

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 LILI

3 October 2002

Information Bulletin N° 3/02

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 30,000

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. The necessity for an international appeal will be determined over the next few days. Meanwhile donors are encouraged to support ongoing relief efforts, directing their contributions to the Federation's Annual Appeal for the Caribbean Region Programmes (01.23/2002), indicating "Hurricanes Isidore & Lili - contribution for Cuba", or to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

The Situation

As predicted, Hurricane Lili passed over south-western **Cuba** on 1 October, following closely in the track of Hurricane Isidore which had already brought severe flooding to the area a mere week and a half earlier. At 2 pm EDT on 1 October, the eye of Hurricane Lili was located about 45 miles north-east of Cabo San Antonio and 135 miles south-west of La Habana. With maximum sustained winds of nearly 100 mph and gusts as high as 108 mph, Lili became a Category 2 hurricane as she passed over the Isle of Youth and the south-western tip of Cuba before entering the Gulf of Mexico. Once over water, Lili continued to strengthen, and became an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane on the afternoon of 2 October, as she accelerated and turned northwards towards the coast of Louisiana, which she will strike some time on 3 October.

In **Cuba**, 165,830 people were evacuated as a result of Hurricane Lili - of which 86,000 are in 480 shelters whilst the rest are staying with family and friends. Preliminary assessments undertaken by the Government of Cuba and the Cuban Red Cross indicate considerable damage to housing, already weakened by the passing of Hurricane Isidore ten days earlier. In total, over 50,000 homes have been reported damaged to date - with structural damage to over 32,000 houses and close to 18,000 homes with damaged roofs (for details see table below). The worst affected areas are in the south-west, particularly the province of Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth. Other affected provinces include Sancti-Spiritus, Cienfuegos, Guantanamo, Santiago and Granma. Lili has left a path of destruction across the Caribbean. As a tropical storm, she damaged housing, crops, and infrastructure, and killed three people during her sweep across the Windward Islands as she entered the Caribbean Sea.

Passing over the **Cayman Islands** on 30 September, Hurricane Lili was centered near Cayman Brac to the east, where the tropical storm was up-graded to a Category 1 hurricane, with maximum sustained

winds of 80 pmh. About 210 people were evacuated to emergency shelters in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Both the smaller islands of the Cayman group sustained isolated damage to housing and electricity lines, but no casualties were reported.

In **Jamaica**, Hurricane Lili meandered slowly along the north coast of the island, bringing continuous and heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding. Severe damage has been reported in the eastern portion of Jamaica, most particularly in the parishes of St Thomas, St Andrews, St Elizabeth, Claremont and the capital, Kingston - with St Thomas being the most affected. Floodwaters and mudslides killed 4 people and some 800 people had to be evacuated to shelters in the period 28 to 30 September. Many roads have been blocked and dozens of people had to be rescued by helicopter from the roofs of their submerged

| EVALUACION DE DAÑOS | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Regiones | Provincias afectadas | MUNICIPIOS AFECTADOS | Afectaciones techos viviendas | Afectaciones estructura viviendas | total viviendas afectadas | Evacuados |
| REGION OCCIDENTAL | Pinar del Rio | Sandino | 16256 | 31680 | 47936 | 124702 |
| | | San Juan y Martinez | | | | |
| | | Mantua | | | | |
| | | Guane | | | | |
| | La Habana | Isla de la Juventud | | | | |
| | | Batabano | | | | |
| | | Guira de Melena | | | | |
| | | Nueva Paz | | | | |
| | | San Nicolas | | | | |
| | | Melena del Sur | | | | |
| REGION CENTRAL | Sancti Spiritus | Quivicán | 537 | 408 | 945 | 4565 |
| | | Sancti Spiritus | | | | |
| | | La Sierpe | | | | |
| | | Fomento | | | | |
| | | Taguasco | | | | |
| | | Trinidad | | | | |
| | Jatibonico | | | | | |
| | Cienfuegos | Rodas | | | | |
| | | Aguada | | | | |
| | | Cumanayagua | | | | |
| Guantanamo | | | | | | |
| REGION ORIENTAL | Guantanamo | Maisi | 855 | 509 | 1364 | 36563 |
| | | Baracoa | | | | |
| | | Manuel Tames | | | | |
| | | Guama | | | | |
| | Santiago de Cuba | Tercer Frente | | | | |
| | | Palma Soriano | | | | |
| | | Santiago de Cuba | | | | |
| | Granma | Niquero | | | | |
| | | Media Luna | | | | |
| | | Cauto Cristo | | | | |
| | | Pilón | | | | |
| Total | 8 | 32 | 17648 | 32597 | 50245 | 165830 |

homes. As the storm passed over the island, the western portion also reported flooding, with most damage concentrated in Westmoreland. A further 600 people were evacuated to shelters on 1 October. Agriculture officials report that many sugarcane fields were washed out, especially in Westmoreland which produces nearly 30% of Jamaica's crop.

Table 1 - Damage assessment Cuba, as of 1 Oct 2002

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

- **The Cuban Red Cross**, whilst still coping with the impact of Hurricane Isidore, has continued to activate its extensive volunteer network to assist with Hurricane Lili. Of a total of 7,300 volunteers mobilised over the course of the two hurricanes, some 1,260 have been actively involved in shelter management in the worst affected areas. In addition, the Cuban Red Cross assisted with evacuations as well as in search and rescue operations, and volunteers are also providing on-going psychological assistance and first aid services. Damage assessment is continuing, in close coordination with government authorities, although access to the worst affected areas in the south-west has been

hampered by road closures and difficulties in communication due to a lack of radio-communications infrastructure.

- **Jamaican RC Society** and its branches have been assisting evacuees and providing rescue services, as well as on-going involvement in shelter management, registration, feeding, assessment and counselling activities. The RCS is managing temporary shelters in Kingston, St Andrews and Westmoreland and is also supporting shelters in St Thomas, Claremont and St Elizabeth. The NS is involved in overall damage assessment, in close coordination with the national authorities. Resources permitting, the JRC plans to distribute 1,000 food packages and assist in housing and roof repairs.
- **The Red Cross on the Cayman Islands**, an overseas branch of the British Red Cross, has been providing First Aid coverage for thirteen of the eighteen shelters in the island group.
- **The Federation Regional Delegation in Santo Domingo** continues to monitor the situation closely and is in communication with all affected areas. The Regional Information Delegate from Santo Domingo as well as a Disaster Management Delegate from the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama are scheduled to arrive in Cuba on 3 October, to support the assessment and follow-up tasks of the Cuban Red Cross as necessary. The necessity for an international appeal will be determined over the next few days.

Needs

Preliminary needs, as assessed by the Cuban Red Cross, are for cooking stoves and kitchen sets, “comfort sets”, mattresses, and zinc roofing sheets, as well as funds to assist with transportation and on-going operational needs. The Federation has made CHF 30,000 available through its DREF fund.

The necessity for an appeal is being considered.

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

For further details please contact :

- *John Humphreys, Head of Regional Delegation, Santo Domingo ; Phone 00 1 809 567-3344 Ext.31; Fax 00 1 809 567 3595 ; email: ifrcdr08@ifrc.org*
- *Leon Prop, Federation Desk Officer, Phone 41 22 730 4258; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email 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
Director
External Relations Division

Santiago Gil
Head
Americas Department