



HURRICANE FELIX

DREF Bulletin
no. MDR43001
Glide No.
TC- 2007-000157
3 September 2007

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 DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 200,000 (USD 166,251 or EUR 121,655) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to pre-position Red Cross personnel to the areas that are forecast to be affected by hurricane Felix. The duration of the operation will be determined after hurricane Felix has made landfall and needs have been assessed. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet 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 operation please contact:

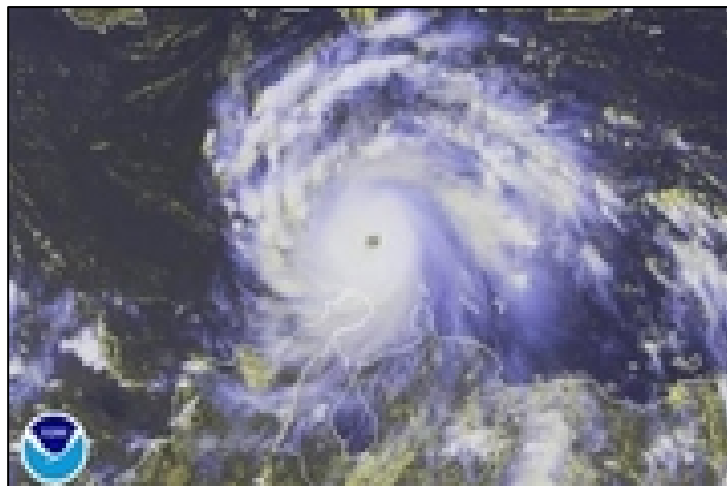
- *In Belize:* Thomas Doyle, DM Delegate Caribbean Regional Representation; email: thomas.doyle@ifrc.org; phone (868) 627 2665; fax (868) 627 9627
- *In Panama:* Stephen McAndrew Head, Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama, email: stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; fax (507) 316 1082
- *In Panama:* José García-Lozano, Head of Zone, Americas, Panama, email: jose.garcialozano@ifrc.org; phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507) 317 1304
- *In Panama:* María Alcázar, Zone Relationship Management Coordinator, Americas; e-mail: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507) 317 1304
- *In Trinidad and Tobago:* Tanya Wood, Head of Caribbean Regional Representation, Port of Spain, email: tanya.wood@ifrc.org; phone (868) 624 15 57; fax; (868) 627 9627
- *In Geneva:* Linda Stops, Operations Coordinator, e-mail: linda.stops@ifrc.org; phone (41) 227304300

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

Felix, the second hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic season after last month's Dean, is currently a Category four on the five-step Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale, while strengthening over the warm waters of the Caribbean. It has maintained its power overnight and its plowing swiftly westward on a course expected to pass over the northern coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua.



Hurricane Felix is pictured moving west in the Caribbean Sea in this satellite photograph.
Source: Reuters

On Sunday 2 September, hurricane Felix had already passed Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. Although they experienced heavy rain, some wind and light thunderstorm, minimal damage was reported in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. Some roofs were damaged and trees were uprooted, while communities in lower areas experienced some flood related problems. Overall, the islands were spared of serious damage.

On 3 September, hurricane Felix moved towards the west at 21 MPH, (33 KM/HR) and this general motion is expected to continue for the next 24 hours according to the National Hurricane Centre. On this track, the center of Felix will be near the coasts of Northeastern Nicaragua and Northeastern Honduras early on the morning of 4 September with a possibility of touching ground in Northern

Nicaragua and the Department of Colón and Gracias a Dios in Honduras by noon.

Maximum sustained winds are near 160 MPH, (260 KM/HR) with higher gusts. Felix is a potentially catastrophic category four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Scale. Fluctuations in intensity are common in major hurricanes, but Felix is expected to maintain category four or five status during Monday 3 September and early Tuesday 4 September 2007.

[Please click here to go to a map of the storm's path and expected path](#)

Red Cross action

The Honduran government declared a yellow alert for the departments of Gracias a Dios, Colón, Atlántida, Islas de la Bahía and the northern part of Olancho. A green alert has been issued for the department of Cortés. A 24 hour monitoring plan has been established by the Honduran government. The **Honduran Red Cross** (HRC) Head Quarters established direct communication with all local branches and activated the National Intervention Team (NIT) members. A meeting was held between the relief directors of the local branches and their National Intervention Teams (NIT). The HRC is in regular contact with the International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation in Panama. Furthermore the HRC is closely coordinating with the governmental National Commission of Contingencies (la Comisión Nacional de Contingencias - COPECO). Based on the forecast, the HRC is preparing a preliminary plan of action to provide assistance to 5,000 families.

Hurricane Felix, DREF Bulletin no. MDR43001

The **Guatemalan Red Cross** (GRC) is in state of alert and is closely monitoring the path of hurricane Felix. The GRC initiated and adjusted their contingency plan according to the current situation in order to activate and strengthen the emergency response of their local branches of Puerto Barrios, Santo Tomás de Castilla, El Estor, Cobán and Petén. They are planning to deploy NIT members in case the situation worsens.

The government of Nicaragua activated a yellow alert for the region of South Atlantic to Northern Prinzapolca reaching the Coco River in Cape Gracias a Dios. A yellow alert has also been issued for the communities located north and south of Coco Guagua Rivers. A green alert has been issued for communities located in the North Atlantic of the country. The National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Attention (Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres: SINAPRED) established an office in Puerto Cabezas.

Since 2 September, the **Nicaraguan Red Cross** (NRC) pre-positioned personnel, mobilized resources and deployed 500 kitchen sets and hygiene kits to Puerto Cabezas. The NRC local branch in Puerto Cabezas activated its 45 volunteers and can count on the support of social volunteers working on local development projects in the area. The NRC is permanently monitoring the situation and is in close coordination with the National Emergency Centre (Centro de Emergencia Nacional).

A **Belize Red Cross Society** (BRCS) member attended a preliminary meeting convened by the Government, including the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO), on 2 September 2007. The BRCS also held a meeting with the Disaster Management Committee (DMC) in order to prepare a contingency plan. Fortunately, the relief stock of the BRCS was replenished by PADRU in past days as part of the hurricane Dean Operation. The BRCS therefore has sufficient relief supplies to respond to the current emergency. All BRCS staff and volunteers have been alerted and are awaiting deployment. The BRCS is in full cooperation with the government of Belize.

The **Mexican Red Cross** (MRC) Head Quarters and their local branches are in state of alert. On 3 September, the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) pre-positioned personnel, equipment and humanitarian aid to the Yucatán Peninsula. Another MRC team will be deployed on Wednesday 4 September to Quintana Roo. The MRC still has food and non food items in their warehouses but those will probably not be sufficient. The MRC is therefore in the process to replenish their stocks in order to meet further needs. Furthermore, the MRC is constant liaison with PADRU and the Federation Secretariat in order to provide information.

Due to the minimal damage on Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao no further action of the Overseas Branches of the Netherlands Red Cross was required.

The funds allocated through this DREF will go to cover costs related to the above-mentioned deployments of staff, relief items and equipment for the affected National Societies that request assistance.

Coordination

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Central America and Mexico Regional Representation in Panama are in direct contact with the Red Cross Societies of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico and Belize. PADRU has established High Frequency (HF) Radio contact with the involved NS in order to ensure fluent communication and monitor the situation. PADRU has raised its alert level to 'RED' and is deploying a Disaster Management (DM) delegate to Honduras and Guatemala. A DM delegate is already positioned in Belize in order to provide immediate support. Further deployments of DM delegates, other PADRU personnel and Regional Intervention Teams (RIT's) will be coordinated if the situation so requires.

Coordination meetings are taking place between PADRU, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other United Nations organizations to discuss participation in any joint coordinated response operation. A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team will be deployed to Honduras. PADRU is also in close liaison with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The involved National Societies (NS) have been in constant contact with PADRU and the Central American Regional Representation officer in Panama. The NS are monitoring the development of Felix and are taking the

Hurricane Felix, DREF Bulletin no. MDR43001

necessary precautions. All involved National Societies have initiated their Plan of Actions and are posting regular bulletins on the DMIS website as information becomes available.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



Hurricane FELIX

