

# 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 JOHN

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.*

### In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## The Situation

Hurricane John – which briefly achieved category 4 status during the night of 30 August - brought torrential rain and hurricane force winds of up to 215km/hour to the scattered communities along the west coast of Mexico. As of the morning of 31 August, the storm had travelled along the coast between Oaxaca and Colima, before veering farther west and away from the coastal areas. Hurricane John is predicted to reach the southern tip of Baja California during Friday 1 September.

Preliminary reports from the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) in the affected areas indicate that there has been relatively little damage and no deaths reported to date. However, it is important to note that the area covered is fairly large, with a number of small, relatively isolated communities – and assessments are therefore on-going. Some flooding has occurred in Acapulco and the surrounding area – however at present, indications are that this is not serious.

As of 8AM PDT on 31 August, the centre of Hurricane John was located near latitude 19.5 north and longitude 106.5 west or about 130 km SW of Cabo Corrientes, Mexico. Hurricane John, now down-graded to a Category 3 hurricane, is currently moving WNW at 22 km / hour, with maximum sustained winds of 205 km / hour, and some higher gusts.

A hurricane warning is in effect from Manzanillo to San Blas, including the Islas Marias, as well as for the southern Baja Peninsula from La Paz southward on the east coast and from Santa Fe southward on the west coast. The National Hurricane Centre does not anticipate any significant change in strength over the next 24 hours. Coastal storm surge flooding of up to 150cm above normal tide levels is possible.

The present track has Hurricane John skirting the southern part of the Baja California peninsula on the morning of Friday, 1 September, accompanied by intense rainfall and strong gusts from Michoacán to the south of Sinaloa.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), based in Panama, has been in close contact with Mexican Red Cross since Hurricane John began threatening the Pacific coast of Mexico.

As of the morning of 31 August, Mexican Red Cross Branches had mobilized teams and equipment, on stand-by, as follows:

Mexican Red Cross Branch	Ambulances	Rescue Teams	Staff	Other vehicles
Colima	5	1	6	2
Armeria	3	1	5	1
Tecoman	3	1	10	2
Manzanillo	2	1	15	2
TOTAL	13	4	36	7

In addition, the Mexican Red Cross has pre-positioned 4,700 meal kits in the towns of San José del Cabo and La Paz, in Baja California.

Branches report only minor damage to date, and no specific needs in terms of relief or other support. People in shelters operational in Tecoman and Manzanillo have now returned to their homes and schools are operating as normal. Rivers are reported to be maintaining their course, with some rain still falling.

Mexican Red Cross branches are in regular contact with the Civil Defence, however no medical support has been requested and there have been no requests for relief or other emergency assistance. Local and provincial authorities, as well as MRC headquarters continue to monitor the situation. MRC headquarters remain in constant communication with MRC branches in the affected areas, with staff and volunteers on stand-by.

In anticipation of Hurricane John reaching Baja California on 1 September, a rapid intervention team of 5 people - with expertise in logistics, and damage and needs assessment - has been mobilized by MRC headquarters and is travelling to Cabo San Lucas during the day of 31 August, to coordinate with the branch and provide support to operations if necessary, until the storm has passed over the area.

**Coordination and Information**

PADRU is coordinating with the OCHA Regional Office, based in Panama, and remains in constant contact with the Mexican Red Cross, as the storm progresses. The Mexican Red Cross continues to coordinate closely with Civil Defence, as well as with local and State authorities, in assessing damage and any possible needs.

PADRU is in regular contact with the Federation’s Operations Support Department (OSD) in Geneva, for possible activation of global response tools such as FACT and ERU, as the situation warrants.

A special page on the Regional Federation website at [www.cruzroja.org](http://www.cruzroja.org) has been created and is being up-dated on a regular basis.

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