



CARIBBEAN: HURRICANES

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The Situation

Two hurricanes currently threaten the Caribbean region: *Hurricane Isaac*, a major category 4 hurricane, is located in the Atlantic and could pose a threat to the island of Bermuda over the weekend; *Hurricane Joyce*, a smaller category 1 hurricane, is currently located 1,610 Km to the east-southeast of the Windward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean, and is moving on a westerly track at 14 miles (23 km) per hour. If it continues along this track, it could affect the countries from Barbados to Venezuela. If Hurricane Joyce, however, turns more towards the north it could threaten the small islands from Barbados to the Greater Antilles.

A weather system with heavy rainfall and thunderstorms and which has the potential to worsen is also circulating in the north-western Caribbean, between Nicaragua, Honduras and Jamaica.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Santo Domingo Regional Delegation is closely monitoring the development of the weather conditions currently affecting the Caribbean. A team composed of four Disaster Preparedness delegates are following the situation closely from their bases in Antigua, St. Kitts, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and are in continuous contact with the American Red Cross International Disaster Response Unit. In addition, the resource development and youth delegates were moved to Grenada and will provide additional assistance as needed. The Guatemala Regional Delegation is also monitoring the Caribbean tropical systems, including the weather system close to Nicaragua and Honduras.

The Caribbean National Societies are reinforcing their Disaster Preparedness programme. There is currently a Disaster Workshop taking place in St. Kitts with participants from the Dominica, Grenada, Belize, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Guyana Red Cross. In the Dominican Republic, a training of Community-Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) trainers is planned from 29 September to 1 October.

Needs

At this time there is no need for international assistance, but, several National Societies are making preparations for any damage which may occur if Hurricane Joyce hits land. National Societies are now in the process of organising the procurement and storing of relief supplies locally.

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