas.

Coordination Issues

While coordination mechanisms are in place, overlapping mandates and gaps in information sharing among humanitarian actors have resulted in uneven coverage. Some communities have received multiple interventions, while others remain underserved. The absence of a unified beneficiary database complicates targeting and monitoring efforts.

Vulnerable Groups

Needs of elderly persons, people with disabilities, and displaced families have not been fully captured in initial assessments. Barriers to mobility, lack of assistive devices, and limited access to specialized health services increase their vulnerability. Gender-specific needs, including protection for women and girls in shelters, require further attention.

[Assessment Report](#)

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Dominican Red Cross aims to ensure that 1,500 families (approximately 6,750 people) affected by Hurricane Melissa have improved living conditions, restored access to safe water, health and shelter, and strengthened livelihoods.

The operation will contribute to an early, safe and resilient recovery by ensuring protection, dignity, and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups through integrated PGI and CEA approaches.

Operation strategy rationale

This operation aims to provide immediate and coordinated humanitarian assistance to 1,500 families (approximately 6,750 people) affected by Hurricane Melissa, prioritizing critical sectors: shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, risk reduction, and livelihood restoration. This strategic approach will incorporate cross-cutting principles of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) to ensure that all interventions are inclusive and responsive to community needs.

Rationale Behind the Strategy

Hurricane Melissa caused extensive damage to housing, disrupted essential services, and resulted in substantial loss of livelihoods, significantly increasing health risks and social vulnerability. The strategy focuses on rapid, cost-effective, and context-adapted actions that will:

Reduce immediate risks to life and health: Addressing urgent needs will help stabilize affected populations.

Restore minimum conditions of dignity and safety: Ensuring that families have access to shelter and basic services is crucial for their well-being.

Support early recovery and strengthen community resilience: By rebuilding livelihoods and infrastructures, communities can better



withstand future shocks.

Summary per sector of intervention:

WASH

Provision of safe water solutions, including chlorine tablets and filters, along with hygiene kits and temporary sanitation facilities in shelters. Flooding has contaminated many water sources, and access to safe water is crucial for health and hygiene. Hygiene promotion campaigns will educate communities about practices to avoid disease outbreaks, empowering them to take control of their health and well-being.

Health and Psychosocial Support (PSS)

Health promotion, community surveillance, and referral of critical cases are essential to address immediate health concerns and prevent the spread of diseases. The psychological impact of the disaster can be profound, making psychological first aid and group activities crucial for alleviating post-disaster stress. This support will help foster community resilience and restore a sense of normalcy among affected individuals.

Cash Assistance

Unconditional multipurpose cash transfers will be implemented so that individuals can acquire supplies to help meet their basic needs. This will be accompanied by a sensitization campaign led by the CEA team, aimed at raising awareness among those receiving the transfer about the best use of the funds provided. Standard movement protocols and the previous experience of the NS will be utilized, with support from the IFRC to carry it out.

Risk Reduction

Community plans and maps will be developed using the EVCA (Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) and NEAT PLUS (Emergency Needs Assessment and Team) methodologies, which are fundamental for fostering resilience in communities. These methodologies enable communities to systematically identify their vulnerabilities, such as exposure to natural disasters, lack of resources, and weaknesses in infrastructure, as well as their capacities, including community support networks, local knowledge, and available resources.

Expected Outcomes

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Dominican Red Cross aims to ensure that 1,500 families (approximately 6,750 people) affected by Hurricane Melissa have improved living conditions, restored access to safe water, health and, and strengthened livelihoods and basic needs.

The operation will contribute to an early, safe and resilient recovery by ensuring protection, dignity, and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups through integrated PGI and CEA approaches

Targeting Strategy

[Targeting Strategy Supporting Document](#)

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Target Population for the Operation

This operation will specifically target 1,500 families (approximately 6,750 people) affected by Hurricane Melissa, focusing primarily on the most vulnerable groups within the affected communities. The logic behind selecting these targets is rooted in the need to address immediate humanitarian needs while also promoting long-term recovery and resilience.

Groups Being Targeted

Special attention will be given to:

- Displaced Families: Families who have lost their homes or have been forced into collective shelters due to the disaster are a primary focus. This group is particularly vulnerable as they lack secure shelter and access to basic services. Addressing their needs is crucial for restoring their dignity and safety.
- Low-Income Households: Families already living in precarious economic conditions before the hurricane are at higher risk of falling deeper into poverty. By targeting these households, we aim to provide essential support that can prevent them from resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as child labor or increased reliance on harmful practices.
- Women and Female-Headed Households: Women, particularly those who head households, often face increased vulnerabilities in disaster scenarios. They may lack access to resources and decision-making power, making it essential to prioritize their needs and ensure their participation in recovery efforts.
- Children and Adolescents: Young people are particularly susceptible to the psychosocial impacts of disasters. Targeting families with



children will help ensure that their educational and emotional needs are met during the recovery phase.

- Elderly and People with Disabilities: These groups often require additional support in emergencies due to mobility challenges and increased health risks. Ensuring their needs are met is vital for an inclusive response.
- Migrants and Refugees: If present in the affected areas, migrants and refugees may face unique challenges, including limited access to social services and heightened social vulnerability. Efforts will be made to include these populations in the outreach and support strategies.

Targeting Vulnerable Groups

To effectively target these vulnerable groups, the operation will employ several strategies:

- Community Engagement: Engaging local leaders and community organizations will help identify the most vulnerable families and ensure that interventions are culturally appropriate and tailored to specific needs.
- Data Collection: Conducting assessments and surveys will provide a clearer understanding of the demographics within the affected areas, allowing for targeted interventions that address the unique challenges faced by different groups.
- Inclusive Programming: All interventions will be designed with an inclusive lens, ensuring that services are accessible to individuals with disabilities, women, and other marginalized groups. This includes providing necessary adaptations in service delivery and creating safe spaces for women and children.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing feedback channels (e.g., suggestion boxes and community meetings) will allow vulnerable groups to voice their concerns and suggestions, ensuring their needs are continuously addressed throughout the operation.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation will target 1,500 families (approximately 6,750 people) based on a combination of impact severity, vulnerability, and gaps in coverage by other humanitarian actors. The criteria are designed to ensure that assistance reaches those most in need and that no one is left behind.

Rationale and Logic

- Severity of Impact: Households whose homes were severely or moderately damaged by Hurricane Melissa are prioritized, as they are left exposed to protection risks and unsafe living conditions. Addressing their immediate housing needs is crucial for restoring safety and dignity.
- Access to Basic Services: Families with limited or no access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities will be targeted, as this situation increases the risk of disease outbreaks. Ensuring access to these essential services is vital for public health and well-being.
- Geographic Prioritization: The operation will focus on communities with the highest concentration of damage and limited presence of other humanitarian actors. This approach will help avoid duplication of efforts and ensure equitable coverage, maximizing the impact of the assistance provided.

How Vulnerable Groups Will Be Targeted

- Inclusive Targeting Criteria: The operation will apply Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) standards to ensure equitable access to assistance and avoid discrimination against any group.
- Community Engagement (CEA): Transparent communication of selection criteria will be facilitated through community meetings, radio announcements, and printed materials in local languages. This will help ensure that affected populations are informed and can engage in the process.
- Adapted Assistance: The operation will ensure accessible distribution points and consider home delivery options for persons with mobility challenges. Additionally, assistive devices will be provided when needed to support individuals with disabilities.
- Coordination with Local Authorities and Social Services: Collaborating with local authorities will help identify and prioritize the needs of migrants, displaced persons, and other marginalized groups. This coordination will facilitate a more effective and comprehensive response.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,320	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	1,091	Urban	-
Men	2,270	People with disabilities (estimated)	4.9%
Boys (under 18)	1,069		
Total targeted population	6,750		



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?	Yes

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

Risk	Mitigation action
If markets are not functional, cash could be ineffective or inflating prices; inclusion risks if targeting/complaints are weak	Market disruption; limited trader stock; weak two-way communication
Misinformation or unclear selection criteria can cause tension and low acceptance. (CRD coordinated with EOC/partners in Fiona, but diversity of actors raises duplication risks if info sharing is weak.	Multiple responders; limited unified beneficiary database.
Recurrent cyclones and floods during a still-active season exacerbate needs, stretching response and increasing secondary impacts (e.g., new displacements, recurrent WASH issues)	High baseline exposure to hurricanes; infrastructure and settlement patterns in flood- and storm-prone areas.
Decisions (e.g., CBI vs. in-kind) may not match evolving market/logistics reality, undermining effectiveness or causing market distortion	Dynamic post-disaster market conditions; supply chain volatility.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

- Movement planning: Use updated access maps and security advisories; avoid travel after dark.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE): Helmets, gloves, and boots for volunteers working near debris or damaged structures.
- Health precautions: Mosquito repellents, hydration plans, and hygiene kits for staff and volunteers.
- PGI and PSEA measures: Safe distribution layouts, lighting in shelters, confidential complaints mechanisms.
- Cash programming safeguards: If CBI is activated, ensure discreet delivery methods and security presence at distribution points.
- Incident reporting: Apply IFRC security framework and local SOPs for accidents, harassment, or theft.
- Insurance and duty of care: Ensure volunteers and staff are covered under CRD/IFRC insurance schemes.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No
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Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 15,975

Targeted Persons: 4,500



Indicators

Title	Target
# of Community safe roof workshops conducted	7
# of families reached with jerrycans distributed	1,000
(%) of households applying "build back safer" techniques after receiving guidance	70

Priority Actions

- Community safe roof workshop
- Procurement of Jerrican (20 lit)



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 194,363

Targeted Persons: 2,475

Indicators

Title	Target
# of feasibility study on cash transfer program carried out	1
# of families reached with multipurpose cash transfers	550
# of households using cash or livelihood support for intended essential purposes	550

Priority Actions

- Feasibility study on CVA distribution in the targeted provinces (Mobilization)
- Printing of materials for awareness-raising and information on multipurpose cash.
- Cash and Voucher Assistance Program (550 households)



Health

Budget: CHF 38,234

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of community-based surveillance system implemented (1x community)	8
# of people reached with Health promotion campaigns	5,000
# of sessions of Mental Health and Psycho-emotional Support	7
# of Multisectoral Damage Assessments and Needs Analyses (DANA) conducted focusing on Health	8

(%) of communities with functional community-based disease surveillance mechanisms	70
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Priority Actions

- Epidemiological Surveillance in identified provinces (Mobilization)
- Printing of materials for community awareness-raising
- Health promotion campaigns
- Sessions of Mental Health and Psycho-emotional Support
- Conducting Multisectoral Damage Assessments and Needs Analyses (DANA), with a special focus on health and the risk of outbreaks (including WASH), in 8 prioritized provinces



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 59,981

Targeted Persons: 6,750

Indicators

Title	Target
# of hygiene kits distributed	1,000
# of people reached with hygiene promotion campaigns and aquatbs	6,750
# of census and beneficiary selection carried out	1
% of households with sustained access to safe drinking water	70

Priority Actions

- Distribution of hygiene kits
- Beneficiary selection census
- Distribution of Aquatabs
- Hygiene promotion campaigns



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 4,260

Targeted Persons: 100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of PGI and PSEA workshops	2
% of assisted people (disaggregated by gender, age, disability) reporting equitable access to assistance	70

Priority Actions

- PGI and PSEA workshops
- Printing Awareness Flyers for PSEA



The PGI workshops will be aligned with the strategy of the IFRC and will aim to equip volunteers with the tools and knowledge necessary to identify and reduce cases of violence, sexual abuse, and exclusion in the emergency response. By providing this training, the workshops will empower volunteers to create a safer environment for affected populations and ensure that the principles of protection, gender, and inclusion are effectively integrated into all aspects of the relief efforts. This proactive approach is essential to address vulnerabilities and promote a more equitable and respectful response to the needs of the communities served.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 25,560

Targeted Persons: 1,250

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers training in EVCA and NEAT+	20
# of community resilience plans developed	10
# of EVCA implemented in selected communities	10
# of families with updated household preparedness or evacuation plans	1,250

Priority Actions

- Training of Dominican Red Cross volunteers in EVCA and NEAT+
- Printing of community resilience maps
- Printing of risk maps for communities
- EVCA in selected communities



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 22,498

Targeted Persons: 6,750

Indicators

Title	Target
# of CEA plan elaborated and implemented	1
# of community workshops on lessons learned developed	8
# post-distribution surveys prepared and implemented	2
# of workshops on lessons learned for volunteers and staff developed	1
# of families reached with CEA plan	1,500

Priority Actions

- CEA implementation plan
- Development of key messages
- Post-distribution monitoring



- Community workshop on lessons learned
- Lessons learned workshop for volunteers and staff

The Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) plan will align with the IFRC's strategy and focus on equipping volunteers with the skills and knowledge necessary to foster meaningful communication and engagement with affected communities. The plan includes various CEA mechanisms, ensuring that community participation is prioritized and that effective feedback channels are established. By implementing these mechanisms, the plan will empower volunteers to create a supportive environment where community members can voice their concerns and suggestions. This approach will not only enhance transparency and accountability but also ensure that responses to the community are timely and relevant, ultimately leading to a more responsive and inclusive humanitarian effort.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 51,227

Targeted Persons: -

Indicators

Title	Target
# of rental vehicle for the operation	2
# of vehicle maintenance after the operation.	2
# of monitoring visits to field	3
# of surge personnel mobilized	2

Priority Actions

- Monitoring visits
- Post-Operation Maintenance of Rental Vehicles
- 2x Vehicle Rentals for 5 Months
- Surge Personnel (operation management and CVA)
- Finance and administration support



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 86,984

Targeted Persons: 100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of staff and volunteers reached with DANA workshops	100
# of volunteers receiving personal protective equipment	100
# of Safer Access inductions for volunteers	2
# of volunteers reached with PPE	100
# of volunteers reached with CVA Workshop	25



Priority Actions

- 1x Operation Coordinator
- 2x Drivers
- 1x Administrative Assistant
- Repair of Trucks for Transporting Humanitarian Aid to Communities.
- Consultancy to Prepare and Execute an Emergency Communication Plan
- Fuel (5 Months)
- EDAN Workshop for Volunteers (with CEA Focus)
- Safer Access inductions for volunteers
- PPE for Volunteers (rubber boots, raincoat, safety goggles, helmet)
- CVA Workshop for volunteers

About Support Services

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

Approximately 100 volunteers will be mobilised in the field to support distributions, hygiene promotion, health brigades, and community engagement activities. Staff from national technical areas will provide operational support, and volunteer technicians from the National Intervention Team (NIT) will reinforce branch capacities as needed.

To ensure the success and proper follow-up of the operation, the National Society will hire the following positions:

- 1x Operations Manager (OPS) – responsible for overall coordination, ensuring the action plan is implemented, and serving as liaison between the NS and IFRC for operational matters. This role will also oversee monitoring tools and indicators in coordination with the NS DRR and Relief Director.
- 1x Communications Officer – in charge of visibility, media coverage, and community messaging aligned with CEA and donor requirements.
- 1x Admin and Finance Assistant – to register all expenses, prepare journals, and ensure compliance with IFRC financial standards.
- 2x Drivers – for rented vehicles and operational mobility.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The volunteer team aims to reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the communities affected by the disaster. Currently, the National Society has a strong base of volunteers from different branches, including both men and women, and individuals from various age groups and cultural backgrounds. This diversity helps ensure that assistance is culturally appropriate and sensitive to the needs of different population groups.

Identified Gaps and Mitigation Measures:

Gender Balance: While there is good representation of women, additional female volunteers will be prioritized for activities such as hygiene promotion and psychosocial support, especially when working with female-headed households.

Age Representation: Youth volunteers are well represented; however, efforts will be made to include older volunteers for roles requiring experience and community trust.

Cultural and Language Diversity: In areas with specific dialects or cultural practices, volunteers from those communities will be engaged to improve communication and build trust.

Actions to Address Gaps:

Targeted recruitment from affected communities to ensure cultural and linguistic alignment.

Gender-sensitive volunteer mobilization, ensuring women are present in teams that interact with vulnerable groups.

Training on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) for all volunteers and staff.



Will surge personnel be deployed? If yes, please provide the role profile needed.

Yes

The NS requires support from surge personnel:

1x Operations Manager for 2 months

This person is expected to have skills and experience in operations management, demonstrating leadership and adaptability in challenging and changing environments. This staff will be essential for coordinating response efforts and ensuring that the needs of the affected population are met efficiently and effectively.

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

Purchases for the operation will be divided into two categories: some will be made at the national level and others at the international level. This strategy is designed to optimize resources, ensure efficiency in the acquisition of goods and services, and effectively respond to the needs of the affected population.

National-Level Purchases

The majority of purchases will be conducted at the national level, which will support the local economy and facilitate quicker access to the necessary materials and services. All these acquisitions will be led by the National Secretariat (SN), ensuring that proper procedures are followed and that transparency is maintained throughout the process.

International-Level Purchases

On the other hand, some purchases that require specific products or services not available locally will be conducted at the international level. These acquisitions will be carried out by teams specialized in international procurement management, ensuring compliance with the necessary standards and requirements for importing goods.

Coordination and Leadership

It is important to highlight that all purchases will be led by the SN, except for those that need to be made at the international level. This will ensure centralized and coherent management of the procurement operations, maintaining smooth communication between different levels of acquisition and ensuring that all actions align with the objectives of the operation.

This division in purchases not only optimizes logistics and efficiency but also allows for a more agile response to the emerging needs of communities affected by the crisis.

How will this operation be monitored?

Monitoring of the Operation

The operation will be monitored through a comprehensive framework designed to track progress and assess the effectiveness of activities. This framework will include various mechanisms and systems to ensure that the operation is on track to meet its objectives.

Monitoring Mechanisms

Two-Tier Evaluation System:

National Secretariat (NS) Monitoring: The NS will conduct monitoring through its Planning and Monitoring Unit. This unit will be responsible for compiling monthly reports that will be submitted to the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD). These reports will provide insights into the progress of the operation, challenges faced, and any adjustments needed.

Direct Monitoring Visits by CCD Team: In addition to the NS's reporting, there will be direct monitoring visits conducted by the CCD team. These visits will be led by the Operations and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) teams within the CCD. This hands-on approach will allow for real-time assessment of operations and enable immediate corrective actions if necessary.

Financial Monitoring: The Finance Department will also play a crucial role in monitoring the operation. They will ensure that financial procedures are executed correctly and that resources are being utilized effectively. Regular financial audits and reviews will be conducted to maintain transparency and accountability.

Tracking Progress and Responsibilities

Progress Tracking: Progress will be tracked through a combination of monthly reports from the NS and feedback from monitoring visits conducted by the CCD team. Key stakeholders will be involved in reviewing these reports and ensuring that any issues are addressed promptly.



Responsible Parties: The NS's Planning and Monitoring Unit will be primarily responsible for compiling reports and tracking overall progress. The CCD team will oversee direct monitoring activities and evaluate the effectiveness of the operation on-site.

Indicators and Milestones

To assess the success of the operation, specific indicators and milestones will be established, including:

Number of families assisted: Tracking the total number of families receiving support.

Access to essential services: Measuring improvements in access to shelter, WASH facilities, and health services.

Feedback from beneficiaries: Collecting qualitative data through community engagement to assess satisfaction and areas for improvement.

Financial accountability: Monitoring adherence to financial procedures and the efficient use of resources.

IFRC CCD Monitoring Visits

There will be monitoring visits by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). These visits will focus on evaluating the overall implementation of the operation and ensuring compliance with international standards. The findings from these visits will be used to inform adjustments to the operation and enhance its effectiveness.

By employing this multi-layered monitoring approach, the operation aims to ensure that it remains aligned with its objectives, effectively addresses the needs of the affected population, and maintains high standards of accountability and transparency.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society will implement a clear communication plan to ensure transparency, coordination, and timely information sharing throughout the operation.

Internal Communication:

Managed by the Planning Directorate through its Plans, Projects, and Programs Department, which will monitor the operation and provide regular updates.

Channels: Email, WhatsApp groups, and virtual coordination meetings for staff and branch focal points.

Weekly situation reports will be shared internally to track progress against the action plan.

External Communication:

Public and Stakeholder Updates:

Press releases and social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, X) to inform the public and partners about key milestones and distributions.

Coordination with local authorities and humanitarian partners through cluster meetings and official letters.

Media Strategy:

A dedicated Communications Officer will manage visibility materials, media coverage, and donor branding requirements.

IFRC will support with technical guidance and amplification of messages through its regional communication channels.

Community Engagement and Transparency:

Use of CEA mechanisms such as community meetings, printed IEC materials, and feedback channels (hotline and suggestion boxes).

Messaging will be adapted to local languages and cultural contexts to ensure inclusivity and trust.

Roles Involved:

OPS Manager – oversees operational updates and ensures alignment with the action plan.

Communications Officer – leads media and visibility efforts.

Planning Directorate – monitors and consolidates reports for internal and external stakeholders.

IFRC – provides technical support and regional visibility.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRDO019 - Dominican Red Cross Dominican Republic: Hurricane Melissa

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	360,870
Shelter and Basic Household Items	15,975
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	194,363
Health	38,234
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	59,981
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4,260
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	25,560
Community Engagement and Accountability	22,498
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	138,210
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	51,227
National Society Strengthening	86,984
TOTAL BUDGET	499,080

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

