

# FINAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## *Antigua & Barbuda - Hurricane Jose*

9 July 2002

***This Final Report is intended for reporting on emergency appeals***

***Appeal No. 31/99: Launched on: 3 November 1999 for two months for CHF 363,000  
Beneficiaries: 2,000***

### *“At a glance”*

***Appeal coverage: 3.56%***

***The Disaster/Situation: In the wake of Hurricane Jose which struck 19 October 1999, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society in cooperation with the Federation commenced a relief operation aimed at assisting 200,000 beneficiaries. One month later, on 16 November the impact of another Hurricane, Lenny, forced the National Society to abort the Hurricane Jose operation.***

***The Hurricane Jose plan of action became a part of the new plan of action for Hurricane Lenny. The needs and damage assessment had to be done again. It turned out that almost all the people seriously affected by Hurricane Jose in September were more seriously disadvantaged after the second storm in October. The international response to Lenny, therefore, included the Hurricane Jose affected population in Antigua & Barbuda, and assistance was reallocated to the Hurricane Lenny victims.***

### **The Context**

Jose, a category 2 hurricane, moved over the Northern Leeward Islands from 19-21 October 1999. Its 160 kilometre winds caused widespread damage in the Eastern Caribbean. On 20 October, it struck Antigua & Barbuda with heavy rainfall and battering waves, leaving the twin island state with one person dead, 19 injured and 516 people living in shelters. The roofs of 815 houses were damaged or destroyed. Approximately 50% of the telephones were put out of service, and 90% of the islands were without electricity.

As soon as the government of Antigua and Barbuda issued a hurricane warning, the National Society started to prepare its volunteers and staff to help evacuate people in risk areas. After the storm, Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross relief workers conducted a needs and damage assessment in the most affected areas.

To support the Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross Society in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable, the International Federation launched an Emergency Appeal on 3 November for CHF 363,000 to assist 2,000 beneficiaries for two months

## **Red Cross /Red Crescent action**

### **1. Objectives**

- **Objective 1: To work with the St. Vincent de Paul branch to implement a one-month feeding programme for 2,000 persons in impacted areas.**
- **Objective 2: To assist 50 low income families to repair damaged roofs.**

Immediately after the hurricane, the Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross Society established an Emergency Operation Centre at its headquarters in St. John's. Thirty-five Red Cross volunteers distributed supplies to those in need in the flooded communities of York's, Villa, Greens Bay, Perry Bay, Piggotts, Bendals Bolans, Crabs Hill, Urlings, St. John's and Jennings. Simultaneously it carried out a damage and needs assessment. During the first week after the disaster, the Society distributed 1,500 tarpaulins, 210 blankets, 300 food parcels and 30 hurricane lamps to people in shelters. As a result, preparedness stocks were depleted in the process.

On 16 November the impact of another Hurricane, Lenny, forced the National Society to abort the Hurricane Jose operation.

#### **1.1. The Caribbean Regional Delegation**

The Regional Delegation in Santo Domingo provided support to the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society in emergency operation management, damage and needs assessments, logistics and relief distribution in all the affected areas.

#### **1.2. Participation of Operating National Society**

Based on past experience, the National Society had both the manpower and the expertise to conduct the relief operation: its 35 Red Cross volunteers were involved in relief distributions and individual house assessments in all affected communities.

#### **1.3. Cooperation with authorities and with other agencies**

Under the agreement with the St. Vincent de Paul branch, the Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross Society provided basic meat supplies while the St. Vincent de Paul provided rice and beans to the 2,000 beneficiaries.

The military rescued several families from their homes by using inflated rubber boats and assisted St. Vincent de Paul to take food to stranded communities.

After the hurricane the government dispatched teams to open roads, cleanup the islands and restore utilities. In addition, through its National office of Disaster Services, the authorities distributed plastic sheeting and water bottles.

## **2. Analysis of the Operation**

### **2.1. Needs assessment**

Red Cross teams were sent to the most affected areas to conduct the damage and needs assessments. These teams were made up of experienced Red Cross volunteers and relief workers previously trained by the National Society. With the support from governmental agencies and military units, the surveys were conducted across the island, specially assisting the most isolated communities.

### **2.2. Objectives/Plan of Action**

On 16 November, 30 days after Jose passed the island, Lenny, a category 4 hurricane, struck. It caused heavy rains and high seas on the south-western coast - the same areas affected by Jose - and

aggravated previous damage and increasing the number of people seriously affected from 2,000 to 4,700.

This slowed the rate of relief activities by the Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross. The Hurricane Jose plan of action became a part of the new plan of action for Hurricane Lenny. The needs and damage assessment had to be done again. It turned out that almost all the people seriously affected by Hurricane Jose in September were more seriously disadvantaged after the second storm in October. The international response to Lenny, therefore, included the Hurricane Jose affected population in Antigua & Barbuda, and assistance was reallocated to the Hurricane Lenny victims.

### 3. Conclusions

The Hurricane Jose operation in Antigua & Barbuda showed that a well prepared National Society is able to provide rapid, effective and appropriate support to populations severely affected by disasters in the Caribbean. The most important factors were:

- the commitment and the experience of the Society's leadership and volunteers,
- the Society's own preparedness and level of relief stocks, such as plastic sheeting, dry food, hygiene articles, blankets and bottled water,
- its integration into the Government's disaster plan,
- its institutional memory of the impact on the country of past hurricanes (1989, 1995 and 1998).

Another important lesson from Hurricane Jose and the Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross response, is the need to be clear about the Operating National Society's right to include in the Federation appeal those relief items already distributed from the Society's own preparedness stocks before the appeal was launched.

These issues will be addressed in regional disaster preparedness programme's training sessions this year (2000).

By the time international donations were allocated to the appeal, Hurricane Lenny hit the country. Due to this new emergency, all activities and international appeal efforts were mobilised to the second storm relief operation to provide rapid, effective and appropriate support to affected populations.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

*This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.*

John Horekens  
Director  
External Relations Division

Santiago Gil  
Head  
Americas Department

## Summary Project Statement by Donor

PAG501 - Antigua - Hurricane Jose

Donor(s): ACT-Action by Churches (DM19)  
 Aga Khan Foundation (DM16)  
 Albanian Red Cross (DNAL)  
 American Government (DGUS)  
 American Government etc., etc.

Period: January of 1999 through May of 2002

	CHF Amount	LC Amount	LC	Date	Details
	0.00				
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<b>Income From Selected Donor(s)</b>					
<i>Income from Donors</i>					
4311 British Red Cross (DNGB)	8,750.00	3,500.00	GBP	15.12.1999	DNGB/Antigua & Barbuda (00CVN 9789 2)
4311 Icelandic Red Cross (DNIS)	4,316.02	4,316.02	CHF	30.11.1999	DNIS/Antigua & B.hurricane Jose (00CVN 9659 2)
<i>Transfers of Income between Projects</i>					
4011 British Red Cross (DNGB)	-8,750.00	-3,500.00	GBP	31.12.2000	Reallocation PAG501/P49503 (00CVT 4177 1)
4011 Icelandic Red Cross (DNIS)	-1,215.82	-1,215.82	CHF	31.12.2000	Reallocation PAG501/P49503 (00CVT 4178 1)
<b>Total for Income From Selected Donor(s)</b>	<b>3,100.20</b>				
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<b>Expenditure</b>					
<i>Personnel</i>					
<i>Operational Support - Personnel</i>					
6701 Operations Support Costs - Personnel	-490.00				
<b>Total for Personnel</b>	<b>-490.00</b>				
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<i>General &amp; Admin. Expenditure</i>					
<i>Operations Support - Administration</i>					
7551 Operations Support - Administration	-2,610.20				
<b>Total for General &amp; Admin. Expenditure</b>	<b>-2,610.20</b>				
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<b>Total for Expenditure</b>	<b>-3,100.20</b>				
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<b>Balance</b>	<b>0.00</b>				

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