



*Remembering*

# HURRICANE ICANE

*Maria*

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## **FORWARD**

*September 18, 2017 Hurricane Maria made landfall in Dominica and while some wondered how the island would recover many others donned red jackets and shirts and set off to help. Volunteers made their way to Dominica from all parts of the world leaving the comforts of home to offer their time and assistance. Others had just survived the massive hurricane; lost loved ones, lost homes but still volunteered their time and efforts to aid in the recovery of the island.*

*This magazine is to recognize the efforts of these people who worked tirelessly to assist the people of Dominica during the emergency phase and into the recovery period. The Operation touched the lives of thousands of people (both beneficiaries and Red Cross personnel), friendships were formed, human capacity was developed through first-hand experience and knowledge sharing. We do hope that you enjoy joining us on this journey commemorating the Hurricane Maria Operation.*



# THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT



## HUMANITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

## IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

## NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

## INDEPENDENCE

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

## VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

## UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

## UNIVERSALITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



### HEADQUARTERS

FEDERATION DRIVE GOODWILL, ROSEAU, COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA  
(767) 448 8280





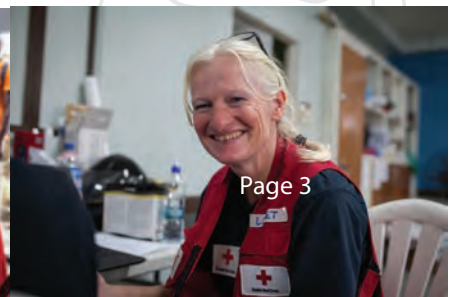
## ***Dominica Red Cross Society President's Message Reginald M. Winston***

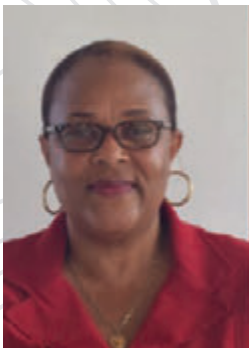
*I am pleased to present this magazine to commemorate the efforts of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in relieving the pain and suffering of every sector of the Dominican populace after the devastation of Hurricane Maria on September 18, 2017.*

*The Red Cross Movement has touched the lives of all our people and continues to heal the wounds inflicted by this destructive force of nature. These pages will document also the impression the Red Cross Movement has made on the hearts of all Dominicans, whether it is in the Shelter Programme constructing resilient roofs, the Cash Transfer Programme, the WASH Programme in providing potable water and sanitation products, the distribution of relief supplies, or the Psychosocial Support given at a time of traumatic panic and despair.*

*We, the Governing Board, present this magazine as a chronicle of the support the Movement gave immediately after Hurricane Maria and continue to give to this day.*

*The Dominica Red Cross is committed to its functional principles in serving humanity without exceptions and without gain.*





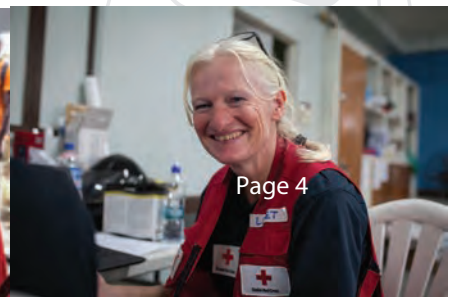
***Dominica Red Cross Society  
Director General  
Sandra Charter-Rolle***

*This magazine highlights the work of the Dominica Red Cross in response to the devastation caused to the island by Hurricane Maria. It is with the support received from the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the many donors and our dedicated volunteers that we were able to construct the 550 roofs, provided cash vouchers to well over 1900 households, supply relief items, clean water and hygiene products to hundreds of residents. The work of the Red Cross in the communities was well received by community residents.*

*The recovery efforts have not only brought back a sense of normalcy for many residents one year later in terms of access, electricity, water and other essential services but has created a sense of unity and appreciation for the work undertaken in their communities.*

*The presence of the IFRC on the island in support of the National Society has been outstanding and the opportunities provided to our volunteers and the experience gained working alongside the delegates in areas of Relief, Cash Transfer Programme, Restoring Family Links, Warehousing, and Logistics have been a great benefit to the National Society. Of significant importance to what has been accomplished is the support from the many enthusiastic volunteers who turned out in large numbers daily to assist with the Operations.*

*I wish to therefore, express a heartfelt thanks to our donors, volunteers and staff.*







# Overview of the Disaster

September 18th, 2017

*Maria, the 13th named hurricane of the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season, made landfall on the small island of Dominica at approximately 9:35 pm on September 18th. With catastrophic effects, Hurricane Maria, with winds exceeding the speed of 170 miles per hour, was classified as one of the most rapidly intensifying storms in recent history, strengthening from just a category 2 hurricane to a category 5 hurricane in less than 12 hours.*

*It was declared on the 20th of September 2017 by Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit, that the country was in a state of emergency. A curfew was placed into effect from 4 pm in the evenings, to 8 am the next morning in the city of Roseau. This decision was made to not only protect the country's people but also to allow the respective and authorized personnel to respond freely to the aftereffects of the disaster.*

*Soon after, many individuals opted to leave the country, and it was unclear how many lives were lost. It was declared later that, thirty (30) people were dead and another thirty-four (34) missing.*





*The entire country was affected by the natural disaster: rivers flooded, roadways and bridges were either destroyed or blocked by large amounts of debris, electricity and water services disrupted and telecommunications systems severely damaged, with only text messaging available through Digicel and Flow. Ninety-eight percent of homes owners, businesses, and other institutions reported damaged roofs, with fifty percent indicating that the housing frame was damaged by either the flood waters or the gnashing winds.*

*The agriculture industry was acutely affected with severe damage to farm housing, irrigation infrastructure, feeder roads, crop and livestock production as well as forests reserves and coastal environment. Many feeder and farm roads were impassable, resulting in loss of available food for both consumption and marketing. And with no access to running or potable water, many individuals were thrown back into a time in which they had to learn to survive on their own or had to rely heavily on the government and/or international parties to provide relief for them and their families.*



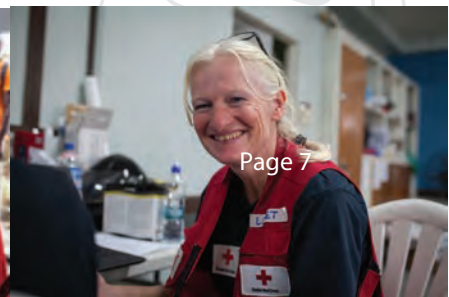




***Dominica Red Cross Society  
Acting Director General  
Dr. Jaslin Salmon***

*I believe Dominica was unfortunate to be severely impacted by hurricane Maria. The people, particularly the poor were and continue to be affected. The recovery effort led by the IFRC in collaboration with the DRCS has been phenomenally effective and deserves commendation. As the Acting Director General, I am convinced that we achieved all that was expected, and more.*

*When we began, all branches were essentially functionally defunct, and we succeeded in reactivating and reorganizing them. To have accomplished that in such a short time is a major achievement. The members, volunteers and employees of the D.R.C.S. should be proud of their achievement.*





## **Operations Manager of the Hurricane Maria Operation James P. Jones**

*The impact of Hurricane Maria affected the entire population of Dominica and spared no one. This was the most intense Hurricane to hit Dominica in 40 years and full recovery will take some time. However, a great deal of progress has been made over the past year, as response operations have shifted from direct emergency relief to medium and longer-term recovery activities. People's needs for food, clean water and basic shelter have been met, although much more work needs to be done on household roof repair, so that these communities will be more resilient and better prepared for the next storm season. We need to build back stronger!*

*The Dominica Red Cross has set high goals in the relief and recovery process. Thousands of families were assisted during the emergency phase, through relief distributions of NFIs and whole towns and communities were provided with Red Cross purified water services, until municipal systems could be repaired and put back into service. A crowning achievement during the emergency and recovery phase was the ATM card cash transfer program (CTP). Over a six-month period, the program provided approximately one million dollars in immediate needs cash assistance to nearly 2,000 most vulnerable households in Dominica. This was the largest scale CTP program to date in the Dominica Americas Region.*

***“Thousands of families were assisted during the emergency phase, through relief distributions of NFIs and whole towns and communities were provided with Red Cross purified water services”***

*Currently the Red Cross Shelter Program has provided Hurricane Resilient Roofs to over 350 most vulnerable households, on both the Atlantic and Caribbean coasts of Dominica. Many more roofs will be repaired during the remainder of 2018 and the hopes are that this work will continue well into the future, until all Dominica households have been made more resilient and are better prepared to endure future disasters. Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Programming, in combination with Dominica Red Cross local branch capacity development, is key to reducing the impact of future hurricanes for all communities and residents of Dominica.*



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE DELEGATES

## **Omar Robinson** **Head of Operations**

*My experience during the operation in Dominica was very pleasant, despite the difficulties that the National Society was going through, they did not fail to attend the people affected by Hurricane Maria.*

*My greatest satisfaction was to see the great number of volunteers who came daily to support the operation, even though many of them were affected and had lost everything. Although it is true that some of them had some psychological after-effects because of what they had experienced during the passage of Hurricane Maria, they did their best every day to serve their affected compatriots.*

*I take with me a great memory and the eternal respect and gratitude for the volunteers of the Dominica Red Cross, keep up that spirit.*

## **Cecilie Marisa Clarke Marshall** **Resilience Coordinator**

*What stood out to me most is the strength, selflessness and resilience of the DRC's Leadership, staff and volunteers and their ability to be welcoming and appreciative to relative strangers in the face of severe adversity. I worked with staff and volunteers who had suffered their own personal losses and were directly impacted by Hurricane Maria. Their homes also lost roofs and needed tarpaulins, they themselves did not have water, and for some staff and volunteers having to be relocated due to damage.*

*Yes these Red Crossers reported to the DRC HQ every day to support the response operations. This was incredible! For me this represented the epitome of Resilience. This Resilience, this strength spilled out beyond the staff and volunteers of the DRC staff and volunteers. I saw this same strength with every Dominican I interacted with, on the streets at the EOC meetings I attended, the caterers at the base camp and the hotel workers.*



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE DELEGATES

## **Thuong Nguyen** **Surge IM**

*I was in Dominica in October 2017. When I arrived, I realised the extent of the damage was far more than I had originally perceived. Throughout my time there, it was a great pleasure to work together with the Dominica Red Cross. I was there as Information Management delegate from the British Red Cross and worked together with the team to set up data processes to inform decisions in the operation.*

*The staff and volunteers worked tirelessly each day, and I was left in awe of their endeavours to try to help people in need around them and to help rebuild the country. I really wish for all of you to recover as swiftly as possible from this disaster and to rebuild a country that will be as thriving as before. I look forward to coming to visit you all again but under different circumstances!*

## **Erwan Cheneval** **FACT Coordination/ Team Leader**

*A year ago, Dominica was affected by one of the worst hurricanes in the Caribbean; everybody was affected, the entire island was affected. And its entire population rose to the challenge. As a member of the IFRC team sent to support the response of the Dominica Red Cross, I will be forever grateful to have witnessed such solidarity and resilience.*

*Despite tremendous challenges, Dominicans have shown an open heart, patience, and smiles have been my daily reward. I thank all my colleagues and wish them the strength to continue smiling against all odds. I always keep some Dominican sunshine in my mind.*





# EMERGENCY RESPONSE DELEGATES

## **Daniel Joseph** **Surge IM**

*The level of devastation in Dominica brought by Hurricane Maria was no match for the dedication and humanitarian ideals of the Dominica Red Cross Society staff and volunteers. It was impressive to see how they were able to implement capacities built during preparedness activities; swiftly gathering damage assessments carried out by community disaster action teams and using mobile data collection tools to digitize surveys. Volunteers kept high spirits through both hot and rainy days, giving long hours to help others even while needing to repair their own homes and livelihoods. The Society will be even better positioned to respond to the next big disaster.*

## **David Garrett** **American Red Cross** **International Services Division,** **IT&T-ERU**

*My experience with the IFRC/DRC Hurricane Maria response was highlighted by the dedication and teamwork of all delegates. Most impressive was working with DRC personnel who set aside personal losses and hardships, dedicating their efforts towards support of its mission and beneficiaries. It truly was an honour to be able to contribute and be a part of this operation.*



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE DELEGATES

## **Sean Freeman** **Canadian Red Cross** **Base Camp**

*I remember the ferry ride in and seeing the damage from the hurricane from the sea. I could only imagine what it was like to ride out a storm like that.*

*Individuals whom I spoke with shared their experiences with me, and I can't express enough the respect and awe I have for everyone in Dominica, as I heard about the things that happened, and the things that got people through. I was only around for a short time, but things were transitioning.*

*Things were starting to get cleaned up, rebuilt, power coming back online on main branches. People were having hope again; lives were being lived again. The human spirit persists, and the amazing work done by yourself and the others at the Dominica Red Cross is a fine example of that, especially as each of you shared and worked tirelessly while having your own lives so affected.*







## ***Relief Distribution***

*Relief Distributions were done in multiple villages around Dominica. Immediately after the storm, communities benefited from relief supplies flown in via helicopters and distributed by volunteers. Some of the relief supplies included water and water purification tablets as well as food items. Non-food items such as tarpaulins and shelter toolkits were distributed to those whose homes were severely affected by the storm. Vector preventative items in the form of mosquito nets and citronella candles were among the range of relief items also distributed by the Hurricane Maria Operation*

## COMPLETED DISTRIBUTIONS

REACHED  
HOUSEHOLDS



8,719

TOOLKITS



1,145

TARPAULINS



12,880

WOOD



1,408

MOSQUITO NETS



7,119

BLANKETS



9,669

KITCHEN SETS



3,511

BUCKETS



3,189

FOOD PARCELS



185

HYGIENE KITS



3,237

SOLAR LIGHTS



1,842

ASSORTED ITEMS



274

SCHOOL HYGIENE  
PROMOTION



2,331

CITRONELLA  
CANDLES



997

JERRY CANS



8,035





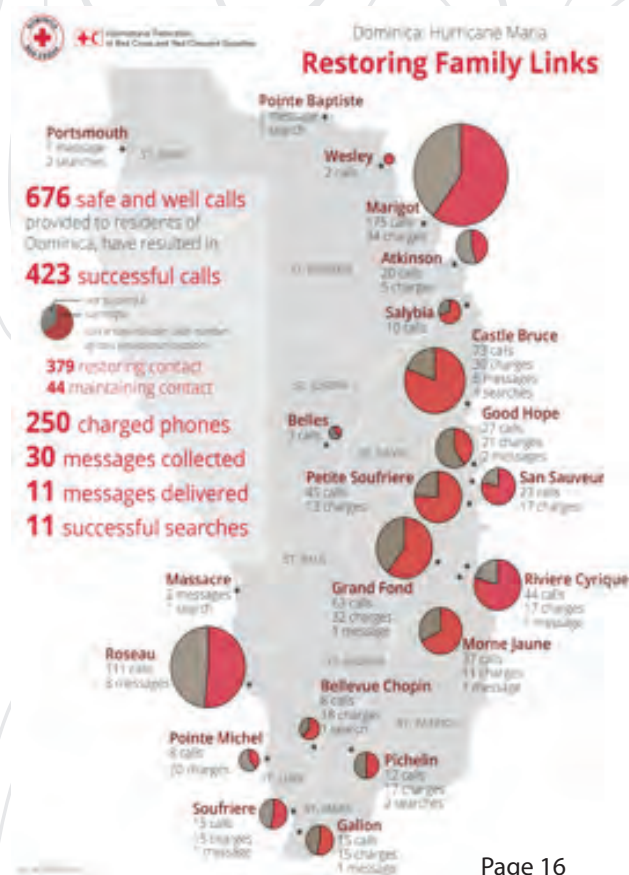


# Restoring Family Links (RFL)



*In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria telecommunication services were down island wide. The Restoring Family Links (RFL) sought to offer relief in the form of communication between loved ones in Dominica and those overseas.*

*The program passed on safe and well messages from those on the ground in Dominica to family members overseas as well as obtaining responses for family members overseas who were anxious for news about family in Dominica.*



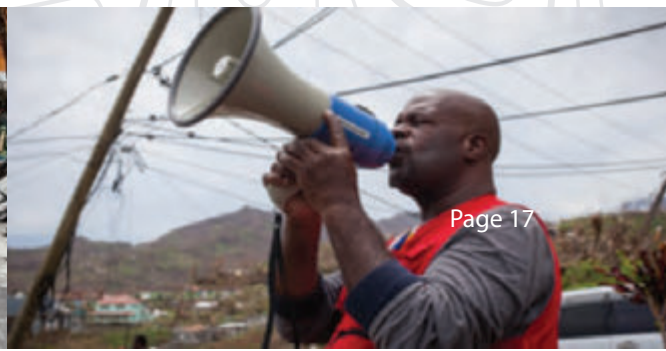




## **AUGUSTUS BRUNO** **RFL Volunteer**

*This was new to me, I didn't know what it was about, but was eager to learn, which I did, and I loved it after gaining much knowledge from the RFL delegate.*

*I also helped train another volunteer, Adam, and together we went out and received and delivered safe and well messages. This was very fulfilling, knowing that we could locate and reunite families post Hurricane Maria. As a volunteer, the knowledge I gained was tremendous, I value life even more. I helped families locate and pass messages to each other anywhere across the world with the help of the different National Societies. My inspiration comes from my heart and the willingness to help others to reunite families during RFL. One story stays fresh in my mind, a mother has not spoken to the son for over 20 plus years and was happy when I came to her to let her know that he was ok.*





# **WATER AND SANITATION HYGIENE**



*In the wake of Hurricane Maria, the Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited (DOWASCO)'s network was compromised and piped borne water was unavailable island wide. The Water and Sanitation Hygiene Program provided relief to four communities and their neighbouring communities, by providing potable water.*

*The WASH team pumped water from local water sources, added aqua tabs to make it potable and piped it to central locations within the communities. These allowed hundreds of affected persons access to potable water until everyday means of accessing potable water was made available by DOWASCO.*

*The WASH program continued throughout the recovery phase as an outreach and educational program that targeted schools. Students were exposed to proper hygiene and sanitation practices and provided with hygiene essentials.*

**955,000**  
**LITRES OF PURIFIED  
WATER PUMPED**

**Massacre  
Check hall  
45,000**

**Petite Soufriere  
10,000**

**Fond St. Jean  
Bagatelle  
60,000**

**Dos D'Ane** Page18  
**840,000**





## **KENDEL LAURENT** **W.A.S.H Supervising Officer**

*My experience with Hurricane Maria was a very frightening one. More than 90% of the island's water supply was destroyed or damaged after the passage of Hurricane Maria. It wasn't a question of what area, but how quickly, we could set up our equipment to pump, purify and distribute safe drinking water to the population.*

*In less than two weeks after the passage of Maria, my team and I had already set up our first water treatment plant. We changed location as piped borne water became available to different areas. It was a lot of work, but it felt good helping so many affected persons.*





# CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM



*The Cash Transfer Program provided an unconditional cash grant to vulnerable beneficiaries to assist in recovery efforts. The funds were distributed through the medium of ATM cards provided to beneficiaries.*

*The cash provision allowed beneficiaries the latitude to prioritize needs while injecting money back into the local economy.*

**1945**  
*Cards Distributed*

**30 +**  
*Communities  
Assisted*



## **Stephen Hagerich CTP Delegate**

*What I first recognized was that the Dominica Red Cross teams (volunteers and staff) had been working for months after experiencing Maria first hand and were still recovering themselves. Supporting the cash programme, the second thing I noticed was how far the National Society and CTP teams had developed the programme from this and other past disasters - something I am taking forward with me while I develop a cash programme with the British Red Cross nearly a year later. The final thing I noticed was how much had changed in the one month I was in Dominica - I left with a real sense that much more work would be needed but recovery would happen.*



## **Raitza M. Reyna CTP Delegate**

*I had the opportunity to be deployed 5 days after Hurricane Maria to support the island of Dominica, as the Finance Surge Delegate, until December 23, 2017 and then in February 2018, I was presented with the opportunity to be deployed as Cash Transfer Delegate in my first mission of this kind. During this time, I made every effort to accomplish not only my work but also ensured that the CTP volunteers in the National Society learned the best practices and the use of IFRC CTP and financial procedures. The work in CTP was focused on the distributions in the communities, to enforce the relationship with the NS and to support a group of volunteers dedicated to support beneficiaries.*





## **Alvarro 'Tato' Gramajo CTP Delegate**

*It was my first big operation, so I knew it would be a big challenge, and that also means a big learning experience. I'm always thinking that when a disaster happens, while most of the people run away, others dressed in red vests, go in. In Dominica I met a lot of these people in red vests, from many places in the world, and a lot of Dominican's, very young ones but very committed.*

*Some of the volunteers had lost their houses, but you couldn't notice, because they were so strong and willing, that you would never have thought about everything they were going through. So, for me Dominica was resilience, sacrifice, empowerment and very, very good friends, and I take this opportunity to send my congratulations for all your efforts.*

## **Dante Moses CTP Volunteer**

*The Cash Transfer Program of the DRC could be described for me as an incredible experience especially having been in the forefront of most of the processes that had to be done and after working hard to see the people in need benefit from it. The CTP was already something that I had prior knowledge of, but the Hurricane Maria Operations gave me opportunity to gain better experience and to put knowledge into use. One of the biggest things that made me an advocate of the CTP is that it gives a beneficiary the freedom to support themselves as needs vary beneficiary to beneficiary and that in doing so the people were dignified.*







# **SHELTER PROGRAM**

## ***Emergency Phase***

*The government of Dominica reported that a number of homes were damaged during the passage of Hurricane Maria leaving a large percentage of the population without roofs or secure housing. The Hurricane Maria Operation provided emergency relief assistance in the months following the disaster in the form of tarpaulins, toolkits and lumber. 12,857 tarpaulins and 1,131 shelter toolkits were distributed in communities and shelters on island.*

## ***Recovery Phase***

*The Shelter Program went further to repair and rebuild roofs for 542 vulnerable beneficiaries. The new roofs were constructed to meet the building code of Dominica which are expected to be able to withstand hurricane damage.*

**542**  
**Roofs**  
**Constructed**

**25**  
**Communities**

## **BIRGITTA VAES Shelter Delegate**

*It has been a real pleasure being able to work here with DRCS and IFRC for more than eight months now and seeing the progress that was made through the Hurricane Maria shelter support program. During my field visits, many grateful people have crossed my path, but a remark of one the program's local carpenter touched me the most. Being a carpenter for many years he never received this amount of gratitude for the construction of a roof, it made him believe again in the importance of good workmanship. And with this note we know our program will have an impact on the path to a climate resilient nation*



## **HENRIK ORTVED Shelter Delegate**

*I was managing a mining exploration program in the Republic of Congo when, in October 2017, I was asked for my availability for the Shelter Program in Dominica. The mining exploration program had reached its target and was planned to be put on-hold in early 2018, so it was a quick decision to go to Dominica and help. I do believe that if one possesses the skills for the work required, and have the time available, because one part doesn't work without the other, one should go and help, and at that time, I had both skills and time available. And as the old saying goes; "When you get more in life you can either build a higher wall, or a longer table."*





## **KEN LESLIE**

### **Shelter & Construction Supervisor**



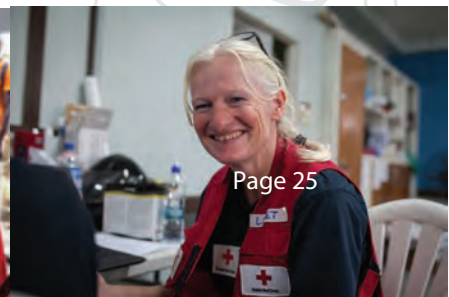
*My experience after Hurricane Maria was very interesting, because of the many different things, I saw and the people I met. The downstairs of my home got flooded out and after cleaning up of my house, I decided to do some voluntary services at the Dominica Red Cross. I joined the shelter programme to help in the reconstruction of roofs. We first had a demonstration of how to install tarpaulins on the roof. The second phase, I really enjoyed because we were building back roofs for the unfortunate and for that a lot of hearts and homes were blessed.*

## **DOREEN TOUSSAINT**

### **Shelter Administrative Assistant**



*Working with the Relief Sector during the Post Maria Operations from September was an experience that will forever be etched in my mind. During that period, going out to the communities to distribute non-food-items allowed for interaction with persons of various backgrounds and experiences, but it gave me great pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of most beneficiaries, particularly the most vulnerable (the elderly and single mothers with young children). While, myself along with the relief team were happy to serve the public day after day and week after week, we did so without complain because we knew that we were bringing some level of comfort for the recipients of the items. Also, going out daily with the team was a stress reliever for us the volunteers as well, since we were all affected by Maria. Some of us were displaced, a few of us lost everything, some lost family members. It was hard, but because we are volunteers at heart and we love what we do, we put ourselves behind and came out in large numbers to ensure that the distribution channel of relief items to those who had lost their homes or their roofs was always opened.*





## **ASHER BENJAMIN** **Shelter Assessment Team Member**

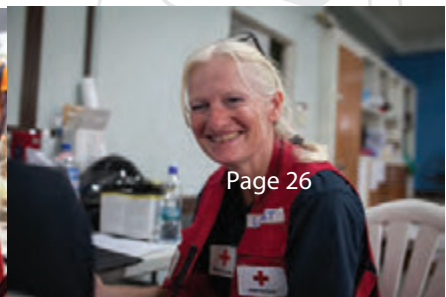
*It has been a privilege and quite self-rewarding to work with the Dominica Red Cross Shelter Programme in bringing much needed comfort to so many people post Hurricane Maria.*

*The feeling is both satisfying and overwhelming to see so many people smile and say, "God Bless You" to all at the DRCS.*



## **MAURICE AGAR** **Shelter & Construction Supervisor**

*As a consulting Architect with the Red Cross Shelter Project, I have been involved in several activities aimed at the successful completion of the program. These activities have included the initial survey of the properties to conduct a damage assessment and take measurements of the house our construction teams will be repairing. Using this information, a materials list along with the demolition and scope of works documents are generated. Once this is done, the construction phase begins. For each village, there is a dedicated technician who is responsible for managing the construction processes. As much as possible, the construction teams are drawn from the villages where RC is working. This ensures that the communities gain maximum benefit from the program. Not only are roofs being constructed, but salaries paid to workers contribute to the economic growth of the communities and Dominica.*





## **JOANNA PIERRE**

### **Shelter Administrative Officer**



*As a volunteer working from the inception of this operation, I must commend the IFRC firstly for the tremendous support throughout. With the help of the Hurricane Maria Operation team, we were able to reach out and empower families to rebuild this nation. We were able to revive communities and rehabilitate our National Society in terms of disaster preparedness for the future. As a volunteer, I was honoured and humbled to be part of this vehicle of change.*



## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT



### **MIKE JANSSENS** *Head of Logistics*

*On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 I heard about the island of Dominica for the first time! Hurricane Maria had put Dominica on the world map and the images we could see on networks were saddening. The thought and will to help immediately arose and materialized, and in January 2018 with my appointment as permanent logistic delegate, I vowed to assist as much as I could in any way that I could. Six (6) months has since passed and nature has started picking up again, but I still try to imagine how chaotic and ravaged the island must have looked after the hurricane. Since arriving at the Dominica Red Cross HQ in Goodwill I met teams of intensely dedicated volunteers. WASH, Cash Transfer, Relief and Shelter programs had been implemented since Maria with the support of many National Societies and the IFRC. There was a great positive team spirit and people were working long hours.*





## **ROYSTAN DANIEL**

### **Logistics Warehousing Officer**



*Having recently experienced one of the most devastating hurricanes in Dominica's history and the Red Cross being a humanitarian organization; I foresaw my employment here as contributing to the restoration process. I believe to some extent, I have made this contribution particularly with the shelter program process which manages stocks of building materials to ensure availability and on-site delivery. With the Red Cross, I must say that along with the many good experiences, I have had some experiences that were not anticipated, but my overall view is that they have all contributed to my life story. I have made new friends, learned new things and have contributed to the great work that Red Cross is doing.*

## **CLINTON YARDE**

### **Logistics Procurement and Fleet**



*"Hurricane Maria", just the sound of the name scares the living daylights out of anyone that was present during that disaster. The devastation was so immense and intense that I thought I was in another country, a country in which a nuclear bomb had just exploded over the entire island. I found myself asking a question, a question that I knew everyone was asking, 'Would Dominica ever bounce back from this?' So, I decided that I needed to be a part of the change that would restore Dominica to what it was. I entered the institution as a volunteer driver, and I assisted with the WASH Team and the transportation of staff, volunteers and delegates. Now I am the official Procurement and Fleet Officer and I am forever grateful for the opportunity that the Red Cross has given me, and i rest easy knowing everyday that i am doing `good`.*





## **GRACIA 'PEARLY' TELEMAQUE**

### **Logistics Inventory Clerk**

*I have learnt a lot, my value to the society has certainly increased and I would welcome any opportunity for more trainings, so that I may further enhance my skills.*

## **JOANNE DURAND**

### **Warehousing Volunteer**



*The hurricane Maria operations success was made possible through the diligence and hard work of many including volunteers. Volunteers formed the highest percentage of everywhere. As a volunteer, my services were utilized in the area of warehousing for the most part. The experience was quite rewarding as my knowledge and skills in the subject matter is one of need in the National Society, Mr Olaf (a delegate) was my first teacher in the course on warehousing. He did a good job at teaching me. I am very grateful; he was the best of all the warehousing personnel.*

## **SWETINA FONTAINE**

### **C.E.A Volunteer**



*Being a volunteer at the DRC has been very tough at times, but we have good times. During post Maria I got myself involved in different areas at the Red Cross with my main area being in the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). Working with CEA helped me boost my self-confidence and allowed me to be outspoken. It has shown me different avenues in life, not everyone's the same. With my knowledge of CEA, it has helped me assist in the Cash Transfer Programme in the communities, taught me effective communication with others, shown me ways to manoeuvre through the villages as well as proper engagement techniques with the people, to get necessary information in order to assist them. We experienced challenges, however, we persevered.*



## **KENNEICE MCLEOD – SHILLINGFORD**

### **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting**

*“Age Quod Agis”- Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability. A mantra that has been stuffed in my mind from my high school day. It is also a lifestyle I have brought into my work life as well. Working for the Hurricane Maria Operations has not only been a great opportunity too, but it has also given me a chance to assist within my husband’s homeland in any way, shape or form that I can. Since Dominica has always been a welcoming place to me, I have decided to give a helping hand during the times when they themselves need to be reminded that they are not alone.*



## **DAN MOGAKA AYUKA**

### **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting**

*I recall sitting at my home watching the images on T.V. of Dominicans in shock walking through debris and seeking assistance. I had no idea that Dominica would eventually claim a large piece of my heart. What motivated me to come to Dominica, is the spirit of serving the communities and in addition, I wanted to bring in my experience and expertise in not only PMER but also intervention design and capacity building. These are the crucial components that are critical for Dominica Red Cross and the communities living in the commonwealth of Dominica as we walk through the recovery efforts into year 2019. My hope is that we will continue to support the Dominica Red Cross capacities at headquarters and the eight branches including the 267 volunteers to be better prepared and ensure that the communities are resilient.*



## **ABIGAIL DURAND**

### **Information Management Officer**

*It has been an absolute adventure working with the Information Management sector during the Hurricane Maria Operations. Information Management is a relatively new sector in the Red Cross Red Crescent movement so there was a lot to learn on the go! Working with delegates from around the world was a delightful experience and a superb avenue for cultural exchange. The experiences gained and the friendships formed in this operation is immeasurable.*



## **KAY BENJAMIN**

### **Finance and Administrative Assistant**

*Being part of this Hurricane Maria Operation as a part of Finance and Administration Team has been a very interesting journey. Honestly, there were happy days and days that I felt like giving up, but in the end one thing remained, even on my hectic days, that our prime purpose in this life is to help others and we should always act without expectations. This Operation taught me that being humble gets you going in life.*





***We would like to recognize the contributions of the partners  
of the Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement who were  
actively involved in the Operation:***

*The International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*

*American Red Cross*

*The Bahamas Red Cross Society*

*The Barbados Red Cross Society*

*The Belize Red Cross Society*

*The British Red Cross*

*The Canadian Red Cross Society*

*The Columbia Red Cross Society*

*The Danish Red Cross*

*The Grenada Red Cross Society*

*The Guyana Red Cross Society*

*The Montserrat Red Cross*

*The Netherlands Red Cross*

*Finnish Red Cross*

*Icelandic Red Cross*

*The Jamaica Red Cross*

*New Zealand Red Cross*

*The Red Cross Society of Panama*

*Suriname Red Cross*

*The St. Lucia Red Cross*

*The Swiss Red Cross*

*The Trinidad And Tobago Red Cross Society*

*The International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC)*

*French Red Cross-PIRAC (Regional Intervention Platform for The Americas And  
The Caribbean)*



# **DOMINICA RED CROSS GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**



*The Governing Board has full responsibility for the Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) policies and programs. The Board is composed of distinguished scholars and prominent individuals from the private and public sectors in Dominica. The Governing Board meets on a regular basis to review and evaluate the Society's activities and makes all decisions for its program.*







## FACTS ON DOMINICA RED CROSS SOCIETY

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Headquarters Location</b>  | Federation Drive, Goodwill, Commonwealth of Dominica   |
| <b>Volunteers</b>   | *270 Active Members*   |
| <b>Population (Number of Volunteers)</b>  |  |
| <b>Mission:</b>   | 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.   |
| <b>President:</b>   | Mr. Reginald M. Winston  |
| <b>Vice President:</b>  | Mr. MacDonald Thomas   |
| <b>Director General:</b>  | Mrs. Sandra Charter-Rolle  |
| <b>Key Dates</b><br><b>1958 28<sup>th</sup> January</b><br><b>1983 7<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>1981 28TH September</b><br><br><b>1989 15<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><br><b>1989 21<sup>st</sup> October</b> | Branch of the British Red Cross<br>Recognized as a National Society<br>A declaration of succession to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 was signed<br>Recognized by the ICRC (International Committee of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies)<br>Recognized by the IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies) |
| <b>Honorary Members</b>   | <b>1958-1990- Gertrude Davis</b><br><b>1958-1993- Beryl Harris</b><br><b>1961-1990- Celia Fadelle</b><br><b>1965-1986- Rosalind Volney</b><br><b>1974-1989- V. Alix-Boyd</b><br><b>1958-1994- Lorna Robinson</b><br><b>1965-1992- Dorothy Griffin</b><br><b>1965-1992- Keith Robinson</b>  |











# *Remembering Maria*



For more information about the Dominica Red Cross,  
please contact:

Mrs Sandra Charter-Rolle  
Director General

Phone: 767-448-8280/440-2483

Email: [directorgeneral@redcross.dm](mailto:directorgeneral@redcross.dm)

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[www.dominicaredcross.com](http://www.dominicaredcross.com)