

# 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° 1  
17 September 2008

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 9 September to 16 September, 2008;

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 1,802,093 (USD 1,638,300 or EUR 1,115,850)

**Appeal coverage:** 35%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or 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.



**Devastations caused by Gustav, Hannah and Ike on the Bahamas. 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. The objectives in this appeal have been established based on identified needs: relief items, provision of psychosocial support, safe water and rehabilitation of livelihoods.

## 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 and of major concern are the communities in the parishes of St Catherine, Kingston and St Andrew, Portland, St. Thomas and St. Mary. Landslides, flooding and torrential winds have affected the communities in these parishes. To date a total of 12 deaths have been confirmed as a result of Tropical Storm Gustav.



**Distribution activities in St. Catherine, Jamaica. Source: Jamaican Red Cross**

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 (CHF 112,583).

Hurricane Ike, a category 4 hurricane passed through south-eastern **Bahamas** on 7 September 2008. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) was activated and monitored the situation. Maximum sustained winds were near 135 mph (215 km/hr) with higher gusts. The southern island of Inagua sustained significant damage and the other southern islands such as Mayaguana, Acklins, Crooked and Ragged Islands sustained lesser degrees of damage. Major communications interruptions were experienced. There were no reports of fatalities or injuries.

Although the response to Hanna was suspended pending the passage of hurricane Ike, the Bahamas Red Cross Society (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.

During Hurricane Ike, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Department of Social Services reported that over 15 shelters were housing approximately 500 people. Assessments to guide relief distributions in response to both Hanna and Ike commenced as soon as possible after the passage of Ike. Based on the 2007 census figures for the islands impacted and initial damage assessments, it was estimated that approximately 500-700 families could be affected.

Assessments and distribution of relief items such as food, water and roofing tarpaulins were hampered by communication and transportation challenges due to the distance between islands, damage to infrastructure (telephone, transportation, electricity and water systems) and continued inclement weather. Coordination of the response, particularly of relief transport, was done with NEMA.

Hurricane Hanna brought strong winds and heavy rain to the **Turks and Caicos Islands** on 1 September as a category one hurricane. The island of Providenciales was affected by flooding, houses and roads were damaged. There were approximately 750 people in shelters; some of these emergency shelters are still open. An UNDAC team is now on the Islands, sharing information with the British Red Cross (BRC). Therefore assessments are still continuing.

The causeway between the islands of North, Middle, South, Caicos and Salt Cay was swept away. A few days after the passing of Hanna, hurricane Ike impacted Turks and Caicos on 6 September. The most affected island was Grand Turk. Infrastructure including houses and public buildings were severely damaged. Damage and needs assessments were carried out by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). Priority needs identified included infrastructure materials, shelter, essential household items, clean water materials, and reconstruction and health personnel. Government announced a state of emergency for Grand Turk and South Caicos on 9 September.

Water has been restored in Grand Turk. The airports are functional and boats between the islands are operating.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Federation Secretariat, through its **Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)** and the **Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO)** has 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. A Federation Disaster Management delegate was initially deployed to Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and Bahamas and is currently in Turks and Caicos Island to support the overseas branch, with the Regional Representative of

the CRRO. Additionally, there are three Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members in Bahamas to support the operation.



**Turks and Caicos Red Cross volunteer in Grand Turk Island assessing needs. Source: International Federation**

The United Nations Populations Funds (UNFPA) has 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 it is still on-going until all the kits are distributed. 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 (CHF 10,570). These items were included in the food parcels to be distributed within the upcoming two weeks.

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** worked closely with NEMA and was either represented at the NEOC or in regular communication with the NEOC management throughout the emergency and early response phase. Close coordination and information sharing between the Department of Social Services (DSS), NEMA and BRCS promoted the efficient management of 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.

The **Turks and Caicos Islands** branch of the British Red Cross (BRC) has been in close coordination with the government, the Department for International Development (DFID), UNDAC, CDERA and UNICEF. Coordination between PADRU, BRCS and the Caribbean Regional Representation Office is being regularly maintained. Additionally, BRCS is coordinating the distribution of food items with a super market chain through the churches on the island. The super market chain considers food for work programmes and plans to test pilot it on Salt Cays.

#### **National Society Capacity Building:**

Many of the National Societies in the region benefit from disaster preparedness programmes, focussing on Vulnerability Capacity Assessments, Community Disaster Response Teams, 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 place in the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

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. 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 fourteen 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

Since the beginning of the emergency, the **JRC** held meetings with their Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management's Shelter and Care Committee, and the Jamaica 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 warm meals, blankets and hygiene kits to several shelters located in different parishes throughout the island.



A Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteer is performing assessments. Source: International Federation

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)** began mobilizing relief distributions the day after the passage of hurricane Ike, 8 September, prioritizing response to Inagua, the most affected island even as communication and assessments to other Islands were being sought or confirmed. Reports were received from local branches or volunteer leaders (including CDRTs) from all but one island, Ragged. Urgent needs were full relief support to Inagua where 90 percent of homes suffered some damage, while the water system, the airport and docks suffered major damage. The major employer on the island, Morton Salt (a salt plant) was severely affected and will be shut down for two months. All 302 families on Inagua required emergency assistance in the form of food, water and tarpaulins (most roofs were damaged) as well as possible longer-term assistance until livelihoods recovery and home repair are accomplished. The Island of Acklins with approximately 350 residents also identified 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 Defence 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, although contact could not be established to verify.

Additional relief and recovery supplies are currently being mobilized for Inagua and Acklins. All relief distributions are expected to be completed by Wednesday, 17 September 2008. A total of 450 families will be assisted by the emergency response efforts. Assistance is being considered for 345 families, consisting of food to 45 families on Acklins and a cash distribution program to 300 families on Inagua. Additional recovery and capacity building activities to be included are psychosocial support, SPHERE trainings and planning of pre-positioning of disaster preparedness supplies.

**The Turks and Caicos British Red Cross Overseas Branch (OSB)** volunteers continue to distribute relief items in Grand Turk, including mosquito nets and two ten litre water bottles. The British Red Cross deployed four delegates to join the Overseas Branch Director in order to provide support to the branch, in addition to a RIT from the Caribbean and a DM officer from the Caribbean Regional Representation Office. A PADRU Disaster Management delegate, the Representative of the Caribbean Regional Representation, and the BRC Relief Operations Manager are visiting TCI to review the support to the OSB.

## Progress towards objectives

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 5,000 families (25,000 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 2,500 in Turks and Caicos) in order to help them recover from the floods.

Expected results	Activities planned
Approximately 25,000, 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:

The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) needs the following to replenish the stocks that will be distributed through the operation:

- 2,000 kitchen kits (1 per family).
- 2,000 hygiene kits (1 per family).
- 4,000 jerry cans (2 per family).
- 2,000 mosquito nets (2 per family).
- 2,000 mosquito repellents.
- 4,000 tarpaulins.
- 2,000 buckets.
- 1,000 blankets
- 1,000 food parcels.
- 100 mattresses and sheet sets.
- 2,000 stoves.

In responding to this request, 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 is in progress to the most affected people. To date, 648 families received tarpaulins, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets, buckets and jerry cans including 20 families by ODPEM. Full scale distributions will continue in Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary. Other parishes continue to address the needs of a few affected families.

The parishes and number of beneficiary families:

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

## Bahamas

### Progress:

On 8 September, BRCS and the RIT assessments teams began the relief activities, including the distributions of relief items in Inagua, one 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 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 268 families (85 on Acklins, 183 on Inagua) will be assisted by the emergency response efforts – representing a total of about 1,000 persons. Livelihoods assistance is planned for 345 families consisting of food to 45 families on Acklins and a cash distribution program to 300 families on Inagua.

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.
- 500 food parcels.
- 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).

Distributions were done per family on both Inagua and Acklins and were primarily done 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 an appropriate, coordinated response. Due to the small size of the affected islands, it was possible to meet with almost all families. 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 undertaken on Inagua.

The following table represents all distributions from the BRC Headquarters Warehouse to affected islands as of 13 September 2008. Additional supplies are available in the warehouse to cover the currently planned distributions described above.

**Bahamas Red Cross Relief Distributions by Island and Item – as of 13 September 2008**

Relief Item	Acklins	Crooked	Grand Bahama	Inagua	Maya-guana	Nassau (NP)	TOTAL Items / Families
Water (cases)	7	20	20	213	20	0	280
Food Parcels	45	5		455	5	1	511
Flashlights	0			0		130	130
Hygiene Kits	5		10	200		0	215
Kitchen Sets	0			68			68
Tarpaulins/plastic sheet	0		4	52			56
Buckets	0			0			0
Blankets	0		60	180			240
Mosquito Nets	50			100			150

Jerry Cans	0			0			0
Individual First Aid kits	0			0			0
Emergency Food Parcels	92			0			92
Cots	0			4		13	17
<i>Other (specify below):</i>							0
Cases Canned Goods				45			45
Bales Rice				3			3
Bales diapers				8			8
Generator				2			2
gasoline, 55 gal drum				1			1
boxes of candles				3			3

### 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 had passed, transport was slow to return to pre-hurricane levels due to damage to infrastructure, and high demand for use of the roads, 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 were also noted as an adequate branch vehicle to transport personnel or goods lacks. In the preliminary appeal, a request for a rental vehicle was included; however, pending funding for the appeal, a vehicle purchase will be recommended.

The BRC warehouse is also in need of a fork-lift to expedite the movement of goods 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. This slows down the relief operation. A donation of a fork-lift is being sought.

### 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.

In collaboration with the British Red Cross, the International Federation 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.

Another plane is due to arrive on 18 September with the following relief items:

- 700 propane stoves;
- 700 kitchen sets;
- 700 shelter kits;
- 700 hygiene packs;
- 1 generator;
- A visibility kit.

Specific information on distributions will be published with the revised appeal within the coming weeks.

**Challenges:**

The government has requested that the Red Cross branch coordinate relief distributions on the islands, and this combined with their existing emergency shelter management responsibilities has tested the capacity of the branch volunteers. Communications between the different actors on the islands have proved to be inconsistent and coordination is a challenge which the Red Cross branch is attempting to tackle and support the government with.

**Health, Water and Sanitation**

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).	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Psychosocial support is provided to the most affected people in Bahamas, Jamaica 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 Red Cross is a leading National Society in the region in developing psychosocial support. The National Society understands the need to take a holistic approach to serving people 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.

**Jamaica****Progress:**

The Psychosocial Support Team was activated. They provided four interventions to affected people in emergency shelters as well as to 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 the use of the nets to beneficiaries who cannot 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 mosquito 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 mosquito nets will follow 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 within the next six weeks.

**Challenges:**

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

**Rehabilitation of livelihoods**

<b>Objective: To assess the early recovery needs and design appropriate interventions to help protect livelihoods.</b>
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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.

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.

## Bahamas

### Progress:

In the Bahamas, two islands had major livelihoods disruptions that require interventions: Inagua and Acklins. The Island of Inagua suffered major damage, which also affected the primary employer, Morton Salt, a salt plant. The plant will be out of service for at least two months while repairs are being made. All 300 families on the island will be affected by this closure. An ECHO proposal to be submitted in the next few days includes a request for 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. 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. 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 older people who were living at or below the poverty level. 45 families were identified who require 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 is being sent on 16 September by mail boat.

### Challenges:

Receipt of ECHO funding or other donor support will be required to complete proposed cash distributions on Inagua. 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.

## Communication

**Objective: The Red Cross Societies will facilitate adequate visibility of the response activities through the development of a comprehensive communication strategy.**

Expected results	Activities planned
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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaboration of press releases.</li> <li>• Elaboration of brochures.</li> </ul>
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### 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 both the local and international media houses. Two photographers were hired to take additional photographs of different activities in the operation.

### Bahamas

#### Progress:

The Bahamas Red Cross Society headquarters had an adequate number 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, the President of the National Society and the 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.

### National Society Capacity Building

<b>Objective: The capacity of the Red Cross Societies in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.</b>	
<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:

No action towards achieving this objective has been made as the focus is to meet the needs of the most affected during the response phase of the operation, and then focus on capacity building thereafter.

### 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.

### 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.

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 hired 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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**[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

**Donor response to MDR49003 - Carribean - Hurricane Season 2008**

TIMEFRAME: 26 Aug 08 to 01 Mar 09

LOCATION: Carribean

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	1,802,093
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	627,596
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	35%

Updated on: 17 Sep 2008

Currency	Amount	Goal 1: Disaster Management CHF	Goal 2: Health and Care CHF	Goal 3: Capacity Building CHF	Goal 4: Principles and Values CHF	Coordination CHF	Total CHF	
<b>BUDGET</b>		<b>1,802,093</b>					<b>1,802,093</b>	
<b>FUNDING</b>								
<b>Opening Balance</b>								
<b>Income</b>								
<b>Cash contributions (received and pledged)</b>								
American Red Cross	USD	100,000	110,000				110,000	
British Red Cross	GBP	75,000	150,750				150,750	
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	CAD	100,000	104,000				104,000	
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund	EUR	100,000	161,500				161,500	
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	CHF	2,500	2,500				2,500	
<b>Total Cash contributions</b>		<b>528,750</b>					<b>528,750</b>	
<b>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport (pledged)</b>								
British Red Cross	USD	89,860	98,846				98,846	
<b>Total Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>		<b>98,846</b>					<b>98,846</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>627,596</b>					<b>627,596</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>		<b>627,596</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>627,596</b>	
<b>COVERAGE</b>		<b>35%</b>					<b>35%</b>	