

# *DOMÍNICA Red Cross*

## *Annual Report 2023*



Branch leaders meeting

## I. Background information

In 1958 the Dominica Red Cross Society was founded as a branch of the British Red Cross and was recognized by the Government of Dominica on March 7th 1983 as a National Society. The NS joined the membership of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1989 and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1989.

### **The Vision Statement**

To become the leading Humanitarian Organization in Dominica

### **The Mission Statement**

To build safer, healthier and resilient communities, prevent and alleviate suffering by working with communities, partners and volunteers, providing quality humanitarian services to vulnerable people in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement.

## II. Resources

### **Human Resource**

The staff compliment for 2023 was seven (7) which was inclusive of one officer from the Government's National Employment Programme as a support to the NS.

The number of branches increased by one towards the end of 2023. There are now eleven (11) branches with 350 volunteers.

### **Strategic Plan**

A review of the plan was undertaken to determine priorities for 2023-2024 and the way forward for the new Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

### **Contingency Plans**

Contingency Plan for the NS to include branch plans was reviewed and updated for 2023 prior to the onset of the hurricane season.

### **Statutes**

The Statutes for the NS were reviewed, updated, disseminated and adopted by the National Society AGM in 2023

### **Fleet**

The fleet of the NS consists of one truck, a minibus and two ambulances.

### **Relief Items**

The inventory of relief items at our branch offices and Headquarters was completed and stock and bin cards updated.

### **Funding**

Funding in 2023 was mainly obtained from donors, IFRC and other National Societies. Projects were undertaken focusing on climate change in communities. Also, from the Netherland Red Cross funding was received to assist the NS in enhancing its First Aid programme for financial sustainability. Hence, a Wilderness/Adventure First Aid course was introduced, and a marketing campaign was undertaken to include ambulance service.

From the months of September to December 2023 the focus was placed on the marketing and enhancement of the first aid programme. Ads were placed in the media via the radio, TV and other social media platforms. Ads for First Aid training and Ambulance service were also placed on the wall space at the front of the Red Cross property.



Volunteers were engaged in the development of the ads for radio and TV which were aired for 3 months. A lot of time was spent going out to companies to encourage them to participate in our enhanced first aid programme which catered mainly to our Tour Guides, Tourist, hikers etc. where the sessions are taught in the field rather than the classroom setting.

As a result of the marketing and awareness building the NS had an increase in training numbers in the month of January 2024 for first aid and CPR and the request for ambulance services. It is hoped that this will continue throughout 2024 but the NS would require additional funding to continue with the ads and for the development of a Resource Mobilization plan.

### III. Disaster Management

The National Society continued its work in vulnerable communities to enhance the capacity of community residents through the implementation of the Community Disaster response Team (CDRT) programme. The community of Bense in the northeast of the island benefitted from the training of a cadre of 20 residents as CDRT's.

A simulation exercise was conducted in the community to test the knowledge of the participants and their Community Disaster Plan.



CDRT's of Bense



Parliamentary Secretary congratulating the new CDRT's



The Director General hands over items to the chairperson of the Village Council Chairperson



The President hands over certificate to participant



CDRT along with evaluators, facilitators and representatives from ODM and Fire service at Simulation Exercise.



CDRT members carrying injured person as part of simulation exercise

Another project implemented by the NS was the placement of Hazard mitigative signs in the community of Loubiere situated in the South of the island. Hazard falling rock and flood signs were erected along the highway through the community to alert residents and road commuters of the dangers from these hazards, This was undertaken in collaboration with the Police (Traffic Department), Local Government and community residents.

### **NS Response to TS Phillipe in October 2023**

Dominica was affected by the outer bands of a tropical storm that brought torrential rains, leading to major flooding, landslides, and falling rocks in various parts of the island. The storm, located approximately 150 miles offshore of Dominica, unleashed over 6 inches of rainfall overnight, resulting in flash flooding, landslides, and rockfalls. Fortunately, there were no reports of injuries or deaths directly related to the weather conditions.

Several communities along the west coast and north-east coast of Dominica, however, were affected by this natural disaster. Among them, Coulibistrie (along the west coast) stands out as a particularly vulnerable community due to its geographical location and drainage pattern.

In response, the Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) swiftly mobilized to provide support to the affected community of Coulibistrie. The DRCS conducted vulnerable capacity assessments and distributed essential cleaning kits to address the immediate needs of the affected households. Over fifteen households received hygiene and cleaning kits.

The DRCS recognized that the recovery process would require comprehensive support, and as such, the National Society registered specific needs for the affected communities, including solar lights, mattresses, tools for cleanup operations and financial assistance to replace lost household items.

The DRCS provided the solar lights and tools for cleanup. Additionally, the DRCS committed to collaborating with local government authorities to ensure that affected households receive the necessary items not directly provided by the DRCS.

### Training

Training for our Red Cross volunteers was undertaken in Emergency Radio Communications, Financial Management, First Aid and CPR. As part of on-going refresher trainings to enhance the capacity of our volunteers, the trainings were offered to all volunteers. Technical assistance was obtained from the Dominica Amateur Radio Club to facilitate the training in emergency radio communications.



Amateur radio training for vols.

## V. Services

### Welfare Assistance

Welfare assistance was provided to over 500 individuals families ranging from cleaning kits, hygiene supplies, clothing and food vouchers. Cleaning and hygiene supplies were also distributed to households who were affected by heavy rainfall which resulted in flooding in their community.

### Medical Aid

Medical aid wheelchairs were distributed to people who requested from the NS such as walking sticks, crutches and walkers. Recipients of the wheelchairs (173 beneficiaries) were assessed by trained volunteers and staff to determine whether they met the criteria for receipt of the wheelchairs

### Ambulance Service

To increase the finances of the NS a greater effort was made to advertise the ambulance service through a comprehensive marketing programme with radio and social media ads, flyers and billboards.

### First Aid and CPR Services

The First Aid and CPR programme received a boost in the receipt of supplies to enhance training and volunteer support at First Aid Stations. New courses were also introduced to the programme to attract sectors like the tour guides etc. Ads were also placed on radio and social media advertising the training along with flyers. One of the new aspects introduced to the First Aid training was Adventure First Aid where participants are taught in their work setting like on the field, on their farm, or hiking trails. (See attached manual produced).

## VI. Volunteer Development

Training of volunteers continued in 2023 in financial management, First Aid and CPR and Emergency Radio Communications. Volunteers were also encouraged to participate in the online courses offered by the Federation on the Learning Platform.

### **Branch Development**

Work continued on a fifth branch office in the north of the island in the town of Portsmouth. Funding for the construction of the facility was provided by the Italian Red Cross and the Federation. The facility will be utilized for storage and branch activities. It is hoped that the facility will be completed in 2024.



Facility at Portsmouth

## Volunteers in action and Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers and staff conducting assessments and distributing hygiene and cleaning kits to the residents of Coulibistrie who were affected by flooding of their homes in the community because of heavy rainfall.



Volunteer distributing cleaning kits



Volunteer conducting assessment



Flooded home of resident



Volunteer assessing the damage



Staff member delivering cleaning kits

At the last AGM in July 2023, volunteers were appreciated for their contribution to the National Society. Many branch volunteers were honored for long and active service, dedication to branch development, National Society development and community service among others.

## VII. CHALLENGES

Financial sustainability remains the main challenge for the NS hence our heavy dependence on project funds to undertake work in communities. Our staff complement has been decreasing every year as projects comes to an end

Many of our volunteers remain committed and dedicated to the work in their communities.

## VIII. SUMMARY

The National Society, despite the challenges faced, was still able to source funding to implement climate resilience and disaster management programmes in some of our communities in 2023. Support was also provided to needy residents through our welfare and medical aid programmes. As we approach 2024, we look to a more successful year for the NS filled with growth and financial stability.

**NFI's at NS.**

Jerry cans	Hoe
Tarpaulins	Pails
Shelter kits	Shovels
Hygiene Kits	Cutlass
Kitchen Set	Boots
Blankets	Forks
Mosquito Nets	Solar lights
Amateur Radios	Water tank
Wheelbarrows	

## Organogram Chart

### Dominica Red Cross Society Organizational Chart 2022

