

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

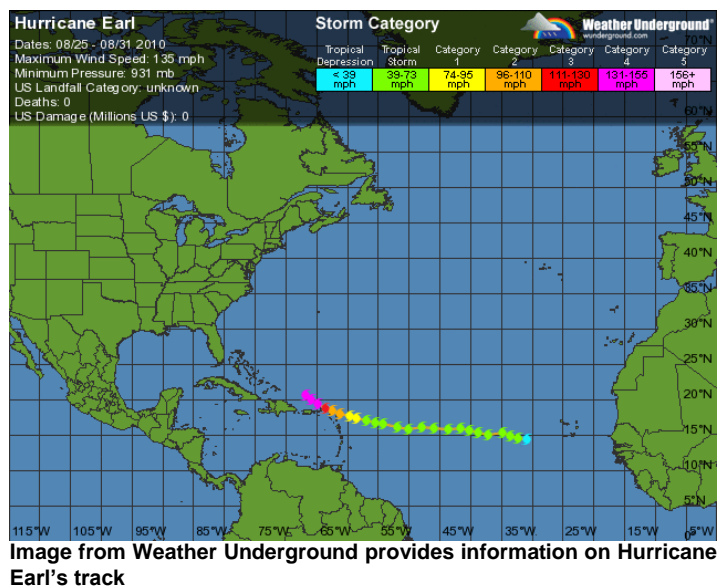
## Caribbean: Hurricane Earl

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GLIDE n° TC-2010-000171-BMU  
31 August 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society, the Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society and the Overseas Branches of the Netherlands, British and French Red Cross Societies, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

Category 4 Hurricane Earl with sustained winds at 120 mph has passed through the northern Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean. Since late Sunday afternoon, rain and heavy winds continued to affect the islands as reports of damage continue to come in.

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



## The Situation

The fifth named storm and third hurricane of the Atlantic Hurricane Season 2010 has followed Hurricane Danielle a few days prior. Hurricane Earl arrived near Antigua and Barbuda on late Sunday bringing 15ft waves and up to seven inches of rain in addition to hurricane force winds. Across the two islands, there are reports of fallen trees and utility poles in addition to localized flooding which prompted evacuations. Three hundred individuals are currently in shelters across the two islands. The electric service has been interrupted and the main airport to the country has been closed and is expected to open on 31 August.

Saint Kitts and Nevis were affected with heavy rain and relatively low winds. Electricity was out for a few days but has now returned and the airport is expected to be opened today as well. Following these islands, Hurricane Earl moved through the Netherlands Antilles of Saint Maarten, Saba and Saint Eustatius and the French Saint Martin and Saint Barthélemy. These islands also received heavy winds and rain followed by localized flooding. Initial reports state that damage to the islands is low with affected populations beginning to clean up.

Earl developed into a Category 4 by the time it reached the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Anguilla. Early reports received from these islands indicate that there is localized flooding and minor landslides. In

addition, electricity has been interrupted on many of the islands and some affected persons have moved into shelters.

Overall, it appears that due to early warning and well-prepared populations, damage to livelihoods and property have been relatively low.

Tropical Storm Fiona is quickly following Hurricane Earl and is expected to follow a similar path through the week. Detailed assessment information will be forthcoming over the next days.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Societies and overseas branches in the affected countries were well prepared to deal with Hurricane Earl. With sufficient early warning information, the Red Cross National Societies were able to ready their contingency plans and work with national authorities to provide information through radio and television to the populations. Red Cross National Societies assisted with information to the population on preparing property and securing livelihoods in the face of heavy winds and rain. In additions, shelters were set up to receive evacuees.

Through several coordination meetings at the national level with emergency management agencies over the weekend, several National Societies began to provide first aid and shelter management support as well as the initial distribution of dry food rations to highly vulnerable populations. It is expected that a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund operation will begin in the following days as the National Societies continue with detailed assessments and the development of plans of action.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the Caribbean Regional Representation are working in close collaboration, and have been in constant communication with the National Societies and Overseas Branches to ascertain the support required and remain on standby to provide the assistance to the National Societies as requested.

### 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

### Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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