

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE IVAN

6 September 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The Situation

Ivan, a tropical storm on Sunday morning, 5 September, developed rapidly into a powerful category 3 hurricane by Sunday afternoon. On Monday, 6 September, Hurricane Ivan, with winds of 125 mph, continues to gain strength. This morning, Ivan is east-south east of Barbados, moving steadily west. Hurricane warnings and watches are in place for Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and Martinique. In addition, national disaster plans have been activated in Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Tobago, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Forecasters were predicting earlier that the storm could reach category 5; however, it now seems that this is not probable. The forecast track is that Ivan will hit the south of Barbados on Tuesday, continuing past the south of Saint Lucia later in the day. On its current course, it is estimated that Ivan will hit Hispaniola on Thursday, 9 September.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In Barbados a National Emergency Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled this morning. Barbados Red Cross Society volunteers are being alerted. In Grenada, a National Advisory Council meeting was in progress this morning, whilst in Saint Lucia a meeting of the National Emergency Management Office was taking place. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Prime Minister advised that schools will be closed as of 12.00 hours today. Shelters will be prepared and opened as soon as possible. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross will

take responsibility for search and rescue activities and will assist the Ministry of Education in shelter management, and also provide first aid in the emergency shelters. In Trinidad and Tobago, a National Emergency Task Force was scheduled to begin meeting this morning.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) has activated its alert mechanisms. This morning, the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group, of which the Federation is a member, met to confirm the resources available for assistance. Emergency operations centres in Barbados, Saint Lucia, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have been activated.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is monitoring the situation in close liaison with the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office and the Panama Regional Delegation. PADRU is re-deploying one of the disaster management delegates currently in the Bahamas conducting damage and needs assessments to Barbados or Trinidad and Tobago, depending on the circumstances as the situation evolves. The delegate will arrive tomorrow, Tuesday, 7 September, at the latest. In addition, two PADRU delegates are on standby in Panama, ready for immediate deployment to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. A disaster management expert is also travelling from the Secretariat headquarters to the region in order to support hurricane response activities in the wake of hurricane Frances and the development of hurricane Ivan. In the region, four regional intervention team (RIT) members have been alerted and ready to be mobilized.

*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>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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