

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: TROPICAL STORM LILI

24 September 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1/02

This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal

The Situation

Tropical Storm Lili is currently progressing west-northwest over the eastern Caribbean Sea, heading towards the island of Hispaniola. Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph (65 kmh) with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast during the next 24 hours.

At 11 am AST on 24 September, both the governments of the Dominican Republic and of Haiti have issued tropical storm watches, extending from Punta Palenque (south-west of Santo Domingo) westward to Tiburon. The Haitian Government is currently on Alert 1 status as per its National Response Plan.

Current projected paths have Lili passing over Haiti sometime on Thursday 26 September, and continuing west-northwest, over the south-east tip of Cuba, and moving towards the Bahamas thereafter. Tropical storm winds currently extend outwards up to 125 miles (205 km) from the centre.

The storm first appeared as Tropical Depression Thirteen, east of the Windward Islands during the night of Sunday 22 September, as Cuba was still battling with the aftermath and on-going rains from Hurricane Isidore, which was by then battering the Yucatan Peninsula. On Monday 23 September, the depression became Tropical Storm Lili, as it passed over Barbados and the Windward Islands. Heavy rain with subsequent flooding and gusts up to 60 mph (95 kmh) were reported in St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados and as far south as Grenada. No serious incidents have been reported as yet, although all of the NSs in the above-mentioned islands have reported disruptions in the electricity supply, damage to houses, localised flooding and the need for limited evacuations.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

- In the Eastern Caribbean, all of the NSs affected by Tropical Storm Lili have responded to the storm, working in close collaboration with their respective national emergency mechanisms, and are currently assessing the situation. There have been no requests for assistance from the Federation to

date, although rains continues to fall and further flooding can be expected. Briefly, the situation in each is as follows:

- ♦ **Grenada RC** reports heavy flooding, trees down, electricity supply disrupted, and some damage to houses in the north and west of the island and on the offshore island of Cariacou.
 - ♦ **Barbados RC** reports similar damage, mainly in the east of the island. Electricity has been disrupted to eight parishes and the international airport was closed for most of Monday afternoon.
 - ♦ **St Lucia RC** teams are undertaking an assessment in the worst affected area, in the south of the island. The NS attended two pre-strike meetings chaired by the Prime Minister and subsequently activated its disaster plan, providing immediate assistance to the National Emergency Management Organisation. The NS also assisted in the evacuation of elderly and disabled from one flood-prone village on the west coast and provided relief materials and feeding assistance to people in shelters .
 - ♦ **St Vincent RC** reports 200 persons in 5 shelters, a number of houses damaged and one destroyed by landslide. One school has lost its roof and the electricity supply is disrupted. The worst affected areas are Kingstown, Georgetown and Sandy Bay. Assessment is on-going.
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- **The Dominican RC** has activated its Emergency Operations Centre as of Monday 23 September, in anticipation of the possible development of Tropical Storm Lili. It has also alerted all branches in areas at risk.
 - **The Haitian National Red Cross Society** participated in a special meeting of the national Emergency Operations Centre on Tuesday 24 September, along with other relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies. HNRCS branches in the projected path of the storm were being alerted. The Federation delegate in Port-au-Prince remains in close contact with the Haiti Red Cross, and with Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross delegates based in the south (Les Cayes) and the north of Haiti respectively.
 - **The Regional Delegation in Santo Domingo** is monitoring the situation closely and is in communication with all affected and potentially affected areas. A request has been put in to PADRU for the re-deployment of a Disaster Management Delegate to Santo Domingo, in order to reinforce the team.

For a full description of the National Society profiles, see www.ifrc.org

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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.

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