

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE IVAN

10 September 2004

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 over 181 countries.

In Brief

**Appeal No. 21/2004; Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 9 September to 10 September 2004;
A Contributions List will be attached to future operations updates.**

Appeal history:

- Launched on 10 September 2004 for CHF 1,752,697 (USD 1,389,560 or EUR 1,137,899) for 6 months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries (2,000 families).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000.

Given the developing nature of this disaster, the preliminary appeal will be revised to respond to the actual needs arising from the continued trajectory of Hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean. The Federation's approach to this operation and the strategy outlined in the appeal are intended to be flexible; donors are encouraged to provide timely support, with minimum earmarking.

Outstanding needs : CHF 1,752,697 (USD 1,389,560 or EUR 1,137,899)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.52/2004), PADRU Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.51/2004)

Operational Summary: The Federation has released CHF 300,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to help National Red Cross Societies in the Caribbean respond to Hurricane Ivan. The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) based in Panama has hygiene kits, hygiene sets and parcels of plastic sheeting in stock and through pre-agreements with suppliers and is preparing to ship these items to Grenada as soon as possible.

The Federation is also mobilizing human resources, and a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) has been assembled and is currently en route to Grenada to support the Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS). A further FACT team for possible deployment to Jamaica is being established. In addition, a British Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (ERU) specialized in logistics is on its way to Grenada. The Federation's Sub Regional Office in Port of Spain, Trinidad, the Panama Regional Delegation and PADRU are ensuring close coordination with the National Societies on the islands affected by Hurricane Ivan.

The Grenada Red Cross Society headquarters were badly damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The National Society is currently working from one of the shelters where the emergency operations centre has re-located, together with the team from the Federation. The National Society is working to coordinate with its staff and volunteers in order to deploy them to the shelters in which the homeless have taken refuge.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Grenada: Mr Terry Charles, Director General, Grenada Red Cross Society; email grercs@caribsurf.com
- In Grenada: Iñigo Vila, Disaster Management Delegate, Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU); email ifrcpa16@ifrc.org
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Julian Gore-Booth, Sub Regional Coordinator; email ifrcctt06@ifrc.org, phone (1868) 627-2665, fax (1868) 627-9627
- In Jamaica: Stephen McAndrew, Operations Support Department; email stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org
- In Jamaica: Marko Kokic, Reporting and Information Delegate; email ifrcjt05@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Iain Logan, Americas Department, Geneva; email logan@ifrc.org, phone (41 22) 730-4202, fax (41 22) 733-0395
- In Geneva: Eva Calvo, Media and Communications Department, Geneva; email eva.calvo@ifrc.org, phone (41 22) 730-4357, mobile (41 79) 217-3372

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Hurricane Ivan, the most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean in ten years, has been moving across the region for several days, damaging homes, buildings and infrastructure, and causing at least 20 deaths thus far. Ivan was a category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale when it passed by Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday, killing one person in Tobago and one in Barbados. The storm also damaged hundreds of homes and cut off utilities.

Ivan then strengthened into a category 4 hurricane as it hit Grenada on Tuesday evening, bringing sustained winds of 220 kilometres per hour. Several hundred people from low-lying area of Saint George's, the Grenadian capital, were evacuated in anticipation of potential flooding. Ivan also flooded parts of northern Venezuela, killing at least one person. In addition, there are reports that four youths in the Dominican Republic were swept away by a giant wave Thursday, even though the storm was still around 300 kilometres away at the time.

The greatest damage was sustained in Grenada, where at least 17 people have died and approximately 90 percent of the country's homes have been destroyed or damaged. There are at least 60 people in hospital with injuries. There is currently no water or electricity, and limited cell phone coverage on the island. Approximately 60,000 people are homeless and there are currently between 5 and 8 thousand people accommodated in 47 shelters, 30 of which are official shelters and 17 of which have been established on an ad-hoc basis.

The hurricane caused structural damage to nearly every major building in the Grenadian capital of Saint George's, including the island's emergency operations centre, prime minister's residence, several schools, the main hospital and a nearby prison. Also among the damaged buildings was the Grenada Red Cross Society headquarters. Given



the situation of chaos following the hurricane strike, there are major problems of looting. Local law enforcement authorities, supported by the Regional Security System, are working to bring the internal security situation under control and there is now a dusk-to-dawn curfew in effect until further notice. Good progress is being made in restoring the potable water supply and it is expected that water will be flowing again by the weekend.

Jamaica is now bracing itself as Ivan moves towards the island where a hurricane warning remains in effect. Ivan is moving toward the west-northwest at 20 kilometres per hour and is expected to hit

People in Grenada take stock after the passage of Hurricane Ivan in streets filled with debris.

Jamaica late Friday. Maximum sustained winds are near 240 kilometres per hour making Ivan a category 4 hurricane which could regain category 5 status as it approaches Jamaica. Storm surge flooding of 1 to 1.5 meters above normal tidal levels is expected. Rainfall could reach between 15 to 25 centimetres, possibly causing deadly flash floods and mudslides.

Operational developments

The Federation team in Grenada reports that the situation in the shelters is chaotic and that food and water are scarce. The security situation continues to pose problems and is being taken into consideration with respect to the shipment and receipt of relief goods and their distribution. There are acute fuel shortages and most gas stations are damaged.

The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) estimates that tens of thousands of people are threatened by Hurricane Ivan. Voluntary evacuations have begun in all high risk areas. In coordination with the government's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), the JRC is responsible for managing all 1,000 community shelters opened across the island.

All 14 Red Cross branches, 12,000 volunteers and Red Cross Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT) have been placed on alert. CDRTs, trained in search and rescue, emergency first aid and rapid assessment, have also begun been working in high risk communities making residents aware of the threat Hurricane Ivan poses and encouraging them to seek safety at designated community shelters.

The Jamaica Red Cross estimates that there are sufficient food stocks on the island for 4-5 days. It has purchased food locally (rice, cooking oil, powdered milk, canned sardines and dried soup mix) and has pre-deployed it in the north of the country.

The Haitian National Red Cross Society is also taking preparedness measures through the mobilization of regional branches in those departments of the country which are most likely to be affected by Hurricane Ivan: the South, South-East, Grande-Anse and Nippes. First aid equipment, stretchers, medicines and fuel are being pre-positioned together with ambulances and volunteers.

A disaster management delegate from PADRU and the disaster management officer from the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office have been deployed to Grenada and are working with the Grenada Red Cross Society. A disaster management expert from the Secretariat has been deployed to Jamaica, together with a reporting and information delegate. A further disaster management delegate from PADRU and the regional information delegate from the Lima Regional Delegation, together with a Federation logistician and telecommunications expert from Ericsson Response are also preparing for deployment to Cuba. In addition to the deployment of a British Red Cross Logistics ERU to Grenada, an ERU alert has been issued for telecommunications and water and sanitation. Support in the area of finance and donor reporting are provided by the Regional Finance Unit and Regional Reporting Unit in Panama.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 2,000 vulnerable families will have benefited from the provision of food and non-food items to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Upon arriving in Grenada, the Federation team, composed of a PADRU disaster management delegate and a disaster management expert from the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, was able to survey more accurately the damage wrought by Hurricane Ivan and determine the immediate needs of the population. Fortunately, most of the major roads on the island are accessible, which will make it easier to reach affected communities and transport relief items once debris has been cleared.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit has available in its warehouses or through pre-agreements with suppliers, the following items, which it is planned to fly into Grenada as soon as possible to use in the relief effort:

- 2,000 Plastic sheets (tarpaulins)
- 480 Collapsible jerry cans
- 2,000 Hygiene kits

The jerry cans have been made available through the American Red Cross. Additional items, including more plastic sheeting, jerry cans and hygiene kits, as well as tents, are available in PADRU's warehouse and may be sent to Grenada on subsequent airlifts, as needed.

The United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has pledged relief items to the Red Cross operation, which arrived in Grenada on Thursday, 9 September. The following items were provided by OFDA:

- 500 rolls of plastic sheeting
- 4 x 10,000 gallon water bladders
- 6,800 x 5 litre water jugs
- 3,360 x 10 litre water jugs
- 1 water treatment unit.

The British Naval Ship, the HMS Richmond, also provided immediate assistance. The ship arrived in Grenada shortly after Ivan passed over the island and was able to perform a critical initial evaluation which guided the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). The British Red Cross Society confirmed that the HMS Richmond had relief supplies aboard, and the British Department for International Development (DFID) agreed that these supplies could be made available to the Grenada Red Cross Society via the Grenada government. Gasoline and clothing were, therefore, provided to the relief effort. In addition, the HMS Richmond provided assistance in setting up a radio station, and medical assistance. The HMS Richmond is now on its way to Jamaica and the Cayman Islands where Ivan is expected to hit sometime Friday or Saturday.

An additional container of food items was also provided by the Geo F. Huggins Shipping Company from Trinidad and Tobago.

Impact

Although this operation is only in its beginning stage and much of the focus is currently on the logistics of transporting relief items to the country, some of the most vulnerable beneficiary families are already receiving much needed assistance in the form of food, water and plastic sheeting. In addition, the Red Cross relief effort is ensuring that shelters are available for those who have been obliged to leave their homes and is monitoring conditions.

Constraints

Aircraft safety requirements limit the amount of relief items that can be sent during a single flight. Transportation on the island will be hindered by a lack of fuel. In addition, although most of the roads in the country are in good condition, downed trees and power lines are making transportation difficult.

Shelter

Objective: 2,000 beneficiary families have been able to return home as a result of the provision of temporary shelter materials.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Red Cross is currently focusing on providing assistance in shelter management in some of the shelters located throughout the island, and on providing first aid in shelters to those in need. An unknown number of Red Cross volunteers are operating in shelters, and the coordination team has not yet been able to contact them. The Red Cross team in Grenada is planning to conduct an assessment regarding the status of volunteers in the shelters and, using word-of-mouth, direct volunteers to the emergency operations centre, from where they will be deployed. The Red Cross team is also requesting a radio base station and handsets to ensure communication throughout the island, and identification items, such as t-shirts, vests and badges, to identify volunteers working in shelters.

The scheduled airlift of relief items from the PADRU warehouses includes 2,000 units of plastic sheeting, which will be distributed to beneficiary families, according to their needs. An additional 500 rolls of plastic sheeting have been received from OFDA.

Impact

Between 5,000 and 8,000 people have taken refuge in 47 shelters throughout the island. Red Cross volunteers are working in these shelters, although there is currently a lack of coordination given that there is no telephone communication and limited cell phone coverage.

Constraints

Provision of relief items is hampered by the debris blocking roads, together with an increasingly acute fuel shortage.

Reconstruction (Grenada Red Cross Society headquarters)

Objective: The Grenada Red Cross Society will have been supported to rebuild their headquarters.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The roof of the Grenada Red Cross Society headquarters has been completely destroyed by the hurricane and most of the contents of the building have been ruined by the rain. A full damage assessment of the building was scheduled for Friday, 10 September. A small-scale salvage operation will also be conducted at that time with a view to enhancing the current GRCS operations. The National Society is currently working from a room in one of the shelters where the emergency operations centre has relocated.

Family linking

Objective: People with missing family members will have received Red Cross assistance in family linking.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), headquartered in Barbados, has expanded its 9.00 am service to broadcasting to Grenada, at the direction of the Cabinet of Barbados. It is boosting the power of its transmitter to effectively cover the entire island. CBC has also established a toll free number for Grenadians to telephone the station and broadcast messages to their relatives and friends. The number is 1-800-744-8222. In Tobago, Radio Tambrin will also be broadcasting official information to Grenada and its dependencies.

Constraints

Although the Grenada Red Cross Society has expertise in family linking, damage sustained to the headquarters and to communications systems have so far prevented the National Society from working in this area.

Strengthening of preparedness and response

Objective: The capacity of the Grenada Red Cross Society and vulnerable communities in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Activities towards this objective will be undertaken once the emergency relief phase of the operation has been completed and resources can be dedicated towards rehabilitation.

Federation Coordination

The Federation is working closely with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and forms part of the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management. The core donor group includes the following organizations: the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), USAID/OFDA, the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union (EU), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank (WB) and OXFAM. Support agencies include the Inter American Development Bank (IADB), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC).

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

- Relief activities being carried out are based on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Beneficiary selection criteria will be focused on the vulnerability of those affected.
- Relief operations are being conducted with respect for the culture of the beneficiaries, ensuring gender sensitivity and prioritizing assistance to children and the elderly.
- Activities are based on the SPHERE Project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.
- Transparency is being ensured through the production of regular reports and news bulletins.
- All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The provision of information influencing public opinion regarding the Red Cross is a key activity under the current circumstances. From this point of view, relations with the media are particularly important in order to convey the message of the Red Cross Movement. An information and reporting delegate has been deployed to Jamaica and another information delegate is being deployed to Grenada as a member of the FACT team. In addition, the regional information delegate from the Lima Regional Delegation is on standby for deployment to Cuba. This information network will work to ensure that a strategic plan in communications is designed and implemented. Through regularly produced news articles and reports, the Movement will strongly advocate in favour of the respect of human dignity and the Fundamental Principles.