

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Caribbean: Hurricane Season 2008

Emergency appeal n° MDR49003  
GLIDE No. TC-2008-000143  
Operations update n° 2  
6 October 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 16 to 2  
October, 2008;

Appeal target (current): CHF 2,010,991 (USD  
1,828,173 or EUR 1,243,656)

[<click here to view the attached revised  
Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

Appeal coverage: 35%;

[> Click here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 9 September, 2008 for **CHF 1,802,093 (USD 1,638,300 or EUR 1,115,850)** for six months to assist 25,000 beneficiaries.
- An allocation from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for CHF 25,000 (USD 23,809 or EUR 15,291) was made on 28 August 2008 to support the National Society of Jamaica to cover early preparation and relief activities costs. A second DREF allocation for CHF 100,000 (90,909 or EUR 61,920) was requested and approved on 2 September.
- A DREF allocation for CHF 25,000 (USD 23,809 or EUR 15,291) was granted on 1 September 2008 to support the Bahamas Red Cross Society. A second DREF allocation for CHF 170,000 (USD 154,545 or EUR 105,263) was requested and approved on 2 September.
- On 6 October budget was revised to CHF 2,010,991 (USD 1,828,173 or EUR 1,243,656) for 9 months to assist 20,000 beneficiaries.



The Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteers preparing for distribution activities.  
Source: International Federation.

**Summary:** On 28 August, 2008, hurricane Gustav lashed through Jamaica and Cayman Islands with strong winds and rain. Three days later, tropical storm Hanna swamped the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Island with heavy rain and gusts. The National Societies and the Overseas Branches of British Red Cross (BRCS) were beginning their damage and need assessments when hurricane Ike passed near causing heavy rains delaying the relief operation and causing extensive damage to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the south east Bahamas. The objectives in this appeal have been established based on identified needs: relief items, provision of psychosocial support, safe water and rehabilitation of livelihoods. This operations update no.2 portrays the progress on the objectives established in the preliminary emergency appeal. It includes additional activities as a result of further assessments during the initial relief phase, as well as a revised number of beneficiaries for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The operation has been extended to nine months to allow for the thorough implementation of recovery, disaster

preparedness and capacity building activities.

## The situation

Tropical Storm Gustav impacted **Jamaica** on 28 and 29 August 2008 causing extensive rain and wind damage to infrastructure and personal effects. According to preliminary reports from the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), a total of 72 communities have been affected. The most affected communities were in the parishes of St Catherine, Kingston and St Andrew, Portland, St. Thomas and St. Mary. Landslides, flooding and torrential winds affected the communities in these parishes. To date a total of 12 fatalities have been confirmed as a result of Tropical Storm Gustav.

The Ministry of Agriculture reported damages to 70 percent of the banana crops in St Mary, 80 percent in St. Thomas and 90 percent in Portland. Preliminary estimates reveal that the overall agricultural sector sustained damages totalling \$1.7 billion Jamaican dollars.



A beneficiary carrying a food parcel in the community of New Haven, Kingston.

Source: Jamaica Red Cross

The **Bahamas** Red Cross Society (BRCS) was responding to the damages caused by Hanna when hurricane Ike interrupted relief activities on 7 September, 2008. The BRCS was able to send additional hurricane preparation and emergency relief items such as water, food parcels, cots, blankets and flashlights as requested to several islands including Mayaguana, Grand Bahama, New Providence, and Crooked Island. Ike caused most damage in the island of Inagua, while the southern islands such as Mayaguana, Acklins, Crooked and Ragged Islands sustained lesser damages. There were no reports of fatalities or injuries. Main communication systems were interrupted hampering assessments and distribution of relief items such as food, water and roofing tarpaulins. There was damage to infrastructure including

telephone, transportation, electricity and water systems. Coordination of the response, particularly of relief transport, was done with NEMA. Based on the 2007 census figures for the islands impacted and detailed damage assessments, it was estimated that approximately 500 to 700 families were affected.

On 1 September hurricane Hanna hit the **Turks and Caicos Islands** moving from a tropical storm to a category 1 hurricane. The weather system stayed over and around the islands for three days causing flooding and some damage to housing. Shortly, on 6 September hurricane Ike hit the Turks and Caicos as a category four hurricane causing extensive damage to housing and other structures as well as some flooding. Grand Turks was directly hit with an estimated 80 percent of housing damaged of which 20 percent was severely damaged. With the official population figures for Turks and Caicos Islands being approximately 33,000 people, an estimated 6,950 people were affected on Grand Turk, South Caicos and Salt Cay, and several thousand on Providenciales. Initially following the storm, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) stated Grand Turk port authority was not operating. EOC has since stated old customs building will be knocked down and a new warehouse facility will arrive on 29 September.

Less than half of Grand Turk had running water. There is no electricity service except for the Governor's house and the area around the EOC. Teams of technicians from approximately eight Caribbean countries are working on restoring the grid. Two public shelters in Grand Turk remain open serving three hot meals a day for those in need.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) completed a thorough distribution of relief items followed by more targeted relief distributions in the most affected areas identified by the rapid assessments completed on 9 and 10 September. The identified areas are: Grand Turk South Caicos, Salt Cays and Providenciales. Infrastructure is currently being reestablished in Grand Turk through the government, Bermuda Regiment and private companies.

Unsolicited donations from both within the island and externally continue to be given. These include second-hand clothing, water, soft drinks, food and generators.

## Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation, through its **Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)** and the **Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO)** have been in close contact with the National Societies of the Bahamas and Jamaica, as well as the British Red Cross overseas Branches of the Turks and Caicos and Cayman Islands. One Federation disaster management delegate was initially deployed to Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Island to support the overseas branch, with an additional joint follow up visit with the Representative of the CRRO. Additionally, there were three Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members from Jamaica, Guyana and United States in Bahamas supporting the relief operation.

The United Nations Populations Funds (UNFPA) partnered with the **Jamaican Red Cross (JRC)** to procure items for 1,000 locally purchased hygiene kits to be distributed to the affected areas. This distribution has commenced and is still on-going. JRC received 100 hygiene kits from the Canadian Red Cross. Private companies such as Nestle Jamaica donated food items valued at approximately 700,000 Jamaican dollars (USD 45,161) (to be placed in the food parcels). These items were included in the food parcels and were distributed. JRC coordinated relief efforts with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) since the beginning of the emergency.

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** worked closely with NEMA and had a representative at the NEOC or in regular communication with the NEOC leadership throughout the emergency and early response phase. Close coordination and information sharing between the Department of Social Services (DSS), NEMA and BRCS helped all efficiently manage the early response phase. Additionally, the Royal Bahamas Defense Force (RBDF) provided key assistance with transportation of relief items from the BRCS to the affected islands.



Airplane with relief items sent by PADRU to Turks and Caicos.

Source: International Federation

The **Turks and Caicos Islands** branch of the British Red Cross (BRC) continues to coordinate closely with the government, in particular the Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) of the Disaster Management Office, NGOs (Rotary, Shelter kit, Samaritan Purse, Salvation Army) and private companies (IGA Supermarket, Projectech, etc.). The **Turks and Caicos Islands** branch of the British Red Cross (BRC) particularly, has been closely working with church groups on Grand Turk and Providenciales to identify the most vulnerable people that have been affected by the hurricanes.

Close coordination has taken place between the BRC and the Federation based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in May 2008 as well as an Operational MOU for this particular operation signed on September 2008. BRC have agreed to cover the costs of the TCI operation within this Emergency Appeal with logistics and human resource support from the International Federation.

### National Society Capacity Building:

Many of the National Societies in the region benefit from disaster preparedness programmes, focussing on Vulnerability Capacity Assessments, CDRT, micro mitigation programmes and trained National Intervention teams. This is supported by regional training in these areas, as well as sharing lessons through the Regional Disaster Management Network. Also, 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 Gustav, Hanna and Ike were well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks both within country and between National Societies in the region, trained personnel and

pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All the National Societies have a role in the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

The Bahamas had a recent experience in disaster response last year with hurricane Noel. **The Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)** volunteers supported relief activities in shelters, evacuated people in the affected regions and performed initial assessments. Within their plan of action a cash distribution programme was implemented successfully, reason it is once more included in this emergency response operation.

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, Ivan and Dean were used by the **Jamaica Red Cross (JRC)** to make better preparations for this year's storm season, so the impact was reduced and response effort well organized. An evaluation of last year's response to hurricane Dean has just been concluded and shared with the JRCS. 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 were activated in response to hurricane Gustav along with 14 community disaster response teams (CDRTs), trained through the DIPECHO Projects. The National Society has the mandate by government to manage shelters.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The **JRC** since the beginning of the emergency, held meetings with their Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management's Shelter and Care Committee, and the Jamaican Emergency Operations Centre. Jamaica Red Cross National Intervention Teams (NITs) responded to the emergency and all 13 branches were activated along with 14 pre trained community disaster response teams (CDRTs). JRC stocks were relocated to accessible locations. JRC provided cooked meals, blankets and hygiene kits in several shelters located in different parishes throughout the island.

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)** began mobilizing relief items the day after hurricane Ike hit the islands on 8 September, prioritizing response to Inagua, the most affected island. Reports were received from local branches or volunteer leaders (including CDRTs). Urgent needs were for full relief support to Inagua where 90 percent of homes suffered some damage, the water system, the airport and docks suffered major damage. The major employer in the island was severely affected and will be closed for two months. All 302 families on Inagua required emergency assistance of food, water and tarpaulins (most roofs were damaged) as well as possible longer-term assistance until livelihoods and homes are repaired. The Island of Acklins with approximately 350 residents was also identified as having emergency food needs. They had been cut off from mail boat food delivery for three weeks and had suffered major interruptions in their primary livelihoods of fishing and bark gathering due to the storm.

BRCS and Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member assessment teams began distributing emergency relief supplies in Inagua on Monday, 8 September, the day after the passage of Hurricane Ike. Transport and early distribution was done in coordination with NEMA and the Royal Bahamas Defense Force with additional transport assistance from the US Coast Guard. A RIT and BRCS volunteer with emergency supplies were sent to Acklins via private charter on 11 September after receiving reports of emergent food needs but not being able to establish communication to verify. Additional relief and recovery supplies are currently being mobilized for Inagua and Acklins. All relief distributions were completed on 17 September 2008. A total of 556 families have been assisted by the emergency response efforts. Additional assistance is being considered between 100 and 300 families in the most affected island of Inagua via cash distribution programming. Recovery and capacity building activities to include are PSP, SPHERE trainings and planning of pre-positioning of disaster preparedness supplies.

**The Turks and Caicos British Red Cross Overseas Branch** volunteers carried out a complete relief distribution in Grand Turk to meet the immediate shelter needs of those affected. Between 11 and 14 September, volunteers distributed tarpaulins to 928 signatories representing households in the affected areas of North Back Salina, South Back Salina, Overback, West Road, Breezy Brae, the Ridge, Corktree and Palm Grove. As running water has still not been re-established on Grand Turk these beneficiaries received a combination of jerry cans, aquatabs, mosquito nets and tarpaulins between 14 and 21 September, bringing the total number of signatories representing households to 1,196.

At the same time, a more targeted approach was being developed together with church groups and community organisations to identify the most vulnerable for further distributions of stoves, kitchen kits, shelter kits and

hygiene kits. TCI Overseas Branch has been working well with other organisations – government and NGOs to facilitate the distribution of relief items. Between 23 and 25 September, Red Cross volunteers and TCI cadets distributed Shelter Kits (which include tents and tool kits) to some 118 families.

While carrying out distributions, Red Cross volunteers have been collecting information and reviewing the beneficiary list to ensure quality of the lists.

Relief activities are planned to be completed by end of week three (29 September). Land ownership and the condemning of unsafe structures is a current issue as this impacts on the ability of people having their shelter needs met.

## Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Objective: 4,000 families (20,000 people) affected by the floods will have benefited from the distribution of food (in Jamaica) and non-food items (2,000 families in Jamaica, 500 in Bahamas and 1,500 in Turks and Caicos) in order to help them recover from the floods.</b>	
Expected results	Activities planned
Approximately 20,000, people in the affected countries will receive essential food and on food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

### Jamaica

#### Progress:

On 5 September 2008 the International Federation, through its Panama-based RLU shipped the following items to Jamaica:

- 800 kitchen kits.
- 800 hygiene kits.
- 1,600 mosquito nets.
- 500 tarpaulins.
- 800 buckets.
- 510 blankets.

The distribution of food and non-food items to the most affected people is in progress. To date, 648 families have received tarpaulins, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets, buckets and jerry cans. Full scale distributions will continue in Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary. In addition to the stoves which are currently being shipped from the RLU, JRC will offer vouchers to beneficiaries to partially offset the cost of fuel for the stoves. Other parishes continue to address the needs of a few affected families.

The number of beneficiary families who have received relief items by Parish is as follows:

Westmoreland: 57 families  
 Trelawny: 64 families  
 Clarendon: 50 families  
 St. Ann: 2 families  
 KSab: 107 families served  
 St. Catherine: 185 families  
 Portland: 104 families  
 St. Elizabeth: 20 families  
 St. Thomas: 10 families  
 St. Mary: 29 families

## Bahamas

### Progress:

The BRCS and RIT assessment teams began the relief activities including the distributions of relief items in Inagua on Monday, 8 September, the day after the passage of Hurricane Ike. Transport and early distribution was done in coordination with NEMA and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force with additional transport assistance from the US Coast Guard. Another Red Cross team with emergency supplies was sent to the Island of Acklins via private charter on 11 September after receiving reports of emergent food needs but not being able to establish communication to verify. A total of 500 families will be assisted by the emergency response efforts – representing a total of about 1,500 persons. Additional assistance is being considered between 100 and 300 families in the most affected island of Inagua via cash distribution programming.

On 6 September 2008, the RLU shipped the following items to **Bahamas** for stock replenishment:

- 2,520 blankets.
- 500 hygiene kits.
- 1,000 tarpaulins.
- 500 kitchen kits.
- 1,000 mosquito nets.
- 1,050 jerry cans.
- 50 first aid kits.
- 2 chainsaws.
- 1 generator.
- 2 twin halogen stand work light.
- 10 pick axe with handle.
- 10 shovel with handle.
- 1 rope.
- 1 volunteer kit for 50 persons.
- 1 visibility items (IFRC banners, flags, stickers).

Household distributions were done both in Inagua and Acklins, primarily by Red Cross assessment-distribution teams (including local Red Cross volunteers) going door to door on each island. In addition, the teams met with key community, health department, social services and government and military officials and leaders to ensure an accurate understanding of the situation and appropriate, coordinated response. Due to the large size of the hurricane and the small size of the affected islands, it was possible to meet with almost all families. Moreover, all families were affected by the damage to and temporary closure of the Morton Salt factory which is the main employment provider in the island. Not all families required or accepted assistance.

Additional relief and recovery supplies are currently being mobilized for Inagua and Acklins. Distributions should be completed by 17 October 2008. Distributions include major emergency relief items to Inagua and Acklins Islands and distributions of supplies to replenish hurricane preparedness and initial relief support stock on the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco. Follow-up beneficiary surveys are being done on Inagua.

The following table represents all distributions from the BRC Headquarters warehouse to affected islands as of 26 September 2008. Additional supplies are available in the warehouse to cover the currently planned distributions noted above.

**Bahamas Red Cross Relief Distributions by Island and Item – as of 26 September 2008**

Island	Food Parcels	Hygiene Kits	Kitchen Kits	Tarpaulins	Blankets	Mosquito Nets
Abaco	0	20	20	4	150	100
Acklins	90	77	0	0	240	50
Crooked	5	5	0	0	0	0

Grand Bahama	0	60	0	4	240	0
Inagua	455	350	68	333	600	400
Mayaguana	5	0	0	0	0	0
New Providence	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>550</b>

### Challenges:

Major issues were encountered in the transportation of relief items to the outer islands. This slowed down the distribution of items to beneficiaries on Inagua and Acklins Islands. Transport was initially coordinated entirely through NEMA during the emergency. Once the hurricane was past, transport was slow to return to pre-hurricane levels due to damage to infrastructure, high needs, and continued weather concerns. Charter planes had to be utilized to get goods to islands without regularly scheduled flights, cargo space, or mail boat schedules that would not meet the needs of beneficiaries. Final distributions are planned to be done by BRCS and community leaders on each island.

Transportation issues at the Bahamas Red Cross Society were also noted as there is not an adequate vehicle to transport personnel or goods. A request for a rental vehicle was included in the initial appeal, although pending funding for the appeal, a vehicle purchase is being recommended.

The BRCS warehouse is also in need of a fork-lift to expedite the movement of goods especially on and off delivery trucks. Multiple pallets of goods had to be taken off pallets and then re-palletized by hand as they moved in and out of the warehouse. A donation of a fork-lift is being sought.

To meet the emergency needs on Acklins Island, the Bahamas Red Cross Society needed to charter two planes to get supplies in even though Bahamas Air (BA) had resumed flight service by the time of the second charter. Difficulty arose as BA would not guarantee cargo. It is recommended that BRCS explore with National Emergency Management Agency the possibility of signing an MOU with Bahamas Air (a government-owned airline) for emergency shipments under similar circumstances in the future.

### Turks and Caicos Island:

#### Progress:

The British Red Cross Overseas Branch in Turks and Caicos Islands requested the following items:

- 5,000 jerry cans.
- 5,000 mosquito nets.
- 2,500 shelter kits.
- 2,500 cleaning kits.
- 12,500 sleeping mats.
- 12,500 sheets.
- 1,500,000 water purification tablets

Based on compilation of detailed Damage and Needs Assessments, the original request for stocks as mentioned above was altered to reflect the below shipments from PADRU, meeting the needs of the operation:

In collaboration with the British Red Cross, PADRU through the Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in Panama sent an airplane with the following relief items on 9 September:

- 3,100 tarpaulins
- 1,500,000 purification tablets
- 5,000 mosquito nets
- 5,100 jerry cans

An additional flight was sent on 18 September with the following:

- 700 propane stoves

- 700 kitchen sets
- 700 shelter kits
- 700 hygiene packs
- 1 generator
- visibility kit

Immediately after Hanna and in preparation for Ike, TCI Overseas Branch released all of its prepositioned stock of sandbags (7,000), comfort kits (1,000), tarpaulins (200), radios, flashlights and glow sticks.

Post hurricane Ike, TCI OSB responded by supporting the eight shelters in Providenciales and two shelters on Grand Turk with food, water and non-food items. This included cooked food, cooking utensils and hygiene items. On Grand Turk, TCI OSB has been working in the most affected areas identified by CDERA rapid damage and needs assessment (and confirmed by local knowledge). These are West Road, North Back Salina, South Back Salina, Overback, and also Corktree, The Ridge, Breezy Brae and Palm Grove. TCI OSB mobilized volunteers to carry out a blanket distribution of tarpaulins, mosquito nets, jerry cans and aquatabs, whilst simultaneously working on identifying the most vulnerable through church groups so that a second, more targeted relief distribution could be planned. Grand Turk branch has also been coordinating with other agencies to facilitate the distribution of tents, food and drinks and generators on their behalf.

On Providenciales, TCI OSB has also been working with church groups and community organizations to target beneficiaries and is planning a distribution of non-food items for the most affected. It has also been actively raising funds.

Through their two thrift shops, Providenciales branch and Grand Turk branch have been sorting, transporting and distributing clothing to those who lost their belongings in the hurricane.

After reviewing the assessments completed by CDERA and the OSB the original objective of reaching 2,500 families was lessened to 1,500 families. In addition, British Red Cross remains in close coordination with PADRU for implementation of budgetary items in the appeal which will be covered by the British Red Cross pledge management note according to the MOU signed between the two parties.

The following items were distributed in the island of Grand Turk:

Island	Tarpaulins	Jerry cans	Mosquito nets	Aquatabs	Total beneficiaries
Grand Turk	1,667	1,815	2,490	184,300	1,196

In Providenciales 4,200 aquatabs, 40 jerry cans and 20 tarpaulins were donated to the Rotary International for distribution in South Cay, and 55 tarpaulins given to the Disaster Management Office.

There are 1,195,800 aquatabs, 3,110 jerry cans, 2,370 mosquito nets and 1,100 tarpaulins remaining in stock, along with the second shipment of relief supplies of 700 stoves, 700 hygiene kits, 700 kitchen sets and 700 shelter kits. After detailed assessments were completed it was determined that distribution of sleeping mats and sheets were not necessary.

TCI OSB has played a key role in the coordination of relief activities by facilitating the distribution of relief items from other agencies and of unsolicited goods. The branch has been attending daily coordination meetings with the EOC (Emergency Operating Office) and with the private sector and NGOs in order to reduce the risk of duplication. With the help of the private sector TCI OSB set up the TCI Red Cross and Recovery Centre in Providenciales from where regular electronic newsletters have been circulated, and networking conducted.

Initial beneficiary distribution numbers were sent to PADRU 24 September. For the next more targeted distribution, where possible, more information is being collected on age, gender and family size so that more detailed analysis can be made.

While volunteers have been making distributions, they have been collecting more and making assessments on what kind of assistance is needed, to ensure the quality of the current beneficiary list, as well as continuing to work closely with church groups.

Situation updates and teleconferences that include updates on relief activities have been conducted regularly with BRC, CRRO and PADRU.

Relief phase should be finished after four weeks with a possible six month recovery programme. Further thought needs to be taken by TCI OSB to see if it is appropriate to start Community Based First Aid (CBFA), Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) and PSP longer-term programmes, with support from the Federation.

### Challenges:

Identification and registration of beneficiaries has had to be carefully considered due to the varying legal status of those in the community. A consultative process with church groups from all the different communities including Haitian and Dominican was undertaken. In Providenciales, it was decided that the distribution point would likely be the churches instead of individual beneficiaries in order to avoid illegal immigrants from feeling prohibited in coming forward for assistance.

Working with private transport companies has been a positive element to the distribution as services have been provided for free. However, the informal nature of the service and the non-use of documentation has proved challenging.

Land issues have arisen in Grand Turk. The government has started condemning unsafe structures including irregular houses and those occupied by squatters. TCI OSB and Shelter kit have made efforts to ensure that permission is given (by the landowner) for any tents put up, and has brought the issue to the attention of the EOC.

## Health, Water and Sanitation

<b>Objective: The relief workers, those affected people temporarily accommodated in shelters and those who have been adversely affected by the hurricane will benefit from psychosocial support (PSP).</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<p>Psychosocial support is provided to the most affected people in Jamaica, Bahamas and Turks and Caicos.</p> <p>Red Cross staff and volunteers in Bahamas Red Cross are trained in PSP techniques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Psychological Support to the relief workers and those most affected by the emergency. PSP programmes can either be aimed at individual support or mainstreamed and integrated in other health, community-based and relief programmes.</li> <li>• Provide a PSP workshop and training for volunteers.</li> <li>• PSP training for the Bahamas Red Cross.</li> </ul>

### Jamaica

**Jamaica Red Cross is a leading National Society in the region in developing psychosocial support.** The National Society is cognizant of the need to take a holistic approach to serving persons after a disaster event. The JRC Disaster Mental Health (DMH) unit has experience in responding to local and international emergency response operations, with professionally trained volunteers ready to respond to the needs in this emergency situation.

As distribution of mosquito nets, hygiene kits and water purification tablets takes place, health and hygiene promotion activities will be planned and implemented as needed in the affected communities.

### Progress

The Psychosocial Support Team was activated. They provided four interventions for affected people in emergency shelters as well as staff and volunteers of the National Disaster Office and JRC.

### Challenges:

A Psychosocial Support intervention that was planned for the Bog Walk area in St. Catherine on 6 September, 2008 did not take place because the team had to tend to an emergency.

### Bahamas

**Progress:** On Acklins Island, the Bahamas Red Cross distributed 50 mosquito nets along with informational/instruction sheets to families. Verbal instructions were also given to the volunteers assisting in the

distribution so that they could help explain net use to beneficiaries who are not able to read. Two nets per family and instruction sheets will also be distributed to the 183 families on Inagua Island on the last distribution shipment (400 nets total). Hygiene kits were also distributed with educational brochures in several communities. 1,000 nets were received from PADRU. After distributions, 550 will remain in the warehouse. It is expected that additional requests for nets will take place in response to both the initial distribution and the informational meeting the PADRU representative had with key government leaders early on in the response.

Contact was made with Jamaica Red Cross to begin planning a PSP training in January or February 2009.

### Challenges:

It is reported that vector control occurs on many of the islands. Priority is given to Exhuma due to the presence of Malaria. Limiting the spread of this may be helped by increase use of bed nets. PADRU disaster management delegate and senior administrator spoke with key government officials about this and left them with bed net information.

On Acklins Island, it was noted that multiple individuals in one community exhibited signs of jaundice. This health concern along with contact information for the nurse on Acklins was passed on to the Department of Social Services.

### Turks and Caicos Islands

**Progress:** TCI OSB has been liaising with community and church groups to discuss how best to meet the PSP needs for those affected. PSP is currently being done by church groups as part of their pastoral activities and may be supported by Samaritan Purse through training for trainers. TCI OSB is also looking into the possibility of PSP in longer-term work, with support from the Federation.

### Rehabilitation of livelihoods

**Objective: To assess the early recovery needs and design appropriate interventions to help protect livelihoods.**

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate recovery interventions are assessed</li> <li>100 banana workers and small farmers in Jamaica will have alternate means of livelihoods.</li> <li>Students in Jamaica will receive school supplies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct needs analysis and capacity assessments.</li> <li>Identify priority livelihood interventions based on needs and capacities.</li> <li>Identify stakeholders supporting livelihood interventions and ensure proper coordination.</li> <li>Carry out initial early recovery interventions.</li> </ul>

### Jamaica

#### Progress:

JRC volunteers participated in the joint assessments which were conducted by the welfare office in their respective parishes. The data from these assessments are being analysed to develop a livelihood recovery intervention plan. It is estimated that approximately 300 households will participate in livelihood programming with the Jamaican Red Cross which could include voucher programming, seed and/or livestock, building on their expertise in this area from other disaster response operations. The next operations update will include detailed information on interventions by the Jamaican Red Cross.

All the JRC branch emergency coordinators attended a meeting at National Headquarters. The meeting examined the response to Tropical Storm Gustav. The livelihood recovery plan was a part of the discussions to establish the steps to be taken forward.

Purchase and distribution of school supplies will commence in the coming weeks.

### Bahamas

**Progress:** In the Bahamas, two islands had major livelihoods disruptions that require interventions, Inagua and Acklins. The Island of Inagua suffered major damage to the primary employer, Morton Salt. The plant will be out of service for at least two months while repairs are made. All 300 families on the island will be affected by this closure. It will be necessary for appeal coverage in order to implement a cash grant project to all affected

households on Inagua to enable them to purchase items such as food and building materials that meet their early recovery needs until their livelihoods are restored. Assessments will be carried out to assess the need for cash and the targeting of the beneficiaries for this programme in the coming weeks

This program will be implemented in accordance with the process and lessons learned from a similar successful cash distribution program piloted in response to the 2007 Hurricane Noel.

Acklins Island, while suffering less damage to homes and infrastructure, suffered a three week disruption in the major livelihoods of many of the residents: fishing or bark gathering. Additionally, the disruption in mail boat deliveries left many families without access to food. Currently, the first transport to Acklins was the Red Cross chartered flight that sent in emergency food and water parcels along with an assessment team. The communities on Acklins included many women, children and frail elderly who were living at or below the poverty level. 45 families were identified that required additional assistance with food, basic hygiene kits, diapers, mosquito nets, and blankets. Interviews with community leaders and beneficiaries identified the needs and estimated that food needs were required for an additional two weeks (beyond the initial emergency food distribution) until livelihoods, income and mail boat service are fully restored. A total of three shipments and distributions are required to meet this need. The first two shipments of emergency food, water and hygiene items were sent by chartered plane and distributions have been completed. The third and final shipment was sent on 16 September by mail boat.

#### **Challenges:**

Full appeal coverage will be required to complete proposed cash distributions on Inagua.

#### **Turks and Caicos Islands**

##### **Progress:**

TCI OSB is planning to distribute shelter kits to assist people in re-building or effecting temporary repairs to their homes. In Grand Turk, working with Rotary International and Shelter kit staff, volunteers facilitated the distribution of Shelter-in-a-Box kits to 118 families between 23 to 25 September. The kits include a tent, tool box and kitchen set and are designed to enable beneficiaries to reside near their homes while they rebuild or repair them.

Other possible scenarios for early recovery include cash grants, which would be implemented with the British Red Cross bilaterally within a 6 month time-frame to help people rebuild or restore livelihoods.

#### **Challenges:**

A cash grant intervention would need rigorous vulnerability analysis, which may be difficult in the tight-knit community of Grand Turk.

#### **Communication**

<b>Objective: The Red Cross Societies will facilitate adequate visibility of the response activities through the development of a comprehensive communication strategy.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Red Cross volunteers will have proper visibility equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaboration of visibility material (stickers, t-shirts, caps, etc.</li> <li>• Local and international interviews.</li> <li>• Elaboration of press releases.</li> <li>• Elaboration of brochures.</li> </ul>

#### **Jamaica**

##### **Progress:**

Four press releases were sent out to the media houses from which information was read in several newscasts and carried in the print media. Over seven interviews were facilitated with the both local and international media houses. Two photographers were contracted to take additional photographs of different activities in the operation.

#### **Bahamas**

##### **Progress:**

The Bahamas Red Cross Society headquarters had an adequate amount of visibility items such as t-shirts for volunteers and stickers for product. Additional visibility items were ordered from PADRU and are being distributed to affected islands for use in the response. Replenishment of items, particularly volunteer t-shirts and caps will be needed. The Senior Administration, President and PADRU representative gave numerous interviews to the media including appearances on several popular TV shows such as Bahamas at Sunrise and People Helping People.

Excellent community feedback has been received. Responses included the donation of a chartered aircraft for transporting relief items to Inagua after a plea was made on TV for assistance with this.

If the cash distribution is implemented, a press release will be issued as was done during the pilot cash program of Hurricane Noel. At the end of the response phase, a press release will be issued to thank the community for their response.

### **Turks and Caicos Islands**

#### **Progress:**

The TCI Providenciales branch has been very active in organizing fundraising and PR events, networking and circulating newsletters. RC volunteers have been visible with clothing, stickers and caps and have been out in the community. TCI OSB have given regular interviews with local press and BRC website has been posted a popular blog from the Air Operations delegate.

The President and Vice-Deputy of TCI OSB have conducted regular interviews with local media. The BRC Air Ops/Warehouse delegate has been writing a blog on the BRC website, which has attracted international attention.

TCI OSB has been circulating electronic newsletters and updates to the island, and information on the BRC website. To support the TCI OSB in its media and information to the public, BRC is deploying a Communications delegate for three weeks from 26 September.

#### **Challenges:**

Communications has been difficult sometimes between the islands of Grand Turk and Providenciales due to the cellular phone systems intermittent coverage. Both internal communications within the TCI team and external communications have been affected by this, but improvement has been made with more frequent communication between the two islands. This will be supplemented with the arrival of a Communications delegate for three weeks from 26 September.

In terms of promoting the Red Cross message, more preparedness for press questions and the ability to produce accurate numbers of people reached was a need. Over the last few days outputs relating to activities and numbers of people reached have become clearer and promoted.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

**Objective: The capacity of the Red Cross Societies in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.**

<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The Red Cross volunteers will be better prepared in disaster response.	Conduct several capacity building trainings and workshops; one of these workshops includes a SPHERE training.

### **Jamaica**

#### **Progress:**

The value of trained CDRTs in responding to disaster has been proved in recent years. However, two of the affected Parishes did not have CDRTs in this response; therefore it is important provision is made to enable CDRTs to be developed in these communities. This programme will include Vulnerability Capacity Analysis (VCA) CDRT training and providing equipment to the newly trained CDRT's in the communities.

Capacity building activities mentioned above will commence after the relief phase of the operation. This will include the purchase of a computer for the Jamaican Red Cross, which will reinforce the capacity of the National Society.

### **Bahamas**

#### **Progress:**

Capacity building of volunteers and staff of the Bahamas Red Cross Society in the form of trainings or workshops is planned to begin once the response phase is completed. Furthermore, the success of the existing CDRT program with DIPECHO VI led the Bahamas Red Cross Society to request implementation of CDRT training on the hardest hit island of Inagua. This programme will include CDRT training, Vulnerability Capacity Analysis (VCA) and providing equipment to the newly trained CDRT's in the communities.

More than 100 volunteers contributed to the reorganization of the BHRS warehouse which was also supported by in-country RIT's.

#### **Challenges:**

Capacity building activities for the Bahamas risk being cut from the budget due to lack of appeal coverage which will adversely affect the BRCS response capacity.

#### **Turks and Caicos Islands**

##### **Progress:**

TCI Red Cross has a small but dedicated group of volunteers (approximately 20 in total between the two branches), who have performed exceptionally to an unprecedented disaster. Through coordination with the British Red Cross capacity building activities mentioned in the objective above will be evaluated.

Knowledge transfer and on-site training on how beneficiary lists are compiled and reviewing staff and volunteers' experiences will better prepare Turks and Caicos Islands Overseas Branch to respond to another disaster.

In addition to the originally planned activities under this objective the Overseas Branch will procure two Tropical Mobilization Storage Units (TMSU) from PADRU for pre-positioning on Grand Turk and Providenciales to accommodate 500 families. Additional items will be purchased and shipped by the RLU to be pre-positioned in the TMSU.

Additional capacity building capacities in the regional sphere training coordinated by the CRRO will be implemented after the completion of the relief phase of the operation.

In country evaluations possible in the form of lessons learned workshops will be explored by each National Society.

#### **Cayman Islands**

##### **Progress:**

In the Cayman Islands, which sustained some damage from Hurricane Gustav, the Overseas Branch of the Cayman Islands undertook a review of its Disaster Management preparations and response efforts, with a particular emphasis on the Sister Islands, noting that the last storm to significantly affect the Sister Islands was back in 1932. While there is a good number of Red Cross volunteers' in the Sister Islands, in order to better facilitate Disaster Management operations, the Cayman Island Red Cross has put together a plan of action to ensure that the volunteers are fully trained and equipped to respond to such a disaster/emergency. Funding is being sought for this plan outside of the Appeal, due to the current levels of funding.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Importantly, public communication highlights the pivotal role of the National Societies themselves, raising their profile within their own countries and thereby contributing to attracting future volunteers and funds and promoting the importance of proactive communication. A total of 19 Regional Intervention Team members from National Societies in the region have been trained on communications this year. This training aims at strengthening the capacities of regional human resources to support emergency operations. This pool of skilled communication professionals is available for deployments as required. The communications activities outlined in this preliminary appeal are aimed at supporting the National Society to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations, before, during and after an emergency. These activities are closely coordinated with the

Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. A detailed communications plan of action has been completed and it is currently being implemented.

In the Bahamas, the Red Cross senior administration, president and PADRU representative gave numerous interviews to the media including appearances on several popular TV shows such as Bahamas at Sunrise and People Helping People. Excellent community feedback has been received. Responses included the donation of a chartered aircraft for transporting relief items to Inagua after a plea was made on TV for assistance with this.

The BRCS headquarters composed a list of priority items needed as donations (non-perishable food and hygiene items, e.g.) and is distributing these to community members or organizations who inquire about donating goods.

A videographer was contracted to document relief, assessment and distribution efforts at BRCS Headquarters as well as on the Island of Inagua. The resulting documentary will be used for public communication of what and how the Red Cross responded to the Hurricanes of September 2008 as well as for increasing general awareness of the BRCS and its activities.

## How we work

**All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.**

The International Federation's activities 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.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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**[Revised Emergency Appeal budget attached below; click here to return to the title page](#)**

**APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

Annex 1

Caribbean Hurricane Season 2008

MDR49003

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>			
Shelter	250,000	199,700	-50,300
Construction Materials			0
Clothing & Textiles	257,310	114,310	-143,000
Food	149,000	87,170	-61,830
Seeds & Plants		0	0
Water & Sanitation	16,500	21,500	5,000
Medical & First Aid	1,925	1,925	0
Teaching Materials	36,000	36,000	0
Utensils & Tools	258,200	214,200	-44,000
Other Supplies & Services	62,200	412,200	350,000
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>1,031,135</b>	<b>1,087,005</b>	<b>55,870</b>
<b>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</b>			
Land & Buildings			0
Vehicles Purchase		36,000	36,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment	3,500	3,500	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	1,650	1,650	0
Medical Equipment			0
Other Machinery & Equipment		22,000	22,000
<b>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</b>			
Storage - Warehouse	3,000	3,000	0
Distribution & Monitoring	295,022	304,022	9,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	20,400	16,500	-3,900
Service fee & Recovery	74,000	74,000	0
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
International Staff	3,900	5,550	1,650
Regionally Deployed Staff	31,350	28,050	-3,300
National Staff	48,500	17,500	-31,000
National Society Staff	33,500	32,500	-1,000
Consultants		10,000	10,000
<b>WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING</b>			
Workshops & Training	39,000	128,000	89,000
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
Travel	43,000	39,000	-4,000
Information & Public Relations	21,000	21,000	0
Office running costs	9,000	12,000	3,000
Communication Costs	22,500	31,500	9,000
Professional Fees			0
Financial Charges	4,500	7,500	3,000
Other General Expenses		0	0
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>			
Programme Support - PSR	117,136	130,714	13,578
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>770,958</b>	<b>923,986</b>	<b>153,028</b>
<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>1,802,093</b>	<b>2,010,991</b>	<b>208,898</b>
<b>Available Ressources</b>			
<b>Net Request</b>	<b>1,802,093</b>	<b>2,010,991</b>	