

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BAHAMAS: HURRICANE JEANNE

1 November 2004

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 over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 23/04; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 4 - 29 October, 2004; Appeal coverage: 7.7%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 4 October 2004 for CHF 958,000 for 3 months to assist 15,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 70,000

Outstanding needs : CHF 884, 512 (USD 739,277 or EUR 579,265)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal 01.51/2004.

Operational Summary: During the reporting period, the identification of beneficiaries continued to be carried out by the Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS) with the support of the Federation. This selection is being conducted alongside ongoing damage and needs assessments in the hardest-hit areas of the country. Relief distributions have started and to date, food parcels, hygiene kits and tarpaulins have reached some 800 beneficiary families in the most affected islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama. Particularly in the Abaco Island, distributions have focused primarily on the vulnerable Haitian settlements of sand Banks, Pigeon Pea and the Mud.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Hurricane Jeanne made landfall in the Bahamas on Saturday, 25 September, damaging several hundred homes. Jeanne, a category 3 hurricane, struck the Bahamas just three weeks after another category 3 storm, Hurricane Frances, which caused two deaths and affected more than 8,000 people in Grand Bahamas Island. There are no

reports of deaths or serious injuries in the wake of Hurricane Jeanne, but flood waters rose to more than six feet in some areas and roofs were blown off houses. Hurricane Jeanne impacted the north-western Bahamas, including Abaco, Andros, Berry, Bimini, Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama and New Providence islands.

Hurricane Jeanne caused the most significant damage on the Grand Bahama and Abaco islands. Representatives of the Bahamas Red Cross Society and a disaster management delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit traveled to the Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands and conducted a preliminary assessment. Based on this survey, it became clear that damage from Hurricane Jeanne is much greater than that caused by Hurricane Frances. Almost all of the areas affected by Hurricane Jeanne are the same areas that were struck by Hurricane Frances, and many homes that were weakened by Frances have now been more seriously damaged by Jeanne. All along the coast of Grand Bahama Island, homes have been flooded by the storm surge. Electricity services have been cut and water supplies are limited in many areas.

In 8 Mile Rock, the largest community on Grand Bahama Island, over 75 percent of the homes have suffered serious structural damage, with roofs partially or completely torn off. All shelters in 8 Mile Rock sustained structural damage and/or flooding. The eastern half of the island has been cut off by storm surges and reports indicate significant flooding of homes, particularly along the coastline. In the city of Freeport on Grand Bahama Island, the airport was flooded but was reopened the following day.

Communications were cut off with Abaco Island after Jeanne's eye passed directly over the island on Sunday, 26 September, bringing 115 mile per hour winds and heavy rains. Preliminary reports indicated that the most populated town of Marsh Harbour had been significantly flooded. Officials reported that about 700 people had taken refuge at an emergency shelter that was set up in a local school. The primarily Haitian settlements of Pigeon Pea and the Mud were completely submerged in four to five feet of water. Families in these areas are staying in shelters or with relatives. Cooper's Town and Dundas Town have also been greatly damaged.

Operational developments

Throughout the island the economic effects of the disaster are still apparent, with many hotels, farms and other businesses damaged. Businesses are slowly reopening, but employment is not yet to pre-disaster levels. In the Haitian settlements of Pigeon Pea, the Mud, and Sandy Banks, this economic impact is most apparent; many families are still unemployed or are working only part-time. Many roofs are still damaged and give limited protection from rainfall. Washing and bathing are done with brackish well-water. Bottled water must be purchased for drinking.

In the North of the Island, Cooper's Town, Fox Town and Crown Haven are recovering. Streets have been cleaned, power and water has returned in most areas, and repairs are being made to homes and businesses. In these towns families have also been affected by the economic shock and incomes have been reduced. Fortunately, the situation is not as critical as in the Haitian settlements, as the standard of living was much higher prior to the disaster.

On 13 October, a field visit to Abaco Island was conducted by a representative of the Federation, the Deputy Secretary General of the BRCS, an ECHO representative, an OFDA representative and a Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) representative. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the current situation on the island, assess ongoing Red Cross relief efforts, and study the proposal to be submitted by the Federation to ECHO for emergency relief. The ECHO representative was supportive of plans to assist in the Haitian settlements and offered comments on refining the proposal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective 1: Immediate basic needs of at least 3,000 families are met through the distribution of appropriate food and non-food items.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Bahamas Red Cross Society has begun the distribution of food, hygiene kits and tarpaulins to affected areas on Abaco Island. Two twenty-foot containers of supplies reached the islands on 14 October. The containers were stocked with 600 food parcels, 600 hygiene kits, 75 tarpaulins and assorted clothing. The BRCS is coordinating with local community representatives to identify the most vulnerable families and develop distribution lists. Distributions are focused primarily on the Haitian settlements of Sand Banks, Pigeon Pea and the Mud. To date, approximately 300 families have been assisted with food and hygiene kits in the Sand Banks area. Distributions in Pigeon Pea and the Mud will take place shortly. In addition, 150 of the most vulnerable families have been selected for distribution of supplies in the Cooper's Town, Fox Town and Crown Haven areas.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society Chapter in Grand Bahama Island has distributed 500 food parcels. Efforts have focused primarily on the highly-affected towns of 8 Mile Rock, Mclean's Town, and Queens Cove.

Impact: Affected families have received much needed food and non-food relief items, according to their needs. These first distributions represented a first step towards providing families with supplies that will help them to cope better and recover from the material losses they suffered as a result of the floods.

Constraints: Insufficient funding received so far in response to this Emergency Appeal may hamper the progress of the planned operation.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 2: The capacity of the Bahamas Red Cross Society to respond to future disasters is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During October, activities carried out jointly by the Federation and the Bahamas Red Cross Society focused mostly on the distribution of food and relief supplies to the affected families. All activities planned within the disaster preparedness objective will be implemented during the second phase of the operation, once the immediate needs of the beneficiaries have been adequately addressed.

Federation Coordination

Meetings were held with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) representative in Abaco to ensure coordination. It has been determined that since NEMA is focusing primarily on building supplies for the Bahamian population, duplication will not occur. The representative felt that Red Cross efforts in assisting vulnerable Haitian settlements with food and non-food items was complementary to NEMA actions and filled a critical gap in service provision.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

- Relief activities are being carried out are based on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Beneficiary selection criteria focus on the vulnerability of those affected
- Relief operations are being conducted with respect for the culture of beneficiaries, ensuring gender sensitivity and prioritizing assistance to children and the elderly.
- Activities are based on the SPHERE Project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.
- Transparency is being ensured through the production of regular reports and news bulletins.
- All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

National Society Capacity Building

The active involvement of National Society staff and volunteers in the implementation of the relief activities carried out so far have contributed to their familiarization with Federation standard operating procedures, disaster management systems and tools, operational logistics and organization of distributions.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A communications plan is being designed for the operation. It will have four main target groups: the communities where the operation is being carried out, the general public, the national government and the donors to the appeal. The different channels/means for communication and dissemination include national and international press, TV, radio and the Federation websites.

[*Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.*](#)

Bahamas - hurricane Jeanne

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 23/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

29/10/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				958,000		7.7%
JAPANESE - RC		25,000	USD	31,613	13.10.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		250,000	SEK	41,875	26.10.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				73,488	CHF	7.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	