



CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE DEAN

DREF Bulletin
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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 DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 150,000 (USD 124,585 or EUR 90,909) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 August to respond to the needs of this operation.

The operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 17 November 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 17 February 2008). 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.

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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 \(NGO's\) 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>

Background and current situation

On Friday morning 17 August, the eye of Dean, the first hurricane of the Atlantic season, passed between St Lucia and Martinique, two eastern Caribbean islands less than 80.5 km apart.

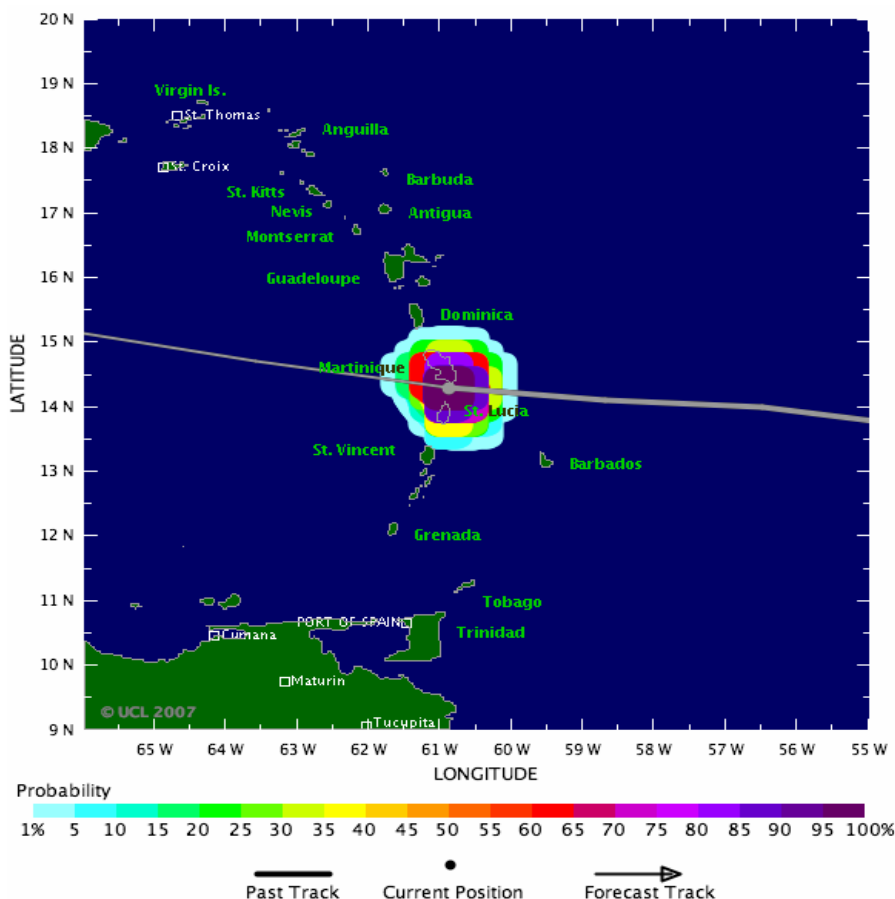
Hurricane Dean uprooted trees, tore down power lines and ripped the roof off several houses and a hospital in St. Lucia as it raced into the Caribbean on a track that could take it near Jamaica as a dangerously powerful storm next week, officials said.

On the nearby French island of Martinique, sustained winds were measured at 75 mph (120 kph) with gusts up to 105 mph (170 kph), according to France's weather service. Preliminary assessments show that many trees were uprooted, water and electricity were tore down and several houses lost there roof. Authorities have informed the public that the southern tip of the island was the hardest hit.

By 8 a.m. EDT (1200 GMT) today, Dean was 50 miles west-southwest of Martinique and moving west at about 23 mph a speed. According to the U.S. National Hurricane Centre, this motion should take the center of Dean away from the Lesser Antilles later today. The Category 2 hurricane was expected to intensify as it entered the warm waters of the Caribbean, heading toward Jamaica.

Satellite images and data from an air force reconnaissance plane indicate that Dean has strengthened during this day. The maximum sustained winds are now 125 MPH/ 205 KM/HR. Dean is therefore now turning into a category 3 hurricane on the five-step Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale. Additional strengthening is forecast during the next 24 hours.

Dean reached the Caribbean Sea through the narrow St. Lucia Channel after a long journey across the Atlantic and threatens to become a powerful Category 4 hurricane on a course projected to take it near Jamaica and aims either for the Gulf of Mexico or Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula in the next four days.



Category 3 to 5 storms, referred to collectively as "major" storms, are generally the most destructive and include infamous hurricanes like Katrina in 2005. A Category 2 hurricane is still capable of damaging houses and sending a 6- to 8-foot (1.8 meter to 2.4 meter) storm surge ashore.

The eye of hurricane Dean passed between St Lucia and Martinique on early morning of 17 August 2007. Source: Tropical Storm Risk

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, on 16 August HF Radio contact was established with the following National Societies: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

This preliminary DREF seeks to support immediate response activities with an initial focus on St. Lucia and Dominica. Depending on more in depth assessments, the path of hurricane Dean and future impact, other islands may be assisted with the same DREF funding.

Potential activities include emergency support to those affected by the hurricane, assisting with local cleaning activities, replacing equipment at National Societies in order to be prepared for future operations and deployment of Red Cross personnel. As soon as more consolidated information is available an additional DREF update will be posted with a more detailed plan of action.

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 worst affected islands.

PADRU has issued a RIT alert and commenced with preparations for deployment of a Regional Intervention Team (RIT). Within the next few days a RIT member will be pre-positioned to the Cay Man islands to provide support if required. A Disaster Management delegate is already positioned in Haiti together with two RIT members from the Canadian Red Cross and one RIT member from the French Red Cross (PIRAC). In Jamaica, a Federation representative is present in order to provide immediate support. PADRU has raised its alert level to 'RED' and will be available to provide further support according to the situation.

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