

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

29 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 Brie

Appeal No. 21/2004; Operations Update no. 08; Period covered: 25- 29 September, 2004; Appeal coverage: 74.3 %; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

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).
- Revised on 15 September 2004 for CHF 6,033,000 (USD 4,764,410 or EUR 3,910,502) for 6 months to assist 85,000 beneficiaries (17,000 families) in Grenada, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cuba.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000.

Given the developing nature of this disaster, the preliminary revised appeal will be readjusted to respond to the needs from the passage of Hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean, in accordance with the results of on-going assessments. 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 1,552,752

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.52/2004), Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.51/2004)

Operational Summary: In Grenada, some 11,000 families have received relief goods that are helping them to recover from the devastating effects of the floods. A total of 11,616 families have received plastic sheeting that has allowed them to return to their homes. This total exceeds original targets by 15 percent, with about 75 percent of the total population of Grenada receiving Red Cross relief items. Following the emergency relief distribution phase of the operation, 800 families in Grenada will be targeted for zinc roofing distribution. The Federation has also provided the National Water and Sewerage Authority with two 10,000-litre water bladders, which are supplying water to approximately 3,000 people. The Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS) has met with local psychosocial support specialists in an effort to increase the GRCS's capacity to provide support to personnel and beneficiaries. By 26 September 2004 the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) had provided assistance to more than 7,600 families in the greater Kingston area and in 13 parishes. To date, the Red Cross operation has received 61 tonnes of non food assistance and there remains a 5-tonne cargo from the Canadian Red Cross, 2 vehicles and 2,500 hygiene kits from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), and 2,000 pieces of tarpaulins donated from the Norwegian Red Cross. Upon receiving these final items, the emergency pipeline phase of the operation will be complete. Joint work between the Federation and the JRC in the areas of warehousing, transport, systems/reporting, air operations, procurement, and customs clearance of donated goods has helped make the distribution of relief goods rapid and successful, and has also helped build the JRC's logistics capacity. The emergency phase of

the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch relief operation has now concluded with the final distribution of relief goods sent from PADRU, which included plastic sheeting, hygiene wipes, heavy gloves, jerry cans, plastic basins, bleach, flashlights and batteries that were distributed to more than 1,000 families. The focus of the operation will now be on rehabilitation. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch, in coordination with the British Red Cross, is now turning its attention towards the more permanent shelter needs of the population and to raising awareness of hygiene and sanitation as residents begin to clean-up after the disaster. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is also working with the British Red Cross to identify an expert in psychosocial care to address the needs of Red Cross staff and volunteers, as well as beneficiaries. The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) has been active in shelters throughout the affected areas, raising awareness of sanitation and hygiene issues. CRC volunteers are also offering psychosocial support to shelter residents and others affected by the hurricane. In addition, the CRC has supplied local hospitals with generators, allowing them to remain operational despite the loss of power. Red Cross staff and volunteers in Cuba are assisting the local government with needs assessments and in the clean up campaigns to clear away debris from the affected areas. The Cuban Red Cross is also participating in meetings with the Cuban government and UN agencies working in the country to coordinate the relief effort.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Background

Hurricane Ivan, the most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean in ten years, moved through the region for more than a week, damaging homes, buildings and infrastructure, and causing at least 30 deaths thus far. The storm originated in the south eastern Caribbean where it gradually gathered in strength before moving towards populated land. 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, 7 September killing one person in Tobago and one in Barbados. In the Grenadines, the islands of Carriacou, Palm Island and Petit Martinique experienced widespread damage. Populations in low lying coastal areas of Tobago were evacuated to shelters and over 560 people were accommodated in seven shelters on the island on Tuesday, 7 September; most schools and businesses were closed on both Trinidad and Tobago. 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 areas of Saint George's, the Grenadian capital, were evacuated in anticipation of potential flooding. At least 39 people died and approximately 90 percent of the country's homes sustained damage. Water, electricity and telephone services were all cut off. Approximately 60,000 people are in need of assistance and there are approximately 5 thousand people accommodated in 145

official and ad hoc shelters. 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, were major problems of looting. In response, a dusk-to-dawn curfew was put into effect and the Regional Security System was brought in to support local law enforcement authorities.

Jamaica also sustained serious damages on Saturday, 11 September as a result of Hurricane Ivan, although the storm did not make direct landfall. The country was pounded with winds nearing 250 kilometres per hour, heavy rains and tidal surges, and at least 15 people were killed. There was extensive damage to roofs and roads, and downed trees and utility poles made several roads impassable. There were also reports of numerous landslides across the country. Electricity and water services were shut off pending further evaluations of the damages. Officials had urged 500,000 people to evacuate high-risk areas, but many residents chose to stay because of fears of looting.

The hurricane strengthened into a category 5 storm as it moved away from Jamaica, but then weakened again slightly to a category 4 storm before it began battering the *Cayman Islands* on Sunday, causing one death. The eye of the storm did not make direct landfall in the islands, but brought winds of 240 kilometres per hour. Heavy rains and winds continued throughout the day on Sunday and into the night, flooding parts of low-lying Grand Cayman Island. Most residents and visitors in high-risk areas had been evacuated or relocated to shelters. The Bodden Town Civic Centre, a designated shelter, collapsed at the height of the hurricane and the shelter occupants were evacuated in 155 mph winds. Some 90 per cent of the West Bay area of Grand Cayman suffered damage. The sewage system collapsed and the Eastern District was cut off.

Once again a category 5 storm, Hurricane Ivan moved towards western Cuba and the Yucatan Channel on Monday, 13 September. The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) kept the population constantly informed through a television spot entitled "What to do in case of a Hurricane". Eight provinces: Pinar del Río, Habana, Ciudad Habana, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and the Municipality of Isla de la Juventud were on hurricane alert. The storm passed the western tip of the country on Monday night, bringing heavy rain and storm surges, with waves of up to three metres. The Federation's assistance and support to the Cuban Red Cross and the affected population in Cuba, in response to Hurricane Ivan, is separate and distinct from that reflected and planned in the response to Hurricane Charley (refer to the Federation Request for Assistance no. 20/2004 launched on 8 September, 2004).

In Mexico, hundreds of people abandoned fishing villages within the hurricane's projected path; some 5,000 people were ordered to evacuate islands and coastal areas along the peninsula, and 239 shelters were set up in Cancun to house residents and tourists. Fortunately, Hurricane Ivan's kept it far enough away from peninsula to avoid causing any major damage.

After moving north through the Gulf of Mexico, Ivan made landfall in the southern *United States* during the early morning of Thursday, 16 September, where it caused at least 20 deaths before weakening to a tropical storm as it moved further inland. The worst damages were in the state of Florida, where Ivan created at least 12 tornadoes and storm surges of 10 to 16 feet. The storm caused several billion dollars in damages in the affected areas of the United States.

Operational developments

Grenada

Although Grenada is slowly recovering from Hurricane Ivan, there is still much work to be done to restore living conditions to the level they were at before the storm. The lack of power is still a major issue for most of the affected areas, in particular for the commercial sector, although some neighbourhoods in the capital city of St. George's have had power partially restored. Grenadians are monitoring news and weather information closely as it is believed that the heaviest showers of the season are still to come.

Access to food in some remote areas seems to have given rise to a national debate, particularly since certain facilities such as prisons and hospitals do not seem to have adequate supplies of food and water. Cleaning of drains

throughout the country is also a major priority in order to restore the drainage systems. Red Cross volunteers are currently working to assemble family food packages, with the assistance of some ad-hoc volunteers from European countries. The dusk-to-dawn curfew, which had previously been lifted, has been put back into place by the Regional Security System (SSU).

A rehabilitation and reconstruction committee is scheduled to be operational in the near future, and the Federation and the Grenada Red Cross Society are planning to participate actively. The Venezuelan military contingent will work in close cooperation with UNICEF on the total rehabilitation of 200 schools. In addition, the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the GRCS are carrying out assessments of shelters in order to assemble a list of needs that are not yet being covered.

The Federation team in Grenada has moved into a new office along with the Grenada Red Cross Society. Most Red Cross contracts for the relief phase have now been finalized and new finance and administration staff is currently being trained.

Jamaica

Almost three weeks after the event, the island is visibly recovering from the effects of hurricane Ivan. Electricity and water have been restored to 80 percent capacity in the capital city of Kingston, and most schools have resumed classes. However, all major hospitals in Kingston, including the island's only paediatric hospital, the major maternity and trauma hospital, and the main general hospital are functioning on only six hours of electricity per day. Additionally, the general hospital is sharing its water supply with the neighbouring residential and university community. In the rural areas, all hospitals are back in operation to varying degrees, with the exception of the general hospital in Clarendon, which has no electricity, and the general hospital in Manchester, which has no water. Although many rural schools have resumed classes, many remain damaged and vulnerable to rain, as well as without electricity or water, which results in shorter school days.

The assessment process is proving to be slow, mainly due to the widespread nature of the damage, coupled with inadequate assessment mechanisms at the local level. The JRC forms part of the assessment process at all levels and is recognized as a vital source of information by the government. Assessment figures gathered thus far are indicating that more than 34,000 houses have been destroyed, primarily one and two bedroom, low-income dwellings in rural farming or fishing communities. Both agriculture and fishing sectors are emerging as hardest hit.

The government has commissioned a task force, lead by the Office of National Reconstruction to head the rebuilding process. Agricultural and fishing recovery programmes are to be lead by the Rural Agricultural Development Agency (RADA) and will include measures such as grants to severely effected farmers and fishermen.

Water remains a concern in seven parishes as there is still no electricity in most areas. Untreated water is being trucked into many areas, but there is a great need for this supply to be supplemented and treated. Of the National Water Commission's 71 critical water pumping stations, only 52 were functioning as of 22 September 2004. However, because infrastructure repairs to the water treatment and delivery system are also required, the situation is not expected to improve until early October 2004.

Flooding continues to be experienced by several southern coastal communities as the water table is high, the ground is saturated, rivers are swollen and heavy rain continues to fall.

On 23 September 2004, the Government of Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) reported that of the estimated 19,000 individuals that sought refuge in the 358 public shelters opened for Hurricane Ivan, approximately 600 individuals still remained in 40 shelters.

| Parish | Number of Shelters | Number of Occupants |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Clarendon | 4 | 207 |
| St. Catherine | 9 | 80 |
| St. Thomas | 11 | 80 |
| St. James | 3 | 49 |
| Kingston / St. Andrews | 2 | 45 |
| Portland | 4 | 40 |
| Hanover | 2 | 36 |
| St. Elizabeth | 3 | 33 |
| St. Mary | 2 | 20 |
| TOTALS | 40 | 590 |

The Jamaican government is managing portions of the reconstruction process through its National Housing Trust by making available low-interest housing loans of up to 250,000 Jamaican dollars (approximately CHF 6,000). In addition, the Office of National Reconstruction is monitoring the reconstruction of homes in flood-prone areas, and is providing relocation incentives to those affected. Particular attention will be given to the coastal and wetland areas in Clarendon and Westmoreland parishes.

The emergency phase of the Red Cross operation has concluded. The Federation and the JRC are still working together to receive and clear through customs donated relief goods, which also involves the transportation of these goods to the Jamaica Red Cross warehouse.

Cayman Islands

The situation is improving in the Cayman Islands and the state of emergency has been lifted. Unfortunately, the islands have experienced heavy rains and thunderstorms over the last several days which are slowing relief efforts and exacerbating the situation of families staying in damaged homes. There is running water in George Town, as well as in many of the districts. Electricity is still being repaired, but many people in the country have purchased generators which are allowing them to move on with their daily lives. Some of the generators were supplied by the government and many more have been purchased in Miami by individuals. The Cayman Islands government has waived the duty on items purchased in the United States for the month of September which has allowed people to purchase generators and bring them to the Cayman Islands.

The Department of Child and Family Services is carrying out a house-by-house assessment to assess the needs of the population. This department is compiling a list of the needs and neediest members of the population, prioritizing those who were not insured, the elderly, the sick and children under five years of age. This list will then be given to the Public Works Department to ensure that the neediest receive assistance. It is planned that the Red Cross will supplement the relief work of the Public Works Department to address the roofing needs of the population.

Cuba

A rapid evaluation was carried out by United Nations representatives in Cuba on 15 September in the regions of the country affected by Hurricane Ivan and a report on the damages and needs was made available on 20 September. Thousands of people in the country are continuing to assist with the clean up following the disaster, and in repairing some of the damages caused by the storm. The focus of the relief efforts is in the municipality of la Isla de la Juventud and the province of Pinar del Río, which sustained the most damage. In Pinar del Río, 234,000 people were evacuated, of which some 8,000 are still unable to return to their homes. According to the latest needs assessment, more than 20,000 homes in Pinar del Río were damaged and 1,000 were completely destroyed. The Ministry of Education has reported damages in 251 schools in the country, while 8 schools were completely destroyed. Students in these schools, as well as students in schools that are being used as shelters, have not yet been able to return to their normal classes. The greatest needs that have been identified are for basic items such as mattresses, sheets, towels and hygiene products, as well as water purification tablets and health kits. There is also an identified need for community organization and psychosocial support.

Red Cross volunteers are currently working together with the local government to carry out damage and needs assessments and to implement clean-up campaigns. In addition, the Cuban Red Cross is participating in meetings with the Cuban government and UN agencies in the country to look at the findings of the needs assessments and to coordinate the relief effort. The Cuban Red Cross is also working with the government to look at reconstruction plans for homes and buildings in an effort to ensure that the new structures are safer than the ones damaged and destroyed in the hurricane.

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

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective: 17,000 vulnerable families, or 85,000 persons (10,000 families in Grenada, 3,000 families in Jamaica, 1,000 families in the Cayman Islands, and 3,000 families in Cuba), 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)

Grenada

The goal of the emergency relief distributions, which was to provide emergency assistance to 10,000 families (50,000 individuals) in the form of food parcels, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and water and purification tablets, has been achieved. All six parishes have been reached, and approximately 1,000 families have been reached each day. Significant additional shipments of tarpaulins, food stuffs, water purification tablets and hygiene kits are expected by 30 September. The final distributions will conclude on Friday, 1 October, and will exceed the original targets by 15 percent, with about 75 percent of the entire population of Grenada receiving emergency relief through the Red Cross.

| Distributions as of 29 September | |
|---|------------------------|
| St. George | 3,062 families |
| St. John | 2,280 families |
| St. Andrew | 2,105 families |
| St. David | 2,096 families |
| St. Patrick | 1,575 families |
| St. Mark | 350 families |
| TOTAL | 11,468 families |

The following number of food parcels has been distributed in Grenada:

| Parish | Quantity |
|---------------|-----------------|
| St. George | 2,541 |
| St. Patrick | 1,288 |
| St. David | 1,601 |
| St. John | 1,305 |
| St. Andrew | 1,165 |
| TOTAL | 7,900 |

The following number of hygiene kits has been distributed in Grenada:

| Parish | Quantity |
|---------------|-----------------|
| St. Georges | 1,680 |
| St. David | 500 |
| St. Johns | 600 |
| St. Patrick | 475 |
| St. Andrews | 150 |
| TOTAL | 3,405 |

Jamaica

Although persons receiving assistance provided through the JRC reside primarily in areas that have been directly affected by material damage to their homes by Hurricane Ivan, the JRC has also provided food and non-food items to individuals whose livelihoods have been negatively impacted, even though their home may not have been severely damaged. By 26 September, the JRC had provided food and non-food items to more than 7,600 families as follows:

| Parish | Families assisted |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Clarendon | 1,524 |
| Hanover | 200 |
| Kingston/St. Andrews | 739 |
| Manchester | 634 |
| Portland | 201 |
| St. Thomas | 1,000 |
| St. Ann | 340 |
| St. Catherine | 870 |
| St. Elizabeth | 550 |
| St. James | 300 |
| St. Mary | 150 |
| Trelawny | 800 |
| Westmoreland | 335 |
| Non-parish distribution | 210 |

Cayman Islands

A flight carrying relief goods from PADRU arrived in the country on Saturday with plastic sheeting, hygiene wipes, heavy gloves, jerry cans, plastic basins, bleach, flashlights and batteries. A total of 12 distribution points were set up in schools and community centres, and goods were distributed by Red Cross volunteers and other members of the community. People arriving at the distribution centres filled out assessment forms to register as beneficiaries and then picked up the items they indicated that they needed. The goods were intended to reach 1,000 beneficiaries and the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch estimates that they reached just over 1,000 people. In addition, the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch runs a thrift shop which has received many donations of clothing since the disaster struck. This clothing is being sorted and distributed for free by Red Cross volunteers. The emergency distribution phase of the operation has now ended and the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is turning its attention towards the shelter and reconstruction needs of the population.

Impact

In Grenada, some 11,000 families have received relief goods that are helping them to recover from the devastating effects of the floods. This total exceeds original targets by 15 percent, with about 75 percent of the total population of Grenada receiving Red Cross relief items. The JRC has provided food and non-food items to people living in areas that have been directly affected by Hurricane Ivan, as well as individuals whose livelihoods have been negatively impacted. Moreover, the JRC provided more than 7,700 bottles of water to individuals, which diminished the consumption of contaminated water, thereby mitigating the number of water borne illnesses. In the Cayman Islands, relief items have been distributed to more than 1,000 families, ensuring that the most vulnerable families in the community have been assisted.

Constraints

Because electrical and telephone services are still not fully restored across Jamaica, the most serious constraint facing the operation is access to specific information from JRC branches regarding outstanding needs in the most affected parishes. The needs assessment currently being implemented is designed to address this issue. The lack of electricity in many of the more rural areas has also prevented the resumption of water delivery services. In addition, because many smaller roads in the country's interior are not completely clear of debris, the size of trucks that can be used to transport relief into isolated areas is limited. This constraint is especially true for the transportation of potable water, which is among the most important, and continual, needs.

Shelter

Objective: 17,000 vulnerable families (10,000 families in Grenada, 3,000 families in Jamaica, 1,000 families in the Cayman Islands, and 3,000 families in Cuba) have been able to return home as a result of the provision of temporary shelter materials.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

The focus of the Red Cross in Grenada has been on distributing plastic sheeting as the majority of affected persons are staying in their damaged homes or with friends, rather than in shelters. The demand for tarpaulins remains high. The following number of tarpaulins has been distributed in Grenada:

| Parish | Quantity |
|--------------|---------------|
| St. George | 4,892 |
| St. Patrick | 955 |
| St. David | 2,502 |
| St. John | 1,935 |
| St. Andrew | 1,327 |
| St. Mark | 5 |
| TOTAL | 11,616 |

Following the emergency relief distribution, 800 families will be targeted for zinc roofing distribution.

Jamaica

Since its operations began on 11 September, the JRC has distributed plastic tarpaulins to more than 3,100 families: 418 rolls of 100 foot x 24 foot of plastic tarpaulin provided by OFDA/USAID and 2,760 pieces of 4m x 6m plastic tarpaulin received through PADRU. In addition, more than 11,300 blankets have been distributed to an estimated 5,650 families through this operation.

Cayman Islands

In the Cayman Islands, there are now around 800 people staying in shelters. The Red Cross played an active role in the shelters during the early phase of the emergency, but as there are now very few needs in the shelters the Red Cross has turned its focus to the distribution of plastic sheeting. During the latest distribution, the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch distributed 1,000 units of plastic sheeting that were sent to the country from PADRU. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch and the British Red Cross are currently examining the possibility of bringing in roofing materials to store in the Red Cross warehouse which would be made available to those in need.

Impact

As the rainy season continues in Grenada, distributions of plastic sheeting are protecting people and their belongings from further damage. In Jamaica, essential shelter assistance provided through the JRC has expedited the recovery process of those affected by the hurricane. In Cayman Islands, most affected families have received plastic sheeting, which has allowed them to move out of shelters and into their homes.

Constraints

There is still a need for additional plastic sheeting in affected countries given that the rainy season is continuing.

Water and Sanitation

Objective: The water and sanitation needs for 17,000 vulnerable families (10,000 families in Grenada, 3,000 families in Jamaica, 1,000 families in the Cayman Islands, and 3,000 families in Cuba) have been assessed, and a plan has been developed to deliver the planned assistance in this sector.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

Rehabilitation of water distribution systems is being coordinated by the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA). The Federation has provided NAWASA with two 10,000-litre water bladders, which are supplying water to approximately 3,000 people. The Federation is also supplying 1,000 jerry cans to affected areas. In

addition, the Federation has provided a generator to a local company that is assisting the relief effort by distributing its existing stocks, such as sterilized water, to health and service organizations. The generator is now allowing this company to run at its pre-disaster capacity.

Jamaica

A Federation water and sanitation delegate has joined the sectoral working group that includes members of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Ministry of Health and USAID. The group has conducted assessment missions during the reporting period and the assessment was concluded on 25 September. Reports and recommendations for JRC water and sanitation programmes will be available next week.

Cayman Islands

Good quality water is being distributed by the authorities in the Cayman Islands to many parts of the country. It is expected to be available countrywide in a few weeks. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is working with the Federation's regional health delegate to put together an awareness campaign addressing basic health and sanitation practices. Materials for this campaign are currently being worked on in Panama. The materials will also be made available in Spanish to address the needs of the large Spanish-speaking population in the country.

Impact

In Grenada, water bladders supplied by the Federation are supplying water to 3,000 beneficiaries. In Jamaica, needs assessments are helping the Red Cross to determine the specific needs of the population.

Constraints

JRC does not have a water and sanitation programme so it has been difficult for the Jamaica Red Cross to select a counterpart to work with the Federation water and sanitation delegate.

Family linking

Objective: In Grenada, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands people with missing family members will have received assistance from the Grenada Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross, and the Cayman Islands branch of the British Red Cross.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

The Grenada Red Cross Society continues to receive messages from relatives abroad searching for loved ones, but, although there is family linking expertise within the National Society, tracing and family messages have been put on hold until telecommunications have been restored in the country, and the emergency phase of the relief operation is finalized.

Cayman Islands

The few family linking requests received by the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch have been addressed. Most of the population has been able to stay in contact through cell phones which are widely available in the country.

Constraints

In Grenada, the lack of telephone lines and power are slowing down the tracing operations.

Psychosocial support

Objective: vulnerable families will have benefited from psychosocial support to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

The GRCS has met with local psychosocial support specialists in an effort to increase the GRCS's capacity to provide support to personnel and beneficiaries. Suggestions for daily start-up and wrap-up procedures for staff and volunteers were presented to the GRCS management, and a session was held with volunteers. Individual de-briefings with volunteers were conducted for the neediest members of the relief operation. In addition, contact was made with St. George's University where experts have agreed to hold a session addressing de-briefing, stress awareness and conflict resolution for GRCS volunteers.

Efforts are being made to link psychosocial interventions with plans and structures of an interagency, interdisciplinary plan of action that is currently being developed under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Development and Women's Affairs. All relevant stakeholders on the island will be included in this process, including the GRCS.

Jamaica

Thus far, the 28 volunteers that make up the Jamaica Red Cross mental health care team have visited four JRC branches and have provided counselling support. In the shelters, mental health care teams held individual counselling sessions with people living in shelters, including shelter managers.

In the Kingston branch of the Jamaica Red Cross, a psychosocial support session for nine volunteers was conducted in order to support their work. Common signs of stress that were identified by the group included feeling irritable, not concentrating, feeling tired and confused, and wanting to keep moving, as well as physical signs such as loss of appetite and dizziness. Helpful coping strategies that were discussed included finding a peer partner to debrief with on a daily basis, being aware of physical limitations, taking time to relax, avoiding high risk foods such as salt and caffeine, and keeping well hydrated.

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is working with the British Red Cross to identify an expert in psychosocial care to address the needs of Red Cross staff and volunteers, as well as beneficiaries. It is planned that the expert will work with Red Cross personnel, either in a workshop setting or during individual interviews, depending upon the needs.

Impact

The JRC's mental health team's experiences confirm the continued importance of providing mental health services in the wake of a disaster. Although it is not possible to measure the full positive impact of the preventative approach at such a time, persons were appreciative of the caring support. It is also clear that psychological support may be more readily accepted if it is accompanied by tangible benefits that meet the needs experienced in these crises.

Constraints

The lack of qualified personnel in the Grenada Red Cross Society is limiting the GRCS's ability to provide psychosocial support to affected persons; however, assistance is being sought from mental health care professionals within the Grenadian community.

Strengthening of preparedness and response

Objective: The capacity of the Grenada Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross, the Cayman Islands branch of the British Red Cross, and the Cuban Red Cross and vulnerable communities in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Grenada

A plan of action was drafted by the National Society and the Federation team working in the country which prioritized community based disaster preparedness activities in the period following the emergency phase of the relief operation. The plan of action is currently being reviewed by the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office and PADRU.

Jamaica

The telecommunications capacity building assessment has been completed with a revised budget of some CHF 105,000. This project will enable the Jamaica Red Cross to have a communications system that can be quickly deployed in the event of an emergency, instead of a maintenance-heavy fixed system. An agreement has also been reached with a communications provider to implement a Closed User Group GSM network for the Jamaica Red Cross, which will enable JRC personnel to communicate with each other over a 'reserved channel' on a GSM network at low cost. In addition, quotations for the JRC headquarters' computer system upgrade are being sought.

The telecommunications coordinator finished his mission in Jamaica on 29 September and will travel to Grenada to assist his colleagues there in reconstruction of the Grenada Red Cross Society's telecommunications network.

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is looking to replenish stocks from the Red Cross container that were used during the relief operation. Based upon the experiences gained during this relief operation, the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch will adjust the content of the relief container in order to meet the actual needs that arose from this disaster. They are also looking at the possibility of replacing or repairing the current container, as many of the items were damaged by water during the hurricane.

Impact

Ongoing assessments and the process of drawing up plans of action are strengthening the response capacities of the National Societies involved in this relief operation. In Jamaica, new equipment will further reinforce the JRC's disaster response systems.

Constraints

At this time, the focus of the relief operation is on provision of essential relief items that are helping affected beneficiaries to recover from the hurricane. Additional activities towards this objective will be undertaken in Grenada, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cuba once the emergency relief phase of the operation has been completed and resources can be dedicated towards rehabilitation.

Federation Coordination

In Grenada, the Federation and the GRCS have been working closely with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. The first rotation of the UNDAC team left Grenada on Friday, 24 September, and UN coordination will be ensured by a team of UNDP and UNDAC representatives from now on. The United Nations Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) is coordinating with the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDERA) on the ongoing National Emergency Response Organization's (NERO) distribution; the Federation will participate in this activity as an advisor.

In Jamaica, the National Emergency Response Organization coordinated a general meeting to focus on the needs in the country in order to ensure a better coordination of relief operations. The Federation's coordination with key actors in the country is continuing, and a Federation representative was invited by the JRC to a meeting called by the Prime Minister, which was attended by all ministers.

The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is working closely with representatives of the British Red Cross in the country, as well as with the Department of Child and Family Services and the Public Works Department.

In Cuba, the Federation is liaising with the German Red Cross, which has deployed a delegate to the country in order to work with the Cuban Red Cross to assist those affected by Hurricanes Charley and Ivan. The Cuban Red Cross is working closely with the Civil Defence and coordination is being ensured with the UNDP and international NGOs.

The National Societies and Federation teams involved in the Ivan response operation are coordinating closely with PADRU, the Panama regional delegation and the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office.

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 focus 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

A video on the Grenada Red Cross Society and the Federation's relief efforts has been compiled. As there are no facilities in Grenada to edit the video material, the tapes will be shipped to Europe for dispatching to news networks. A video tape has also been prepared that documents the first general distributions, including interviews with international and regional delegates and the Regional Intervention Team. This video will be made available to Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies and regional offices. In addition, delegates, regional offices and national Red Cross staff have given interviews to local, national and international media, including an interview with the FACT team leader in the "Informer", the first newspaper to be restarted in the country following the disaster.

A communications plan to provide visibility for the Jamaica Red Cross's relief operations and to raise the National Society's profile both nationally and internationally has been drafted. The plan includes the design of an information contingency plan based on the experiences gained and lessons learned from the response to Hurricane Ivan. Some basic internal communications issues have also been discussed, which, when implemented, will improve the National Society's exchange of information. In addition, reporting procedures are being put in place for both Federation and National Society staff, and interviews have been given to the international and national media.

In the Cayman Islands, the Red Cross has been using the government's radio station to communicate with the residents of the Cayman Islands, alerting them to the times and locations of relief distributions. The Director of the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch has been giving interviews detailing the work of the Red Cross in response to Hurricane Ivan, which have been featured in the country's two major newspapers. In addition, the plan of action that has been drawn up includes activities that will ensure that the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is more active in working with the local media. The Cayman Islands Overseas Branch is also looking at the possibility of putting together a brochure highlighting the activities implemented by the Red Cross in response to the hurricane.

Cuban Red Cross communicators and journalists have been disseminating the work of the National Society on local radio and provincial television stations. In addition, a Cuban Red Cross spot on hurricane preparedness was shown on the main Cuban television channel both before and during the hurricane disaster.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Caribbean - hurricane Ivan

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 21/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/09/2004

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 6,033,000 | TOTAL COVERAGE 74.3% | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| BRITISH - RC | | 50,000 | GBP | 114,300 | 21.09.04 | |
| CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA | | 495,000 | CAD | 464,310 | 10.09.04 | |
| CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA | | 50,000 | CAD | 46,900 | 10.09.04 | DREF REPLENISHMENT |
| CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA | | 346,500 | CAD | 325,017 | 10.09.04 | |
| IRISH - GOVT | | 200,000 | EUR | 308,200 | 14.09.04 | |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 800,000 | SEK | 134,000 | 15.09.04 | |
| SWISS - RC | | | | 100,000 | 15.09.04 | GRENADE |
| BRITISH - RC/DFID | | 500,000 | GBP | 1,145,000 | 24.09.04 | |
| VODAFONE Group | | 50,000 | GBP | 114,650 | 15.09.04 | |
| ECHO | | 842,000 | EUR | 1,288,260 | 23.09.04 | GRENADE |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 4,040,637 | CHF | 67.0% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|------|-----------|----------|--|
| BRITISH - RC | | 45,245 | GBP | 103,430 | 15.09.04 | ERU LOGISTICS, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL |
| SWISS - RC | | | | 8,800 | 17.09.04 | LOGISTICS DELEGATE |
| AMERICAN - RC | | 49,269 | USD | 63,064 | 21.09.04 | PRE-POSITIONED STOCK PADRU |
| NORWEGIAN - RC | | 1,000,000 | NOK | 184,000 | 24.09.04 | |
| CANADIAN - RC | | 85,444 | CAD | 80,317 | 20.09.04 | NON-FOOD RELIEF ITEMS (INCLUDING WATSAN) GRENADE |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 439,611 | CHF | 7.3% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | |

Caribbean - hurricane Ivan

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 21/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/09/2004

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |