

# ***CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE DEBBY***

*22 August 2000*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 01***

### ***The Disaster***

The fourth storm of the season, hurricane Debby, formed East of the Lesser Antilles on Sunday, 20 August at 17:00. This storm has a hurricane strength, with winds up to 120 km per hour. Debby is moving westward toward the Northern Leeward Island and is expected to continue along this track.

The Governments of Antigua, Guadeloupe, the Netherlands Antilles and the US and British Virgin Islands issued hurricane warning for their respective territories. A tropical storm warning has been issued for Barbados and a tropical hurricane watch was issued for Dominica. A hurricane warning is already in effect for Puerto Rico while a hurricane watch is still to be issued for the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

#### **National Societies •**

The Caribbean Red Cross National Societies are closely monitoring the development of this tropical storm and have started to activate their disaster plans.

The disaster plan has been activated in Dominica Red Cross Society though at the moment HF radio system is out of operation.

The St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society held a meeting with the St. Kitts National Emergency Management Office in order to prepare a disaster response plan. The National Society proposed the towns of Saddlers, Sandy Bay, Dieppe Bay as relief distribution points after the storm. The procurement of a solar panel is required to maintain the HF radio system.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the government has called a national emergency meeting in order to prepare for the hurricane. All business and government offices are closed.

In the Dominican Republic, the Government has established a National Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The National Society has activated its own EOC and prepared its emergency response plans for the hurricane expected to reach the north-east and east parts of the country within the next 24 hours.

**International Federation •**

The Federation Regional Delegation in Santo Domingo has contacted the National Societies of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda and the Dominican Republic. Other National Societies will be also contacted. The Regional Delegation in conjunction with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit in Guatemala City will continue to monitor the situation and the preparation of the National Societies.

***Needs***

According to the experience in the past, major damage will be done by storm tides and flash flooding along the coast. The rains and storm surge could also produce mud slides. There is no request for assistance at present.

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