

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Jamaica: Tropical Storm Nicole

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) is currently conducting damage and needs assessments and is planning to develop a plan of action and request support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) over the next few days.

Tropical Storm Nicole brought heavy rain and winds to various western Caribbean islands, including Jamaica. Floods and landslides have affected all parts of the island.

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



Jamaica Red Cross volunteers conduct needs assessment in Saint Elizabeth, Jamaica. (Photo Credit: Jamaica Red Cross)

The Situation

Tropical Storm Nicole developed rapidly on 28 September and passed through the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Cuba and Bahamas bringing heavy rain and winds. The island of Jamaica has continued to receive rain and is experiencing flash floods and landslides in all parishes. Up to 17 inches of rain have fallen since the storm began. An overall assessment remains difficult to undertake at the moment due to the rains - however, various impact reports have been received from some communities. Media reports indicate that there have been 5 deaths and 15 persons are missing across the island.



Residents watch floodwater as they stand on a destroyed the bridge that linked the towns of Kintyre and Kingston in Jamaica, Wednesday 29 September 2010. Source; AP Photo/Collin Reid

A total of 128 communities have been affected by floods, landslides and strong winds according to initial assessments of the Jamaican Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. Satellite imagery shows clouds over the island which will continue to produce rainfall, most of which has been focused on the eastern and southern parts over the last week.

The Jamaica Public Service Company has reported that approximately 170,000 households are without electricity due to damage to utility poles and faults in the electricity network as a result of lightning and rains. Emergency shelters are active in various parishes of the country and the

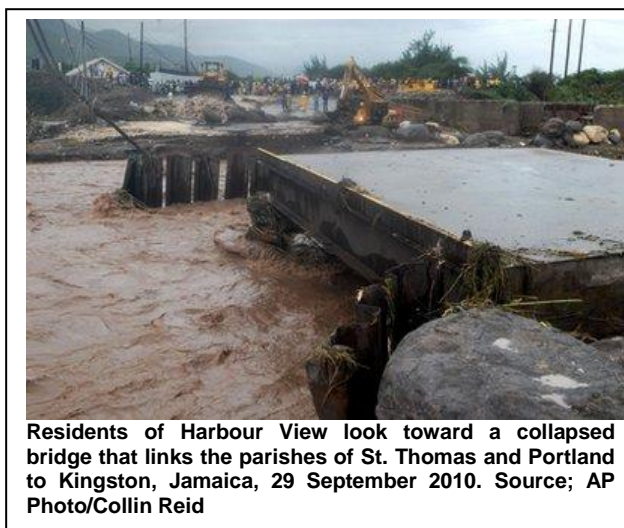
number of persons seeking shelter fluctuates on a regular basis as the situation improves or deteriorates. The Ministry of Labour has been providing assistance to persons in shelters.

The National Water Commission is experiencing disruptions in water supply due to power supply issues, high turbidity levels, and flooding at some facilities. Health services have been curtailed at the National Public health laboratory due to leaking and flooding and the national blood transfusion service has also temporarily closed for donation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Jamaica Red Cross has been actively responding to the heavy rains and floods since earlier this week. The National Headquarters are in constant contact with all the branches and are providing information and technical support. Volunteers have been mobilized to support in managing shelters, including providing meals in some, and to conduct damage and needs assessments. Upon the completion of the assessments, a plan of action will be developed.

Representatives of the Red Cross have been participating in disaster management coordination meetings with the government and other organizations. Jamaica Red Cross has been in regular contact with the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the Caribbean Regional Representation and has stated its intention to seek Federation support once the plan of action is developed.



Residents of Harbour View look toward a collapsed bridge that links the parishes of St. Thomas and Portland to Kingston, Jamaica, 29 September 2010. Source; AP Photo/Collin Reid

The Head of Delegation for the French Red Cross based in Guadeloupe has also been in close contact with the Jamaica Red Cross to provide assistance as required.

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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