

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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, CUBA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: TROPICAL STORM NOEL

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*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

**The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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.**

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

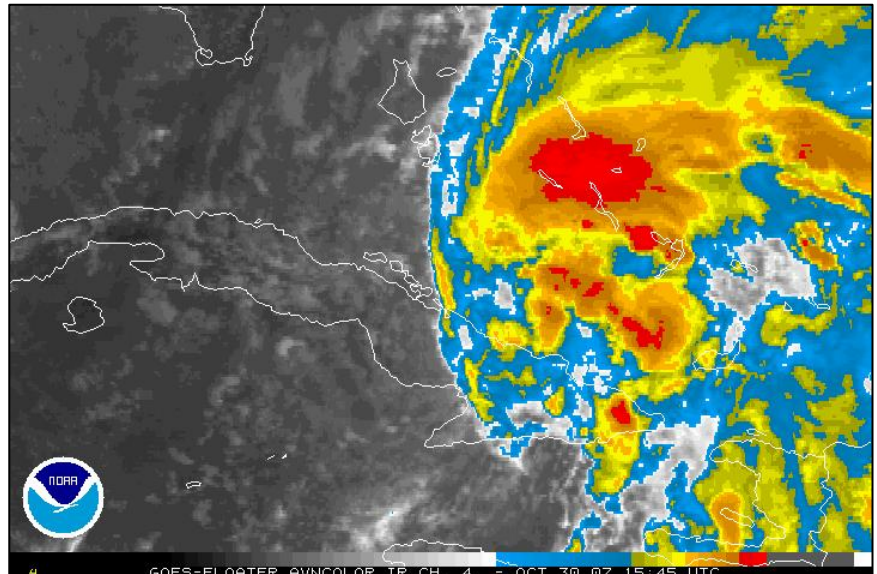
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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## The Situation

On 28 October, Tropical storm Noel caused intense rains and floods affecting the Southern, Central and Eastern regions as well as the Cibao Valley in the **Dominican Republic**. Strong winds along with heavy rain and electric storms will continue to affect the island throughout the next days. According to the National Meteorology Centre (Oficina Nacional de Meteorología – ONAMET), flood warnings have been issued for several high risk provinces located in low zones along rivers and creeks. Maximum winds with a speed of 95 kilometers per hour and stronger gusts are expected in the next hours. Total accumulation of rain registers approximately between 30 and 180 millimeters.



*Satellite picture showing Noels passage through Dominican Republic heading towards Cuba and the Bahamas. Source: National Hurricane Center*

Floods have been reported in several communities in the island and emergency calls were received from several regions. The National Emergency Commission (Comisión Nacional de Emergencias – CNE) has authorized the activation of several shelters. At least 20 people have died; 33 people are missing and serious damages to houses and infrastructure has been inflicted. The country's electricity is down, paralyzing airports, schools and businesses in the northern and southern regions. Reports indicate that 95 percent of plantain, banana and tomato plantations



*Floods in the province of Azua in Dominican Republic. Source: Dominican Red Cross*

have been damaged in the provinces of Azua and Peravia (Southern region). The majority of casualties were reported in the province of San Cristobal, 30 km. west from Santo Domingo. 3,295 people have been evacuated due to the heavy rains and 659 houses are affected.

The Yuna River, the largest river in the island, has overflowed blocking the Duarte highway located 90 km from Santo Domingo. Since eight bridges were destroyed, several municipalities in the Sánchez province cannot be reached and therefore, emergency aid cannot be delivered.

Noel is heading towards the central region of the **Bahamas** and Northern coast of **Cuba**. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the Cuban provinces of Ciego

de Avila, Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantánamo. The government of the Bahamas has discontinued the hurricane watch for the Northwestern Bahamas, but the warning remains in effect for the Central and Northwestern Bahamas.

## Red Cross action

Since the onset of the emergency, the **Dominican Red Cross** (DRC) has activated its search and rescue teams and their National Intervention Teams (NIT) to perform rescue activities and assess the needs and damages. Three coordinating teams have been deployed for first response activities such as search and rescue, medical aid, and needs and damage assessments. The Pan American Disaster Relief Unit has activated a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member alert in order to support relief activities solicited by the DRC. A PADRU Disaster Management delegate will be deployed to help coordinate response and relief activities.

The Coordination Centre is in permanent alert and a crisis room has been set up with personnel working 24 hour shifts. Approximately 500 volunteers have been alerted and the DRC branches are working in close coordination with the local authorities and with the Pan American Disaster Relief Unit (PADRU).



*Floods in the province of Azua in the Dominican Republic. Source: Dominican Red*

Meetings with the National Emergency Center and the Crisis Management Room have been held to share and process the information from the field. The DRC receives all the information provided by their radio communication department, the Emergency Operation Centre and the National Centre of Meteorology. All local branches are monitoring the events and are reporting needs and damage assessments to the crisis room.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society and the Cuban Red Cross remain on alert and monitoring the situation.



*Infrastructural damage caused by floods in the province of Azua in Dominican Republic. Source: Dominican Red Cross*

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