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Information Bulletin no. 1 Tropical Storm: Dorian

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin N° 1	Date of issue:
Date of disaster: 24 August 2019.	Focal Point Haiti and Dominican Republic: Raphael Hamoir; Disaster Management Coordinator for Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti; email: raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org
	Focal points for English Speaking Caribbean: Daniel Arango; Disaster Management Coordinator for the Hurricane Season for Preparation and Response; email: daniel.arango@ifrc.org
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Category allocated to the disaster: Alert II (Institutional)	
National Societies currently involved: Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC), Dominica Red Cross, Dominican Red Cross, Haitian Red Cross Society, Barbados Red Cross, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society, St. Lucia Red Cross, French Red Cross Branches of St-Martin, St-Barthélemy, Guadeloupe and Martinique, Netherlands Red Cross Branches of Saba and Statia, Grenada Red Cross Society.	
N° of other partner organizations involved: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); National activated Emergency Operations Centers (EOC); Haiti Direction of Civil Protection.	

This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

According to the National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on Saturday 24 of August 2019, a newly formed tropical depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Dorian, the fourth tropical storm of this year's Atlantic hurricane season.¹



¹ [Tropical Storm Dorian](#). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last update: 2 PM AST, 26 August 2019.

At 2:00 PM, 26-August 2019 NOAA, reported that the center of Tropical Storm Dorian was located near latitude 12.5 North, longitude 58.3 West. Dorian is moving toward the west-northwest near 14 mph (22 km/h) and this motion is expected to continue through Tuesday night, followed by a turn toward the northwest on Wednesday. On the forecast track, the center of Dorian is expected to be near the Windward Islands late today and tonight and move into the eastern Caribbean Sea on Tuesday. Dorian is expected to pass near or south of Puerto Rico on Wednesday and approach eastern Hispaniola Wednesday night.

Maximum sustained winds are near 60 mph (95 km/h) with higher gusts. Some strengthening is forecasted during the next few days, and Dorian could be near hurricane strength when it passes through the northern Windward Islands on Tuesday and is expected to be a hurricane when it moves near Puerto Rico and eastern Hispaniola.

Dorian is currently, a small tropical cyclone. Tropical-storm-force winds only extend outward up to 45 miles (75 km) from the center.

Hazards affecting land²:

RAINFALL: Dorian is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 3 to 8 inches in the Windward Islands from Martinique south to St. Vincent, including Barbados. Isolated maximum totals of 10 inches are possible across the northern Windward Islands. Rainfall totals of 1 to 3 inches are expected from the Grenadines, south to Grenada and across Dominica.

WIND: Hurricane conditions are possible tonight and early Tuesday within the Hurricane Watch area in the Lesser Antilles. Tropical storm conditions are likely in the warning area by late today. Tropical storm conditions are possible within the tropical storm watch area by tonight or Tuesday.

SURF: Swells generated by Dorian will be affecting portions of the Lesser Antilles by late today. These swells could cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

While it is too soon to determine the specific time or magnitude of possible direct impacts in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or Hispaniola interests in those areas should monitor the progress of Dorian.

Forecast

Some of the normally reliable models disagree as to Dorian's forecast track: The ECMWF and GFS keep Dorian weaker and farther south, and they are on the left side of the guidance envelope. The HWRF and UKMET have more northerly tracks and forecast Dorian to pass near Puerto Rico and then near or north of Hispaniola. The various consensus models are between these extremes, and the earlier forecast is now close to them. Thus, the new forecast track is little changed from the previous forecast, and it calls for Dorian to move through the Windward Islands between 36-48h and cross Hispaniola between 96-120 h.

The intensity guidance is split on how much intensification could occur during the next 72hrs. The intensity forecast becomes even lower confidence after 72 h due to uncertainties in how much shear and land that Dorian will encounter. The new forecast calls for Dorian to weaken to a depression due to passage over Hispaniola. However, the large range of possibilities also includes both Dorian going north of Hispaniola and remaining a hurricane and the small cyclone dissipating completely over the island.

A Hurricane Watch is in effect for³:

- St. Lucia

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for:

² [Tropical Storm Dorian Public Advisory](#). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last update: 2 PM AST, 26 August 2019

³ Idem.

- Barbados
- Martinique
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines

A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for:

- Dominica
- Grenada and its dependencies
- Saba and St. Eustatius

Exposed population

Based on the forecast of the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), Tropical Storm - Dorian is within 1,265 km (786 miles) from Puerto Rico, and the center is expected to make landfall within the next 60 hours, along the shores near Mayaguez, as a Category 1 hurricane, with sustained winds of about 130 km/h (81 mph). For this forecast, an estimated 2.18 million people, 613,047 households, and 56 billion US dollars (USD) of infrastructure⁴ are potentially exposed to moderate to severe damages (with damage expected closer to the shores).⁵

Key information from other agencies:

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) increased the internal alert Green to Orange for Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Martinique, Haiti and Dominican Republic with Medium level of humanitarian impact based on storm strength.⁶

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA): A coordination meeting with CDEMA, UN Agencies, IFRC and other partners was held today 26 August 2019 to coordinate actions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

National Societies actions



Dominican Republic

Context	Dominican Red Cross
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meteorology of the National Meteorology Office (ONAMET) launches early warning protocol.⁷ • The latest available forecast suggests that the Dominican Republic faces direct Impact from a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Society placed an alert at Management and Operational levels

⁴ The cost represents the total replacement value of the infrastructure.

⁵ [Hazard Brief. Tropical Storm - Dorian](#). Update: 2019-08-26 10:25:37 AM. Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)

⁶ [Overall Orange alert Tropical Cyclone for DORIAN-19](#). 26 August 2019. Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

⁷ [ONAMET emite alerta meteorológica temprana debido a la Tormenta Tropical Dorian](#). 1PM 26 Agosto 2019. ONAMET

Category 1 Hurricane from Thursday, August 29 In the morning. Preparedness activities from the government were initiated.

Population that could be exposed to impact by winds: 1,575,204 people.⁸

- All branches are on alert and closely monitoring the event
- Coordination meetings with National EOC
- Preparedness/Readiness actions initiated.
- Sharing of Evaluation template to all branches and key volunteers.
- Sharing of Disaster management templates to all branches and key volunteers.
- [GO report](#) published on August 26, 2019.



Barbados

Context

- Government shut down at 10 am local time and activated EOC.
- Expected flooding and wind damage in south coast which is well populated with hotels and low income communities.
- No clear number on total of possible affected population. They are working on likely scenarios.
- Population that could be exposed to impact by winds: 279,713⁹
- Vulnerability: Barbados ranks 144 out of 172 countries assessed for Vulnerability. Barbados has a Vulnerability score higher than 17% of countries assessed. This indicates that Barbados has less susceptibility to disruptions in normal function.¹⁰
- Coping capacities: Barbados ranks 37 out of 173 countries assessed for Coping Capacity. Barbados has a Coping Capacity higher than 79% of countries assessed. This indicates that Barbados has more ability to absorb and respond

Barbados Red Cross

- National Society is monitoring the system.
- [GO report](#) published on August 24, 2019.
- Pre-positioned stock bought with funding from the Kingdom of Belgium arrived in the country and it is pending customs clearance. NS is working with government authorities to finalize process.
- Staff from IFRC office in Barbados is monitoring and participating at coordination meetings.

⁸ [EMOPS Area Brief. Executive Summary](#). 26 August 2019. Pacific Disaster Center.

⁹ [Hazard Brief. Tropical Storm - Dorian](#). Update: 2019-08-26 10:25:37 AM. Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)

¹⁰ *Idem*.

to events that could potentially disrupt normal function.¹¹



St Vincent and the Grenadines

Context	St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could suffer heavy rains as well as floods. Government has indicated that they can handle internally and if any support offered it should be regional coordination for DANA.• Population that could be exposed to impact by winds: 2,569.¹²• NEMO held a meeting on 25-August to provide an update and more information on the tropical storm. They presented the location of the storm and most vulnerable areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Society is monitoring the system.• Members of the National Society have been alerted.• Staff and volunteers to stand by.• Logistics team is on standby.• Blankets and tarpaulin for 200 households.• Pots to be distributed to 50 families• Water treatment plant is functioning and aqua tabs available.• NS EOC was activated at 11.00a.m 26-August• All sub-committees of Disaster Response Plan have been activated.• At the community level, all CDRT and Red Cross groups are on high alert to join the National Response.

¹¹ Ídem.

¹² [Hazard Brief. Tropical Storm - Dorian](#). Update: 2019-08-26 10:25:37 AM. Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)



St. Lucia

Context	St. Lucia Red Cross
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Emergency Management Organization issued a tropical storm watch on 25 August. Country could experience hurricane strength force, flash flooding, roads closed, coastal impact. There is an ongoing pre impact meeting with government agencies. Population that could be exposed to impact by winds: 151,693¹³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Society in state of preparedness and is monitoring the system. Pre-positioned stock bought with funding from the Kingdom of Belgium arrived in the country and it is pending customs clearance. Regional DM will be deployed to provide preparedness and response support.



Saint Martin, Saint Barthélemy, Guadeloupe and Martinique

Context	¹⁴ Red Cross branches of Saint Martin, St. Barthélemy, Guadeloupe and Martinique
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the next 2 days, Martinique territory increased the warning level to Orange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the situation

¹³ Hazard Brief. Tropical Storm - Dorian. Update: 2019-08-26 10:25:37 AM. Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)

¹⁴ Overseas branches of the French Red Cross. The French Red Cross is particularly active through its [Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean](#) (PIRAC).



Grenada

Context	Grenada Red Cross Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All government offices in Carriacou and Petite Martinique will be closed at 2 pm on Monday, 26 August 2019 to facilitate preparations for Tropical Storm Dorian. The National Disaster Management Agency (NaDAM) District Committee for Carriacou and Petite Martinique announced that 3 emergency shelters — 1 on Petite Martinique and 2 on Carriacou — will be activated as of 26 August at 4 pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Society is monitoring the system.



IFRC

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close monitoring of the situation Dorian Monitoring Dashboard produced. Additional information available at: GO IFRC. Coordination at between CCST offices in Haiti and Dominican Republic; all IFRC staff alerted and monitoring the event Preparedness and safety measures being planned for IFRC staff, offices and assets. Summary of Regional Contingency Plan Coordination with all components of Disaster and Crisis Department, PIRAC, Country Clusters Team Offices (CCST), Americas Regional Office, Geneva headquarters. Coordination and information sharing with the Dominican Red Cross and the Haitian Red Cross; Regional Disaster Management (DM) Coordinators in contact with DM focal points. Regional DM from PIRAC deployed to St. Lucia to monitor the situation. Regional DM to be deployed to Dominican Republic on Tuesday August 26. Two IM staff are currently deployed in Dominican Republic and will directly support the National Society. Emergency response stocks pre-positioned for response to 1,500 families: Preparedness dashboard published. Sharing of two internal information messages. Internal Alert 2¹⁵ published

¹⁵ Is issued when an event or crisis occurs and there is a need to take specific and predetermined protection measures and ensure that appropriate monitoring of the event is conducted due to its development, behavior and characteristics, and the possibility the event causing adverse effects, according with IFRC Americas Region Emergency SoP.

- Surge Alert sent.

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the IFRC Americas Regional Office:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**