

DREF operation final report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Antigua and Barbuda: Hurricane Omar

DREF operation n° MDRAG001
GLIDE n° TC-2008-000192-ATG
22 May 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 55,000 (USD 50,274 or EUR 35,032) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 23 October 2008 to support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society** in restocking its warehouse with relief items to assist 500 families.

This final report highlights the objectives accomplished contemplated within the national society's plan of action. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society's warehouse was restocked with essential relief items for 500 families. Additionally, 54 fishermen received wire rolls to replace their fishing traps, which were destroyed during the passage of Hurricane Omar on 15 through 16 October 2008.



Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society volunteers checking fishermen's vouchers and photo ID during the distribution of wire rolls. Source: Antigua and Barbuda Red

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The situation

As Hurricane Omar passed through the northern and central Lesser Antilles between 15 and 16 October, heavy rains affected the two main islands of **Antigua and Barbuda**, which are home to approximately 70,000 inhabitants. Three hours of rain covered the islands under six inches of water, causing the closure of the V.C. Bird International Airport for one day. The islands suffered loss of electric power for two days and businesses and schools closed down for one to two days respectively.

National rescue teams evacuated more than 30 people from homes that were submerged and with the flood water undermining the foundations. No casualties were reported. Final assessments performed by the Antigua and Bermuda Red Cross Society confirmed that at least 5,160 houses sustained flood damages. The intense rain blocked roads and interrupted basic services. The agricultural sector and coastal areas suffered severe damages, as crops were lost and fishermen's traps were completely destroyed by the passing of the storm.

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society coordinated relief actions with the National Authority for Disaster Services to collect information and avoid duplication of efforts. The government distributed beds to the most affected people and organized the allocation of donations received from private companies.

The International Federation, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, were in close communication with the National Society to provide the needed assistance during the emergency. The International Federation's Regional Logistic Unit based in Panama shipped relief items to replenish the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society's stocks for 500 beneficiaries in order to strengthen disaster response for future emergencies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society identified as priorities the distribution of food and non food items including hygiene kits, beds, plastic sheeting and school supplies for children, as well as materials to rebuild fishermen's traps.

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society assisted in search and rescue activities, evacuation and transportation of flood victims in the affected areas. The National Society distributed relief items from its own stocks, including: food items, clothing, beds, plastic sheeting and blankets.

The shipment of relief items sent by the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Panama to restock the National Society has ensured that the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society is now better prepared to face this year's hurricane season.

The General Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society held meetings with the affected fishermen to assess the extent of their losses and priorities. As a result, a beneficiary selection process among the affected fishermen was completed and 54 of them were selected to receive wire rolls through a voucher system.



A fisherman building a fish trap with the wire supplied by the National Society. Source: Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Replenishment of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society's warehouse with non-food items such as hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, wiring for fishing nets and blankets to assist 500 families in future emergencies.

Activities completed:

- Procurement of relief items.
- Shipment of items from RLU's warehouse to the National Society's warehouse.
- Stock replenishment.
- Issue of cash vouchers to fishermen most severely affected by the disaster, so that they can purchase the wire for their fishing nets and restore their livelihoods.

Impact:

After Hurricane Omar passed, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society distributed from its stock relief items including blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits and food items.

The National Society's warehouse was restocked with the following items shipped by PADRU:

- 500 blankets
- 500 hygiene kits*
- 500 tarpaulins

The hygiene kits* consisted of rolls of toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, bars of soap, shampoo, sanitary pads, towel, bath soap and deodorant.

These items are currently in the warehouse of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society, located at its headquarters in St. Johns Antigua.



Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross volunteers unloading the fish wire rolls. Source: Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society.

Additionally, 54 fishermen received fishing wire rolls to rebuild their fish traps. A voucher system was implemented and the quantity of rolls received was determined according to the loss each fisherman sustained during the emergency. There were three types of vouchers used:

- Voucher 1: received one roll of wire,
- Voucher 2: received two rolls of wire,
- Voucher 3: received three rolls of wire.

The fishermen built their traps and hurriedly went out to fish. As a result, fishermen were able to provide food and money to sustain their families and contribute to the fishing industry of the island. The people who received help are constantly thanking the Red Cross for all the assistance provided during and after the emergency.

Challenges:

There were no major challenges identified within this objective. There were minor delays with the fish wire supplier, as the material had to be imported from the People's Republic of China. However, the fish wire arrived and was distributed among the 54 most affected fishermen successfully. The remaining fish wire is in stock in the warehouse of the National Society.

Conclusion

This DREF operation allowed the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society to become better prepared and able to provide rapid, effective and appropriate support to the people affected by Hurricane Omar. The most important factors identified in this operation were the commitment and the experience of the National Society's leadership and volunteers and the preparedness and level of relief stocks, such as plastic sheeting, food items, hygiene kits, blankets and bottled water.

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society acknowledges that in order to respond promptly to an emergency, it is crucial to have agreements and/or suppliers identified so the procurement process of relief items reaches the affected people on time. Resources were optimized due to the effective coordination between the International Federation's PADRU and the National Society. Finally, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society stock was replenished with relief items sent by PADRU. Therefore, the National Society is better prepared to respond in future emergencies.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#)

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

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

Global Agenda Goals:

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

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRAG001 - Antigua and Barbuda - Hurricane Omar

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/10-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2008/10-2009/5
Appeal	MDRAG001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	55,000					55,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	55,314					55,314
C5. Other Income	55,314					55,314
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	55,314					55,314
D. Total Funding = B + C	55,314					55,314
Appeal Coverage	101%					101%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	55,314					55,314
E. Expenditure	-55,314					-55,314
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		55,000					55,000	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	7,500	7,995					7,995	-495
Clothing & textiles	2,500	2,208					2,208	292
Other Supplies & Services	30,850	31,222					31,222	-372
Total Supplies	40,850	41,425					41,425	-575
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	6,000	4,148					4,148	1,852
Total Transport & Storage	6,000	4,148					4,148	1,852
Personnel								
National Society Staff	1,500	2,650					2,650	-1,150
Total Personnel	1,500	2,650					2,650	-1,150
General Expenditure								
Communications	425	45					45	380
Financial Charges	250	2,049					2,049	-1,799
Total General Expenditure	675	2,094					2,094	-1,419
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,575	3,498					3,498	77
Total Programme Support	3,575	3,498					3,498	77
Services								
Services & Recoveries	2,400	1,499					1,499	901
Total Services	2,400	1,499					1,499	901
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	55,000	55,314					55,314	-314
VARIANCE (C - D)		-314					-314	