

## ***BELIZE: HURRICANE KEITH***

18 April 2001

*appeal no. 29/00*

*situation report no. 4*

*period covered: 1 February - 31 March 2001*

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*The hurricane Keith operation in Belize is progressing well and entering its final phase, with the current emphasis on health and water and sanitation. Latrines continue to be built including the pilot composting latrine, rain water collection is reinforced through the construction of water tanks and the renovation of the headquarters and branch offices is underway. Two environmental health and sanitation workshops were held during the reporting period and disaster response training was held for representatives of the national emergency management organisation (NEMO) and the Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS).*

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### ***The context***

Belize was battered by hurricane Keith for three days, between 30 September and 2 October 2000, causing significant flood damage across the country. For weeks after the hurricane struck, the water levels continued to rise as persistent heavy rains caused more rivers to flood. This continuous flooding and the contamination of the water supply increased the risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases, as well as resulting in serious economic setbacks for the country.

Immediately following the disaster, the Belize Red Cross Society began distribution of emergency supplies from its disaster preparedness stocks to the affected communities. A team of Federation delegates was deployed to provide support to the National Society and on 6 October, the International Federation issued a preliminary appeal for assistance. Further assessments identified the priorities for the Federation/Belize Red Cross Society plan of action as the provision of food, hygiene, water and sanitation assistance in support of 7,000 beneficiaries for four months.

## ***Latest Events***

Steady progress has been made in the ongoing projects of latrine rehabilitation, water tank construction, and disaster response and health training. In addition, new work was started on the composting latrine pilot project, roof repair to the National Society headquarters, weatherizing the container/warehouses and upgrading the Belmopan and Orange Walk branch offices.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

### ***Health •***

Training, particularly focusing on health and water and sanitation has been an integral component of the operation. During this period, two environmental health and sanitation workshops were held in Dangriga and Punta Gorda. Further workshops are planned.

Training materials will be purchased to support future health training activities, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) flip charts for classroom training and ten CPR mannequin sets with a total of 60 dolls including infant mannequins.

### ***Well Cleaning •***

The well cleaning team came together once again to clean another well in order to capture the activity for the video being produced to document the hurricane Keith operation. The two pumps and kits are now being cleaned, inventoried and repackaged for onward shipping to the Federation Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama - as agreed upon with OXFAM. The pumps will remain at PADRU and be available for future emergency needs in the region.

### ***Water Tank Construction •***

The rain water collection project is moving ahead well. At the end of this reporting period, 57 communities (of a maximum of 60) have been identified to receive the water tanks. In 31 communities, two 660 gallon tanks have been installed on a cement base, secured with hurricane straps, and connected to a rainwater collection system. Large vinyl decals have been printed and affixed to each of these tanks identifying them as forming part of the Belize Red Cross Society's emergency water programme funded by ECHO and CIDA (each respective donor is identified separately at different sites). In 26 of the identified communities, work is in progress. Three more communities remain to be identified and the tanks installed before the project is completed. In order to keep the project on schedule, a professional team was employed in order to construct the cement bases. The team can complete one base per day, whilst the rest of the project continues to be implemented by community volunteers.

### ***Latrine Repair •***

Work is progressing well on the repair of latrines (maximum of 150) and is expected to be completed by the end of April. In Douglas, 74 latrines have been completed and 20 are in progress; in Lemonal, 18 latrines have been repaired; and in Santa Cruz work will begin on 30 latrines after Easter. Latrine repair is carried out by community volunteers.

### ***Composting Latrine Pilot Project •***

During the reporting period, construction began on the first pilot composting latrine. The project involves building a total of 20 composting latrines, ten in each of two communities: Douglas and Lemonal. By clustering the latrines together (10 per village) rather than spreading them out, training and monitoring will be facilitated, and it is believed that acceptance of the new technology will be heightened. In Douglas, construction of the first two composting latrines has begun. In Lemonal, the materials have been delivered, and construction is expected to begin after Easter. All composting latrines are scheduled to be completed by the first week of May.

The regional water and sanitation delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) visited the operation to view the work at first hand and discuss possible future work with the BRCS.

#### ***Disaster Response Training •***

On 7 and 8 March, a two day Disaster Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) workshop was organized for the top management staff of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and key BRCS staff. The workshop was facilitated by the Federation's senior operations manager and an external disaster management trainer and was highly successful. Not only did it provide valuable information and an opportunity for Ministry officials to come together with a common objective, but it gave the BRCS a strong profile in the eyes of NEMO officials and strengthened important ties between the government and the National Society.

Three disaster management workshops (managing relief supplies and logistics) were held during this period, facilitated by the Federation logistics delegate in Belize.

#### ***Weatherizing container-warehouses •***

This work is advancing on schedule. So far, container warehouses in Belmopan and Cayo have a new zinc roof and a turbine ventilation system installed. Two more in Orange Walk and Corozal are in progress, and the fifth in Punta Gorda is scheduled to begin this week.

#### ***Rehabilitation of National Society Headquarters •***

The roof of the National Society headquarters was severely weakened by hurricane Keith. Contractors have begun work to repair the roof and to strengthen it to withstand future hurricanes.

#### ***Upgrading of National Society branch offices •***

The upgrade of Orange Walk and Belmopan branch offices is underway. In Orange Walk, the entire second floor has been erected, including exterior walls, lintels, columns, belt beams and steps. The contractor is currently working on the interior walls, ceiling, roof and plastering. For the Belmopan upgrade, the main work on drainage around the building has been completed, and the remaining work to repair/replace the overhang, repair the toilet and sink and check the septic tank, replace the hurricane shutters and reinforce the fence will all be completed by the end of April.

#### ***Coordination and Management •***

In February, a project cycle management course was held for participants from the Federation and the Belize Red Cross Society. The workshop was facilitated by the reporting coordinator from the Federation Secretariat in Geneva. The sub-delegation also received visits during the reporting period from the acting desk officer and the head of the regional finance unit.

It is planned to finalise the hurricane Keith operation at the end of May and to close the Belize sub delegation. Capital equipment belonging to the sub-delegation will either be donated to the National Society or used as regional resources for future operations.

## ***Outstanding Needs***

The appeal coverage stands at 97.2 per cent. and additional funding is therefore not required.

## ***External Relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The BRCS has begun preparations for an important public presentation to 200 members of the media, donors and community members which will detail the National Society's response to hurricane Keith. The event is scheduled for 7 May and will consist of a video account and booklet which will highlight the work of the Belize Red Cross Society.

## *Contributions*

See annex 1 for details.

## *Conclusion*

The Hurricane Keith operation is now entering its final phase, with many activities nearing completion. Ongoing work is focused on health and water and sanitation, together with strengthening of the future disaster response capacity of the National Society.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
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**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

<b>Hurricane Keith: Belize</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 29/2000</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>			17.04.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1'828'287</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 97.2%</b>
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		100	USD	177	22.12.00	
BRITISH - GOVT DFID		98'039	GBP	245'098	17.10.00	
CANADA - GOVT		50'000	CAD	57'230	20.12.00	
ECHO (01001)		550'000	EUR	827'255	06.12.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200'000	ISK	4'235	11.10.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200'000	ISK	4'055	14.12.00	
IRISH - GOVT		94'613	IEP	183'521	07.11.00	
JAPANESE - RC				67'000	21.10.00	
MONACO - RC		20'000	FRF	4'586	30.11.00	
OXFAM		15'332	GBP	38'790	20.12.00	
SWISS - GOVT		50'000	USD	88'675	20.10.00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>1'520'622</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>83.2%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NORWAY RC	DELEGATE			10'513	13.10.2000	HEALTH DELEGATE
OXFAM		34'450	GBP	87'159	20.12.00	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEER & WATER & SANITATION EQUIPMENT
SPAIN RC	DELEGATE			14'291	13.10.2000	RELIEF DELEGATE
SWEDEN RC	DELEGATE			30'000	13.10.2000	TEAM LEADER 6 MONTHS
GERMAN - RC		70'000	USD	113'960	30.10.00	KITCHEN SETS AND BUCKETS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>255'923</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>14.0%</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECT TO NATIONAL SOCIETY</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - PRIVATE (LDS)		30'000	USD	53'205	16.10.00	
AMERICAN - RC		28'500	USD	50'544	16.10.00	
AMERICAN - RC		7'500	USD	13'301	16.10.00	IRT TEAM ASSISTANCE
AMERICAN - RC		81'000	USD	143'653	16.10.00	2'700 FOOD PARCELS AND 4'080 HYGIENE KITS
HONDURAN - RC				30'000	15.01.01	2 CONTAINERS OF RICE, FLOUR, KITCHEN SETS, BLANKETS AND CLOTHING
SPANISH - RC		30'000	USD	53'205	06.10.00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>343'908</b>	<b>CHF</b>	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL: PBZ503</b>						