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Information Bulletin no. 2

Hurricane Isaias

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin N° 2	Date of issue: 1 August 2020
Date of disaster: Ongoing	IFRC Focal Points: <u>In Dominican Republic:</u> Raphael Hamoir; Disaster Management Coordinator raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org <u>In the Bahamas:</u> Baylar Talibov; Operations Manager baylar.talibov@ifrc.org Priscila Gonzalez; PMER Delegate; Priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org <u>In the Port of S CCST:</u> Daniel Arango, Disaster Management Coordinator; Hurricane Season, Preparedness & Response; daniel.arango@ifrc.org Rhea Marie Pierre, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator; rhea.pierre@ifrc.org
IFRC Category allocated to the disaster: Yellow	
National Societies activated: Bahamas Red Cross Society, Dominican Red Cross, Haitian Red Cross Society, and American Red Cross.	
Red Cross partners involved: American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations involved: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); National Emergency Operations Center in Bahamas (EOC), European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP).	

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

CONTEXT

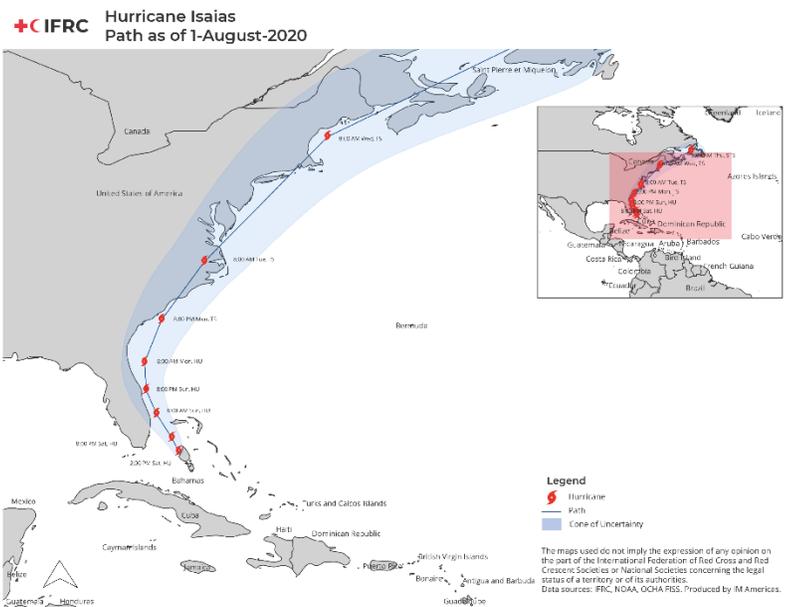
The situation

At 11:00 AM EDT (1500 UTC), the centre of Hurricane Isaias was located near latitude 24.7 North, longitude 77.9 West. Isaias is moving toward the northwest near 12 mph (19 km/h). A general north-westward motion with some decrease in forward speed is expected for the next day or so, followed by a north-westward motion by late Sunday.

On the forecast track, the centre of Isaias will move over northern Andros Island during the next few hours and move near or over Grand Bahama Island in the North-western Bahamas later today.

Reports from the reconnaissance aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds have decreased slightly to near 80 mph (130 km/h), with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected through Sunday, and Isaias is forecast to remain a hurricane during this time. Slow weakening is expected to begin by late Monday.

Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 25 miles (35 km) from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 115 miles (185 km). Reports from a U.S. Navy site on Andros Island indicate that sustained winds of 45 mph (76 km/h) and a gust to 69 mph (111 km/h) occurred about 3 hours ago. More recently, a sustained wind of 35 mph (56 km/h) and a gust to 48 mph (77 km/h) were measured at Nassau, Bahamas.¹



EARLY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE

See [Information Bulletin no. 1 for NS Preparedness actions](#).

The Bahamas

- No significant damages reported, but a Hurricane Warning is still in effect for North-western Bahamas (Andros Island, New Providence, Eleuthera, Abacos Islands, Berry Islands, Grand Bahamas Island, and Bimini).
- EOC fully activated virtually on zoom with BRCS family groups (branch) leaders from Central Abaco, North Andros, and Central Andros shares updates early today.
- North Andros group leader in contact with volunteers to monitor the situation. BRCS provided food supplies before the storm to vulnerable individuals that requested support.
- BRCS Abaco:
 - BRCS Abaco branch leader together with volunteers are managing an emergency shelter in Central Pines Primary School, Central Abaco. As of 9.00 am 01 August 2020 there are 27 persons in the emergency shelter. The branch leader reported some shortages with water and power at the shelter, the Defence Force and Ministry of Work supported with these issues.
 - Yesterday, BRCS Abaco also went to protect / secure the tents at the hospital and clinic.
- BRCS Grand Bahama:
 - BRCS/IFRC hurricane preparedness, extraordinary meeting with participation of all team members and Grand Bahama Shelter representatives contacted on 31/07.2020, preparedness, response, and possible evacuations with different scenarios discussed.
 - The BRCS/IFRC team in close contact with Social Welfare and NEMA observing and monitoring situation developments.
- New Providence – HQ:

¹ NOAA. Hurricane Isaias. 1 August 2020.

- Case management workers are in contact with their most vulnerable clients in case any assistance is needed
- Fleet at HQ have moved all vehicles to safe locations, all in order on property.
- A young woman who was homeless was supported yesterday by BRCS PSS and DM focal points. She was taken to the shelter. BRCS will provide PSS follow up and liaise with PGI focal point.

IFRC actions:

- Continuous monitoring of the situation through BRCS EOC and DM and communication with IFRC delegates in Grand Bahama and Abaco.



Dominican Republic

- Tropical Storm Isaias mainly impacted East and North of the Dominican Republic; Hato Mayor being the area most affected due to floods triggered by the storm.
 - 1,284 houses affected in Hato Mayor.
 - 5,595 have been relocated due to the damages to the houses.
- Dominican Red Cross has been mobilized throughout the affected areas to contribute to immediate response to the aftermath of the storm.
- Following a request for assistance, the Dominican Red Cross is contributing to the response in Hato Mayor. The following activities are ongoing:
 - Assessments (EDAN): Province of Hato Mayor and Northeast San Francisco de Macoris.
 - Beneficiary identification and registration with ODK
 - Distributions for 400 families:
 - Hygiene kits
 - Jerrycans (5-gallon folding water containers)
 - Chlorine tablets
 - COVID-19 masks
 - Oral Rehydration Salts
 - Mosquito Repellents



The distribution consists of family hygiene kits for five people for one month. This distribution is carried out maintaining the norms of physical distance, use of masks and other prevention measures, both for the people reached and for the volunteer personnel of the Institution. This distribution is carried out with the support of the IFRC, the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) through the World Food Programme (WFP) in the framework of the cooperation agreement in case of disasters.

- [Two field reports published.](#)

- A DREF request (for replenishment) is being prepared.



Dominican Red Cross (DRC) volunteers collaborating with the cleaning of rubble in the communities of Puerto Plata and Sabana Grande. Source: DRC, 1 August 2020.



Cuba

- Cuban Red Cross has been mobilized to respond to the effect of Hurricane ISAIS in the municipality of Baracoa, Guantanamo Province, where about 100 houses were reportedly damaged.
- Cuban Red Cross continues monitoring the heavy rains in the Eastern part of the country.



Haiti

- No significant damage reported.



United States

- Hurricane Isaias is continuing a projected path that may impact Eastern North Carolina, along with much of the Southeast over the next several days. Current path projections indicate that Isaias could make initial or secondary landfall along the North Carolina coast between Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Current readiness activities are taking place across the state ahead of the potential and anticipated need of sheltering along the eastern counties of North Carolina. Hyde County has ordered the mandatory evacuation of Ocracoke Island. Mandatory evacuation for visitors was required at 12:00 pm, July 30. Mandatory evacuation is effective at 6:00 am, August 1. Once evacuation orders are active, only emergency personnel will be allowed entry.
- State EOC is activated and virtually staffed with American Red Cross representatives. Analysing shelter trailer and shelter locations to optimize placement of trailers pre-landfall.

IFRC ACTIONS

- Coordination between the Disaster and Crisis Department and Country Clusters.
- Continuous monitoring by the Regional Disaster Management (DM) Coordinators and the Country Clusters.
- Contact with National Societies currently located in the path of the hurricane.
- Sending of informational messages by DMs and IFRC focal points in country.

- Press release published: [Red Cross in Bahamas preparing for Hurricane Isaias, while balancing COVID-19 response and Hurricane Dorian recovery.](#)
- Development of information bulletins.
- Development of a dashboard for monitoring and impact assessment purpose.
- Activation of the IFRC Regional virtual EOC.

[For prepositioned stock see Information bulletin no. 1.](#)

Resources

- [GO Platform](#) is constantly updated. Check future [Field Reports](#) from National Societies for updates.
- Regional [Preparedness dashboard](#)
- [Hurricane monitoring Dashboard.](#)
- [2020 Regional Contingency Plan](#)

Contact information

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

Bahamas Red Cross Society:

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Dominican Red Cross:

- Dr. Ligia Leroux, President; email: ligia.leroux@cruzroja.org.do

Haitian Red Cross Society

- Président, Dr. Guiteau Jean-Pierre; email: president@croixrouge.ht and mm.cauvin@croixrouge.ht
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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.