

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information Bulletin no. 2 Caribbean: Hurricane Matthew

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 3 October 2016

Point of contact: Omar acting head of Emergency Operations of the Disaster and Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department; phone: +507 317 3050; email: omar.robinson@ifrc.org

Host National Societies: Cuban Red Cross (CRC), Haiti Red Cross Society (HRCS), Dominican Red Cross (DRC), Jamaica Red Cross (JRC), The Bahamas Red Cross Society (BHRCS)

Number of people to be assisted: 3,500 families (17,500 people)

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is preparing an emergency appeal to support the actions of the Haiti Red Cross Society and a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Jamaica Red Cross.

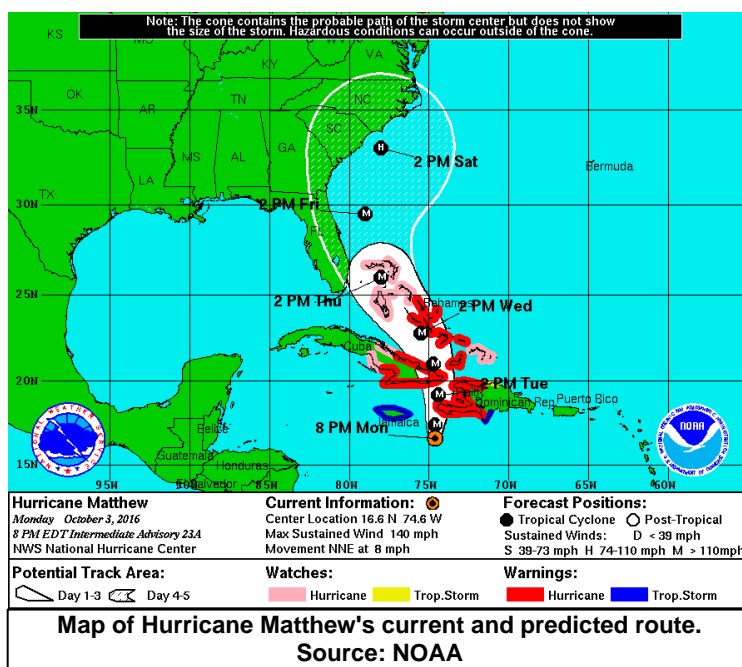
The Situation

On 27 September 2016, Tropical Storm Matthew began gaining strength in the Caribbean; by September 28, the storm's wind speeds had reached 60 mph (95 km/h), prompting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Hurricane Centre (NHC) to post an advisory on Tropical Storm Matthew at 15:00 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) that day on its website. Within hours of the advisory, Matthew had moved toward Saint Lucia and entered the Caribbean Sea. The following day, it veered south-west and became a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, with maximum sustained wind speeds at or exceeding 74 mph (119 km/h) On 30 September 2016,

Hurricane Matthew became the most powerful hurricane of the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season, when it became a Category 4 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (220 km/h). On 1 October 2016, Matthew briefly became a Category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained winds at or exceeding 157 mph (253 km/h) before winds speeds decreased and returned to the Category 4 level.

On 1 October 2016, Matthew briefly became a Category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained winds at or exceeding 157 mph (253 km/h) before winds speeds decreased and returned to the Category 4 level.

According to the National Hurricane Centre, Hurricane Matthew was around 225 miles (360 km) south-west of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti and 140 miles (225 km) south of Tiburon, Haiti as of 5 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (9 pm Universal Time Coordinated [UTC]). Hurricane Matthew remains a Category 4, with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (220 km/h), a minimum central pressure of 940 mb (27.76 inches) and it is moving north at a speed of 7 mph (11 km/h), according to reports from a NOAA



Hurricane Hunter aircraft. NOAA reports indicate that hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 40 miles (65 km) from the storm's centre, and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 185 miles (295 km). It is expected to still be a Category 4 hurricane when it makes landfall in Grand D'Anse, Haiti at 2 am EDT (6 am UCT) early Tuesday morning (4 October 2016) and either a Category 2 or 3 hurricane when arrives in the Bahamas at 4 pm EDT (8 pm UCT) tomorrow.

According to NOAA, a northward motion at a faster forward speed is expected through Tuesday night. A turn the north-northwest is forecast on Wednesday, 5 October 2016. On the forecast track, Matthew's centre will move near eastern Cuba late Tuesday near or over portions of the south-eastern and central Bahamas Tuesday night and Wednesday. Some fluctuations in intensity are possible over the next couple of days, but Matthew is expected to remain a powerful hurricane through Wednesday.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

IFRC

- Pre-positioned personnel in Cuba (a Norwegian Red Cross staff member), Jamaica, Haiti, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic
- Pre-positioned stock in Jamaica Red Cross branches
- Preparing an Emergency Appeal for Haiti and a DREF for Jamaica
- Have disseminated 4 Situation Reports
- Planned deployment to Haiti of a Head of Operations and a Field Assessment Coordination Team (Fact) in water and sanitation, health and shelter.
- The delegation in Haiti pre-deployed personnel to Grand D'Anse

Partner National Societies present in Haiti

- American Red Cross:
 - Haiti Delegation is working with the HRCS;
 - In contact with the United States' Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
 - Response centre has been activated
 - Pre-positioned a staff member in the Bahamas
- Canadian Red Cross Society:
 - Providing transportation of non-food items (NFIs) to Haiti's South department
 - Supporting with fuel/drivers and staff – logistician and reporting
- German Red Cross:
 - Supporting HRCS's preparedness activities with USD\$3,000
- Swiss Red Cross:
 - Supporting the HRCS EOC with 13,000 USD

Haiti Red Cross Society

- Sensitize at risk communities on the possible impact of the hurricane
- Mobilizing volunteers to perform an assessment in case of an impact.
- Held a meeting with Movement partners to plan in case of a disaster
- Preparing a plan for an intervention in case of an impact
- Pre-positioned stock available for 3,000 families
- Formation and deployment of two multidisciplinary teams in the South and departments of Grand D'Anse to support the regional committees. Both teams are trained volunteers with skills in The West Sanitation Department (DSO for its acronym in French) sectors, such as health, reporting and water and sanitation; they were deployed today. Strengthen regional coordination in the establishment and operation of the regional situation cell, which is already available

- Supporting regional teams on awareness raising and assessments in communities in case they are affected by the impact caused by the hurricane's passage
- 100 first aid kits provided by the ICRC
- Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) kits donated by the French Red Cross
- Cell phones with Open Data Kit (ODK) for assessments are available
- Logistics support is being provided by the following Partner National Societies: The American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross,
- Branches in Gonâve, South, South-east, Nippes, Grande D'Anse and North-west are on maximum alert and along with a representative from the National Disaster Risk Management System are planning sensitization, rescue, assessment and response actions.
- The National Society has mobilized 3,000 volunteers in 14 branches to Grand D'Anse
- Volunteers in the South, South-east, Grand D'Anse and Nippes are sensitizing the public and assisting with the evacuation of the population from the at-risk zones.
- The National Society is coordinating its response actions with the Dominican Red Cross
- The National Society is coordinating with the American Red Cross on the acquisition of stock for the response
- Evacuated 642 people from Grand D'Anse, 613 people from Nippes, 475 from the South department and 319 people from the South-East department to collective centres for a total of 2,049 people
- 110 collective centres are open in Nippes department, 6 in the North-East department and 14 in the South-East department for a total of 130 collective centres
- Emergency appeal to assist at least 3,500 families (approx. 17,500 people) is being prepared



National Intervention Team conducting preparedness actions in Haiti. Source: HRCS

Jamaica Red Cross

The IFRC's Logistics delegate is in the country and supporting the National Society

- The National Society took inventory of its stock level: blankets are available for over 1,000 families, kitchen kits for over 1,000 families and cleaning kits for 300 families
- The Jamaica Red Cross convened internal coordination meetings to discuss final preparations
- Branch volunteers and other first responders were mobilized
- A DREF for 2,000 families is being developed

Cuban Red Cross

- Issued alerts in Camaguey a Guantanamo
- Mobilized 620 people from search and rescue groups in the 6 eastern provinces
- The needs of the 317 Haitian citizens that arrived on 30 September 2016, including a pregnant woman, are being addressed; CRC is running tests to detect malaria and administering anti-malarial medicine to the Haitian migrants.

Dominican Red Cross

- Radio communications network has been activated
- Crisis Management Room and Coordination Centres have been activated

- The hurricane's progress is being monitored
 - Dissemination of information to branches and partners
 - Stock for approximately 2,500 people
 - The National Society has 21 water treatment plants at its disposal
 - Pre-positioning water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), psychosocial support (PSS), and Restoring Family Links (RFL) and health teams in at-risk areas
 - Activated its Contingency Plan for Hydro-meteorological Events
 - Meetings with prevention, mitigation and response committees
 - Activation of search and rescue teams
 - Activation of teams specialized in water and sanitation, psychosocial support, restoring family links, health in emergencies and epidemic control
 - Monitoring vulnerable zones and border areas
 - Participated in twice daily coordination meetings by WebEx with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies the IFRC's Regional Office for the Americas and other regional EOCs
 - The Dominican Red Cross is supporting the HRCS with 400 hygiene kits, 400 kitchen kits, 800 woollen blankets, 800 screens, 1 million aquatab tablets
-

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Caribbean:

- Julie Hoare, acting head for the IFRC Country Cluster office for the English-speaking Caribbean; phone: +507 317 3050; email: Julie.hoare@ifrc.org
- Ines Brill, head of the IFRC Country Cluster office for Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti; email: ines.brill@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Regional office for the Americas in Panama:

- Carlos Iñigo Barrera, head of disaster and crisis prevention, response and recovery department, phone: +507 6679 3238 email: ci.barrera@ifrc.org
- Omar Robinson; acting head of Emergency Operations of Disaster and Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department; phone: +507 317 3050; email: omar.robinson@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Alejandra VanHensbergen, partnership and relationship management senior officer, phone: +507 317 3050; email: alejandra.vanhensbergen@ifrc.org

For Communications queries:

- Diana Medina; communications manager; phone: + 507 6780-5395 ; email: diana.medina@ifrc.org

For Logistics support:

- Stephany Murillo, regional logistics senior officer, phone: +507 317 3050; mobile: +507 6679-9674, email: stephany.murillo@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Priscila Gonzalez; planning, monitoring and reporting team coordinator; phone: +507 317 3050; email: priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org

In Geneva:

- Cristina Estrada, response and recovery lead; +41 22 730 45 29; cristina.estrada@ifrc.org
-

How we work

All IFRC 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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



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.