

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE ISIDORE**

20 September 2002

*Information Bulletin N° 1*

*This Information Bulletin is for information purposes only. National Societies in the region and the International Federation are keeping a close eye on the situation as it develops.*

### ***The Situation***

Hurricane Isidore gained strength on Thursday to become the second hurricane of the Atlantic season. At 2 AM EDT on Friday, Hurricane Isidore was about 30 miles south of Isla de Juventud, Cuba and is now moving slowly in a direction that will take it over mainland Cuba later. A hurricane warning remains in effect for the western Cuba provinces of Matanza, Ciudad de la Habana, La Habana and Pinar del Rio. Maximum sustained winds are near 85 mph, and coastal storm surge flooding of 8-10 feet above normal tide levels are possible. In addition, extremely heavy rainfall of up to 20-30 inches can be expected over the next few days, with the risk of flash floods and mudslides.

The hurricane moved towards Cuba on Thursday after tearing up trees and knocking out electricity on Cayman Brac Island and causing flooding in Jamaica. The government of Jamaica has discontinued the tropical storm warning for Jamaica, and rains are diminishing over the island. However, some floods in the parishes of St. Catherine and Clarendon were reported by the Red Cross.

In Cayman Island about 30 people were moved into a shelter after power was knocked out Wednesday night. Roads on the south of the island were blocked by downed trees and power poles.

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

Since Monday, 16 September the Santo Domingo Regional Delegation has monitored the track of this tropical storm and contacted the Red Cross National Societies of Jamaica and Cuba, and the British Red Cross Overseas Branch on the Cayman Islands, as well as the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) based in Panama.

- The Jamaican Red Cross reported flooding in some areas that required the opening of a shelter in Kingston Parish, where 7 families are being looked after. Flooding has also damaged roads across the country. Since a Tropical Storm Watch was issued Jamaican Red Cross branches have been on stand by

while two quick assessments in St. Catherine and Clarendon were carried out in the last few hours with no major needs reported.

- Cayman Island Red Cross reported some small damage in Little Cayman island, but there are no major needs up to this point.
- In Cuba, the Red Cross and the national emergency system are in place and prepared in case, as predicted, Isidore further strengthens and hits western Cuba. At the moment, the Red Cross has activated its contingency plan, and Red Cross branches in the western, central and southern parts of the island are on hurricane alert and on stand by. Meanwhile, the Regional Delegation in Santo Domingo is maintaining regular contact with PADRU to assure any immediately support to Cuba if needed. A Federation delegate is currently in Havana, and the regional DP delegate is on standby for travel to Cuba on Saturday should the situation warrant this.
- Regional Intervention Teams (RITs) are also on hurricane alert and in regular contact with PADRU.

## *Needs*

The Regional Delegation is keeping regular contact with the National Society to evaluate potential needs in the case hurricane Isidore causes extensive damage and international support from the Red Cross may be required.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

*For further details please contact :*

- *John Humphreys, Santo Domingo, Phone 001809 567 3344; email [ifrcdr08@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcdr08@ifrc.org)*
- *Leon Prop, Geneva, Phone 41 22 730 4258; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email [prop@ifrc.org](mailto:prop@ifrc.org)*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

John Horekens  
Head,  
External Relations Division

Santiago Gil  
Head,  
Americas Department