

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

24 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.

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Appeal No. 21/2004; Operations Update no. 07; Period covered: 20- 24 September, 2004; Appeal coverage: 74.3 %; ([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 1,552,752

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 Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS) and the Federation have carried out relief distributions for 3,000 families of the targeted 10,000 families, and they are planning to reach the other 7,000 families by the beginning of October. The demand for plastic sheeting in Grenada remains high as the rainy season continues, and thus far the Red Cross relief operation has distributed more than 9,000 plastics sheets. Field visits and interviews with affected persons are being carried out by the Red Cross team, which includes a psychologist, to assess the psychosocial support needs of the population. A plan of action, which includes ongoing emergency relief activities and follow-up capacity building activities, has been drafted and is now being finalized. In Jamaica, more detailed assessments are now being undertaken by the branches, and the Federation's Field Assessment and Coordination (FACT) team and Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) counterparts have made several visits to hardest hit areas of Clarendon, St. Thomas and Westmoreland. The JRC and the Federation have distributed food and non-food items, including bottled water, assorted food items and food parcels, rubber boots, tarpaulins, blankets, mattresses and bleach. A Canadian Red Cross shipment of non food items, including blankets, water bladders, 20-litre water containers and a generator, began arriving on 20 September 2004. A total of approximately 61 tones of relief goods have been received so far for the Jamaica relief operation. In the Cayman Islands, the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross has distributed relief items to 1,000 families, and a distribution is planned for Sunday, 26 September to reach an additional 1,000 families. Distributed items include plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, jerry cans, plastic

basins and buckets, flashlights, batteries, bleach, heavy-duty gloves, kitchen sets and hygiene wipes. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is implementing a safe water and personal hygiene campaign that includes the production of posters and pamphlets with key health messages. A draft plan of action has also been drawn up, which outlines further emergency relief and rehabilitation activities, as well as activities to build the capacity of the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch. The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) has been active in shelters throughout the affected areas, raising awareness of sanitation and hygiene issues. CRC volunteers are also offering psychosocial support to shelter residents and others affected by the hurricane. In addition, the CRC has supplied local hospitals with generators, allowing them to remain operational despite the loss of power. Red Cross staff and volunteers in Cuba are assisting the local government with needs assessments and in the clean up campaigns to clear away debris from the affected areas. The Cuban Red Cross is also participating in meetings with the Cuban government and UN agencies working in the country to coordinate the relief effort.

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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 39 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.



High winds destroyed the roofs of many houses in Grenada. The Red Cross's distributions of plastic sheeting and tarpaulins are helping many affected Grenadians move back into their homes. *Photo courtesy of Reuters*

Jamaica also sustained serious damages 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. Fortunately, Hurricane Ivan kept 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. The storm caused several billion dollars in damages in the affected areas of the United States.

Operational developments

Grenada

Life in Grenada is beginning to regain a sense of normalcy as a major clean up within the capital city of St. George's and around the island continues. Most stores have reopened and many basic items are now available, although there is still a very limited supply of fresh food. Food continues to be the first priority, as the majority of the population is still unable to buy food supplies. The request for tarpaulins is also high, as the rainy season continues and people urgently need to cover their houses until the reconstruction phase starts. No tarpaulins or plastic sheeting are available for sale in the country.

A few businesses are in the process of reopening, and the first edition of the island's weekly newspaper, Grenada Today, was printed on Thursday, 23 September. The national radio is now up and running, but there is still no electricity in the country. It is anticipated that power lines will be reconnected in some parts of the capital, where the country's main industries are located, as of next week; however it will take months before electricity will be restored throughout the island. Mobile 'phone coverage has been restored throughout the island, but only a few landlines have been repaired.

The dusk-to-dawn curfew that had been put in place following the disaster has been officially lifted, except for St. Georges and St. Andrews parishes, where it is still in effect. In spite of this new development, night activities are still limited by the lack of power. There are still some prisoners loose on the island, but local police are reluctant to release details. There have also been rumours of riots in the local jail.

According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the health conditions of the population seem to be improving, although there is considerable concern regarding an increase in mosquito breeding in recent days. Cleaning of drains is urgent as debris and garbage are blocking all major drainage system. Authorities are working together with UNICEF on temporary repairs of schools, so that children can return to their classes as early as possible.

Considerable changes in the Red Cross team will be taking place in the next several days. The FACT team leader left on Wednesday, 22 September to assist in the relief effort following the floods in Haiti. His duties have been taken over by the deputy team leader. A new relief delegate from the American Red Cross is arriving today, 24 September and will take over at the end of the month as relief coordinator from the PADRU disaster management delegate. In addition a new telecommunications officer from PADRU will take over from the Panama Regional Delegation's IT coordinator. The information delegate's mission ends on Sunday, 26 September.

There was a one day break in food and tarpaulin distributions on Thursday as new consignments of relief items were received by boat and by air cargo. Distributions will continue today, 24 September, as soon as the remaining food packages have been prepared.

The Grenada Red Cross Society now has sufficient numbers of volunteers to work on assembling family food packages, assist with management of the warehouse, and work together with the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members on the relief operation. In close coordination with GRCS, the Federation has established an administrative and financial office, which will be staffed by a member of the GRCS. An upcoming task for the Federation's team in Grenada will be to move into a permanent office to be used for the duration of the operation, together with the Grenada Red Cross Society.

Jamaica

Damage from Hurricane Ivan is evident throughout parishes located in south, southwestern and central Jamaica. Coastal areas in south and southwestern parishes suffered both wind damage and flooding, while central parishes suffered wind damage and landslides. The south central parish of Clarendon is proving to have been widely affected. Access has proven difficult due to landslides, and reports of isolated communities are still coming in. Potable water and food assistance are needed in most of the affected communities. The lack of electricity is rendering pumping stations inoperable, and untreated water is the only source available to these communities. The National Water Commission has forecasted that since electricity will not be returned to these areas for at least another month, treated water will not be available before that time.

A total of 25 rural communities in the southwestern parish of Westmoreland have been assessed for both wind and water damage. All the communities assessed have sustained some damage, with eight being prioritized as having urgent needs for potable water, food and tarpaulins. Limited distribution of supplies has been undertaken in these prioritized communities, and further distributions are underway.

Given that many of the affected areas are in low-lying areas, water run-off is slow and vector control will need to be addressed as soon as possible by the Ministry of Health. Additionally, numerous weather systems within the Caribbean region are bringing rain to the island and there is a concern for those persons already affected by Ivan. Therefore, there is a need for rapid distribution of tarpaulin, along with potable water and food items.

The Jamaica Red Cross has concluded the emergency phase of the operation and is now conducting follow-up needs assessments in those parishes most affected by Hurricane Ivan, especially those that were previously affected by Hurricane Charley. Although the priority parishes for the JRC still are Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas, St. James, Trelawny, Westmoreland, Portland and St. Andrew, the order of priority could change once the assessments have been completed.

Cayman Islands

In the Cayman Islands, the water supply has been restored in George Town and work is continuing to ensure the provision of water throughout the remainder of the island. One of the local water bottling plants is operating and is supplying water to customers. Food, water and ice are being distributed by the government to those in need. Power is gradually being restored and is already in the commercial centre of George Town. It is estimated that power will be restored in the areas surrounding the city shortly.

The Costa Rican Red Cross team that was deployed to the Cayman Islands to assist in family linking services is leaving the country today, 24 September, with 50 nationals who chose to return to Costa Rica. The governments of Honduras and Jamaica also sent flights to bring nationals back and the Nicaraguan government sent a boat. The Costa Rican Red Cross has also provided laptops, printers, first aid kits, scanners and digital cameras to the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch.

The Cayman Islands' Department of Children and Family Services is carrying out a house-to-house assessment in the affected areas to determine the ongoing needs of the population. The Red Cross will meet with representatives of the department in the coming week to coordinate further relief activities.

Cuba

A rapid evaluation was carried out by United Nations representatives in Cuba on 15 September in the regions of the country affected by Hurricane Ivan and a report on the damages and needs was made available on 20 September. Thousands of people in the country are continuing to assist with the clean up following the disaster, and in repairing some of the damages caused by the storm. The focus of the relief efforts is in the municipality of Isla de la Juventud and the province of Pinar del Río, which sustained the most damage. In Pinar del Río, 234,000 people were evacuated, of which some 8,000 are still unable to return to their homes. According to the latest needs assessment, more than 20,000 homes in Pinar del Río were damaged and 1,000 were completely destroyed. The Ministry of Education has reported damages in 251 schools in the country, while 8 schools were completely destroyed. Students in these schools, as well as students in schools that are being used as shelters, have not yet been able to return to their normal classes. The greatest needs that have been identified are for basic items such as mattresses, sheets, towels and hygiene products, as well as water purification tablets and health kits. There is also an identified need for community organization and psychosocial support.

Red Cross volunteers are currently working together with the local government to carry out damage and needs assessments and to implement clean-up campaigns. In addition, the Cuban Red Cross is participating in meetings with the Cuban government and UN agencies in the country to look at the findings of the needs assessments and to coordinate the relief effort. The Cuban Red Cross is also working with the government to look at reconstruction plans for homes and buildings in an effort to ensure that the new structures are safer than the ones damaged and destroyed in the hurricane.

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 operation is continuing as planned and over 40 Grenada Red Cross Society volunteers are participating in daily relief activities. After a one-day pause in food distributions in order to bring in more supplies, distributions were scheduled to resume Friday, 24 September, throughout the island. Approximately 3,000 of the targeted 10,000 families have already received assistance with food, water and tarpaulins. The remaining 7,000 targeted families should receive assistance within a week.

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

Parish	Quantity
St. George	2,084
St. Patrick	450
St. David	801
St. John	300
St. Andrew	325
TOTAL	3,960

The following number of hygiene kits has been distributed in Grenada:

Parish	Quantity
St. George	1,530
St. David	100
St. John	450
TOTAL	2,080

Jamaica

Although persons receiving assistance provided through the JRC reside primarily in areas that have been directly affected (material damage to home) by Hurricane Ivan, the JRC has also provided food and non-food items to individuals whose livelihoods have been negatively impacted, even though their home may not have been severely damaged. By 22 September 2004, the JRCS had provided food and / or non-food items to more than 6,200 families as follows:

Parish	Families
Clarendon	1,465 families
Hanover	200 families
Kingston/St. Andrews	712 families
Manchester	325 families
Portland	200 families
St. Ann	15 families

St. Catherine	740 families
St. Elizabeth	1,007 families
St. Thomas	200 families
St. James	300 families
St. Mary	150 families
Trelawny	70 families
Westmoreland	75 families
Non-parish distribution	210 families

Moreover, the JRC provided more than 7,200 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 Red Cross has scheduled a distribution of non-food items for Sunday, at which time the following goods will be distributed: plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, jerry cans, plastic basins and buckets, flashlights, batteries, bleach, heavy-duty gloves, kitchen sets and hygiene wipes. The distribution will reach 1,000 families at 12 distribution points, bringing the total number of families reached to date to 2,000. The 1,000 families benefiting from this round of relief distributions were the families who did not receive supplies during previous Red Cross distributions because supplies ran out. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch will use the local radio to announce the times of the distributions. In addition, the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch runs a local thrift shop, which is currently giving out free clothes to people affected by the hurricane. The thrift shop has received several donations of clothes since the disaster struck.

Impact

In Grenada, some 3,000 families have received relief goods that are helping them to recover from the devastating effects of the floods. 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. In the Cayman Islands, relief items have been distributed to 1,000 families, and an additional 1,000 families will receive goods distributed on Sunday, 26 September, ensuring that the most vulnerable families in the community have been assisted.

Constraints

Because electrical and telephone services are still not fully restored across Jamaica, the most serious constraint facing the operation is access to specific information from JRC branches regarding outstanding needs in those parishes most affected. The needs assessment currently being implemented is designed to address this issue. 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, which is among the most important, and ongoing, needs.

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 focus of the Red Cross in Grenada has been on distributing plastic sheeting as the majority of affected persons are staying in their damaged homes or with friends, rather than in shelters. The demand for tarpaulins remains to be high, particularly as the rainy season continues. To date, the following number of tarpaulins has been distributed in Grenada:

Parish	Quantity
St. George	4,427
St. Patrick	802
St. David	1,891

St. John	1,565
St. Andrew	1,127
TOTAL	9,812

Jamaica

Since the relief operation began on 11 September 2004, the JRC has distributed plastic tarpaulins to more than 3,000 families: 1,220 pieces of 20’ x 20’ plastic tarpaulin from existing stock, as well as 377 rolls of 100’ x 24’ of plastic tarpaulin provided by USAID and more than 1,500 pieces of 4m x 6m plastic tarpaulin received through PADRU. In addition, more than 8,700 blankets have been distributed to an estimated 4,350 families through this operation.

Cayman Islands

There are currently less than 800 people in shelters on the island, as most people have been able to return to their homes. In addition, many foreign nationals who were severely affected by the hurricane have returned to their country of origin. There is still a need for more plastic sheeting as many people have lost their roofs, particularly as there is still some rain in the area. Thus far, the Federation has distributed 900 plastic sheets, and an additional 1,000 sheets are coming in this weekend from PADRU to be distributed on Sunday. Another 520 plastic sheets from DFID have also been distributed.

Impact

As the rainy season continues in Grenada, distributions of plastic sheeting are protecting people and their belongings from further damage. In Jamaica, essential shelter assistance provided through the JRC has expedited the recovery process of those affected by the hurricane. In Cayman Islands, most affected families have received plastic sheeting, which has allowed them to move out of shelters and into their homes.

Constraints

There is still a need for additional plastic sheeting in affected countries given that the rainy season is continuing.

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

Rehabilitation of water distribution systems is being coordinated by the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA). The Federation has provided NAWASA with two 10,000-litre water bladders, which are supplying water to approximately 3,000 people. The Federation has also provided a generator to a local company that is assisting the relief effort by distributing its existing stocks, such as sterilized water, to health and service organizations.

Jamaica

The National Water Commission is currently attempting to meet the water needs of the affected population through trucking services. The idea is to make the distribution of water more efficient by placing water storage tanks of various sizes in the areas of need, as determined by the assessments being continually carried out. One of the areas expected to benefit from this plan is the northern region of Westmoreland parish.

The JRC has established contact with representatives of the National Water Commission. A request for quotation forms for local tap stand manufacturers has been drafted, and quotes for chemical disinfectant, tank and tap stand suppliers have been received and assessed.

In addition, the water and sanitation FACT team member has attended water coordination meetings with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and National Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), and provided technical assistance for planning strategies to address identified water shortages in rural communities.

Cayman Islands

According to the Department of Environmental Health, there has been an increase in the incidence of diarrhoeal disease. Bottled water is being distributed and the piped water system is gradually being restored. Vector control is being addressed by the government's Mosquito Control Programme through daily aerial spraying.

The Red Cross has been in contact with the Department of Environmental Health and envisages the production of health education materials addressing safe water and personal hygiene. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is producing posters and pamphlets with key health messages and has drawn up a plan for "Water and Hygiene" day, which will aim to raise awareness about the importance of chlorinating and/or boiling water. There will also be a particular emphasis placed on personal hygiene. At this stage, people are beginning to clean houses that have been damaged by sewage and other materials, so knowledge of health and hygiene safety is particularly important.

Impact

In Grenada, water bladders supplied by the Federation are supplying water to 3,000 beneficiaries. 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.

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 Grenada Red Cross Society is continuing to receive messages from relatives abroad searching for loved ones. However, although the National Society does have family linking expertise, tracing and family messages have been put on hold until telecommunications have been restored in the country, and the emergency phase of the relief operation is finalized.

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch has received very few requests for tracing services as cellular phone services have been restored and most residents have access to cell phones. Three volunteers from the Costa Rican Red Cross who are trained in family linking traveled to the Cayman Islands to assist those with family members outside the country and who may wish to return home. On Friday, 24 September, a plane carrying 50 Costa Rican nationals left the Cayman Islands.

Impact

In the Cayman Islands, foreign nationals wishing to return home have been assisted through the efforts of the Federation and the Costa Rican Red Cross.

Constraints

The lack of telephone lines and power are slowing down tracing operations in Grenada.

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***

A psychologist has joined the Red Cross team working in Grenada, and field visits and interviews with affected persons were conducted. Further enquiries have been made into the existing psychosocial support services that were available to the public before the disaster. A radio spot has been agreed upon between the Federation and the

GRCS to raise public awareness of psychosocial health issues. Support is being ensured by a local mental health specialist who has made his services available to the GRCS. In addition, possibilities of a debriefing procedure for Red Cross staff and volunteers are being discussed, and local specialists have been identified to provide support in this area.

Jamaica

Thus far, the 28 volunteers that make up the Jamaica Red Cross mental health care team have visited four JRC branches and have provided counselling support. In the shelters, mental health care teams held individual counselling sessions with people living in shelters, including shelter managers.

In the Kingston branch of the Jamaica Red Cross, a psychosocial support session for nine volunteers was conducted in order to support their work. Common signs of stress that were identified by the group included feeling irritable, not concentrating, feeling tired and confused, and wanting to keep moving, as well as physical signs such as loss of appetite and dizziness. Helpful coping strategies that were discussed included finding a peer partner to debrief with on a daily basis, being aware of physical limitations, taking time to relax, avoiding high risk foods such as salt and caffeine and keeping well hydrated.

It is estimated that the work of the mental health team will still take three months. A training session for Red Cross volunteers to help them identify the mental health needs of beneficiaries is expected to take place next week.

Cayman Islands

A tentative plan of action has been drawn up that includes a request for psychosocial support for Red Cross staff and volunteers who have been working long days, despite having suffered great losses themselves. The plan of action addresses training Red Cross staff and volunteers in psychosocial support, and also looks at the possibility of working with professional health care workers in the community to strengthen the Overseas Branch's psychosocial support capacities.

Impact

The JRC's mental health team's experiences confirm the continued importance of providing mental health services in the wake of a disaster. Although it is not possible to measure the full positive impact of the preventative approach at such a time, persons were appreciative of the caring support. It is also clear that psychological support may be more readily accepted if it is accompanied by tangible benefits that meet the needs experienced in these crises.

Constraints

The lack of qualified personnel in the Grenada Red Cross Society is limiting the GRCS's ability to provide psychosocial support to affected persons; however, assistance is being sought from mental health care professionals within the Grenadian community. In Jamaica, the number of persons reached by the mental health team has been limited by the time it took for the team to respond. A quick response was not possible due to the limited number of the mental health care volunteers compared to the magnitude of the disaster.

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)

Grenada

A plan of action has been drafted by the Federation and the National Society. According to this new plan of action, activities following the emergency phase will focus on community based disaster preparedness in order to build up Grenada's capacity to confront future disasters. The plan of action is currently being reviewed by the Federation's Sub Regional Office in Port of Spain, Trinidad, and by PADRU.

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.

An assessment has been carried out by a Secretariat-based telecommunications coordinator on the telecommunication capabilities of Jamaica Red Cross. It was determined that the JRC's VHF and HF radio equipment needs to be replaced with more modern equipment, which would also require additional training. A detailed budget for this project is currently being prepared. The telecommunications coordinator has also carried out an assessment of computer needs within the JRC headquarters. This will mainly consist of an upgrade of an obsolete server and an increase in the National Society's internet capabilities.

The JRC's emergency generator, which could not be used in the aftermath of the hurricane, has also been examined and found to be beyond repair. It is proposed that this should be replaced by a modern, containerized generator that will enable the JRC to work during future power outages.

Cayman Islands

A tentative plan of action has been drawn up by Federation and local Red Cross personnel in the Cayman Islands. According to this plan of action, capacity building activities following the emergency relief phase of the operation will focus on replenishing stocks of relief supplies, which were depleted during the operation, in order to ensure that the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is adequately prepared for any future disasters.

Impact

Ongoing assessments and the process of drawing up plans of action are strengthening the response capacities of the National Societies involved in this relief operation. In Jamaica, new equipment will further reinforce the JRC's disaster response systems.

Constraints

At this time, the focus of the relief operation is on provision of essential relief items that are helping affected beneficiaries to recover from the hurricane. 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 is coordinating with the French Red Cross, which is considering sending a bilateral delegate to manage an ECHO funded project to reconstruct 200 houses for the homeless population. The Federation's FACT team is attending the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team's meetings on a regular basis, and the Federation coordinates a regular meeting between UNDAC and implementing partners working in the country. The FACT team has also organized a visit of the ECHO Caribbean regional coordinator. Further cooperation with the National Emergency Response Organization (NERO) has been formalized and a system of information sharing regarding distributions and planned distribution sites has been established.

In Jamaica, Federation and JRC representatives are attending interagency meetings, including UNDAC coordination meetings. The UNDAC team will be leaving the country next Friday, 1 October.

In the Cayman Islands, the Federation's regional health delegate and the British Red Cross health delegate working in the country have been working closely with the staff of the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch to put together a tentative three-month plan of action. The Red Cross team in the Cayman Islands has been working closely with PADRU throughout the relief operation, in particular with PADRU's Regional Logistics Unit, which has assisted in procuring goods and shipping them to the country.

In Cuba, the Federation is liaising with the German Red Cross, which has deployed a delegate to the country 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 being 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

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. Reporting procedures are also being put in place for both Federation and National Society staff.

In the Cayman Islands, the Red Cross has been using the government's radio station to communicate with the residents of the Cayman Islands, alerting them to the times and locations of relief distributions. The Director of the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch has been giving interviews detailing the work of the Red Cross in response to Hurricane Ivan. In addition, the plan of action that has been drawn up includes activities that will ensure that the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is more active in working with the local media. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is also looking at the possibility of putting together a brochure highlighting the activities implemented by the Red Cross in response to the hurricane.

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

24/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6,033,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 74.3%	
BRITISH - RC		50,000	GBP	114,300	21.09.04	
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
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		346,500	CAD	325,017	10.09.04	
IRISH - GOVT		200,000	EUR	308,200	14.09.04	
SWEDISH - RC		800,000	SEK	134,000	15.09.04	
SWISS - RC				100,000	15.09.04	GRENADE
BRITISH - RC/DFID		500,000	GBP	1,145,000	24.09.04	
VODAFONE Group		50,000	GBP	114,650	15.09.04	
ECHO		842,000	EUR	1,288,260	23.09.04	GRENADE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				4,040,637	CHF	67.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC		45,245	GBP	103,430	15.09.04	ERU LOGISTICS, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL
SWISS - RC				8,800	17.09.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
AMERICAN - RC		49,269	USD	63,064	21.09.04	PRE-POSITIONED STOCK PADRU
NORWEGIAN - RC		1,000,000	NOK	184,000	24.09.04	
CANADIAN - RC		85,444	CAD	80,317	20.09.04	NON-FOOD RELIEF ITEMS (INCLUDING WATSAN) GRENADE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				439,611	CHF	7.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Caribbean - hurricane Ivan

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 21/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/09/2004

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