


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Bahamas: Hurricane Irene

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBS001
Glide n° TC-2011-000114-BHS
31 August 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

71,014 Swiss francs have been approved from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bahamas Red Cross (BRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 200 families (1,000 persons). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

On 23-26 August a Category 2/3 Hurricane with strong winds and rain struck the Bahamas affecting 10,000 people in the central and southern islands. The Bahamas Red Cross (BRC) will support 200 families with food parcels, water provision, and health care and disease prevention activities.



Bahamas Red Cross volunteers load food parcels in the BRC warehouse before transport to the affected islands. Source: Chiran Livera/IFRC

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 30 November 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 28 February 2012).

[<Click here for the DREF budget; contact details; or a map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Category 2/3 Hurricane Irene passed over the Bahamas from 23 August to 26 August 2011. Moving across the entire archipelago, hurricane force winds and rain impacted the entire chain of islands causing damage and disrupting services in some islands. Hurricane Irene also passed over the Turks and Caicos Islands on 24 August 2011 as a Category 1 hurricane resulting in damage.

Preliminary reports are that impact occurred on the Southern and Central Islands of Cat Island, Great Exuma, Long Island, Crooked Island, and Eleuthera affecting up to 10,000 persons. There are no reports of deaths or injuries. Approximately 150 houses were damaged and an additional number of schools and public buildings incurred varying degrees of damage. Several of the islands' fishermen sustained wind damage to fishing boats but impacts on health systems were limited and did not disrupt health services. Downed power lines to the electricity grid caused the most severe impact and an approximate 10,000 persons remain without power. Due to these power outages, food security and water systems, which rely on consistent power, are affected. The disaster situation is expected to improve as power is restored gradually to the affected islands.

Another concern is that prior to the hurricane impacting the Bahamas, there were relatively high numbers of cases of dengue in the main island of New Providence. Although other islands did not have a similar situation prior to the hurricane, there is a concern that additional water could increase the incidence of dengue if vector control activities are not carried out.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has led the response to this disaster through overall coordination of the Ministries of Health, Public Works, Social Services, public service companies, defence force and humanitarian agencies. An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was set up prior to the hurricane to provide information to the public on the projected path of the hurricane and the organization of collective centres across the island.

Following the passing of the hurricane on 26 August, NEMA and the Bahamas Red Cross began rapid needs assessments supported by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Office for Disaster Assistance of USAID and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). In addition, CDEMA worked alongside Jamaica's disaster management office and the Jamaica Red Cross in conducting an aerial assessment of damage in the southeastern islands of the Bahamas. Immediately after the rapid assessment, the Bahamas Red Cross and NEMA began transporting food to various islands by air through the support of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force. Due to existing high numbers of cases of dengue in New Providence and favourable conditions for its spread following the hurricane in other islands, the Ministry of Health with support from PAHO, has begun to reinstate countrywide vector control activities.

The authorities and the Bahamas Methodist Habitat have agreed to provide support to families to repair their homes and have provided tarpaulins to cover missing areas of roofs. Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army have also begun to provide food and non-food items (blankets) alongside the Bahamas Red Cross and NEMA. In addition, the Office for Disaster Assistance of USAID has begun to bring in relief supplies in partnership with NEMA.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bahamas Red Cross has seven full time employees and several hundred active volunteers including presence in all the habitable islands. In response to the hurricane, volunteers were activated in all the islands of the country and provided immediate support such as first aid in collective centres, distribution of food and non-food items and undertaking rapid needs assessments. On the affected islands, volunteers trained through the Office for Disaster Assistance of USAID and American Red Cross Readiness to Respond project, responded due to their training. They were especially useful in undertaking the needs assessment and distribution of relief items. The Bahamas Red Cross activated its EOC and participated in the National EOC through sharing of information from the affected islands and disseminating information to the public on the situation. The Bahamas Red Cross also had 200 family kits (non-food items) in the warehouse in Nassau and has experience in responding to hurricanes and floods gained in 1992 (Hurricane Andrew), 2004 (Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne), 2005 (Hurricanes Wilma) and 2008 (Hurricane Ike) and 2010 (Tornado). The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies does not have a presence in the country but supported the Bahamas Red Cross with its operations in 2008.

In addition, though not supported through this DREF operation, the Turks and Caicos Islands branch of the British Red Cross responded to the affected persons in the islands through undertaking needs assessments, and distributing relief materials.

The needs

A rapid assessment has been completed on all the islands of the Bahamas and based on the findings food and water are the main needs of up to 10,000 persons. As food and water systems depend on electricity,

and damage to power lines has disrupted services, this was identified as the most urgent need. Authorities expect the power to be restored at varying speeds depending on the island, with a maximum waiting time of three weeks. Potable water remains a need until electricity is restored, alongside community education campaigns on safe water practices to prevent waterborne diseases.

Sanitation needs were not identified during the needs assessment, however, the authorities indicated they have the capacity to respond to any isolated needs. There is concern relating to a possible rise in dengue cases due to new sources of standing water, undertaking vector control activities was highlighted as a need. The longer-term needs of the affected persons will be the restoration of damaged houses and livelihoods support.

Selection of people to be reached:

The BRC will select the 200 most affected families from the Southern and Central Islands of Cat Island, Great Exuma, Long Island, Crooked Island, and Eleuthera communities. Beneficiary selection criteria will be based on vulnerable groups with a focus on migrant groups and the elderly. As there is a large portion of the population requiring food and water, the list of beneficiaries receiving support from the Red Cross will be shared with NEMA in order to avoid duplication and ensure there are no gaps.

The proposed operation

With the aim to increase the capacity of the Bahamas Red Cross in EOC management, one person from the BRC will attend the workshop on Emergency Operation Centres management organized by the Centre of Reference in Disaster preparedness.

Relief distributions (food security)	
Outcome: Immediate food needs of the disaster affected population are met	
Outputs	Activities planned
Appropriate food rations are distributed to 200 vulnerable households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute appropriate food rations to 200 vulnerable households for 3 weeks Monitor, report, and evaluate relief activities

Due to lack of power, food remains scarce on the affected islands. In partnership with other actors, the Bahamas Red Cross will provide regular food parcels to 200 families for 3 weeks. These food parcels have been designed in line with Sphere standards on calorie intake and according to local dietary preferences through the participation of an independent nutritionist.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion	
Outcome: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	
Outputs	Activities planned
Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out Monitor, report, and evaluate activities Provide 3 litres of safe water to 200 persons for 3 weeks Implement a safe water promotion campaign
Safe water practice messages provided to target populations	

The other immediate need identified during the needs assessment was the provision of potable water to the affected population alongside safe water practices. Several agencies are providing potable water and the Bahamas Red Cross will coordinate assessment and distribution plans, as well as provide daily access to safe drinking water (3 litres per person per day) according to Sphere standards for 3 weeks. The drinking water provided by the Bahamas Red Cross will be part of a larger water distribution system of NEMA in which families will receive additional water for daily use.

In addition, a safe water practice campaign will be undertaken in communities to ensure safe water practices are disseminated, which will reduce the risks of water borne diseases. The Bahamas Red Cross will not provide other hygiene promotion activities as previous experiences on the islands have indicated that there is generally good knowledge regarding hygiene; and therefore this need has not been identified.

Emergency health	
Outcome: Immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	
Outputs	Activities planned
Target population is provided with rapid first aid attention of injuries and diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments conducted based on standard IFRC and/or WHO assessment guidelines Monitor, report, and evaluate activities
Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid provided to vulnerable persons Community based health activities implemented with vulnerable communities.
Epidemic prevention and control measures are carried out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete “Epidemic Control for Volunteers” workshop.

Reducing the immediate risks of vector and water borne diseases to the health of the population was identified as a need during the rapid assessment. In order to undertake this, specific training on epidemic control techniques through the overall Community Based Health and First Aid approach (CBHFA) will be required. This will ensure that the Bahamas Red Cross provides community-based disease prevention and health promotion information through a coordinated approach with the Ministry of Health and PAHO - who are leading the response in this sector through fumigation, cleaning campaigns and distributing health relief items (such as mosquito nets and curtains) as required.

In response to the hurricane, BRC volunteers were activated in all the islands of the country and provided immediate support such as first aid in collective centres.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Bahamas:** Caroline Turnquest, Director General, Bahamas Red Cross; phone: +1 242 323 7370; email: directorgeneral@bahamasredcross.com
- IFRC Regional Representation:** Howard Arfin, Regional Representative for the Caribbean; phone: +1 868 628 2439; email: howard.arfin@ifrc.org
- In Panama:** Chiran Livera, PADU Disaster Management Delegate; phone: + 507 6747 3149; email: chiran.livera@ifrc.org
- In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: + 41 22 730 4381; fax: + 41 22 733 0395; and email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

**For Performance and Accountability
(planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**

- In IFRC Zone:** Jane Grimshaw, PMER Manager; phone: +507.317.3050; email: jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org



Click here

- Budget [below](#)**
 - Map [below](#)**
 - Click [here](#) to return to the title page**
-

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian

Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
-

DREF OPERATION

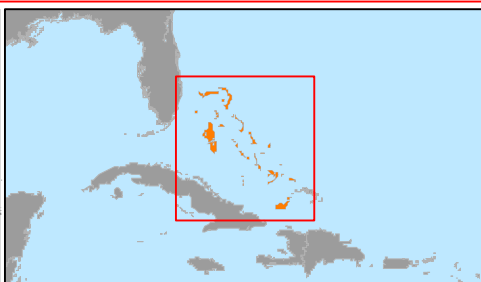
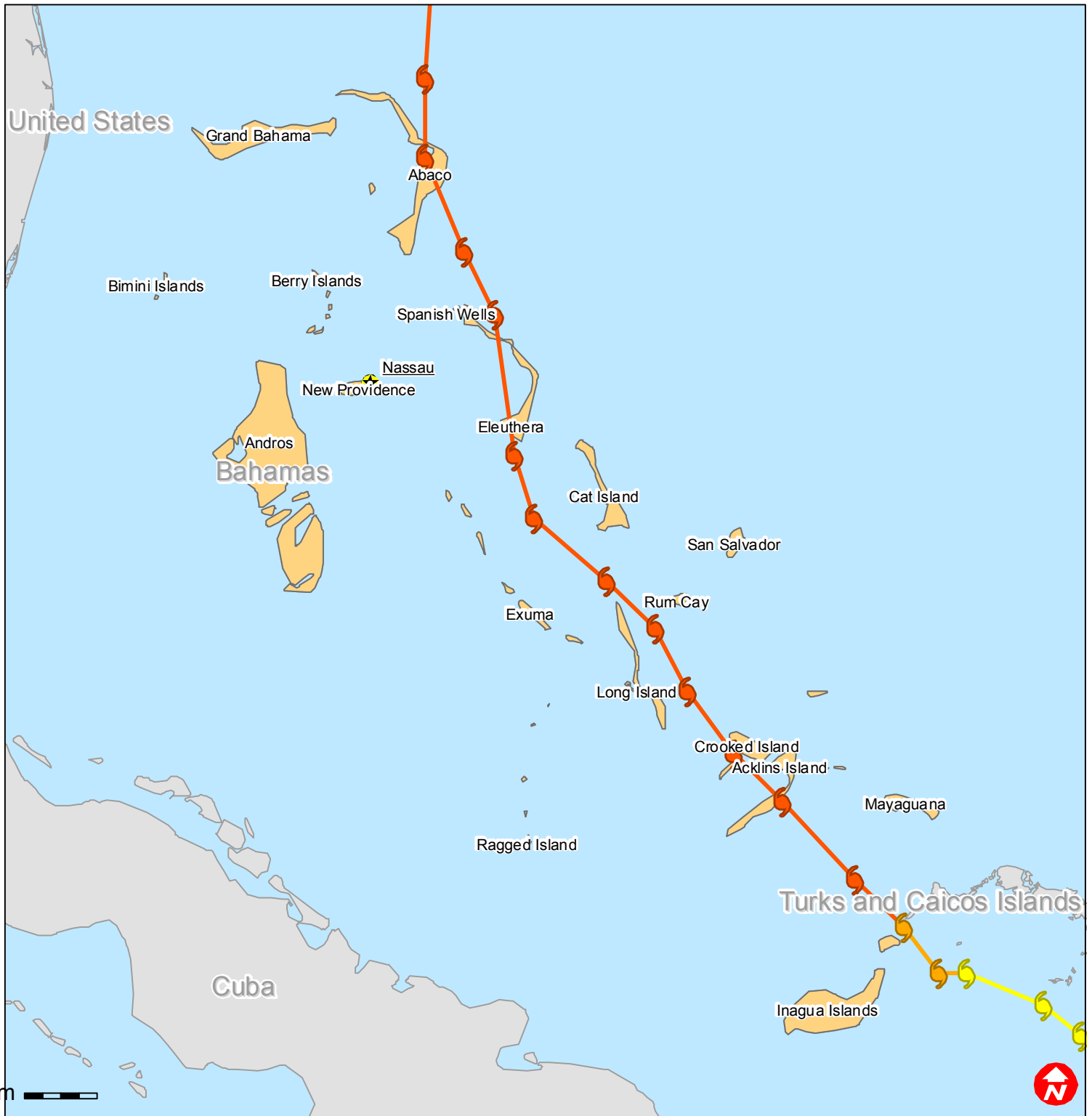
01/09/2011

Bahamas Hurricane Irene

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	43,200
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4,880
Medical & First Aid	2,000
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	50,080
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machiney & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Dsitribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,400
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	2,400
International Staff	0
National Staff	
National Society Staff	2,400
Volunteers	600
Total PERSONNEL	3,000
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	4,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,000
Travel	2,400
Information & Public Relations	1,200
Office Costs	400
Communications	200
Financial Charges	3,000
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,200
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,334
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,334
TOTAL BUDGET	71,014



Bahamas: Hurricane Irene



- HURRICANE-3
- HURRICANE-2
- HURRICANE-1
- TROPICAL STORM