

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

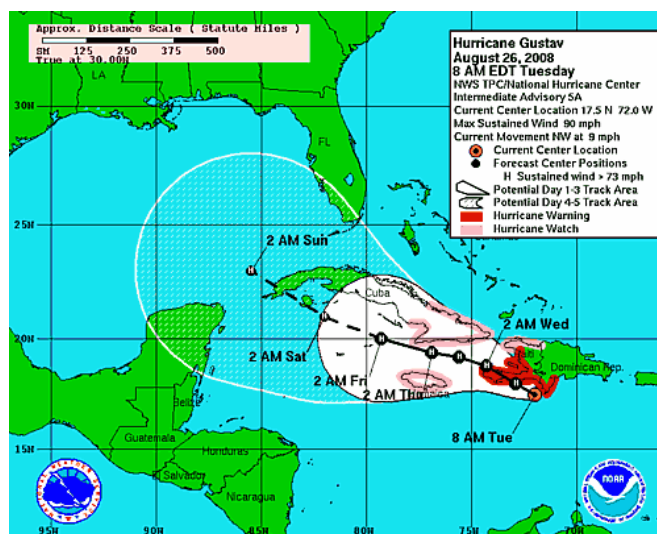
Caribbean: Hurricane Gustav

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This bulletin is being issued for information only. Hurricane Gustav is threatening Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

The National Societies of Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba and Jamaica as well as the Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross in the Cayman Islands have been in close contact with the International Federation. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama has deployed one disaster management delegate to Haiti to support early relief activities as well as one delegate to Jamaica for pre-positioning. Two disaster management delegates are on stand-by for deployment to Cuba in order to support relief activities in the event Gustav hits the island.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)



Hurricane Gustav 5 day track forecast.
Source: National Hurricane Centre

The Situation

On 26 August 2008, the National Hurricane Centre in the United States informed that tropical storm Gustav had become a category one hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. There is a hurricane warning through large parts of the Hispaniola island: from Port au Prince in **Haiti** through Barahona in the **Dominican Republic**. The Haitian government declared a red alert in the central and southern departments (South East, South, Nippes, West, Grand Anse, Artibonite, Centre Orange) and an orange alert in the northern departments (Northeast, North, Northwest) by declaration of the government. A hurricane watch is in effect for the Cuban provinces of Las Tunas, Granma, Holguin, Santiago and Guantanamo. A hurricane watch is also in effect for **Jamaica**.

At 11 p.m. on 25 August, the centre of the storm was located approximately 150 miles from south-southeast Port au Prince, Haiti. On 26 August the centre of Gustav was located about 75 miles south-southeast of Port au Prince, Haiti and approximately 265 miles of Guantanamo, Cuba. Gustav is moving northwest at a speed of nine miles per hour. According to the National Hurricane Centre, Gustav should move over south western Haiti later today (26 August) local time.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The board members from the **Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS)** have held meetings in order to coordinate potential actions. The 13 local branches have contacted their committees to gather information on weather conditions and to initiate the mobilisation of volunteers. The HNRCS has revised their inventory of available resources and have prepared 250 available National Intervention Team (NIT) members for mobilisation. The HNRCS will hold a coordination meeting with several Movement partners present in the country in the coming hours to further define coordination arrangements.

The **Cuban Red Cross (CRC)** have held meetings with municipal and community groups from Guantanamo and Ciego de Avila – amongst other areas - and have initiated evacuation activities in high risk areas.

The **Dominican Red Cross (DRC)** has activated all their coordinating operative centres and are closely monitoring the situation. All local branches are in red alert and there are approximately 200 volunteers preparing for Gustav's arrival.

The **Jamaican Red Cross (JRC)** is attending meetings with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) to plan for Gustav as well as meeting with key ministries for coordination.

The **Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross in the Cayman Islands** is in contact with the Overseas Branch desk in London to discuss preparation for Gustav.

A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) request was made by the Haitian National Red Cross Society through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in order to jump start the initial activities such as pre-positioning of disaster management delegates.

A DREF Bulletin will be published in coming hours with further information and actions planned.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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