

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRVC001  
Glide n° [FL-2011-000043-VCT](#)  
3 May 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

**36,303 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 200 families. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** During the second week of April heavy rainfall caused landslides and rivers to overflow in the north-eastern section of Saint Vincent island. Approximately 55 households were directly affected and up to 20,000 persons continue to be affected due to the lack of potable water. Local authorities and the National Society opened collective centres, providing food and non-food items to the affected persons.



The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross carries out a needs assessment in the affected areas of Saint Vincent island.  
Source: IFRC

This DREF operation aims to replenish the distributed relief stock of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross, providing cleaning materials for 25 households and potable water to approximately 200 affected families in partnership with the local authorities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by August 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by November 2011).

[<Click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

On 11 and 12 April 2011, heavy rainfall caused rivers to overflow and landslides in the north-eastern section of Saint Vincent island. The majority of damage was in the Georgetown area where landslides washed fallen trees from the mountains, blocking rivers and causing flooding in nearby areas. Local infrastructure also sustained damage, 55 families homes were affected. Four bridges were flooded, isolating some communities for a few days. Seventy three persons sought refuge in organized collective centres while others found refuge with friends and relatives. While evacuating, several individuals received minor injuries.

The National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) led a multi-agency damage and needs assessment to determine damages caused to the water and sewage systems, electricity services, and the agriculture, tourism and housing sectors; and identify the most urgent needs of the affected population. The assessment was carried out through main stakeholder discussions, aerial surveys and household visits. The water and agricultural sectors were mainly affected. Furthermore, tourism was affected to a limited extent due to closed roads that were obstructed by trees that were washed into the ocean. The affected area of the island experienced power outages, fortunately after two days the electricity was restored and no severe damage occurred to the electricity lines.

The affected geographical area is one of the main agricultural zones of the island and overflowing rivers caused crop damage and loss of livestock. It is anticipated that prices on imported food items will rise, although details of this possibility are still uncertain as the local authorities are undertaking further analysis. The heavy rainfall saturated the topsoil, causing instability and damage to 55 houses.

The potable water infrastructure in Georgetown area has sustained severe damage. The main water catchments and pipes that deliver water to the household level were severely damaged alongside the treatment and filtration plants. An estimated 20,000 persons reside in the area and depend on these catchments and pipes as their primary means of receiving water. Local water authorities have indicated that it may take up to three months to repair the infrastructure to restore full services to the pre-disaster situation.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

The damage and needs assessment and response efforts have been led by the National Emergency Management Office. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross participated actively during the damage and needs assessment phase through field visits, Emergency Operations Centre meetings and by mobilizing volunteers to conduct household visits. Several other local groups, including neighbourhood and church associations, have also been working with the authorities and the Red Cross in the assessment and response phases.

The opening and management of the two collective centres has been carried out by the local authorities with the SVGRC, providing food and non-food items and also supporting with several psychosocial activities. At the household level, the local authorities have been assisting families to clean debris and mud from their homes with support from the National Society.

The fire brigade and a private company have taken the duties of providing potable water to the Georgetown area. Several large portable tanks have been installed throughout the affected area and regular trucking of water has been undertaken.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The immediate actions taken by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross were to activate its volunteers and participate in the multi-agency damage and needs assessment. Several Community-based Disaster Response Teams (CDRT) that were trained through the Disaster Preparedness programme of The Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (DIPECHO), actively participated with the pre-positioned material. Following the needs assessment, it was agreed with the local authorities that the SVGRC would distribute food and non-food items (including hygiene kits, jerry cans, buckets, blankets and food items) to 55 families whose houses sustained damages.

## **The needs**

According to the multi-agency needs assessment, approximately 55 families were directly affected by the floods and up to 20,000 persons currently do not have access to regular potable water. The directly affected families have received non-food items and food items from the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross in conjunction with the local authorities, local neighbourhood and church groups. As the number of affected families was relatively small, no beneficiary selection process was undertaken other than providing relief to individuals whose houses were damaged.

In regard to the 20,000 people requiring access to water, the authorities have requested the support of the National Society to complement the effort by trucking water to additional areas, thereby making it easier for individuals to access water. The selection of the locations to install additional water tanks will be carried out in coordination with the local authorities based on the existing gaps and the possibility of reaching individuals living in the outskirts of Georgetown's centre.

During the assessment and separate Red Cross visits, no sanitation issues or needs were identified. People living in collective centres have access to sanitation facilities. In the case of families who sought refuge with relatives or friends, NEMO has also not identified the need to repair or install latrines.

## The proposed operation

This DREF operation will focus on two areas. The operation will provide safe water through supplemental water trucking and distribution of chlorination tablets, as well as cleaning kits as an emergency measure to support affected persons. In addition, the DREF operation will support the replenishment of the pre-positioned non-food items that were distributed by the National Society immediately after the emergency.

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>
<p><b>Outcome: Affected households have received basic non-food items and food to meet their immediate needs and enable them to return to everyday life as quickly as possible.</b></p>
<p><b>Output:</b> 55 affected households are supported with basic non-food relief items and food items.</p> <p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment and selection of the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Local procurement of cleaning materials.</li> <li>• Distribution of basic household kits and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end users.</li> <li>• Replenishment of utilized stocks.</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation of activities.</li> </ul>

Immediately after the emergency and based on the results of the damage and needs assessment the National Society distributed relief items from their pre-positioned stock to the 55 directly affected families. With the support of the DREF operation the SVGRC will be able to replenish items to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

Many of the affected families have begun to clean the mud and silt from their homes; however, some affected families still lack cleaning equipment. An estimated 25 households, of the 55 families affected, are in need of cleaning materials and the SVGRC will support them with cleaning kits composed of brooms, shovels, wheelbarrows, disinfectant and gloves – all of which will be procured locally.

In addition, the National Society is providing meals to affected families in collective centres.

<b>Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion</b>
<p><b>Outcome 1: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water to 200 families in the affected areas of Saint Vincent for 1 month.</b></p>
<p><b>Output:</b> 200 affected families have received safe water while damaged water systems are restored.</p> <p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide safe water through supplemental water trucking to 100 families through portable water tanks.</li> <li>• Provide chlorination tablets for 100 families in the affected areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 2: The water and sanitation response capacity of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross is increased.</b></p>
<p><b>Output:</b> Red Cross volunteers are trained in the use of water sanitation equipment.</p> <p><b>Activity planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers, on the safe use of water treatment kits and products.</li> </ul>

In partnership with the local authorities, the SVGRC will provide portable water tanks in areas where the water supply has not been restored and truck safe water from other areas of the island for a period of 15 days. This emergency measure will enable the local authorities to fill the remaining gaps while continuing to repair damaged infrastructure. In addition, the SVGRC will provide chlorination tablets to families that require them complemented with education material on their use in order to decrease the risk of water-borne diseases.

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

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

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**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	1,636	1,636
Shelter - Transitional		
Construction - Housing		
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		
Construction - Materials		
Clothing & Textiles	289	289
Food	875	875
Seeds & Plants		
Water & Sanitation	8,182	8,182
Medical & First Aid		
Teaching Materials	1,925	1,925
Ustensils & Tools	1,781	1,781
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	5,933	5,933
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>20,621</b>	<b>20,621</b>
Land & Buildings		
Vehicles		
Computer & Telecom		
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		
Medical Equipment		
Other Machinery & Equipment		
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage		
Distribution & Monitoring	3,500	3,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	438	438
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>3,938</b>	<b>3,938</b>
International Staff		
Regionally Deployed Staff		
National Staff		
National Society Staff	1,313	1,313
Other Staff benefits		
Consultants		
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>1,313</b>
Workshops & Training	2,625	2,625
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>2,625</b>
Travel	3,500	3,500
Information & Public Relation		
Office Costs	438	438
Communications		
Professional Fees		
Financial Charges	875	875
Other General Expenses		
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>4,813</b>	<b>4,813</b>
Cash Transfers to National Societies		
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		
<b>Total Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Support	2,216	2,216
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>2,216</b>	<b>2,216</b>
Services & Recoveries	778	778
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>778</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>36,303</b>	<b>36,303</b>