

CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE JOSE

21 October 1999

Information Bulletin N° 01

The Disaster

Jose, classified as a category 2 hurricane with winds of 160 kilometres per hour, has been moving through the northern Leeward Islands at about 17 kilometres per hour. Satellite reports from yesterday afternoon predicted that most of the islands in this region will be affected by the heavy rainfall, higher tides and strong winds.

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society reported that Hurricane *Jose* struck the islands at 4:00 hrs local time with intense rainfall and battering waves. It is too early to evaluate damages to the island at this time.

A hurricane warning is in effect for Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Eustatius, Saba, Dutch St. Marteen and Anguilla as well as for Puerto Rico and the British and US Virgin Islands.

In the Dominican Republic, the civil defence authorities and the Dominican Red Cross' Emergency Centre Operation (ECO) are closely monitoring the development of this hurricane.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society will begin conducting needs assessments early this morning, local time. All volunteers and staff are on standby to start the assessment operations.

In Montserrat, Red Cross volunteers spent the night assisting evacuees in shelters.

Needs

The International Federation's Regional Delegation in Santo Domingo is on standby until National Societies from the affected areas begin conducting damage assessments. It is expected that emergency aid will be needed for Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, and Anguilla.

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