

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

THE CARIBBEAN AND MEXICO: HURRICANE DEAN

Appeal No. MDR49001
Glide no: TC-2007-000135
12 September 2007

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 31 August to 6 September, 2007; Appeal target: CHF 2,399,670 (USD 1.9 million or EUR 1.4 million); Appeal coverage: 24%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1.8 million (USD 1.5 million or EUR 1 million);

*<click here to go directly to the donor response, or at page:
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MDR49001.pdf>>*

Appeal history:

- A Preliminary Appeal was launched on 22 August 2007 for CHF 1,591 (USD 1,321,429 or EUR 964,942) for 6 months to assist 35,000 beneficiaries (7,000 families).
- Appeal revised on 30 August 2007 to CHF 2,399,670 (USD 1.9 MILLION or EUR 1.4 MILION) for 6 months to assist 108,550 beneficiaries (21,710 families)
- Final Report is therefore due on May 2008.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 150,000 (USD 124,585 or EUR 90,909).

Operational Summary: Immediately following the emergency and in view of the devastation caused by Hurricane Dean, a number of Red Cross Societies, including Belize, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and Saint Lucia worked arduously to assess the needs and provide immediate support to the affected populations.

This operational update consolidates information gathered from 31 August to 11 September. The main focus remains on the immediate provision of relief items since early recovery and rehabilitation activities have already been identified. There is also a need for support to these Red Cross Societies in psychosocial support and other health activities including prevention of the spread of dengue fever.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and

human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Trinidad and Tobago: Thomas Doyle, Disaster Management Delegate Caribbean Regional Representation; thomas.doyle@ifrc.org; phone (868)789 9493, fax (507)3161082
- In Panama: Stephen McAndrew, Head, Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; e-mail Stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org, phone (507)316 1001; fax (507)316 1082
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Zone Relationship Management Coordinator, Americas; e-mail maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone (507)317 1300; fax (507)317 1304
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Tanya Wood, Head of the Caribbean Regional Representation, Port of Spain, email Tanya.wood@ifrc.org; phone (868)624 1557; fax (868)627 9627
- In Panama: Jose Garcia Lozano, Head of Zone, Americas, Panama, email jose.garcialozano@ifrc.org; phone (507)317 1300; fax (507) 317 1304
- In Geneva: Linda Stops, Operations Coordinator, email Linda.stops@ifrc.org, phone (4179)217 3376

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For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Hurricane Dean, the first hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season affected Belize, Dominica, the Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico and Saint Lucia. Preliminary reports indicated that at least a dozen people have deceased due to the hurricane in its path across the Caribbean and into Mexico. Dean entered the Caribbean through the Saint Lucia Channel (between St. Lucia and Martinique) on August 17, while still a Category 2 hurricane. The storm killed three people, damaged houses and buildings throughout the island chain and devastated the agricultural economies of St. Lucia, Martinique and Dominica. Although the toll in terms of loss of life has been limited, there has been a considerable impact on livelihoods, and the fragile islands' economies.

Preliminary reports from the Office of Disaster Management in Dominica indicated that 771 houses had been damaged, while 43 houses had been completely destroyed and 95 percent of the agricultural sector suffered damage. Although Dominica did not receive a direct hit from Hurricane Dean (the eye of the storm passed some 40 miles to the south of the island), Dominica's geographic location and topography, including its many steep slopes and rivers, make it vulnerable to natural disasters and especially prone to floods and landslides, resulting in damage to the road network. Due to the occurrence of heavy rains during the last days, further damage to roads and infrastructure has resulted the airport however, is already operational alongside other institutions. The two deaths recorded in Dominica were a direct result from landslides which also extensively damaged infrastructure (roads and bridges).



Destroyed house in Belize after Hurricane Dean's passage.

The storm passed to the south of most of the Greater Antilles, but its outer rain bands passed over many of the islands. The outer fringes of hurricane Dean swept over the Dominican Republic and Haiti bringing heavy squalls to the latter on the night of 18 August. Although landfalls were not the case in Haiti, the accompanying rains and wind gusts caused damage in the country, mostly in the coastal departments of Sud, Sud-est, Grande Anse, Nippes

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and Ouest. The Haitian Red Cross, jointly with the Federation and other partners assessed the situation in which a total of 1,858 families had been affected, 73 houses had been destroyed and 33 houses lost their roofs.

Hurricane Dean's sustained winds caused extensive damage to infrastructure and personal property along the eastern and southern coastline of Jamaica. The parishes affected were St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. Ann, St. Mary, St. Elizabeth, St. James, Clarendon, Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA), Portland, Manchester, Trelawny, Hanover and Westmoreland. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) has estimated that 160,000 persons have been affected by the effects of the hurricane, which is around 60 percent of the total population in the affected area. Four deaths have been confirmed to date. In addition, flooding was reported on the east coast of Jamaica, and mudslides on the northeast coast. In Kingston, buildings collapsed, houses lost their roofs and trees were uprooted due to the strong winds. The road from Kingston to the airport was covered in sand, boulders, and downed power lines.

Corozal Town in Belize was hit by the outer edge of the southern band of hurricane Dean on 21 August. As a result, 8,000 people had to move to shelters (86 hurricane shelters were opened nation-wide). Preliminary assessments showed that some 2,500 families had been affected in the districts of Corozal and Orange Walk and the islands of Ambergris Caye and Caye Caulker. Electricity infrastructure was down and subsequently water systems were inoperative in the affected areas.

At least 400 homes were completely destroyed, while another 1,500 houses have lost their roof or have received other damage. Livelihoods have been greatly affected as a result of the storm, particularly cash crops (papaya and sugar cane plantations). Some 35,000 acres of sugar cane alone have been rendered unfit for harvesting. Subsistence farmers are also facing extensive loss of their crops. Belize continued to face heavy rainfall which is worsened flooding caused by hurricane Dean.

Dean battered Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula as a strong category five storm before crossing the Gulf of Mexico and making a second landfall in Mexico on 22 August as a weaker category two storm. Homes greatly suffered at poor villages and forced tens of thousands of people, including many tourists, into shelters on the Yucatan Peninsula. The hurricane caused flooding and landslides across Central Mexico as it passed over the Sierra Madre Oriental range. According to joint assessments 207,800 persons resulted affected in the states of Quintana Roo, Campeche, Veracruz, Hidalgo, Puebla and Tabasco. Five deaths were recorded in Puebla as a result of the effects of hurricane Dean and it is estimated that a total of at least 50,000 houses suffered damage.

Operational developments

A team of **Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS)** volunteers in coordination with Local Government District Development Officers carried out assessments of the affected areas in the south and distributed tarpaulins, water bladders, hygiene kits and lanterns. Upon the completion of the first distributions, the Dominica Red Cross relief stocks had all been depleted. However, PADRU has sent kitchen sets in order to start replenishment of stocks as well as tarpaulins for further distributions that are foreseen to take place on 13 September alongside other relief items such as mattresses, kitchen sets, cleaning sets and jerry cans. Mattresses have been locally purchased aiming at decreasing operation costs. Additionally, the final beneficiary list has been confirmed hence a total of 170 families will benefit from the upcoming distributions.

Moreover, the **Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLURC)** distributed hygiene kits, kitchen sets, cots (field beds), blankets and tarpaulin to meet the most urgent and immediate needs after Dean's passage. Distributions at St. Lucia during the week of 10 to 14 August included 1,000 mosquito nets. Since the St. Lucia Red Cross distributed the totality of its stock, the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has sent hygiene kits, cots, blankets, tarpaulins and kitchen sets for replenishment. While the St. Lucia Red Cross has been able to continue with their actions on schedule, the St. Lucia government activities have been on hold since the weekend of 8 to 9 August following the death of prime minister Sir John Compton.

The **Haitian Red Cross**, working jointly with the Federation and other partners, assessed the situation in which a total of 1,858 families had been affected. However, damage to half of these families was limited and as a result the Haitian Red Cross in coordination with the Civil Protection of Haiti concluded that 900 families were in need of

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aid in the form of relief items. To date, the Haitian Red Cross jointly with other organizations such as Caritas has benefited 106 people through distributions that have taken place in the department of Sud-este. These 106 people have already returned home from 3 temporary shelters and other places where families have been able to find refuge. Previous to the distributions, Haitian Red Cross volunteers handed out coupons to the identified beneficiaries with which they were able to receive school kits, kitchen kits, mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits and jerry cans (one per family). This distribution completes two previous distributions of mattresses and kitchen sets.

The **Jamaica Red Cross** participated in ten assessment missions on 21 and 22 August in coordination with members of other humanitarian organizations present in the country. The assessment missions demonstrated that the worst affected parishes were Clarendon, Manchester and St. Catherine. During the assessment, Jamaican Red Cross branch members provided relief supplies such as drinking water and food. A RITS member arrived on Saturday 7 September in order to provide logistics, relief and information support to the Jamaican Red Cross. Further immediate needs that were requested at the time by the branches were analysed and materials have been sent accordingly, thus requests have been so far completed.

Nevertheless, the entire operation is scheduled to be completed in 12 weeks. Once distributions have been completed (after 6 weeks) the livelihoods components will be initiated (see table of distributions in Red Cross Action section). Cleaning has however already begun in Kingston as well as in other areas where it is required and power has been restored to 509,000 homes and businesses representing about 90 percent of the country. The projected time for full restoration remains at September 9, 2007. The shelter population has declined to 200 persons in 15 shelters, island wide since people have begun to return home. St. Thomas and St. Catherine have the highest number of people in shelters; with 58 and 41 respectively.

Three **Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS)** teams, accompanied by a Disaster Management delegate from PADRU, conducted needs assessments in the northern districts along with branch volunteers. Based on these initial assessments the most affected persons (predominantly the most economically vulnerable) were in urgent need of food parcels, potable water, hygiene kits, buckets, tarpaulins and blankets. The Belize Red Cross is still targeting 400 families in the Corozal District and 100 families in the Orange Walk District.

Additionally with funding from the OAK Foundation, the Belize Red Cross will take on an additional 445 families in the Copper Bank, Chunox and Sartenija areas in the Corozal district. All Belize Red Cross activities are linked into the on-going Community Based Risk Reduction programme and is therefore, going to tender for the printing of Health Awareness and Hygiene Promotion posters which will target families in the affected areas.

The Norwegian Red Cross has submitted a proposal to the European Commission in support of the Federation's Emergency Appeal for hurricane DEAN and a final decision is expected during the week of 11 to 14 August.

The National Intervention Teams (NIT) of the **Mexican Red Cross** carried out need assessments in coordination with other organizations present in the area in order to determine the appropriate humanitarian relief aid to be provided. These assessments were carried out at local branches in the most affected districts: Campeche, Quintana Roo, Veracruz, Hidalgo and Puebla. The Mexican Red Cross immediately responded to the situation by distributing 4,500 food parcels to assist the most affected families during the first week. Continued assessments demonstrated the need for additional food parcels, and the need for kitchen kits, hygiene kits and child kits. The American Red Cross will further provide bilateral support to recovering rehabilitation programmes in Mexico.

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

Emergency relief

Objective 1: 21,710 families (108,5550 people) affected by Hurricane Dean (500 families in Belize, 200 families in Dominica, 900 families in Haiti, 5,000 families in Jamaica, 15,000 families in Mexico and 110 families in Saint Lucia) will benefit from the provision of relief items to accelerate recovery.

Belize: The following represent Belize Red Cross distributions up to 11 September 2007.

COROZAL DISTRICT

Item	Quantity
Food Packages	1,415
Blankets	850
Tarpaulins	275
Kitchen Sets	168
Hygiene Kits	334
Water containers	4,960
Buckets	135
Jerry Cans 5gallons	36
Water Bottles 1 gallon	1,000
Clothing (Bags)	73
Comfort Kits	52

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

Item	Quantity
Food Packages	35
Blankets	50
Tarpaulins	20
Hygiene Kits	30
Buckets	30
Clothing (Bags)	5
Comfort Kits	10

The Belize Red Cross is in its second round of distributions of locally procured supply of food parcels which caters for the needs for a two week period. The Belize Red Cross is also in the process of distributing the Federation's hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins, and kitchen sets.

Dominica: According to the needs assessed in Dominica, the DRCS have assisted 200 families with the following relief items: tarpaulin, kitchen kits, cleaning kits, household items such as mattresses and lanterns, jerry cans. The Dominica Red Cross immediately distributed their pre-positioned stocks and so where seeking to replenish these stocks. In response to this need, PADRU has sent a number of kitchen sets as well as tarpaulins for further distributions that are foreseen to take place on 13 September alongside other relief items such as mattresses, kitchen sets, cleaning sets and jerry cans.

Haiti: The Haitian Red Cross has coordinated their activities with other humanitarian organizations present in the affected areas and decided to provide assistance to 900 of the most affected families in the departments of Sud, Sud-Est, Grand Anse and Nippes. The selected families in Sud-Est have benefited from the distribution of the following items:

Non-food items	Quantity
Cubes *	40
School kits (includes back-pack, pen and writing pads)	50
Jerry cans	40
Kitchen Sets	100
Mattresses	100
Blankets	100

*Each cube contains 70 clean water tabs, 300 detergent soap bars and 200 body soaps.

Jamaica:

Relief Item	Quantity
Blanket units	1,869
Bottled Water (6)	1,258
Food packages	3,478

Hygiene Kits	1,027
Jerry Cans	2,456
Tarpaulins (5)	3,607

The Jamaican Red Cross participated in a major event sponsored by RJR radio which involved key government, NGO and private sector organizations, carried out live from Rocky Point. During the event, the Jamaican Red Cross distributed 100 blankets, 100 tarpaulins and 100 food packages. As a consequence of this event, the Jamaican Red Cross has received national coverage in one of its emergency relief distributions.

Saint Lucia: In response to the urgent needs resulting of the effects of hurricane Dean the Saint Lucia Red Cross immediately distributed their pre-positioned stocks to 110 affected families. The following relief items were distributed according to the needs identified by families:

Relief Item	Quantity
Hygiene Kits	55
Cots	40
Blankets	125
Tarpaulins	117
Kitchen sets	51

Early Recovery

Objective 1: Early recovery and rehabilitation activities are assessed, planned and implemented together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.

In order to facilitate transition from temporary shelters to proper housing, the National Societies of Belize, Dominica, Jamaica and St. Lucia will provide families with the means to repair the damage inflicted by Dean on their housing. To facilitate recovery of those who have lost means of livelihood, the Jamaica Red Cross will support restoration of livelihoods.

Belize: Livelihoods have been severely affected by Dean, especially among the papaya and sugar cane farmers. Further assessments need to be carried out after the emergency phase to determine longer term needs and to identify key recovery activities.

Jamaica: The entire operation is scheduled to be completed in 12 weeks. Once distributions have been completed, which will take about six weeks, the livelihoods components will be initiated. Nonetheless, this component could initiate before the expected date since people are already returning to their homes (refer to Operational Developments section). At the same time, the Jamaican Red Cross is working towards building alliances or/and partnerships with other Movement actors in order to offer assistance to families who have partially or completely lost their homes due to the hurricane. The assistance would include, depending on needs, the repairing of roofs, the rehabilitation of damaged homes, and the construction of new homes all throughout Jamaica, with a stronger focus on the most affected areas. Efforts are foreseen to be coordinated with Jamaican Red Cross Branches.

Saint Lucia: The Red Cross was requested to play a lead role in the recovery process and provide assistance to the affected population in Saint Lucia including reconstruction of houses and the repairing of roofs after a meeting with other members of the National Welfare Committee. During the week of 10 to 14 September, roofing materials and plywood (for houses' walls) will be distributed in accordance with the latter request.

Health – Psychosocial Support

Objective 1: the affected communities will benefit from psychosocial support (PSP) to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

The Jamaica Red Cross is a leading National Society in the region in developing PSP support. It has been providing immediate psychological support to families in the two most affected communities: Old Harbour Bay and Portland Cottages since many of these families have suffered a loss of property and/or temporary displacement as a result of Dean. However, the activities planned to reach this objective will probably not be launched before the 6th week of operation given that the first six weeks are being devoted to the emergency relief operations part.

Objective 2: Vulnerable families will be sensitized on key health messages through a health awareness campaign related to vector control and water borne diseases.

With the passage of Dean, water levels in Belize increased considerably and a continued threat of greater flooding remains if rainfall continues as it has during the last days. Based on this situation and the fact that Belize has a history of dengue, there is a threat of an outbreak of waterborne diseases. The Belize Red Cross Society has therefore started to carry out a health awareness campaign related to vector control and waterborne diseases. In consequence, the Belize Red Cross is currently going to tender for the printing of Health Awareness and Hygiene Promotion posters which will target families in the affected areas.

Capacity Building

Objective 1: The capacity of the Red Cross National Societies in needs assessment and humanitarian response is increased.

The Mexican Red Cross will organize two workshops focused on Evaluation in Emergencies to strengthen their capacity and skills in emergency evaluation. However, this will start once the emergency relief operations are over.

Federation Coordination

The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is in close contact with the Federation's Caribbean Regional Representation in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as with the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation in Panama, PIRAC, Partner National Societies (PNS), affected Caribbean National Societies and Overseas Branches and the Mexican Red Cross.

PADRU and the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) based in Panama are in coordination with the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, French Red Cross, and the Norwegian Red Cross, who are sending assistance to those National Societies affected by the hurricane.

Coordination meetings have taken place between the International Federation, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the OAK Foundation in Belize and the Saint Lucia National Welfare Committee in order to discuss participation in joint coordinated response operations.

National Society Capacity Building

During the pre-hurricane meeting that took place in Panama from 14 to 17 May 2007, National Societies from countries prone to hurricanes in the Americas participated actively in the development of a Contingency Plan for the Region. The development of the Regional Contingency plan helped explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice.

In general, the national societies affected by hurricane Dean were well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks both within county and between National Societies in the region, trained personnel and pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All the National Societies have a place in the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

Over the last decade, the **Belize Red Cross Society's (BRCS)** disaster preparedness and response capacity has been highly tested by the landfall of two Category 4 hurricanes, Keith in 2000 that impacted the north of the country (again Corozal and Orange Walk) and Iris in 2001 that devastated the southern districts. Lessons learned helped to strengthen the Disaster Management Committee, the body that provides technical support and manages the National Society emergency response. This committee has a widely representative membership that includes the Director of the National Disaster Management Organization (NEMO). Eight branches ensure the reach of the National Society into all six administrative districts of the country and to the highly vulnerable island of Ambergris Caye. Both Corozal and Orange Walk Branches activated their EOCs a day prior to the impact of Hurricane Dean and are a key part of the response.

The response capacity of the **Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS)** was tested following the passage of Hurricanes Luis & Marilyn in 1995 and Hurricane Lenny in 1999. In the former event, the DRCS was mandated

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by the government to chair the NGO Relief Committee responsible for managing and implementing the main relief distribution programme. The National Society has provided Disaster Management training to personnel of the Local Government Department and liaises closely with them in the implementation of relief operations in communities. As a member of NEPO (National Emergency Planning Organisation) and a Task Force member which serves in the EOC, the DRCS collaborates with the Office of Disaster Management in all stages of preparedness and response. The response capacity of the society has since been enhanced through the further training of two FACT members and four RIT members.

The **Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS)** has several National Intervention Teams (NIT) trained in Evacuation, Search and Rescue, First Aid actions, Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA), emergency logistics, and humanitarian relief. In addition, 200 trained “Relais Communautaires” (community volunteers trained by the National Society) worked during six months on the implementation of a disaster preparedness programme, which mainly focused on raising community awareness and disaster preparedness within the vulnerable populations. Due to the vulnerability of Haiti in terms of impact and quantity of disasters the Emergency Operations Committee has been activated on several occasions. However, capacities in disaster management, suitable equipment and a broader base of volunteers are limited. The Red Cross Federation is currently in the process to revise the current organisational structure at HNRCS Head Quarters.

Jamaica has experienced four major hurricanes in the past fifty-six years: hurricane Charlie in 1951, hurricane Gilbert in 1988, hurricane Ivan in 2004 and now hurricane Dean. Lessons learnt from hurricanes Gilbert and Ivan were used by the **Jamaica Red Cross (JRC)** to make better preparations for Dean, so the impact was reduced and response effort well organized. The JRC has a signed MOU with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), with whom a close working relationship has been established. The 13 branches of the JRC are activated in the response to hurricane Dean along with fourteen community disaster response teams (CDRTs), trained through the DIPECHO Projects. The National Society has the mandate by government to manage shelters.

Especially in the coastal Mexican state of Quintana Roo, memories of the devastation caused by Hurricane Wilma in 2005 are fresh. Due to the fact that Mexico is experiencing impact of tropical storms and hurricanes almost every year in the last ten years, the **Mexican Red Cross (MRC)** has a long history of working in disasters and has developed a strong capacity in disaster response. Among other capacities, the MRC can count on trained National Intervention Teams (NIT) and a large base of volunteers. The MRC has 449 departmental branches, 127 schools for technicians in medical emergencies, 87 relief schools, and 14 nursing schools and is well equipped with ambulances, rescue units and vehicles. The Mexican Red Cross owns a national training centre (CENCAD), which houses a new warehouse with ability to store up to 100,000 relief kits.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLURC)** responded to Tropical Storm Debbie in 1994, Hurricane Lenny in 1999 and severe floods in Anselaraye in 2000 and 2001. The National Society has a Disaster Management Committee chaired by a full time Disaster Management Coordinator. Among the responsibilities mandated to the National Society in times of disaster are feeding of the nation in the first 72 hours, support with shelters and to the medical teams. The National Society chairs the National Social Welfare Committee and has the vice chair of the National Supplies Management Committee. All three of the SLRU branches, Castries, Vieuxfort and Grosislet were activated as Dean approached and are involved in the national society response.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

There has been close coordination and support to the NS to increase the visibility of their actions in regards to the communication through PADRU, the Regional Representation Offices and the Communications department of the International Federation’s Secretariat in Geneva. Regular situation reports have been issued by Red Cross National Societies through the Federation’s Disaster Management



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Information System (DMIS) on the global International Federation website. Several articles about Dean were posted on the website of the International Federation. Press releases have been issued by the Jamaica Red Cross and Mexican Red Cross in order to raise funds and develop a better understanding of the mission of International Federation of the Red Cross and the activities the organization undertakes in serving affected communities. In the same line, local and international media were provided with interviews directly from the affected national societies.

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