

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: HURRICANES DENNIS & EMILY

19 July 2005

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. 05EA014; Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 15 to 18 July, 2005; Appeal coverage: %;

Appeal history:

- Launched on 15 July 2005 for CHF 758,000 (USD 587,505 or EUR 486,390) for 3 months to assist 30,000 beneficiaries (6,000 beneficiary families).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 250,000

THE PLANS OF ACTION AND BUDGET UNDER THIS APPEAL ARE BEING ADJUSTED AS DETAILED NEEDS ASSESSMENTS ARE COMPLETED IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANES DENNIS AND EMILY IN THE CARIBBEAN; THE ADJUSTED BUDGET WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE NEXT OPERATIONS UPDATE.

In accordance with the Federation's flexible strategy and approach to this operation, donors are encouraged to provide support, with minimum earmarking. To date no contributions have been received in response to this Appeal and donations are urgently sought.

Outstanding needs : CHF 758,000 (USD 587,505 or EUR 486,390)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal 05AA041; Guyana: Floods Emergency Appeal 05EA001

Operational Summary: Cuba, Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica were particularly affected by the passage of Hurricanes Dennis and Emily. This Appeal covers needs in Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica; confirmation was received today from the Cuban Red Cross that the National Society is not requesting international assistance. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) responded immediately to the threat of the Hurricanes, providing support for the National Societies through the deployment of a disaster management delegate to Haiti who then moved to assist the Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS). A total of three air lifts and one ocean shipment of relief goods including hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic buckets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, first aid kits, equipment for volunteers, blankets and sleeping mats reached Grenada on 10 and 16 July and Jamaica on 18 July. In Grenada, GRCS volunteers have distributed 900 family hygiene kits, 1,800 pieces of plastic sheeting in communities together with 1,500 litres of water to people living in shelters. The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) has also begun relief distributions of goods received from PADRU and relief supplies in stock. The Haitian National Red Cross Society is working to organize distribution of relief goods, particularly hygiene kits, kitchen sets and blankets to 2,000 vulnerable families severely affected by Hurricanes Dennis and Emily in the South and West of the Country, as well as in the area of

Saint Marc, some 50 miles north of Port-au-Prince.

There is concern that, so early in the Hurricane Season, two forceful Hurricanes have already formed causing significant damage and suffering whilst vulnerable communities in Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Jeanne which hit in 2004.

No contributions have been received to date for this Appeal and donors are urged to provide funding urgently in order to ensure that the Red Cross meets the needs of those most severely affected by Hurricanes Dennis and Emily.

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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

Although it is still early in the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from 1 June to 30 November, the Caribbean Region has already been affected by two major hurricanes. The first hurricane of the season was Dennis, which caused at least 30 deaths in the Caribbean before weakening to a tropical storm over the southern United States.

The storm's rain battered the southern coast of **Haiti**, causing rivers to overflow and roads to be flooded. Coastal villages were evacuated and approximately 654 people sought refuge in temporary shelters, particularly in the regions of Les Cayes, Port-Salut, and Grand Anse. According to data from the Civil Protection, at least 20 people died as a result of the storm. The hospital in Les Cayes was flooded but continued to treat patients throughout and after the passage of the storm. One of the main bridges in Grand Goâves, in the southern part of the country, collapsed, completely blocking access. An assessment undertaken by the Civil Protection with the participation of the Red Cross branches in the affected areas has indicated that 1,500 families became homeless as a result of the flooding in Grand Anse, of whom 675 are in urgent need of assistance. The Haitian government allocated five million gourdes (USD 123,653) towards the relief effort.

Hurricane Dennis struck **Jamaica** on Thursday, 7 July, as it strengthened to a category three hurricane. Although wind damage was not intense, the system brought substantial flooding causing severe mudslides. Residents of low lying areas as well as coastal towns – where a large part of the population lives – were advised to seek higher ground. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) confirmed that approximately 8,000 persons were affected in Jamaica. Persons were moved to shelters, mostly in the north eastern area of the country. The parishes of St. Thomas, St. Mary and Portland appear to be the areas that have sustained the greatest impact, though effects of Dennis were felt in other parishes across the island.

Hurricane Dennis, at that time a category four hurricane, pounded **Cuba** for ten hours on Friday, 8 July, before heading back into the Gulf of Mexico and moving towards the United States. Hurricane Dennis left ten people dead across the country and destroyed thousands of houses in the provinces of Habana, Camaguey, Ciego de Ávila, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba, Matanzas, Sancti Espíritus and Guatanamo. In total, more than 1,400,000 people were evacuated, including tourists, 196,000 of which were moved to emergency shelters. Once the hurricane had passed over Cuba, national authorities, together with the Civil Defence and the Cuban Red Cross began conducting damage and needs assessments. While evaluation teams are still collecting data from throughout the country, the Cuban Civil Defence Agency is currently estimating that some eight million people were affected by the hurricane and some 40,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. The Cuban Red Cross has officially confirmed that the National Society does not require international assistance from the Federation to meet the needs of those affected by Hurricane Dennis.

Hurricane Emily, the second major hurricane of the season, first began to form on 12 July in the eastern Caribbean Sea and moved towards the Windward Islands. Of the Windward Islands, **Grenada** was the most seriously affected by Hurricane Emily, which passed over the island early Thursday morning, 14 July, causing significant damage to buildings and crops. One death was reported in Grenada, as a result of the storm. The parishes of St. Patrick and St. Andrew were most affected, as well as the dependencies of Carriacou and Petit Martinique. The situation in Carriacou is still challenging and it will take 2 to 3 weeks before the situation returns to normal. As of Saturday, 16 July, the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) was reporting that of the 4,281 people that occupied shelters during the passage of the storm, 672 remained temporarily housed in shelters. Some of the shelter occupants have been destitute since Hurricane Ivan in 2004. With such a large number of persons requiring ongoing temporary shelter, there is a growing necessity to meet their food needs. NaDMA also reports that 2,641 roofs have been damaged, of which the majority are in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Patrick, and 167 families are homeless. There is a need for plastic sheeting, not only for the roofs damaged by Emily, but also for the many families affected by Ivan. Some families that suffered roof damage or loss by Ivan were still using plastic sheeting when Emily hit, and therefore have lost this protection. Thirty Red Cross volunteers and staff members were dispatched to assess the most vulnerable parishes. The Grenada Red Cross Society's focus will be on distributing materials and on providing psychosocial support, for which experts are already available as a result of training received in response to Hurricane Ivan. A Federation disaster management delegate arrived in Grenada on Saturday, 16 July, to support assessment and response activities.

In the other Windward Island countries affected by Hurricane Emily, there appear to be at this time only minimal needs that are being addressed by their respective governments and Red Cross Societies. In **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, initial damage and needs assessment indicated that 11 houses lost their roofs: seven on the main island of St. Vincent, one in Cannau and three in Union. In total, 530 people were evacuated to 31 shelters in the country. A Federation disaster management delegate was pre-deployed to Saint Vincent on Wednesday, 13 July, to support assessment and response activities. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, a rapid nationwide assessment was conducted on 14 July. There were no casualties as a result of Hurricane Emily. In Tobago, two houses were destroyed and thirty suffered roof loss. In Trinidad, six houses suffered partial roof loss, and some 200 to 300 houses suffered flood damage. Several roads were affected by localized flooding, but the water has now subsided. Several landslides were reported in Trinidad and North Tobago.

No needs are reported by the Netherlands Antilles of Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire.

Although Hurricane Emily had strengthened to category four status as it approached **Jamaica**, the storm passed far enough from the island to only cause tropical storm conditions. It has been reported that this hurricane had a lesser impact on the country than its predecessor, Dennis. It has been confirmed that the passage of Hurricane Emily caused flooding in 65 communities in 8 parishes across the island, with the main areas of impact being Manchester and St. Elizabeth. The aerial reconnaissance conducted by the Rapid Damage Assessment Team confirmed the areas with the most damage. Approximately 3,594 persons occupied 108 shelters at the height of the storm, however, the majority of these shelters are now closed.

Throughout the storm and in its aftermath, the Jamaica Red Cross remained in communication with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), while the Red Cross branches maintained the parish-level communication with the Parish Disaster Committees.

The Cayman Islands experienced tropical storm conditions as a result of Hurricane Emily, which passed to the south of the islands throughout the night of 16-17 July. Telephone and electricity services were not affected and water was expected to have been restored yesterday, 17 July. The Cayman Islands Red Cross (CIRC) briefed its volunteers and distributed emergency supply kits prior to Emily's arrival. Approximately 700 people stayed in temporary shelters on Saturday night, 60 of whom were in Red Cross shelters. Red Cross First Aid volunteers were assigned to each shelter. Shelters began closing on Sunday, 17 July, as people return to their homes. Following Emily's passage, the CRIC has begun to deploy damage assessment teams; there has been no major damages reported so far.

Haiti experienced heavy rains with the passage of Emily, resulting in extensive flooding in the coastal city of Saint Marc and surrounding areas. A representative of the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) and the Federation, together with the French Red Cross, conducted a damage and needs assessment of the affected area on Sunday, 17 July. The assessment indicated that five people are dead (four of whom are infants), one person is missing, and thirty children are injured.

At 2:00am local time (7:00GMT) Monday, 18 July, Emily entered the Yucatan peninsula of *Mexico*. At that time a category four storm, Emily packed winds of 135km/h (84mph). Emily has now crossed through the Mexican states of Quintana Roo and Yucatan, into the Gulf of Mexico. In anticipation of the storm, approximately 60,000 tourists were evacuated from the tourist areas on the peninsula, such as Tulum, Playa del Carmen and Cozumel; this included 30,000 people who entered temporary shelters in Cancun. The Mexican Red Cross (MRC) began to preposition materials, volunteers and support equipment in the state of Quintana Roo on Saturday, 16 July; including 38 tons of material, 6 transportation units, a communications unit, and 20 members of the National Rapid Intervention Unit. Furthermore, the MRC deployed its National Disaster Operations Coordinator to coordinate preparedness and response activities. Thus far, initial needs as a result of Emily are being addressed by the government and the MRC.

It is expected that Emily will cross back into Mexico on the eastern coast late Tuesday night, 19 July. While Emily decreased to category one status after hitting the Yucatan peninsula, it is expected that winds will increase while crossing the Mexican gulf, possibly attaining category three status before reaching land.

Operational developments

Hurricanes Dennis and Emily, arriving early in the Hurricane season, have tested the preparedness of the National Societies. In particular, in the cases of Grenada and Jamaica, lessons learned from Hurricane Ivan have been integrated into preparedness and response measures, resulting in efficient assistance to those in need.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit has organized two airlifts of relief materials to Grenada, the first of which arrived on Saturday, 16 July, and the second on Monday, 18 July. The first contained 950 hygiene kits, 1,705 pieces of plastic sheeting, 950 jerry cans (10 litres) 50 first aid kits, 100 raincoats (for volunteers) and 100 pairs of rubber boots (for volunteers). The second airlift contained 1,000 hygiene kits, 2,590 pieces of plastic sheeting and 1,000 jerry cans (10 litres). In anticipation of the passage of Hurricane Emily, PADRU pre-deployed relief materials by airlift to Jamaica, which arrived on 10 July. The airlift contained 750 hygiene kits, 664 kitchen sets, 750 plastic buckets, 1,500 plastic sheets, and 25 family tents. Following this, an ocean freight shipment of relief supplies was sent to Jamaica and arrived on Monday, 18 July. This shipment contained 750 blankets, 86 kitchen sets and 6,077 sleeping mats. Preparations are underway to send an airlift of relief supplies to Haiti, anticipated to arrive tomorrow, 20 July. A Federation disaster management delegate was pre-deployed to Haiti in anticipation of Hurricane Dennis, and Federation delegates were pre-deployed to Barbados and Saint Vincent with the threat of Emily.

Summary of relief items sent to date:

AIRLIFT to JAMAICA Arrived : 10 July	AIRLIFT to GRENADA Arrived :16 July	AIRLIFT to GRENADA Arrived : 18 July	SHIPMENT to JAMAICA Arrived : 18 July
750 hygiene kits 664 kitchen sets 750 plastic buckets 1,500 plastic sheets 25 family tents	950 hygiene kits 1,705 plastic sheets 950 jerry cans 50 first aid kits 100 raincoats 100 pairs of rubber boots	1,000 hygiene kits 2,590 plastic sheets 1,000 jerry cans	750 blankets 86 kitchen sets 6,077 sleeping mats

Red Cross action - objectives, progress, impact

Grenada

Emergency relief (food and non-food):

Objective 1: 3,000 vulnerable families will have benefited from the provision of non-food items to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane. Of these families, 300 of the most vulnerable will be assisted through the provision of food items.

Progress/Achievements:

The distribution of hygiene kits began as soon as the first airlift of relief materials arrived, on Saturday, 16 July. On the first day, ten relief teams working with ten trucks were distributing in all the affected parishes. Almost 900 family hygiene kits have been distributed so far.

The GRCS continues to identify additional affected communities through its links with community leaders and through assessment team visits to vulnerable communities. Lists of beneficiary families are being compiled by the Red Cross relief teams. Particular attention is being paid to the most vulnerable groups in the communities, including: children, pregnant and lactating women, the disabled and senior citizens. These people will be among the 300 families to be assisted with food supplies.

Impact:

The distribution of hygiene kits is assisting those whose belongings were lost in the Hurricane and is helping to cover basic needs.



Distribution of hygiene kits in Marquis, Saint Patrick, Grenada

Objective 2: 3,000 families in Grenada will be able to return home as a result of the provision of temporary shelter materials.

Progress/Achievements :

Approximately 1,800 pieces of plastic sheeting have been distributed by the National Society to date.

Impact:

As the rainy season continues in Grenada, the distribution of plastic sheeting is protecting people and their belongings from further damage. Many of the people affected were those whose houses were damaged by Hurricane Ivan and who have not yet recovered. The provision of plastic sheeting is helping to ensure that families are able to leave shelters and return to their homes.

Objective 3: The water and sanitation needs of 3,000 families in Grenada have been assessed and a plan has been developed to deliver assistance in this sector. The assistance will include the distribution of 3,000 collapsible jerry cans.

Progress/Achievements:

1,500 litres of water have been distributed in shelters by GRCS volunteers. Further water and sanitation needs will be addressed as soon as emergency relief distributions have been completed.

Objective 4: The first aid needs of the most vulnerable internally displaced people will have been addressed.

Progress/Achievements:

First aid volunteers are visiting all shelters to monitor the health and sanitation situation in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Grenada. Further information regarding the health conditions in the shelters will be available shortly.

Psychosocial Support

Objective 5: Persons in shelters and those who have been adversely affected by the hurricanes will have benefited from the provision of psychosocial support.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The GRCS will provide psychosocial support to those affected by the storm. The focus for this assistance will be those in temporary shelters.

Constraints :

There are no significant constraints to report. The emergency phase of the operation is progressing well, particularly as lessons learned from the Hurricane Ivan operation have been integrated into National Society contingency and response planning.



Home destroyed by Emily in Mamacan, Grenada

Haiti

Emergency relief (non-food)

Objective 1: 1,000 vulnerable families (5,000 people) that were affected by Hurricane Dennis will have benefited from the distribution of relief items, together with a further 1,000 families affected by Hurricane Emily.

Progress/Achievements

Following assessments by the Civil Protection with the participation of the Red Cross, it is planned that 1,000 hygiene family kits will be distributed to those affected by Hurricane Dennis, as follows:

- Grand Anse Department: 300 families in "Bonne gent" area.
- Sud Department: 100 families
- Ouest Department: 550 families
- Sud Ouest Department: 50 families.

As many as 835 families in the area of Saint Marc and surroundings have suffered damage to their personal belongings, and some to their homes. In addition, latrines have filled and been blocked with water and refuse. The area has also experienced loss to agriculture and livestock. The needs identified as a result of this flooding include: hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets, school supplies and mattresses and there may also be needs related to water and sanitation. A Federation disaster management delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit will arrive in Haiti on Thursday, 21 July, to support the finalization of a plan of action and the distribution of relief materials. Preparations are underway to send an airlift of relief supplies to Haiti, anticipated to arrive tomorrow, 20 July. The Haitian National Red Cross Society is working to finalize lists of beneficiaries and preparing the distribution activities. It has been agreed that logistic support (transport and warehousing in the field) will be provided to the National Society by Catholic Relief Service and possibly Care.

Impact:

The immediate relief needs of 2,000 families will have been met through these distributions. The telecommunications network established in 2004 with the cooperation of the ICRC and with ECHO funding is helping to ensure communications between the Headquarters and the branches, although this needs to be reinforced.

Constraints:

Conditions continue to be difficult in Haiti given the security situation and the lack of human resources in the field. The Federation's Logistics Delegate has been nominated as focal point for disaster management given that it has not yet been possible to identify a Disaster Management Delegate. The National Society is currently recruiting a Disaster Management Director in order to strengthen its capacity in disaster preparedness and response.



Red Cross assessments take place in Saint Marc and surroundings on 17 July.

Jamaica**Emergency relief (food and non-food)**

Objective 1: 1,000 vulnerable families (5,000 people) will have benefited from the provision of food and non-food relief items to assist them in recovering from the hurricane.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Jamaica Red Cross is responding to the needs of those affected by Hurricane Dennis, in particular isolated communities, with the distribution of both food and non-food items. These items consist of goods airlifted to Jamaica, as well as JRC stock. The infrastructure and access conditions of these communities have worsened as a result of Hurricane Emily. The JRC is responding to the needs of those affected by Hurricane Emily through the distribution of food and non-food items, particularly in the most affected areas of St. Elizabeth and Manchester. An ocean freight shipment of relief supplies arrived yesterday, and distribution should commence within two days. The Jamaica Red Cross has provided food and non-food items to persons occupying shelters. The Saint Elizabeth branch confirmed that its volunteers prepared 100 cooked meals and provided blankets and hygiene kits to affected persons. With the majority of shelters now closed, the JRC is focusing distributing relief materials to in both the eastern and southern areas. Damage and needs assessment findings continue to be compiled.

Impact:

The needs of 1,000 families will have been met as a result of this assistance.

Psychosocial Support

Objective 2: Persons in shelters and those who have been adversely affected by the hurricanes have benefited from the provision of psychosocial support.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The JRC will provide psychological support to those who have been impacted by Hurricanes Dennis and Emily, as a result of loss of property and and/or temporary displacement. This will be carried out by the JRC Disaster Mental Health team. The DMH unit benefits from volunteers who are professionals in the field who are on roster to provide these services.

Constraints:

Although the effects of Hurricane Emily were not as severe as anticipated, the combined damage and suffering as a result of Hurricanes Dennis and Emily is a major challenge for response

Federation Coordination

The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has coordination responsibility for the Federation for this operation; however, both the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office and the Panama Regional Delegation are monitoring the situation and providing support, as required.

In *Haiti* coordination is taking place on a regular basis between the Federation which has the lead role regarding natural disasters, the ICRC which is the lead agency in the country, Partner National Societies: the French, Netherlands, and Spanish Red Cross, OCHA and UN agencies as well as NGOs regarding preparations and response activities for Hurricanes Dennis and Emily. The HNRCS and the Federation form part of an emergency coordinating committee

In *Grenada*, the GRCS is working with the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA). In addition, the GRCS is working with Grenada's Coast Guard, to undertake damage and needs assessments and to distribute relief materials.

In *Jamaica*, the JRC has met with the Government of Jamaica and international development partners to share information and coordinate responses.

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.

National Society Capacity Building

The capacity of the three National Societies involved in this operation will be strengthened as a result of the implementation of the operation. In particular, they will gain experience in logistics and distribution of relief goods.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Through continued public and media relations it is hoped that the public will develop a better understanding of the mission of the Red Cross and the mandate of the Federation. As members of the International Federation, the National Societies seek to promote the Fundamental Principles in all activities and subsequently facilitate additional visibility of the Movement as a whole.

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