

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

16 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

Appeal No. 21/04; Operations Update no. 5; Period covered: 14 - 16 September 2004; Appeal coverage: 18.4%; *(the Contributions List available on the website is currently being updated).*

Appeal history:

- Launched on 10 September 2004 for CHF 1,752,697 (USD 1,389,560 or EUR 1,137,899) for 6 months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries (2,000 families) in Grenada.
- Revised on 15 September 2004 for CHF 6,033,000 (USD 4,764,410 or EUR 3,910,502) for 6 months to assist 85,000 beneficiaries (17,000 families) in Grenada, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cuba.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000.

Given the developing nature of this disaster, the preliminary revised appeal will be readjusted to respond to the needs from the passage of Hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean, in accordance with the results of on-going assessments. The Federation's approach to this operation and the strategy outlined in the appeal are intended to be flexible; donors are encouraged to provide timely support, with minimum earmarking.

Outstanding needs : CHF 4,920,833

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.52/2004), Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.51/2004)

Operational Summary: The distribution of relief supplies shipped to Grenada by the Federation is now well underway. Thus far, a total of 2,000 tarpaulins, 2,080 hygiene kits and 481 jerry cans have been distributed to beneficiaries in the parishes of St. George, St. John and St. David. A second consignment of relief supplies from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit arrived today, Thursday, 16 September, bringing 3,500 tarpaulins and 2,000 food crackers. A total of six teams have been organized to carry out distributions in the six parishes of the country. The teams, which are each made up of one regional intervention team (RIT) member and two Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS) members, will carry out four distributions of relief items, beginning with food distributions. The following three distributions will include tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and water distributions: water purification tablets, jerry cans and water bottles. The Federation continues to assess the needs of beneficiaries housed in shelters, as well as others who require assistance who are living in the remains of their damaged homes. In Jamaica, assessments of damage and needs are on-going. The worst-affected areas are on the southern coastal strip and western end of the island where in some areas as much as 80 per cent of housing has been destroyed. The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) is carrying out distributions of goods to the estimated 11,000 people who continue to live in shelters. In the zones which were severely affected by Hurricane Ivan, there are problems with the water supply and concerns regarding sanitation. Red Cross volunteers are providing psychosocial support to the population housed in shelters. In the Cayman Islands, the majority of the islands remain without electricity, and water is gradually being

restored. Assessments indicate that between 15 and 20 per cent of housing in the Cayman Islands has been totally destroyed. Those staying in shelters are being encouraged to register, as are those in need of assistance. In Cuba, 240,000 people continue to take refuge in shelters in Pinar del Río Province; shelters are staffed with Red Cross volunteers who assist with psychosocial support and shelter management. A plan of action for provision of relief assistance to 3,000 vulnerable families is being developed by the National Society.

In addition to the contributions received from the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross via the Canadian government, further funding has been pledged by the German government, the Irish government, the Netherlands government, the Swiss Red Cross via the Swiss government, together with a corporate donor.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Grenada: Mr Terry Charles, Director General, Grenada Red Cross Society email: grercs@caribsurf.com
- In Jamaica, Ms. Yvonne Clarke, Director General, email; yvonneclarke@jamaicaredcross.org; phone (1 876) 984 7860; fax; (1 876) 984 8272
- In the Cayman Islands, Mrs. Jondo Malafa Obi, Director, phone (1 345) 917 2345
- In Cuba: Cuban Red Cross, Dr. Luis Foyo Ceballos, Executive President; email, crsn@infoed.sld.cu phone (1 537) 269 0100;
- In Grenada: Benoit Porte, FACT Team Leader, e-mail facteam02@ifrc.org phone (33) 683 456022;
- In Jamaica, Stephen McAndrew, Operations Support Department, e-mail stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org
- In Cuba, Cristina Estrada, Regional Information Delegate, phone (537) 269 0103
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Julian Gore-Booth, Sub Regional Coordinator, e-mail ifrcctt06@ifrc.org phone (1868) 627 2665; Fax (1868) 627 9627
- In Panama, Nelson Castaño, Pan American Disaster Response Unit e-mail In Panama: Nelson Castaño; email ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082
- In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Americas Department, e-mail olaug.berseth@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730 4535; fax (41 22) 733 0395
- In Geneva: Eva Calvo, Strategic Communications, e-mail; eva.calvo@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730 4357; fax (41 22) 733 0395

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>

Background

Hurricane Ivan, the most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean in ten years, moved through the region for more than a week, damaging homes, buildings and infrastructure, and causing at least 30 deaths thus far. The storm originated in the south eastern Caribbean where it gradually gathered in strength before moving towards populated land. Ivan was a category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale when it passed by **Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago** on Tuesday, 7 September killing one person in Tobago and one in Barbados. In the Grenadines, the islands of Carriacou, Palm Island and Petit Martinique experienced widespread damage. Populations in low lying coastal areas of Tobago were evacuated to shelters and over 560 people were accommodated in seven shelters on the island on Tuesday, 7 September; most schools and businesses were closed on both Trinidad and Tobago. The storm also damaged hundreds of homes and cut off utilities.

Ivan then strengthened into a category 4 hurricane as it hit **Grenada** on Tuesday evening, bringing sustained winds of 220 kilometres per hour. Several hundred people from low-lying areas of Saint George's, the Grenadian capital, were evacuated in anticipation of potential flooding. At least people died and approximately 90 percent of the country's homes sustained damage. Water, electricity and telephone services were all cut off. Approximately 60,000 people are in need of assistance and there are approximately 5 thousand people accommodated in 145 official and ad hoc shelters. The hurricane caused structural damage to nearly every major building in the Grenadian capital of Saint George's, including the island's emergency operations centre, prime minister's residence, several schools, the main hospital and a nearby prison. Also among the damaged buildings was the

Grenada Red Cross Society headquarters. Given the situation of chaos following the hurricane strike, were major problems of looting. In response, a dusk-to-dawn curfew was put into effect and the Regional Security System was brought in to support local law enforcement authorities.

Ivan flooded parts of northern *Venezuela* as it moved northwest through the Caribbean Sea, killing at least one person. In addition, there are reports that four youths in the *Dominican Republic* were swept away by a giant wave Thursday, although the storm was still around 300 kilometres away at the time. In *Haiti*, temporary shelters were set up in Nippes and ten houses were damaged in the North West Department. In the South Department, 830 people were evacuated as a result of flooding from rivers in spate and temporary shelters were set up for 1,600 persons in five communes. The Haitian National Red Cross Society distributed hygiene kits to those evacuated.

Jamaica also sustained serious damage on Saturday, 11 September as a result of Hurricane Ivan, although the storm did not make direct landfall. The country was pounded with winds nearing 250 kilometres per hour, heavy rains and tidal surges, and 15 people were killed. There was extensive damage to roofs and roads, and downed trees and utility poles made several roads impassable. There were also reports of numerous landslides across the country. Electricity and water services were shut off pending further evaluations of the damage. Officials had urged 500,000 people to evacuate high-risk areas, but many residents chose to stay because of fears of looting.

The hurricane strengthened into a category 5 storm as it moved away from Jamaica, but then weakened again slightly to a category 4 storm before it began battering the *Cayman Islands* on Sunday, causing one death. The eye of the storm did not make direct landfall in the islands, but brought winds of 240 kilometres per hour. Heavy rains and winds continued throughout the day on Sunday and into the night, flooding parts of low-lying Grand Cayman Island. Most residents and visitors in high-risk areas had been evacuated or relocated to shelters. The Bodden Town Civic Centre, a designated shelter, collapsed at the height of the hurricane and the shelter occupants were evacuated in 155 mph winds. Some 90 per cent of the West Bay area of Grand Cayman suffered damage. The sewage system collapsed and the Eastern District was cut off.

Once again a category 5 storm, Hurricane Ivan moved towards western *Cuba* and the Yucatan Channel on Monday, 13 September. The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) kept the population constantly informed through a television spot entitled "What to do in case of a Hurricane". Eight provinces: Pinar del Río, Habana, Ciudad Habana, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and the Municipality of Isla de la Juventud were on hurricane alert. The storm passed the western tip of the country on Monday night, bringing heavy rain and storm surges, with waves of up to three metres. The Federation's assistance and support to the Cuban Red Cross and the affected population in Cuba, in response to Hurricane Ivan, is separate and distinct from that reflected and planned in the response to Hurricane Charley (refer to the Federation Request for Assistance no. 20/2004 launched on 8 September, 2004).

In *Mexico*, hundreds of people abandoned fishing villages within the hurricane's projected path; some 5,000 people were ordered to evacuate islands and coastal areas along the peninsula, and 239 shelters were set up in Cancun to house residents and tourists. Fortunately, Hurricane Ivan's kept it far enough away from the peninsula to avoid causing any major damage.

After moving north through the Gulf of Mexico, Ivan made landfall in the southern United States during the early morning of Thursday, 16 September, where it caused at least 20 deaths before weakening to a tropical storm as it moved further inland. The worst damages were in the state of Florida, where Ivan created at least 12 tornadoes and storm surges of 10 to 16 feet. There were electrical outages throughout the affected area and it is estimated that it could take three weeks to restore power.

Operational developments

Grenada

The situation in Grenada is slowly starting to improve as the relief efforts are now getting underway. People whose houses have not been completely destroyed are beginning repairs, with the help of relief items supplied by the Red Cross. Food stocks are running low on the island and some areas in the capital city and in other parishes have limited or no access to clean drinking water. Stores in the country remain closed, but have limited amounts of food. However, Grenadians who live in neighbouring islands have been flying into the country on commercial

flights with food supplies for their immediate families. In addition, as all the banks on the island are still closed, residents have no way of accessing money to purchase supplies. It is hoped that the largest banks will reopen on Thursday, 16 September.

Electricity in Grenada is still completely cut off. Most companies and businesses are still closed as they rely heavily on computers and electronic banking. Petrol stations are also closed as most require electricity to operate the pumps. However, stocks of fuel on the island are expected to be sufficient. Although aid agencies and local authorities are being supplied with fuel, this remains an obstacle for transporting relief supplies and personnel.

There is still no functioning media in Grenada, but the National Emergency Response Organization (NERO) has been operating a radio station for several days now using a generator. This radio station is being used to broadcast public announcements and information regarding family meetings. On neighbouring Caribbean islands, radio stations have also been broadcasting messages from distressed families searching for friends and relatives.

The number of Grenada Red Cross Society staff and volunteers assisting in the relief effort has been steadily increasing since the passage of the hurricane. Thus far, volunteers have played a key role in the logistics of the operation, including helping to move relief goods through customs at the airport, storing relief items in the warehouse and arranging for trucks to transport relief goods and personnel throughout the country.

Jamaica

Following assessments, it appears that the most extensive damage has occurred on the southern coastal strip and western end of the island. Clarendon Parish, in the south of the island where the eye of the hurricane made its closest approach to Jamaica, has sustained severe damage, and on the east and west of the Peninsula, storm surges and major flooding occurred; furthermore the Milk River burst its banks. Hurricane winds stripped trees bare, and numerous houses in the Parish were totally destroyed, leaving only the foundations. The town of Portland Cottage is one of the worst hit areas, and all its residents, estimated to number between 3,000 and 6,000 have been affected. Between 75 and 80 per cent of all houses have been either partially damaged or totally destroyed. The town of Rocky Point has also incurred significant damage. A government assessment states that 177 communities on the island have been affected by Hurricane Ivan. According to a United Nations UNDAC assessment, in Portland Parish, some 40 to 50 landslides have occurred, affecting between 30,000 and 50,000 people who currently have no access to food. A Federation assessment took place on 14 September in Clarendon, confirming that Portland Cottage and Rocky Point have sustained major damage and that in areas of Saint Elizabeth Parish, an estimated 30 per cent of houses have lost their roofs. No water has been available in this area since Thursday, 9 September. In Manchester Parish, between 15 and 20 per cent of infrastructure has been damaged and fishing areas have been destroyed by the hurricane; in Saint Catherine Parish, in the town of Old Harbour Bay, almost all roofing has been carried away by the hurricane winds.

A total of 278 shelters were opened in Jamaica during the passage of Hurricane Ivan, of which 100 are managed by the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC). To date, over 11,000 people remain accommodated in shelters given the damage to their homes. Electricity has yet to be restored in much of the island and access to water is currently difficult, particularly in the worst-affected areas where people are trying to collect water from broken pipes and from springs. In Kingston, it is estimated that 40 per cent of the water supply has been contaminated. The government is trucking in water supplies; however, it is not possible to meet all the needs. In the worst hit towns, pit latrines have been flooded and sanitation is therefore a concern. Crops have also been damaged, poultry farms swept away and the banana industry severely affected by the hurricane.

Cayman Islands

The National Hurricane Committee held a meeting on 15 September, and a meeting will now be held on a daily basis. Assessments carried out thus far indicate that between 15 and 20 per cent of the houses in the Cayman Islands have been totally destroyed; the worst damage occurred in Breakers, in the eastern part of Grand Cayman. An ad-hoc Cayman Islands Recovery Committee has been convened and the Ministry for Public Works has advertised for contractors to assist with recovery and repair work on the islands. At the hospital, repairs have begun and the water supply was restored. The water authority expects to restore water to parts of the islands soon, commencing with Georgetown. The majority of the island is still without electricity. Medical supplies are urgently required in the Cayman Islands and detailed lists of needs are being compiled. The Environmental Health Department is dealing with clearance of debris and has designated collection points in several districts. A curfew

remains in place on the Cayman Islands from 7 pm to 6 am. Whilst most residents are obeying the curfew, isolated incidents of looting are being reported. One of the major problems is transportation since most vehicles were either damaged or have been water-logged as a result of the hurricane.

Cuba

In most of the Provinces in Cuba, life is slowly returning to normal; schools have opened and people are returning home. However, in the Province of Pinar del Río, many areas remain under water and there is no electricity, no water supply and no telephone communications. Over 240,000 people are still housed in shelters. The government is currently carrying out a full assessment of the situation throughout the country. In Pinar del Río, La Habana and the Isla de la Juventud, the Cuban Red Cross mobilized 1,065 volunteers and activated 34 search and rescue teams. Red Cross teams are providing psychological support to people who still remain in shelters, as well as first aid to those who need assistance. In conjunction with their communities, Red Cross volunteers are working to facilitate clean-up campaigns to clear debris and facilitate drainage of flood waters.

In Grenada, the Federation team is currently composed of: a three member Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), a three member British logistics Emergency Response Unit (ERU), five Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members, the regional IT coordinator from the Panama Regional Delegation, the head of the Regional Finance Unit (RFU) and a member of the RFU personnel. The Federation team in Jamaica is made up of three FACT team members, a team leader, a relief delegate and a logistician, together with an additional logistics specialist, a water and sanitation delegate, a disaster management expert from the Secretariat, a reporting and information delegate, a finance delegate and an analyst from the RFU. The Panama Regional Delegation's health delegate and a representative of the British Red Cross have been deployed to the Cayman Islands. Working in Cuba are a water and sanitation delegate and a logistician from PADRU, as well as a telecommunications expert from Ericsson Response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective: 17,000 vulnerable families, or 85,000 persons (10,000 families in Grenada, 3,000 families in Jamaica, 1,000 families in the Cayman Islands, and 3,000 families in Cuba), will have benefited from the provision of food and non-food items to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

The first flight of relief supplies from PADRU arrived in the country on 12 September carrying 2,000 tarpaulins, 2,000 hygiene kits and 481 jerry cans. These goods have all been distributed to beneficiaries. Another flight from the Canadian Red Cross arrived on 15 September carrying water and sanitation supplies. These goods are currently in the Red Cross warehouses awaiting distribution. Additional relief supplies have also been sent by boat from the Red Cross Societies of Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Thus far, a total of 2,000 tarpaulins, 2,080 hygiene kits and 481 jerry cans have been distributed to beneficiaries in the parishes of St. George, St. John and St. David.

A second consignment of relief supplies from PADRU arrived on Thursday, 16 September, bringing 3,500 tarpaulins and 2,000 food crackers. Also expected on Thursday was a boat from Trinidad carrying food supplies sent from the Federation's Sub Regional Office in Trinidad and Tobago. This food will be distributed to 10,000 families (50,000 people) as soon as family packages have been prepared.

A total of six teams have been organized to carry out distributions in the six parishes. The teams, which are each made up of one regional intervention team member and two GRCS members, will carry out four distributions of relief items, beginning with food distributions. The following three distributions will include tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and water distributions: water purification tablets, jerry cans and water bottles. In each parish, a local relief coordinator will prepare the list of families to receive items in advance in order to facilitate the distributions.

Assistance for Grenada is also coming from other National Societies in the region. Relief goods have been sent to the country from the Red Cross Societies of Anguilla, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Maarten and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Guyana and St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Societies are also appealing for donations to assist the victims of Hurricane Ivan.



Relief supplies donated by the Canadian Red Cross are received at the airport in Grenada.

Jamaica

The Jamaica Red Cross is continuing to conduct assessments and to carry out distributions which are currently taking place at the shelters. Relief items are transported from the airport, to the JRC headquarters and from there to the National Society branches which, together with their volunteers, are ensuring distribution of relief items at the shelters. More than 200 food parcels received locally have been distributed, together with 20 tarpaulins, several cases of drinking water, a bale of blankets and clothing and shoes. The JRC branch of Maypem is working to assist the most vulnerable in Clarendon Parish and the Cedar Valley branch is working with Portland Parish. In Saint Catherine Parish schools are currently being used as shelters; since it is hoped to re-open schools, the Red Cross will distribute plastic sheeting donated by the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA/USAID) to establish temporary shelters in Bogwalk, Ginger Ridge, Time and Patience, Tulloch and Bannister. In addition, plastic sheeting has been provided to hospitals which have been damaged. Red Cross Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT) are working in the Parishes of Portland/Saint Thomas, Saint Catherine, Saint Elizabeth and Westmoreland.

Three airlifts of relief items from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) have taken place. The following items have therefore reached the Jamaica Red Cross for distribution to targeted beneficiaries:

Blankets	13,000 units
Hygiene kit (family of 5)	2,000 units
Plastic sheeting (4x6m tarp.)	2,530 units
Kitchen set (family of 5)	2,501 units
Flashlights	407 units
Jerry cans	802 units



Distributions and assessments take place in Portland Cottage, Clarendon Parish, Jamaica.

Cayman Islands

The airlift scheduled today for the Cayman Islands carrying blankets, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, a generator and jerry cans, has been re-scheduled for tomorrow, 17 September.

Cuba

The National Society is developing a plan of action to assist 3,000 vulnerable families with the provision of non-food relief items.

Impact:

The relief goods that are arriving in Grenada are ensuring that all beneficiary families receive relief assistance. In Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cuba, through the distribution of non-food relief items, beneficiary families will be assisted so that they are in a position to return home from the shelters as soon as possible.

Constraints:

Due to the lack of electricity in Grenada, it is difficult to access fuel. Although efforts are being made to supply aid agencies and local authorities with fuel, this remains an obstacle for transporting relief supplies and personnel. In Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, there are some difficulties with access to transportation in order to ensure distribution of relief goods. It was intended that the plane which airlifted relief goods to Grenada would continue on to the Cayman Islands. However, as a result of the time needed to unload the plane in Grenada, it was not possible to fly to the Cayman Islands since, at present, the airport is not open at night.

Shelter

Objective: 17,000 vulnerable families (10,000 families in Grenada, 3,000 families in Jamaica, 1,000 families in the Cayman Islands, and 3,000 families in Cuba) have been able to return home as a result of the provision of temporary shelter materials.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

The Red Cross team in Grenada has been working since 13 September to evaluate both the official and ad hoc shelters in each parish in order to verify the official information provided by the local authorities and better understand the overall humanitarian situation. A total of four two-person teams, made up of one member of the National Society and one RIT or FACT member, have visited 81 of the 145 existing shelters. These teams are working to register the number of people in shelters, as well as those not staying in shelters but who were severely affected by the hurricane. In addition to the 5,000 people estimated to be staying in shelters, some 55,000 people have been directly affected by the hurricane.

Parish	Families	Beneficiaries	Official shelter list	Shelters visited by the Federation
St. Andrew	137	630	34	12
St. George	127	1135	71	49
St. David	202	1011	23	19
St. John	160	800	9	1
St. Patrick	No statistics	No statistics	8	-
St. Mark	No statistics	No statistics	No statistics	-
Total	626	3756	145	81

Given that only approximately 10 percent of the population is registered in shelters, while others prefer to move between shelters or to stay with family, crowded in rooms of their damaged houses which remain intact, it became clear that the beneficiaries in shelters represented only a portion of those worst hit by the disaster. It was therefore decided to cover the basic needs of inhabitants of the four most affected parishes, and to select beneficiaries to receive relief assistance from the other two, less affected parishes.

In addition to the work in shelters, the Red Cross is working to address the needs of affected persons who are still living in their damaged houses. To this end, the Red Cross has supplied some 3,000 units of plastic sheeting to beneficiaries whose houses have lost their roofs. Additional distributions of plastic sheeting, as well as zinc sheeting and construction materials, are also planned.

In Jamaica, to date, over 11,000 people remain accommodated in shelters given the damage to their homes. Red Cross assessments to date have provided the following statistics regarding those who continue to be housed in shelters.

	Parish	Number of Affected Communities	Number of shelters opened	Number of persons in shelters
1.	St. Thomas	4	28	2652
2.	St. James	3	37	2400
3.	Kingston and St. Andrew	72	41	1639
4.	St. Ann	2	5	860
5.	St. Catherine	6	20	1145
6.	Trelawny	4	15	15
7.	Portland	3		
8.	Manchester		23	325

9.	St. Mary	5	35	842
10.	St. Elizabeth	1	26	261
11.	Clarendon	11	27	1323
12.	Hanover		24	320
13.	Westmoreland		39	320
Total		109	285	11,836

Cayman Islands

In the Cayman Islands, registration of those in shelters is taking place, whilst those in need of assistance who are not living in shelters are also being encouraged to register in order to ensure that they receive relief items.

Cuba

A total of 240,000 people remain in shelters in Pinar del Río Province; Red Cross volunteers are working in the shelters, providing first aid and helping to ensure efficient management.

Impact:

Identification of shelter residents is helping the Grenada Red Cross Society to better understand their specific needs, which is allowing the Red Cross to provide much needed relief to those whose homes have been destroyed or severely damaged. Provision of plastic sheeting is allowing some shelter residents to return home. In Jamaica, distribution points have been set up in shelters, assisting the Jamaica Red Cross in identifying those who are in urgent need of assistance, having lost their homes.

Constraints:

Many shelter residents in Grenada have been moving from one shelter to the next, making it difficult for the Red Cross team to carry out a complete and accurate survey. In addition, many families are scattered among several shelters, which increases the risk of duplicating relief efforts.

Water and Sanitation

Objective: the water and sanitation needs for 17,000 vulnerable families (10,000 families in Grenada, 3,000 families in Jamaica, 1,000 families in the Cayman Islands, and 3,000 families in Cuba) have been assessed, and a plan has been developed to deliver the planned assistance in this sector.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

The Grenada National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) conducted an assessment of the water and sanitation needs in the country. The water system is expected to be functioning by Sunday, 19 September in 90 percent of the island. Currently, 23 of the 25 water treatment plants are working. There are also four water tankers distributing water, as well as another four tankers that are working sporadically. Distribution of water in the interior and in the hills has been interrupted because of damages to the pipelines. These damages are being slowly repaired by the NAWASA team.

The Federation is coordinating with OXFAM to address the water and sanitation needs. To address the immediate needs of the population, 300-gallon plastic tanks donated by OXFAM to NAWASA will be distributed in certain areas where access to water is limited. The second phase carried out by NAWASA will be repairing the broken pipelines and improving water pressure. To complement these activities, the Federation will use the bladder received from the Canadian Red Cross as a water trucking tanker in order to help with water distributions. The Federation will also distribute 60,000 water purification tablets throughout the relief operation.

The Federation considers improving the sanitary situation in shelters to be one of the top priorities of this relief operation. Coordinated surveys with other agencies and direct observation by relief personnel will be used to constantly monitor the situation. Although at this time the situation appears stable, the Red Cross is working to distribute hygiene kits, jerry cans and anti-bacterial detergent and disinfectants to affected persons to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate while beneficiaries are waiting for the water supply to return to normal and for

homes and roofs to be rebuilt. Thus far, a total of 2,080 hygiene kits and 481 jerry cans have been distributed to beneficiaries in the parishes of St. George, St. John and St. David.

Jamaica

In Kingston, it is estimated that 40 per cent of the water supply has been contaminated. In those areas which were worst hit by the Hurricane, sanitation could become a serious problem, particularly as pit latrines have flooded. It is planned to distribute water purification tablets to targeted beneficiaries; a detailed assessment of the water and sanitation conditions will be carried out by the Federation water and sanitation delegate who has recently arrived in Jamaica.

Impact:

In Grenada, the Red Cross's coordination efforts with OXFAM and the Grenada National Water and Sewerage Authority are ensuring that the water and sanitation needs of the population are known and addressed. Hygiene kits and jerry cans that have been distributed to beneficiaries are providing affected person with basic needs such as toilet paper, towels, tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, shampoo and sanitary towels.

Constraints:

In Grenada, the sanitation situation in shelters could worsen if water supplies are not restored rapidly, creating hazards of disease. Difficulties in obtaining fuel, together with blocked roads, are complicating both assessment and distribution activities. In Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, there are difficulties in accessing vehicles to carry out Red Cross activities.

Family linking

Objective: In Grenada, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands people with missing family members will have received assistance from the Grenada Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross, and the Cayman Islands branch of the British Red Cross.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), headquartered in Barbados, has expanded its 9.00 am service to broadcasting to Grenada, at the direction of the Cabinet of Barbados. It is boosting the power of its transmitter to effectively cover the entire island. CBC has also established a toll free number for Grenadians to telephone the station and broadcast messages to their relatives and friends. The number is 1-800-744-8222. In Tobago, Radio Tambrin will also be broadcasting official information to Grenada and its dependencies.

The operation is currently in the process of assessing the tracing needs in Grenada. The National Society is being requested to hold any tracing requests it might receive until a system is developed. More information in the area of tracing will be included in future updates as soon as it becomes available.

Constraints:

Although the Grenada Red Cross Society has expertise in family linking, damage sustained to the headquarters and to communications systems have so far prevented the National Society from working in this area.

Psychosocial support

Objective: vulnerable families will have benefited from psychosocial support to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The psychosocial support strategy for Grenada will be assessed in the field by a Red Cross specialist in this area. In Jamaica, JRC psychological support teams have been deployed to the shelters in order to provide assistance and counseling to those taking refuge there. Cuban Red Cross volunteers are assisting those housed in shelters with psychosocial support.

Impact:

The well-being of beneficiaries in shelters is being improved through psychosocial support initiatives.

Constraints:

There is a need for more trained Red Cross personnel in the area of psychosocial support. It is planned that Jamaican Red Cross teams will work with the Grenada Red Cross Society and the Cayman Islands Red Cross in this respect.

Strengthening of preparedness and response

Objective: The capacity of the Grenada Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross, the Cayman Islands branch of the British Red Cross, and the Cuban Red Cross and vulnerable communities in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Activities towards this objective will be undertaken once the emergency relief phase of the operation has been completed and resources can be dedicated towards rehabilitation.

Federation Coordination

In *Grenada*, the Federation is working closely with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and forms part of the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management. The core donor group includes the following organizations: the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), USAID/OFDA, the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union (EU), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank (WB) and OXFAM. Support agencies include the Inter American Development Bank (IADB), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC).

In *Grenada*, coordination is taking place with OXFAM, particularly focusing on water and sanitation in the numerous shelters, both formal and spontaneous, which are providing refuge for the homeless. OXFAM is taking responsibility for the water and sanitation component of relief efforts and the Federation is carrying out complementary activities, as appropriate.

In *Jamaica*, regular coordination meetings have been held with the OCHA/UNDAC team, the US government disaster assistance and response team (DART) and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. Throughout the operation the Jamaican Red Cross and the Federation have been in close contact with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency a Management. (ODPEM). The Jamaican Red Cross maintains a presence in the ODPEM. Planned activities are shared as well as distribution plans, transport resources and relief supply list. The Jamaican Red Cross also has representation in the Jamaican Customs Agency.

The *Cayman Islands branch of the British Red Cross* is liaising with the government authorities and the police.

The *Cuban Red Cross* is coordinating its activities with the government, the Ministry of Health, the Civil Defence, the Fire Department and other organizations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

- Relief activities being carried out are based on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Beneficiary selection criteria focus on the vulnerability of those affected.
- Relief operations are being conducted with respect for the culture of the beneficiaries, ensuring gender sensitivity and prioritizing assistance to children and the elderly.
- Activities are based on the SPHERE Project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.
- Transparency is being ensured through the production of regular reports and news bulletins.
- All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The provision of information influencing public opinion regarding the Red Cross is a key activity under the current circumstances. From this point of view, relations with the media are particularly important in order to convey the message of the Red Cross Movement. An information and reporting delegate has been deployed to Jamaica and another information delegate has been deployed to Grenada as part of the FACT team. In addition, the regional information delegate from the Lima Regional Delegation has been deployed to Cuba. This information network will work to ensure that a strategic plan in communications is designed and implemented. Through regularly produced news articles and reports, the Movement will strongly advocate in favour of the respect of human dignity and the Fundamental Principles. In Jamaica alone, 20 international and national press interviews have been given and the Jamaica Red Cross' work has been highlighted on national television, as well as through media interviews. In Cuba, when the hurricane alert was launched in 11 of the 14 provinces of the country, information contingency plans were put into place and Red Cross communicators activated at branch level. Red Cross communicators and journalists have been disseminating the work of the Red Cross on local radio and television stations.