

# Hurricane Matthew

## Evidences on usefulness of past DRR actions funded by ECHO



Since 1998, ECHO has allocated €53 million (10% of its total budget) to help communities prepare and strengthen their resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction programmes in the Caribbean. During hurricane Matthew, it has been evidenced that previous support facilitated the response in several countries of the region, which constitutes an important indicator of success.

## Haiti

### Water treatment plants

**Red Cross Movement-** In 2010 when the Cholera Outbreak occurred in Haiti and then in Dominican Republic, ECHO financed a Cholera Control Project to IFRC in Dominican Republic. This response project included the prepositioning of several water treatment plants to be located in the most critical areas of the country, in particular in the border provinces. In the following years IFRC and Dominican Red Cross staff has been trained in the use of these equipment through DIPECHO projects and they also activated these water plants in different small crisis.



After 6 years, the Dominican Red Cross in collaboration with the Haitian Red Cross and the support of the Spanish Red Cross activated once again the water

treatment plants to provide clean water in communities in Haiti, affected by Hurricane Matthew.

### Alert protocols

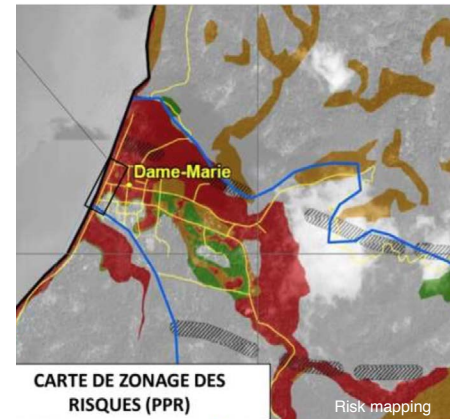
**Oxfam-**According to beneficiaries, the project helped to strengthen the capacities of the Community Intervention Teams to allow a better support to communities, which also facilitated better community preparedness for an important reduction of losses by protecting human lives and assets. The project provided with means such as cell phone air time and megaphones to the teams during the passage of hurricane Matthew in order to facilitate community sensitization activities. The latter allowed the teams to sensitize the most vulnerable individuals, recurring to communication strategies such as door by door sensitization, SMS sending, the use of red flags to alert communities: all this was very effective to alert the populations.

### Methodological Guide for Urban Risks

**UNDP-**The DIPECHO project allowed organizing trainings on the use of the Methodological guide for the Mayors of the Grand' Anse Department which increased sensitization in terms of identifying high risk areas.

Other donors such as DFID and the EU delegation also supported the replication of this in other areas of the country. In Dame Ma-

rie, no deaths have been attributed directly to the hurricane as stated by the Mayor. The trainings allowed people to understand the risks maps and allowed proper evacuation of red areas. Houses which were located in red areas have been totally destroyed and people who evacuated had their lives saved.



### Strengthened Response mechanisms at local level

**COOPI-**People involved in the project, referred that this allowed people from the community to prepare on how to evacuate and to prevent avoiding losses in lives and assets. The most useful aspects of the action were the simulation exercises (SIMEX), sensitization on the risks, elaboration of family emergency plans, that allowed being prepared for this event and know how alerts work. Pre-positioning of the partner also allowed distribution of NFIs and food immediately.

# Cuba

## Hydro Meteorological Early Warning System

**UNDP**-Hurricane Matthew highlighted the positive impact that the DIPECHO post Sandy Project has had on strengthening the hydro-meteorological EWS in the area. The following positive changes demonstrated the project value: During the event in the TV Weather forecasts, the reporters apply new products that reflect the use of advanced technologies, transmitting more accurate information to the inhabitants of the country and allowing timely evacuations. The images of meteorological satellites received by the stations acquired in the project were used operationally. The two main institutions in charge of following this event improved their communication channels; this means a greater institutional coordination regarding the monitoring of the event.



## Multi-risk preparedness strengthening

**Oxfam**-By being present in the affected area, the partner could immediately mobilize pre-positioned stock and assistance through its local staff based in Guantanamo.



Oxfam accompanied the Civil Defence in the first impact evaluations and support the establishment of one permanent shelter in Baracoa. The vulnerability maps and family plans created and the awareness campaigns carried out through the DIPECHO project helped to minimize the impact in the area.



## Inclusive Management of Disaster Risk Reduction

**Handicap**-Handicap International has been working during the last DIPECHO project to prepare people with disability during emergency situations, through the Inclusive Management of Disaster Risk Reduction. During the evacuation moment, people with disability were identified as well as their specific needs and volunteers and the response workers knew how to perform the evacuation and accommodation in shelters.

## Training in emergencies to Red Cross staff

**CARE**-The two last DIPECHO projects implemented by CARE in Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo were related to seismic hazards, but with a multi hazard approach that proved its success in case of hurricane Matthew. The Red Cross volunteers, who have been strengthened with trainings through the DIPECHO projects, helped the response in the shelters and provided the first psychological support to the affected people.

# Saint Vincent & Grenadines

## Early Warning System

**UNDP**- Near-real time precipitation and river stage data, allowed facilitating the understanding of the magnitude of the Hurricane in support of disaster management decision making. Personnel were able to poll the stations to receive instantaneous rainfall rates and water levels and would have used the information to inform downstream beneficiary communities. Through these installations there has been an improvement and integration of the hazard monitoring system in these communities with more accurate and updated precipitation data specific to these communities. This data supported the decision making process at the NEOC in terms of informing nearby communities of the



potential threats and aiding in the coordination of the national level response based on the data readings from the equipment.



EWS in Saint Vincent

## Dominican Republic

### Removable Shelter

**Oxfam-Plan International-Habitat for Humanity-** The removable shelter designed as a pilot and innovative solution, became part of the Dominican National prevention, mitigation and response system structure and follows all standards of humanitarian protection. It was assembled during the Oxfam 2015-2016 DIPECHO project and during the Hurricane Matthew emergency, it allowed sheltering 54 people in San Cristobal: 28 children, 19 women and 7 men and is taken as a good practice by the authorities.

[Click here to see construction](#)

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Removable Shelters

### Water Trucking points

During Hurricane Matthew, trucks filled water in water trucking points in order to transport safe water to the border area between Haiti and Dominican Republic. The water network system collapsed in the area and trucks could only recharge water in authorized points for this purpose, such as these specific water points. These water trucking points are part of an ECHO funded project in response to the impact of Hurricane Sandy, implemented by OXFAM (Intermon) in the southern and driest region of the Dominican Republic.

[Click here to see the video](#)



Water trucking points

### Community Prevention Mitigation and Response Networks

During the emergency caused by Matthew H. the Prevention Mitigation Response Community Network supported part of preventive evacuations, early warning and joint management of collective centers (shelters). These community networks have been established, trained and equipped through the Oxfam-Plan Int and Habitat for Humanity consortium during the current DIPECHO Action Plan.

[Click here to see testimony](#)



Community PMR networks

## Haiti & Dominican Republic (Binational)

### Binational communication protocol

**APS Alianza por la Solidaridad-**The project has contributed to community strengthening and to increased knowledge about the risks involved in the community. The group is forming a team of people responsible for the first community awareness and response. Once the alert arrived to the community, the Community alert system has been successfully activated and all the people have received information and have followed the instructions. This system has worked at the community level and there have been no injuries or deaths, despite the heavy losses in agriculture. It also contributed to the information sharing between neighboring areas in countries, facilitating coordination and response which are currently foreseen under a protocol that is being developed with support of the project.

Note: Detailed testimonies are available upon request.