

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: FOCUS ON HAITI AND JAMAICA

9 August 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. 03; Period covered: 26 July to 3 August 2005; Appeal coverage: 70.22%; (the contributions list is being updated and will be attached to the next operations update).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 15 July 2005 for CHF 758,000 (USD 587,505 or EUR 486,390) for 3 months to assist 29,000 beneficiaries (5,800 beneficiary families).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 250,000
- The total funding sought under this appeal has been increased to CHF 852,612

[Click here to access the revised budget for the operation.](#)

Outstanding Needs: CHF 253,932

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

Operational Summary: Relief distributions are underway in Haiti, in Saint Marc and Petit and Grand Goâves. Families hit by Hurricane Dennis in Petit and Grand Goâves have received allocated relief items, including 300 hygiene kits, blankets, body and laundry soap. The remaining items will be distributed by the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) to Côtes-de-Fer, Baintet and Roseau in the coming days. In addition, 800 kitchen kits, 800 blankets, 2,400 boxes of laundry soap and 2,400 bars of toilet soap have been distributed to 800 beneficiary families in Saint Marc in Bas Artibonite. A further 200 families in Tiburon (50) and Les Anglais (150) will benefit from the distribution of relief items. In Jamaica, the National Society's focus has been on providing psychosocial support, with special attention being given to those that had occupied and continue to occupy temporary shelters. During the reporting period, the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) has also been working with local support towards developing solutions for accommodation for individuals and families who lost or suffered significant damage to their homes as a result of the Hurricanes. In addition, the Jamaica Red Cross' Disaster Mental Health Unit has had success in informing the public about the service it provides and how to access it, through an island-wide media campaign.

The revised budget for the operation has been finalized and increased to CHF 852,612. This is particularly a result of an increase in costs for shipment of goods to Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica, since items were airlifted given the urgent needs. Following the budget revision, the appeal now has a coverage of 70.22%; however, the balance of funding is essential to ensure that the operation may be implemented in its entirety to assist vulnerable beneficiaries, many of whom were struggling to recover from Hurricane Ivan when Hurricanes Dennis and Emily hit.

Further details on the progress of the operation in Grenada are awaited for publication in the next operations update.

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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 Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/UNDP, 56 people died, 24 people disappeared, 36 people were injured and 2,370 people were affected. A total of 929 houses were totally destroyed and 3,058 houses were damaged. 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. 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 Saint Thomas, Saint Catherine, Portland, Saint Mary and Kingston and Saint Andrew were the areas that sustained the greatest impact.

Hurricane Dennis, at that time a category four hurricane, pounded *Cuba* for ten hours on Friday, 8 July, before heading into the Gulf of Mexico. 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. 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. The Cuban Civil Defence Agency has estimated that some eight million people were affected by the hurricane and approximately 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 National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) 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 was deployed to Grenada on Saturday, 16 July to support assessment and response activities.

In the other Windward Island countries affected by Hurricane Emily, there are minimal needs and these are being addressed by the 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 and several landslides were reported in Trinidad and North Tobago.

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

Although Hurricane Emily, then a category four status, only caused tropical storm conditions in *Jamaica*, some of the areas most affected by Emily were also affected by Hurricane Dennis. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the fact that the two hurricanes hit within a period of nine days complicated the assessment process. Hurricane Emily caused flooding in 65 communities in 8 parishes across the island, with the main areas of impact being Manchester and St. Elizabeth. In communities such as Riverhead in Saint Thomas and Somerset in Saint Andrew, there were incidences of landslides and some homes were totally destroyed. The aerial reconnaissance conducted by the Rapid Damage Assessment Team confirmed that these are the areas with the most damage. Approximately 3,594 persons occupied 108 shelters at the height of the storm. 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.



Destruction of personal belongings in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, after the passage of Hurricane Emily. The family concerned is being assisted with mattresses and hygiene kits from the Jamaica Red Cross.

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. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross 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 returned to their homes. Following Emily's passage, the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch deployed assessment teams; there has been no major damage reported.

Haiti experienced heavy rains with the passage of Emily, resulting in extensive flooding in the coastal city of Saint Marc in Bas Artibonite 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 assessments indicated that five people died (four of whom are infants), one person went missing, and thirty children were injured. Further information provided by the United Nations indicated that in Les Cayes, in the south of the country, Emily resulted in one death and a total of 37 houses were destroyed, 48 were severely damaged and 65 slightly damaged.

On Monday, 18 July, Emily, then a category four storm, battered the Yucatan peninsula of *Mexico* with winds of 135km/h (84mph). 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) had begun 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. After crossing the Gulf of Mexico, Emily re-entered Mexico on Wednesday morning, 20 July, in the state of Tamaulipas, 50km (30m) south of the Texas border. The storm, then with winds of 200km/h (125mph), brought down trees and power lines. No casualties were reported. Prior to Emily's arrival, the authorities had carried out preventative evacuations, and the country's Disaster Fund and Plan was activated. MRC national headquarters supported the branches' actions, including the distribution of materials that had been pre-positioned in both affected areas. The MRC Merida branch was given the responsibility of coordinating damage assessment for the state. The Mexican Red Cross has confirmed that the National Society does not require international assistance from the Federation to meet the needs of those affected by Hurricane Emily.

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 (PADRU) sent 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.

A relief airlift reached Haiti on 21 July. The airlift contained 2,000 blankets, 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen sets, 4,995 pieces of laundry soap and 5,000 pieces of bathing soap. A disaster management delegate was deployed to Haiti on 22 July to support the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the Federation Delegation in the country.

The circumstances of persons in Jamaica affected by Hurricanes Dennis and Emily are steadily improving, and damages sustained to infrastructure continue to be attended to by the relevant authorities. No major health risks or outbreaks have been reported. One family of eleven people remain in a temporary shelter in the parish of Saint Thomas. A JRC National Intervention Team member has reported that due to the flooding caused by Hurricane Emily, the Martha Brae community in Trelawny has a problem with its sewage system. The authorities have already been advised and are seeking to rectify the situation. The JRC is assisting by providing hygiene kits, bleach and jerry cans as well as mattresses to the families affected.

All shelters have been closed with the exception of one in Saint Thomas where a family of eleven is accommodated, since their house was completely destroyed by the storm. Efforts are being made to provide suitable housing for this family as soon as possible. The shelter in which the family resides is a primary school, which will need to be vacated by the commencement of the school term in September. Jamaica Red Cross will assist by facilitating the construction of a housing unit in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

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

Haiti

Emergency relief (non-food)

Objective 1: 800 vulnerable families (4,000 people) that were affected by Hurricane Dennis will have benefited from the distribution of relief items.

Progress/Achievements :

The distribution of relief items to departments in the south, south-east, and west of the country which were affected by Hurricane Dennis began on 5 August. In total, 800 families of Grand Anse, Petit and Grand Goave, Roseau, Baintet and Côtes-de-Fer will receive 800 hygiene kits, 800 blankets, and 3,200 units of body and laundry soap. So far, Petit and Grand Goaves have received the allocated relief items, including 300 hygiene kits. The remaining items will be distributed to Côtes-de-Fer, Baintet and Roseau (Jérémie) in the coming days.

Objective 2: 1,000 families (5,000 people) will have benefited from the distribution of non food items to assist them in recovering from the effects of Hurricane Emily.

Progress/Achievements :

Hundreds of families in the area of Saint Marc and surroundings 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. After having conducted surveys and received input from the branch in Saint Marc, the joint HNRCS and Federation assessment team have identified 1,000 families with the most urgent need for non-food items, following the passage of Hurricane Emily. The selection of beneficiary families was based on the level of vulnerability, with special attention to families whose homes were destroyed or seriously damaged, those who suffered significant losses in personal goods, female heads of households, and families with many children. The offices of the branch and the Antoinette Dessalines Centre were designated as distribution sites and 40 volunteers were mobilized to assist with distribution. The volunteers began by registering families and providing them with cards. In total, 800 kitchen kits, 800 blankets, 2,400 boxes of laundry soap and 2,400 bars of toilet soap have been distributed to 800 beneficiary families in Saint Marc. A further 200 families in Tiburon (50) and Les Anglais (150) will benefit from the distribution in the coming days.

Items in Kitchen Sets	Quantity
COOKING POT, 7L, +handle	1
COOKING POT, 5L, +handle & lid	1
FRYING PAN, 2.5L, lid for the 7L cooking pot	1
BOWL, 1L, metallic	5
PLATE, deep, aluminium, 0.75L	5
CUP, 0.5L, metallic	5
SPOON, table, 15ml, stainless steel	5
FORK, table, 20cm, stainless steel	5
KNIFE, table, 17cm, stainless steel	5
KNIFE, kitchen, 15cm stainless steel blade	1
SPOON, wooden, stirring, 30cm	1

Items in Hygiene Kits	Quantity
WASHING POWDER, 1kg	3 bags
TOILET PAPER, twin ply	12 rolls
SOAP, body soap, 100 gr	5
TOOTH PASTE, 75ml/100g	5
TOOTH BRUSH, medium	5
SHAMPOO, adult, normal hair	2
RAZOR, disposable	5
SANITARY PAD, normal	box of 10 x 8

Impact:

The immediate relief needs of 1,800 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.

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 seeks to assist 1,000 families through the provision of food and non-food items. As indicated in the Operations Update of 25 July, the following relief items have been distributed to people affected by Hurricane Dennis to date: 470 blankets, 541 hygiene kits, 620 kitchen sets, 735 plastic sheeting, 525 jerry cans, 462 buckets, 684 water bottles, 199 beds and 135 units of bleach. The remaining items will be distributed in the coming days.

Impact:

The needs of 1,000 families are being met as a result of this assistance. Major needs are for food, bedding, water containers, kitchen kits and hygiene items. In several communities, residents are obliged to remove mud from the landslides which poured into their homes.

Psychosocial Support

Objective 2: 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 Jamaica Red Cross has mobilized its Disaster Mental Health Unit (DMHU), so that clinical psychologists may provide counselling support to persons who were affected by the passage of Hurricanes Dennis and Emily, and particularly those who were accommodated in shelters. The DMHU has made several visits to a shelter in Yallahs, Saint Thomas where the last family needing shelter is residing following Hurricane Dennis. As well, the Unit has visited the family of three of the five people who died on 16 July 2005 in a car accident caused by flooding due to Hurricane Emily. The counsellors have provided psychosocial support to the families, including helping them to understand and come to terms with their situation.

There has been an island-wide media coverage campaign on the unit, including interviews on radio and television and features and tips in newspapers. Through this media coverage, the public has been informed about the DMHU, including the service it offers, the benefits it provides, and how to access it. There are also plans to expand the unit. The JRC branches will assist in identifying relevant professionals who may be interested in volunteering their service and expertise to the Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Unit.



Jamaica Red Cross visiting a family in a shelter in Yallahs, Saint Thomas, to provide psychosocial support, as well as relief goods such as food packages, hygiene kits, baby diapers, two mattresses, a stove and a cylinder.

Impact:

Since the start of the media campaign, a number of people have called in seeking psychosocial assistance or training for their staff on dealing with stress. The DMHU has been responding to these requests.

The JRC physical and psychosocial support has been particularly important for the family of eleven still in a temporary shelter, as their suffering has been particularly severe after losing not only their home but also the family's only source of income, after the single mother's shop was flooded by rains caused by Hurricane Dennis.

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 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 response activities for Hurricanes Dennis and Emily. The HNRCS and the Federation form part of an emergency coordinating committee. An agreement as to assistance to be provided by the Red Cross has been reached through liaison with the national authorities, UN and NGO representatives working in Haiti. USAID has pledged assistance to affected fishermen in the South of the country through the provision of fishing equipment. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with ECHO funding, will provide seed and agricultural tools to assist farmers in recovering from the effects of the hurricanes.

Jamaica Red Cross continues to coordinate with both local and international organizations. A meeting was held at the request of the Minister of Labour and Social Security to discuss lessons learned and next steps. The work of the Jamaica Red Cross and the Federation in community action and community preparedness was endorsed by the Minister, and all agencies were encouraged to follow-up on their initiative in these areas. The JRC has also advocated for additional support and recognition of the importance of psychological support in disasters.

In addition to providing 250 hygiene kits, UNFPA has committed to providing an additional 500 hygiene kits as pre-positioned stock. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the JRC and UNFPA which addresses the provision of these kits as well as Reproductive Health Emergency Kits. The JRC will store the reproductive health kits, which will allow for expeditious response in an event of an emergency or natural disaster. The JRC is also in dialogue with the Jamaica Bakers Association regarding the provision of supplies in the event of a disaster.

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. In Jamaica, there has been an island-wide media coverage campaign on the Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Unit including interviews on radio and television and features and tips in newspapers.

[Revised budget below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 05EA014

Caribbean: Hurricanes Dennis & Emily

TYPE	IN CHF		
	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
RELIEF NEEDS			
Shelter & Construction	141,000	159,635	18,635
Clothing & Textile	39,000	49,610	10,610
Medical & First Aid	0	2,690	2,690
Utensils & Tools	120,000	61,726	-58,275
Other Supplies	150,000	144,521	-5,479
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	450,000	418,182	-31,818
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computers & Telecom	0	7,200	7,200
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	49,000	55,420	6,420
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>			
Distribution & storage	13,000	272,600	259,600
Transport & vehicle expenses	175,000	0	-175,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	4,000	11,600	7,600
National Staff	15,000	29,970	14,970
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	21,000	25,020	4,020
Information expenses	3,000	3,760	760
Administrative & general expenses	28,000	28,860	860
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	308,000	434,430	126,430
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	758,000	852,612	94,612
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		852,612	
NET REQUEST			