

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

20 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. 21/2004; Operations Update no. 06; Period covered: 17 - 20 September 2004; Appeal coverage: 21.2 %; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

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).
- 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 4,755,530

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: In Grenada, the Federation relief team is working together with 30 Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS) volunteers to reach an average of 1,000 families each day in the six parishes in the country. The relief team in Grenada is now fully operational, with 14 trucks rented on a daily basis and a warehouse that is being used to store goods such as food items and tarpaulins that will be distributed to beneficiaries. The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) mobilized volunteers and began distributions from existing stock on 11 September 2004, just hours after Hurricane Ivan passed the greater Kingston area. By 14 September the JRC had distributed bottled water, assorted food items and food parcels, rubber boots, tarpaulins and bleach in ten affected parishes, and by 15 September had reached 1,736 families with at least one form of assistance. Non-food relief supplies, including 2,501 kitchen sets, 8,000 blankets, 561 collapsible jerry cans, 2,000 hygiene kits, 2,125 tarpaulins and 144 flashlights sent through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit's (PADRU) warehouse in Panama arrived on 13 September 2004; these items were added to the available stock from which the JRC is currently distributing. National Society capacity building is taking place in the Federation's logistics procedures. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch has carried out distributions of relief items to 900 needy families and has established lists of those who are still in need of assistance. Messages concerning the distributions, carried out at 12 centres, were broadcast over the radio. There are concerns relating to the possible outbreak of water borne disease, given the contamination of flood waters as a result of the breakdown of the sewage system. Numerous people have left the island. The Costa

Rican Red Cross is deploying three volunteers, experts in family linking, who will work with the population of foreigners in order to facilitate communication with relatives overseas and assess their wish to return home and possibilities of repatriation to Costa Rica and other countries. The Cuban Red Cross informs that the majority of people living in shelters have now returned home or to live with family or neighbours. Red Cross volunteers are assisting with clean-up operations. The worst affected Provinces were Pinar del Río, La Habana and La Isla de la Juventud and it is estimated that 80 per cent of houses in coastal communities were damaged by Hurricane Ivan.

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, Cayman Islands Red Cross: 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, email ifrcct06@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.bergseth@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, there 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 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 at least 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 damages. 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.

After moving north through the Gulf of Mexico, Ivan made landfall in the southern United States where it caused at least 38 deaths. The worst damages were in the state of Florida, where Ivan created some 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

Little by little, the situation in Grenada is improving following the devastating destruction left behind by Hurricane Ivan. Companies, industries and businesses are now asking employees to report to work as of Monday, 20 September to assess the situation and start a major clean-up. This means that some volunteers that have been participating in the Red Cross relief effort, such as those assisting with relief distributions or with the logistics procedures in the warehouse, airport and seaports, will have to return to work.

There is still no electricity on the island and only a few companies will be able to operate until power is restored. Some businesses will be able to start small scale activities with the help of generators, but basically no production will take place in Grenada for several weeks. Banks, however, opened on Thursday, improving the situation on the island as citizens have been able to access money to purchase necessities. Very few shops have been opened, and only a limited stock of food is available as yet, so there continues to be a desperate need for the food parcels that

have been distributed by the Red Cross since Monday, 13 September. The Grenada Red Cross Society began distributing food and hygiene items as soon as they were available, much of which was donated by sister Red Cross Societies in the Caribbean. Many of these goods went to remote villages that have been without most basic necessities since the disaster struck.

The National Society's relief effort, with the support of the Federation, started in full force on Saturday 18 September, reaching some 1,000 families a day. The emergency relief distribution phase is providing food parcels, water, and tarpaulins to some 10,000 families throughout the island, which constitutes about two thirds of the country's total population. This phase of the operation is expected to close around the end of September. Most shops are expected to open on Monday, 20 September, and the water supply is now functioning in most parts of the island. This will ease the burden of much of the population, which has until now spent most of their time searching for food and drinking water for their families on daily basis.

The national radio has started broadcasting again and is available throughout most of the island. Due to the lack of electricity, the print media will not be able to operate for some time. Television news will not resume broadcasting for weeks if not months, as most of the national television station's equipment suffered water damage and most television receivers were knocked down by the storm.

The requests for tarpaulin and plastic sheeting have been increasing recently, as tropical showers have fallen over the country. As most houses' roofs have been either partially or completely destroyed, houses are now being flooded again as the rain comes in through the roofs and through the floor boards of the houses' upper levels. The Red Cross team has resorted to setting up a special provision centre to distribute plastic sheeting at the warehouse compound in order to address this need.



The JRC has provided beneficiaries Jamaica with much needed relief items, including bottled water, food items and food parcels, rubber boots, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, flashlights and bleach. To date, the JRC has reached more than 1,736 families with at least one form of assistance.

A part of the manpower mobilized by the GRCS, many foreign students of different nationalities have been helping in the Federation warehouse in assembly lines of the food parcels. Currently, the Federation's team working in Grenada is composed of 17 delegates: three Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) members, seven Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members, three members of a British Emergency Response Unit (ERU), one American ERU member, two Federation finance delegates and a psychologist from Geneva.

The situation in the country is stabilizing and last week's massive looting appears to have come to an end, although there have been reports of isolated incidents. There is still a lack of food throughout the island, which prompted much of the looting, but it is hoped that the relief operation will help to lessen this need. The

Red Cross team in the country and local authorities are monitoring the situation carefully. The dusk-to-dawn curfew is still in effect, although restrictions have been somewhat relaxed in the few past days.

Jamaica

Damages caused by Hurricane Ivan are evident throughout the southern and central parishes, particularly in the southwest region of the country. Coastal areas in southern and southwestern parishes suffered both wind damage and flooding, while central parishes suffered wind damage and landslides.

The Jamaica Red Cross has identified eight out of thirteen parishes which have sustained the most damage: Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas, St. James, Trelawny, Westmoreland, Portland and St. Andrew, which, for the purposes of the local government, also includes Kingston parish. Of these eight, four have been prioritized: Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas, and St. James. No exact number of persons or families directly affected is currently available, nor is the number of persons currently in shelters.

Although electricity, telephone and water services have not yet been restored in many affected areas, reconstruction efforts have begun. According to the Ministry of Health, 13 health care centers are still without electricity; 17 without water and 10 experienced flooding. Some outbreaks of diarrhoea have already been reported. Sanitation is poor in some parts of the country, especially in the areas with flooding. The Jamaican government and the JRC have provided water from water trucks in many villages, but the full water needs of the population are not yet being met.

Schools are slowly reopening, but attendance in farming communities is expected to fall. Educators are predicting that children in St. Elizabeth parish's rural communities will stay home to assist parents in replanting crops that were damaged by Hurricane Ivan. According to data from Ministry of Education, some 70 percent of the schools in St. Elizabeth parish were badly damaged.

The Rural Agricultural Development Agency reports that some 2,000 farmers in St. Elizabeth were affected by Hurricane Charley on August 11. With Hurricane Ivan, the number of damaged farms could triple. Losses in the banana industry are estimated to be around one billion Jamaican dollars. There are reports that coffee and sugar, key export crops, have sustained losses of between 10 and 40 per cent of current production. The fishing industry has also been affected and losses are still being evaluated. It is expected that the effects of Hurricane Ivan will have a negative impact on the economy, especially in terms of growth in sectors such as tourism.

In the *Cayman Islands*, it is estimated that 80 per cent of housing has been damaged. The water system has been restored in the capital, Georgetown, but the remainder of the island is without running water. To date, there is no electricity supply. The Red Cross headquarters was damaged by the passage of Ivan; however, staff and volunteers have continued working despite being personally affected by the hurricane. Rain continued yesterday night, 19 September and today, 20 September, making conditions even more difficult for those with destroyed and damaged houses.

In *Cuba*, an initial estimate of coastal communities hit by Hurricane Ivan indicates that around 80 per cent of houses have been damaged and household goods have been lost. The most affected Provinces are Pinar del Río, La Habana and la Isla de la Juventud. In total 1,881,396 people were evacuated and 2,492 emergency shelters were set up; in Pinar del Río alone, 234,627 persons were evacuated from their homes; the majority of evacuees have now returned home or to stay with family members and neighbours. The government is providing water and food in the affected areas. There continues to be no electricity or telecommunications services in the areas hit by the hurricane. Medical centres continue to function, although some have incurred minor damage. The government and the Civil Defence are continuing to work on a detailed assessment of damage and needs covering the entire island. In la Isla de la Juventud, there has been substantial damage to agriculture and the citrus and banana crops have been severely affected. Red Cross volunteers are working together with the local government in the implementation of clean-up campaigns and drainage of flood waters.

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 relief phase of the operation is progressing as planned. Following the immediate distribution of tarpaulins to 2,700 families, the distribution of food parcels began and has already reached 2,000 families. Six relief teams, each composed of an RIT member and Grenada Red Cross volunteers are carrying out distributions of food parcels and tarpaulins throughout the island. The teams are distributing to over 1,000 families per day (one food parcel and two tarpaulins). The packaging of the food parcels is being organized in the Federation warehouse, with local Red Cross volunteers, students, and other community members taking part. Distribution lists are being prepared by Red Cross volunteers and community representatives prior to distributions. The community is showing a positive attitude towards the Red Cross teams that are delivering goods. Most of the communities have received no aid from other sources. Distributions have been orderly, with community members assisting in unloading trucks and organizing distribution lines.

The following number of families in each parish has been reached with relief distributions, as of 19 September:

Parish	Total families
St. George	4,553
St. John	1,300
St. Mark	586
St. Patrick	1,513
St. Andrew	3,750
St. David	1,590

The following number of food parcels has been distributed in Grenada:

Parish	Quantity
St. George	1,265
St. David	400
St. Andrew	300
TOTAL	1,965

The following number of hygiene kits has been distributed to date:

Parish	Quantity
St. George	1,530
St. John	450

St. David	100
TOTAL	2,080

Jamaica

By 17 September 2004, the JRC had provided food and/or non-food items to 2,847 families as follows, mainly from their own stock and private donations:

Parish	Families
Clarendon	474 families
Hanover	200 families
Kingston/St. Andrews	310 families
Manchester	20 families
Portland	536 families
St. Ann	10 families
St. Catherine	677 families
St. Elizabeth	200 families
St. Thomas	200 families
Trelawny	10 families
Non-parish distribution	210 families

The following relief items contributed through the Federation's Appeal have also been distributed.

Parish	Hygiene Kits	Kitchen Sets	Tarpaulins	Blankets	Water Containers
Clarendon	25	3	16	131	3
Hanover	10			300	
Kingston/St. Andrew	4	47		548	
Manchester	100	50	80	610	
Portland	50	50		312	
St. Ann				17	
St. Catherine	29	7		234	
St. Elizabeth	70	50		60	
St. James					
St. Mary					
St. Thomas	90	100	200	120	
Trelawny	10			30	
Westmoreland	17		5	120	
TOTAL	405	307	301	2,482	3

Moreover, the JRC provided more than 5,000 bottles of water to individuals, which diminished the consumption of contaminated water, thereby mitigating the number of water borne illnesses. The majority of this water was distributed in the Clarendon and St. Elizabeth parishes, located on the southern coastal area.

Cayman Islands

The following relief items have been distributed to date in the Cayman Islands, following the arrival on 17 September of a cargo flight from PADRU.

Blankets	2,700
Hygiene kits	910
Kitchen sets	910
Plastic sheeting	910
Jerry cans	371
Flashlights	880
Batteries	1,760

These items were provided to 900 vulnerable families through 12 distribution centres throughout Grand Cayman in coordination with local social workers and teachers who assisted in the selection of beneficiaries. The population was advised of the distributions through radio messages and 12 trucks were provided by the municipal authorities.

Cuba

In Cuba, basic needs identified by the local government are for roofing material and non-food relief items including kitchen sets, hygiene sets and mattresses.

Impact

The distributions taking place in Grenada are ensuring that all beneficiary families receive relief assistance. Essential assistance provided through the JRC, such as tarpaulins, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and a variety of food items, has expedited the recovery process of those affected.

Constraints

In Grenada, there continues to be a lack of electricity and difficulties in accessing 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. Due to the fact that electrical and telephone services have still not been restored, the most serious constraint facing the operation in Jamaica is access to specific information from JRC branches regarding outstanding needs in the most affected parishes. The lack of electricity in many of the more rural areas has also prevented the resumption of water delivery services. In addition, because many smaller roads in the country's interior are not completely clear of debris, the size of trucks that can be used to transport relief into isolated areas is limited. This constraint is especially true for the transportation of potable water. Transportation is posing problems in the Cayman Islands given fuel shortages and the large number of vehicles which have been damaged and destroyed by the flood waters.

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. 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

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 5,457 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.

The following distributions of tarpaulins have been carried out to date in Grenada:

Distributions of Tarpaulins	
Parish	Quantity
St. Andrew	600
St. George	3,040
St. John	330
St. David	885
National Society distribution	602
TOTAL	5,457

Jamaica

Since the operation began on 11 September, the JRC has distributed more than 1,200 pieces of 20' x 20' plastic tarpaulin from their existing stock, as well as 357 rolls of 100' x 24' of plastic tarpaulin provided by OFDA/USAID and more than 300 pieces of 4m x 6m plastic tarpaulin received through PADRU. In all, an estimated 2,000 families have received materials needed to improve their shelter. In addition, more than 2,700 blankets have been distributed to an estimated 1,350 families.

In the Cayman Islands, 520 tarpaulins of 102 feet and funded by DfID were distributed through the municipal authorities. People have now mostly moved out of the shelters and back to their homes. In addition, 1,500 people from Grand Cayman have been temporarily settled in Cayman Brac which was less affected by the hurricane. Both the Honduran and Jamaican governments have provided planes to repatriate nationals of their countries.

Impact

In Grenada, identification of shelter residents is helping the Red Cross 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. Essential shelter assistance provided through the Jamaica Red Cross has expedited the recovery process of those affected. Distributions of relief items in the Cayman Islands are assisting those accommodated in shelters to return home; 900 families have been provided with plastic sheeting and there is still a major demand which the National Society will meet.

Constraints

In Grenada, many shelter residents 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

According to the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA), the water distribution network has been re-established and is now running at 90 percent of its pre-disaster capacity. In St. David parish on the east coast of Grenada, there are four distribution plants available to supply water to the affected population. However, one of the distribution plants which ensures water supply for approximately 533 families (3,200 people) has been disrupted and needs a generator to regain full function. NAWASA will rehabilitate the network within two months

and a temporary solution needs to be found urgently. A joint strategy between NAWASA and the Federation will aim to cover the needs of the affected population; NAWASA trucks will provide water to the plant's distribution points on a pre established schedule with a line of several tanks and a 10,000 litre bladder. The Federation will also distribute 533 jerry cans to the affected population in St. David parish.

Jamaica

A needs assessment has been carried out in the southern region of St. Catherine and Clarendon parishes. Areas that are in particular need of assistance have been identified, including Old Harbour Bay, Portland and Rocky Point. In all these areas, there is an urgent need for an adequate supply of clean drinking water. Some water trucks have been arriving but quality, quantity and long term sustainability are not yet guaranteed. A company that could truck water into the affected areas has been identified, as has a supplier of chemical disinfectant. These possibilities are being further examined. In addition, a 2,000-liter water tank for Thompson Town was rented by the Jamaica Red Cross with private funding.



In Cuba, Cuban Red Cross volunteers are working to assist the affected members of the population and with clean-up operations. The worst affected Provinces were Pinar del Río, La Habana and La Isla de la Juventud. It is estimated that 80 per cent of houses in coastal communities were damaged by Hurricane Ivan.

Cayman Islands

There are major risks in the Cayman Islands of sewage having contaminated flood waters given that septic tanks overflowed into houses. Therefore, during the clean-up of houses, the population will need to take precautions. The provision of disinfectant and cleaning materials is foreseen by the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch, as well as protective gloves. To enhance the population's understanding of hygiene and sanitation, posters and leaflets with key health messages will be produced and distributed through the Cayman Islands Red Cross branch network. The incidence of water borne disease is rising and this trend is expected to continue during the next few days.

Impact

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. The water system is now working at 90 per cent of its previous capacity and temporary solutions are being found to ensure the provision of water supplies to the population. In Jamaica, needs assessments are helping the Red Cross to determine the specific needs of the population. Water trucks already working in the affected areas are supplying beneficiaries with much needed clean drinking water. In the Cayman Islands, the Overseas Branch is monitoring the water and sanitation conditions with a view to preventing the outbreak of disease.

Constraints

Accessibility to some of the affected areas in Jamaica, particularly in rural areas, continues to be a constraint as many roads are still blocked with debris.

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 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.

Three volunteers trained in family linking from the Costa Rican Red Cross are scheduled to travel to the Cayman Islands to establish a project to assist those with family members outside the country and who may wish to return home. The Costa Rican Red Cross has set up a telephone number in its telecommunications centre where people can call to find information about their relatives living in the Cayman Islands and review the possibility of their return. A large number of calls have already been placed to the centre. The volunteers will set up a service in the Cayman Islands offering assistance to foreigners settled in the country, focusing particularly on the Costa Rican community. A survey will be carried out of those who wish to return to their countries of origin and the needs and situation of those concerned will also be reviewed. Family linking will be facilitated through the project in order that people are able to communicate with their relatives outside the Cayman Islands.

Impact

The family linking project being established by the Costa Rican Red Cross in coordination with the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch will assist the expatriate community in the Cayman Islands to communicate with their families and to return home, if they so wish.

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)***Grenada***

Although the Grenadian society has well-functioning structures of mutual support and solidarity and has a supportive, deep-rooted faith, there is a need to address the mental and social impact of the disaster. Experts foresee that there could be an increase of domestic problems, substance abuse and anti-social behaviours over the coming months. Incidence of post-traumatic stress syndrome, depression and psychosomatic complaints are expected to increase, which will present a challenge to the services currently available, including the GRCS's resources and public services related to health and education. A psychologist has joined the Red Cross team working in Grenada and is currently looking into different possible strategies of psychosocial interventions.

Jamaica

The JRC psychosocial support team visited Portland Cottage, which is one of the most affected villages, on 18 September. The team met with all 40 people staying in the local shelter and had more in-depth discussions with people who had lost family members. The team provided information about coping skills for the shelter manager, who himself had lost three family members. Two members of the team did a follow-up visit on 19 September. The team also visited Saint Elizabeth province. A programme plan for psychosocial support has been drawn up, which includes two training courses for new psychosocial support volunteers and the distribution of 1,000 play kits for children, as well as the production of three leaflets on coping mechanisms.

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is currently focusing on distribution of non-food relief. However, the National Society intends to ensure that assessments are carried out to determine the need for psychosocial support.

Impact

In Jamaica, none of the people who were counselled needed hospital treatment. With some follow-up visits, most affected people were able to stay in their home village and share the sorrow with loved ones.

Constraints

In Jamaica, it was hard for men to discuss their feelings where as women were open to the opportunity for counselling discussions.

Strengthening of preparedness and response

Objective: The capacity of the Grenada Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross, the Cayman Islands Overseas 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)***Grenada***

The RITs members from National Societies in the Caribbean are working well with the National Society volunteers in Grenada; this is facilitated by their common cultural background. The RITs members are sharing their knowledge and experience in relief work with National Society volunteers, thereby helping to prepare them for future events.

Jamaica

Work has been done with the National Society to build capacity with regards to the Federation's logistics procedures, including warehousing, transport, systems/reporting, air operations, procurement, and customs/importation. In addition, in close cooperation with the JRC relief department, procedures for safe storage and transfer of relief items to various destinations have been set up. Furthermore, a telecommunications FACT member has arrived in Jamaica to help the National Society improve communications between branches.

Additional activities towards this objective will be undertaken in Grenada, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cuba once the emergency relief phase of the operation has been completed and resources can be dedicated towards rehabilitation.

Federation Coordination

In Grenada, the Federation's FACT team has met with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team that arrived on 14 September. UNDAC does not have an operational role in this disaster response, but has a coordination role, working with international agencies in the country. The Federation has provided UNDAC with a rub hall for the storage of relief goods.

The Federation is also coordinating with Télécommunications Sans Frontières which has a team of specialists in satellite telecommunications in Grenada. A second team of two persons is assisting NGOs and search and rescue teams with satellite communications, as well as the population to allow them to communicate with their relatives abroad. Coordination is also being ensured with OXFAM which has a representative on the ground in Grenada. OXFAM will take responsibility for the water component of relief efforts and the Federation will provide support through complementary activities in the area of water and sanitation.

In Jamaica, Federation representatives, together with JRC representatives are attending interagency meetings including UNDAC coordination meetings.

The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch, supported by the British Red Cross and the Federation, are coordinating with the representative of the Pan American Health Organization on the islands. However, with this exception, there is no presence of international organizations or NGOs.

In Cuba, the Federation is liaising with the German Red Cross which has deployed a delegate to Cuba in order to work with the Cuban Red Cross to assist those affected by Hurricanes Charley and Ivan. The Cuban Red Cross is working closely with the Civil Defence and coordination is ensured with the UNDP and international NGOs.

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. The regional information delegate from the Lima Regional Delegation has been deployed to Jamaica, and another information delegate has been deployed to Grenada as part of the FACT team. This information network is working to ensure that a strategic plan in communications is designed and implemented. Through regularly produced news articles and reports, the Movement is strongly advocating in favour of the respect of human dignity and the Fundamental Principles.

A video on the Grenada Red Cross Society and International Federation's relief efforts has been compiled. As there are no facilities in Grenada to edit the video material, the tapes will have to be shipped back to Europe for dispatching to news networks. A video tape has also been prepared that documents the first general distributions, including interviews with international and regional delegates and the Regional Intervention Team. This video will be made available to Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies and regional offices. In addition, delegates, regional offices and national Red Cross staff have given interviews to local, national and international media almost everyday.

A communications plan to provide visibility for the Jamaica Red Cross's relief operations and to raise the National Society's profile both nationally and internationally has been drafted. The plan includes the design of an information contingency plan based on the experiences gained and lessons learned from the response to Hurricane Ivan. In addition, some basic internal communications issues have been discussed, which, when implemented, will improve the National Society's exchange of information.

Cuban Red Cross communicators and journalists have been disseminating the work of the National Society on local radio and provincial television stations. In addition, a Cuban Red Cross spot on hurricane preparedness was shown on the main Cuban television channel both before and during the hurricane disaster.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Caribbean - hurricane Ivan

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 21/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

20/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6,033,000		21.2%
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		495,000	CAD	464,310	10.09.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		50,000	CAD	46,900	10.09.04	DREF REPLENISHMENT
IRISH - GOVT		200,000	EUR	308,200	14.09.04	
SWISS - RC				100,000	15.09.04	GRENADE
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		800,000	SEK	134,000	20.09.04	
BRITISH - RC/GOVT		50,000	GBP	114,500	20.09.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,167,910	CHF	19.4%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC				100,760	20.09.04	LOGISTICS ERU GRENADE
SWISS - RC				8,800	17.09.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				109,560	CHF	1.8%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	