

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

MEXICO: HURRICANE KENNA

25 October 2002

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This Information Bulletin is *(choose the one which applies)*

- for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. •

The Situation

Off the Pacific coast of Mexico, hurricane Kenna, with maximum sustained winds of 260 km/hour has now developed into a dangerous, category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. According to the national hurricane centre based in Miami, slight weakening is expected in the next 24 hours. However, on landfall, the hurricane is expected to cause major damage, particularly if this occurs near large population centres. A hurricane warning is in effect for the south west coast of Mexico from Mazatlan southward to La Fortuna including the Islas Marias, and a tropical storm warning has been issued south of La Fortuna to Manzanillo.

Rainfall of between 6 and 10 inches is anticipated, which could provoke flash floods and mud slides, threatening life and property. In addition, coastal storm surge flooding of between 6 and 10 feet above normal tide levels is expected near and to the south of the centre of landfall. Should the current trajectory be maintained, the states of Guadalajara (Puerto Vallarta) Colima (Manzanillo), Nayarit and Sinaloa are most threatened. In Nayarit, the municipalities which are in the most critically exposed areas are as follows: Compostela, Santiago Ixcuintla, Bahía de Banderas, San Blas, Tecuala and Acaponeta, with an estimated total population of 100,000 inhabitants. Landfall is anticipated in the late evening on Friday, 25 October, GMT.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The National Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CENAPRED), municipal and local authorities have declared a state of alert. In Mazatlan, evacuation of populations from the most exposed rural areas has taken place and in Nayarit, 20 shelters have been prepared in the event of evacuation being necessary.

The Mexican Red Cross (MRC) has carried out an inventory of goods and supplies available in the region, together with volunteer numbers in branches in areas which could potentially be affected. From Mexico City, three trailers with 75 tonnes of relief supplies including food, water, clothing and

medicine have been sent to Jalisco branch. The National Society has an agreement with the chain store, Walmark, for the setting up of collection centres for relief supplies, should this prove necessary. In the Manzanillo branch, 10 tonnes of food and water are available which had been prepared for assistance in Yucatán.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and its regional logistics unit (RLU) are on standby with relief materials and personnel, as are the trained members of the regional intervention teams, should assistance be required. The head of PADRU and the director of disaster response of the Mexican Red Cross travelled in the early hours of Friday morning, 25 October, to the region which will suffer the effects of hurricane Kenna, according to current data and estimations regarding the trajectory of the hurricane. The regional communications delegate based in Mexico is currently in Mexico City, ensuring liaison with the Mexican Red Cross headquarters, and the regional delegation in Guatemala is closely monitoring the situation. The Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) will be continuously updated.

For a full description of the National Society profile, 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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