

# 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 DEAN

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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 185 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.

For further information specifically related to this bulletin please contact:

- In Panama: Thomas Doyle, DM Delegate Caribbean Regional Representation; [thomas.doyle@ifrc.org](mailto:thomas.doyle@ifrc.org); phone (868)789 9493, fax (507) 316 1082
- In Panama: Kathleen Martin, Acting Head, Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; e-mail [kathleen.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:kathleen.martin@ifrc.org), phone (507) 316-1001; fax (507) 316-1082.
- In Trinidad: Tanya Wood, Head of Caribbean Office, Port of Spain, email: [tanya.wood@ifrc.org](mailto:tanya.wood@ifrc.org), phone (868) 624 15 57; fax; (868) 627 9627
- In Panama: Jose Garcia-Lozano, Head of Zone, Americas, Panama, email: [jose.garcialozano@ifrc.org](mailto:jose.garcialozano@ifrc.org), phone (507) 317 13 00; fax; (507) 317 13 04

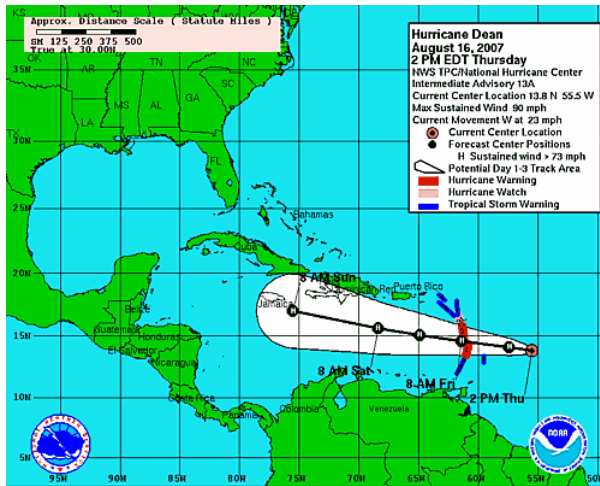
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#)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

Tropical storm Dean has strengthened into the 2007 Atlantic storm season’s first hurricane. Forecasters say Dean, a category 1 hurricane is expected to strengthen over the next few days according to the National Hurricane Centre and should make landfall in the next 24 hours.

Almost the entire Eastern Caribbean is either on tropical storm or hurricane watch, but forecasters say it is too early to predict which island(s) would be affected by Dean. The strongest alerts so far have been issued for the islands of Dominica and St Lucia and their respective governments have issued hurricane warnings and are creating emergency plans. It is already raining in Dominica.



Other islands on alert include Martinique, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua & Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, Barbados and St Vincent, and the Grenadines have already advised their populations to take the necessary precautions.

Latest forecasts indicate that if Dean makes landfall it can cause life threatening flash floods and landslides.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is in regular contact with both the St Lucia and Dominica National Societies. Additionally, they have had HF Radio contact with the following National Societies: Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

PADRU will issue a RIT alert and commence with preparations for deployment of a RIT Team. A DREF application will be prepared to support the response if needed and the Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in cooperation with the French Red Cross (Plateforme d’Intervention Regionale Amerique-Caraibes - PIRAC) in Guadeloupe will source transportation of relief items to the islands of Dominica and St Lucia.

PADRU was represented at an OCHA coordination meeting on Thursday and will be working with other agencies as the need arises.

The Dominica Red Cross is closely monitoring the situation and is part of the National Disaster Plan which was activated on Thursday. Shelters are expected to be opened on Thursday afternoon and the Dominica Red Cross is part of a three shift system for the 24 hour management of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

The St Lucia Red Cross met with its government on Thursday to start their emergency operations. Antigua & Barbuda is on Tropical Storm alert and the Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross has activated 54 volunteers in preparation for a response.

A Federation representative is already positioned in Jamaica to provide support if required. PADRU has raised its alert level to ‘RED’.

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