Information Bulletin N° 1
Tropical Storm Elsa

Date of issue: 2 July 2021

Date of disaster: Ongoing

IFRC Focal Points:
Caribbean Disaster Management Coordinator:
Daniel Arango: daniel.arango@ifrc.org

IFRC Category allocated to the disaster: To be defined.

National Societies activated: Barbados Red Cross, Dominica Red Cross Society, Dominican Red Cross, Cuban Red Cross, Grenada Red Cross, Haiti Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross, St. Lucia Red Cross.

Red Cross partners involved: American Red Cross and French Red Cross through the Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC).

Other partner organizations involved: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG); 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), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC).

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hurricane conditions and storm surges are expected within the Hurricane Warning areas in Haiti and the Dominican Republic beginning Saturday 3 July 2021 and in Jamaica and portions of eastern Cuba beginning Sunday 4 July 2021.¹
- Damages have been reported in Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Grenada. IFRC is monitoring the situation in coordination with National Societies (NS) and awaiting for more detailed information from damage assessments to evaluate the response.
- IFRC has raised the institutional alert to level 2 to support the NS and start the readiness actions for the response.
- Regional and Subregional warehouses have been activated in the Panama Logistic Humanitarian Hub and Dominican Republic humanitarian corridor. Additional items are prepositioned in Barbados and St. Vincent.

¹ NOAA. Hurricane Elsa Public Advisory. 5PM – 2 July 2021.
The situation

At 8:30 AM AST (1230 UTC) 2 July 2021, the center of Hurricane Elsa was located near latitude 13.1 North, longitude 60.1 West (near Barbados). Elsa is moving toward the west-northwest near 28 mph (44 km/h), and this motion is expected to continue during the next couple of days. On the forecast track, Elsa will pass near or over portions of the Windward Islands or the southern Leeward Islands this morning, move across the eastern Caribbean Sea late today and tonight and move near the south coast of Hispaniola on Saturday. By Sunday, Elsa is forecast to move near Jamaica and portions of eastern Cuba. Reports from Barbados indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 75 mph (120 km/h) with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast during the next 48 hours.²

² NOAA. Hurricane Elsa Public Advisory. SPM – 2 July 2021.
Elsa was racing west northwestward at 28 mph on 2 July, Friday morning, about 20 miles west-southwest of Barbados and had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. The system is expected to continue a general west-northwest path over the Caribbean and is likely to remain a hurricane while approaching Hispaniola and Jamaica this weekend. According to NOAA, a hurricane warning is in effect for Barbados, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, and St. Lucia. A sustained wind of 74 mph and a gust up to 86 mph have already been reported on Barbados. A hurricane watch is in effect for southern Haiti from Port Au Prince to the southern border with the Dominican Republic.

**EARLY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE**

**Barbados:**
- Damage was reported in the south of the island, including power outages, fallen trees, flash flooding, and damaged roofs.
- There is no water and/or electricity in some areas.
- Volunteers placed in shelters. Some of the shelters are occupied.
- The Barbados Red Cross (BRC) is monitoring the system.
- Offsite generators are being collected to bring to Head Office.
- 33 Category 1 Shelters are to be opened by 5:30 this evening. Volunteers have been assigned to 17 of the 33 shelters.
- The Ministry of Education and the Department of Emergency Management have requested First Aid support from the BRC in shelters, and volunteers have been placed on stand-by.
- The BRC headquarters has been secured.
- The National Society (NS) is holding a Heads of Department meeting to discuss preparations.

**St Vincent and the Grenadines:**
- Hurricane Elsa past North of St Vincent island.
- Lahars have been running at a high level for most of the day.
- No report of major infrastructure damage so far.
- Water has been turned off by the authorities and will be turned back on once the storm has passed.
- Small electrical fires in some locations, no significant damage reported.
- Some roofs have reported as damaged, the majority reported to date are in the red/orange zone and had been impacted by the eruption in April.
- 10 shelters have been activated, with 68 people currently in them.
- The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC) distributed 120 blankets and 120 jerry cans yesterday to the Ministry of Health.
- SVGRC is looking to additional distributions in the shelters once it is deemed safe.
- Rain is continuing all day, with no major winds on the southern end of the island.
- The NS has published a GO Report.
- National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) has partially activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- SVGRC has also partially activated their EOC, and plans are to be fully activated tonight.
- Current plans are for quick assessments to be carried out on Saturday in coordination with the NEMO and the Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs).

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100 x blankets and 40 x jerry cans have been distributed to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for distribution health clinics as required.

**St. Lucia:**
- The Met Office has issued discontinued all alerts and warnings.
- An initial damage assessment is being conducted, and all clear will be called once completed.
- Reports of partial and complete roof damage to homes. There have been intermittent interruptions to water or electricity in some areas.
- The Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC) is monitoring the system.
- The SRLC attended a pre-strike meeting NEMAC (NDO) to discuss the readiness of the country.
- The initial GO report can be found here.
- The Red Cross Volunteer Networks have been activated and mobilized.
- A meeting will be held with volunteers at 4:00PM.
- In addition to the COVID-19 curfew from 11PM to 4AM in St. Lucia, there is a National lockdown due to the storm's passage from 4AM to 12PM in the first instance, depending on the impact. However, the Red Cross personnel has been permitted to access communities to provide support.

**Grenada:**
- Reports of flooding due to heavy rains and children isolated in schools.
- The Volunteer Manager of the Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS) started assisting students, of the Wesley College with transportation, from the flooded areas in River Road around their school zone to their respective homes.
- The GRCS Headquarters dispatched some emergencies supplies to the sub office in Carriacou to enhance their preparedness to response capacities.
- National Society is monitoring the system.
- The NS has circulated risk communication information on flooding and landslides.
- The Director-General participated in a meeting of the National Emergency Advisory Council this morning. It was agreed that the management and governance of the GRCS will draft and agree on the next steps in the organization's preparation for the system.
- There will be an update of the National Emergency Advisory Committee at 5PM.

**Jamaica:**
- The Jamaica Red Cross is monitoring the system,
- All branches have been activated, and volunteers mobilised,
- Pre-positioning of items is underway.

**Dominica:**
- The Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) is monitoring the system.
- The NS has circulated risk communication information on hurricane preparedness.

**Cuba:**
- The National General Staff of the Civil Defense is following up on assurance of disaster risk reduction plans, paying attention to the designation of capacities for protecting the population. The state of emergency power
generators. The harvesting of agricultural products suitable for consumption and the transfer of the animal population to safe areas. Actions to clear drains, sewers, drains, and measures to ensure the protection of material resources in warehouses and other facilities. Ensure the availability of the members of the damage and needs assessment commission and of the offices to speed up the recovery phase.

- The population is reiterated not to go to flood risk areas, reservoirs, and other hydraulic works to avoid loss of human lives.
- The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) has activated its volunteer network of operations and relief groups and restoring family contacts.
- The NS is coordinating with the National Defense Council in case of support.

Haiti:
- National Government has issued an orange alert.
- Haitian Red Cross Society (HRCS) communication and monitoring unit has been activated.
- HRC attended all information meetings of the Government National Risks and Disasters Management System Unit (DGPC)
- 14 HRCS regional branches have been activated and are provided with updated information.
- Emergency Awareness teams were mobilized in the South and Lower North-West departments
- More than 600 HRCS trained volunteers are on standby to join the regional response teams for awareness campaigns.
- Early Warning Systems installed in the South and West departments are activated.

Dominican Republic:
- On 2 July, the President of the Republic convened the members of the emergency state organizations (including the Dominican Red Cross) to coordinate the actions before the passage of hurricane Elsa.
- The Emergency Operations Centre (COE) extended the alert levels to all the country's provinces: Red alert in the coastal strip, which includes the provinces of Barahona, Pedernales, Peravia, Azua, and San Cristobal. On yellow alert are the provinces of Sánchez Ramírez, Duarte, María Trinidad Sánchez, Monte Plata, San Pedro de Macorís, Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional, San José de Ocoa, El Seibo, Hato Mayor, San Juan, Bahoruco, La Romana, Moseñor Nouel, Independencia and La Altagracia. On green alert are Santiago, Espaillat, Puerto Plata, Hermanas Mirabal, Santiago Rodríguez, Montecristi, Valverde, Dajabón, Samaná, La Vega and Elías Piña.
- The Dominican Red Cross has activated its contingency plan and is coordinating with the branches. A Red Alert has been declared.
- As part of the National System, the Dominican Red Cross has been present in all coordination spaces and will participate in 2 July afternoon meeting with the President of the Republic.
IFRC ACTIONS

- IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) has sent an institutional alert for preparedness and readiness.
- IFRC Disaster Managers (DMs) and Disaster Preparedness Coordinator attending daily meetings with the Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG) actors and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency CDEMA.
- The Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) launched a regional transportation tender to cover the air and sea services for the 35 destinations in the Americas. The RLU has identified a regional and local sourcing strategy for additional household items requested in operations. A warehouse contingency plan is in action to increase staff availability for loading goods. See Annex 1 for the Prepositioned stock.
- Close monitoring of the situation and in communication with Disaster Management focal points.
- DMs in the region have been contacted since 28-June and are on alert.
- Coordination between ARO and the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Port of Spain.
- Preparedness and safety measures being planned for IFRC staff, offices, and assets.
- Coordinating with all components of Disaster and Crisis Department.
- Emergency response stocks pre-positioned for the response.
- The Communications Team has been in contact with at-risk NSs and is preparing a message to send to the media regarding RC preparedness for TS Elsa: What to do, Hurricane Watch vs Warning, and Be Hurricane Ready During COVID-19.
- The communications team has also shared key messages and press release templates with the relevant NS and shared preparedness messages on social media.
- The Community engagement and accountability (CEA) team has been in contact with at-risk National Societies, sharing updated information as aid materials and gathering information about information gaps that the communities might have.
- The CEA team has shared the Hurricane Preparedness CEA summary tools with the NSs and follows up with them if they need any support.

Resources

- [GO Platform](https://go.ifrc.org) is constantly updated. Check future [Field Reports](https://www.ifrc.org/en/field-reports) from National Societies for updates.
- Regional [Preparedness dashboard](https://go.ifrc.org/)
- A Hurricane monitoring Dashboard is in progress. The link will be shared soon.
Contact information

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

Barbados Red Cross:
- Director General (Ag), Danielle Toppin, 1-246-264-5986, zikaprojectcoordinatorbb@gmail.com

Dominica Red Cross Society:
- President, Mr Reginald Winston,1-767-613-9984, regie35@hotmail.com

Dominican Red Cross:
- Dr. Miguel Sanz Flores, President; email: miguel.sanz@cruzroja.org.do

Cuban Red Cross:
- Dr. Luis Foyo Ceballos, President; email: crsn@infomed.sld.cu

Grenada Red Cross:
- President, Ms. Samantha Dickson, 1-347-337-5689, samanthagdickson@gmail.com

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

Jamaica Red Cross:
- President, Ms Hope Munroe, hamunroe@yahoo.com

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross:
- President, Mr Bernard Morgan,1-784-456-1888,1-784-498-1118, bmorgansvg@gmail.com; svgredcross@yahoo.com

St. Lucia Red Cross:
- President, Mr Hubert Austin, +1 (758) 452-5582, sluredcross@candw.lc

In the IFRC Americas Regional Office:
- Head of the Disaster and Crisis Department, Roger Alonso; phone: +507 317 3050; email: roger.alonso@ifrc.org, phone:
- Felipe del Cid, Continental Operations Coordinator; phone: +507 317 3050; email: felipe.delcid@ifrc.org

In CCST Dominican Republic and Port of Spain:
- Ariel Kestens; head of country cluster office POS CCST; email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org
- Elias Ghanem; head of country cluster office elias.ghanem@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva:
- Antoine Belair, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery); email: antoine.belair@ifrc.org
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.
Annex 1 - Prepositioned stocks

### Pre-positioned Stocks in NS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blankets</th>
<th>Cleaning Kit</th>
<th>Hygiene kits</th>
<th>Jerry cans</th>
<th>Kitchen sets</th>
<th>Mosquito nets</th>
<th>Shelter Tool Kit</th>
<th>Tarpaulin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas RC</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominica RC</td>
<td>2,205</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>1,239</td>
<td>7,807</td>
<td>1,327</td>
<td>3,829</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>1,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominican RC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>3,850</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>3,850</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5,205</td>
<td>1,111</td>
<td>3,339</td>
<td>14,657</td>
<td>2,377</td>
<td>8,879</td>
<td>1716</td>
<td>3,020</td>
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### IFRC Stocks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard items</th>
<th>RLU - Panama Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Nicaragua Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Honduras Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Dominican Republic Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Trinidad &amp; Tobago Stock Quantity</th>
<th>PNS Stock Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Stock in Transit Stock Quantity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blanket light thermal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,322</td>
<td>14,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blanket medium thermal</td>
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<td>480</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bucket plastic</td>
<td>2,410</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>848</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family tent</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hygiene kit</td>
<td>3,128</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleaning kit</td>
<td>252</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry can</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>45,360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitchen set</td>
<td>2,516</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>3,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mosquito net</td>
<td>11,175</td>
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<td>3,850</td>
<td>23,997</td>
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<td>Shelter tool kit</td>
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<td>1,488</td>
<td>1,037</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarpaulin</td>
<td>12,549</td>
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<td>3,826</td>
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<td>4,000</td>
<td>15,860</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other items</th>
<th>RLU - Panama Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Nicaragua Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Honduras Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Dominican Republic Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Trinidad &amp; Tobago Stock Quantity</th>
<th>PNS Stock Stock Quantity</th>
<th>Total In transit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer kits(SP, EN, FR)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warehouse tent</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multipurpose tent</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watsan Items(Kit 2 &amp; 5)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water filters</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Aid Kits</td>
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<tr>
<td>HuggyPro HPT 72 Tent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solar Lamps</td>
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<td>Kit, Water lab test</td>
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