

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Caribbean: Hurricane Season 2008

Emergency appeal n° MDR49003  
GLIDE No. TC-2008-000143  
Operations update n° 3  
18 November 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 6 October 2008 to 18 November 2008.

Appeal target (current): CHF 2,010,991  
(USD 1,828,173 or EUR 1,243,656)

Appeal coverage: 67%; [click here to go directly to the interim financial report](#), or [here to link to contact details](#) >

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 9 September 2008 for **CHF 1,802,093 (USD 1,638,300 or EUR 1,115,850)** for six months to assist 25,000 beneficiaries.
- An allocation from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for CHF 25,000 (USD 23,809 or EUR 15,291) was made on 28 August 2008 to support the National Society of Jamaica to cover early preparation and relief activities costs. A second DREF allocation for CHF 100,000 (90,909 or EUR 61,920) was requested and approved on 2 September.
- A DREF allocation for CHF 25,000 (USD 23,809 or EUR 15,291) was granted on 1 September 2008 to support the Bahamas Red Cross Society. A second DREF allocation for CHF 170,000 (USD 154,545 or EUR 105,263) was requested and approved on 2 September.
- On 6 October budget was revised to CHF 2,010,991 (USD 1,828,173 or EUR 1,243,656) for 9 months to assist 20,000 beneficiaries.



Jamaica Red Cross handing out relief items.  
Source: Jamaican Red Cross

**Summary:** On 28 August 2008, Hurricane Gustav lashed through Jamaica and Cayman Islands with strong winds and rain. Three days later, tropical storm Hanna swamped the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Island with heavy rain and gusts. The National Societies and the Overseas Branches of British Red Cross (BRCS) were beginning their damage and need assessments when Hurricane Ike passed near causing heavy rains delaying the relief operation and causing extensive damage to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the south east Bahamas. The objectives in this appeal have been established based on identified needs: relief items, provision of psychosocial support, safe water and rehabilitation of livelihoods. Previously, In operations update n° 2, the timeframe of the operation was extended to nine months to allow the implementation of recovery, disaster preparedness and capacity building activities. The recovery activities which included rehabilitation of livelihoods will not be undertaken if additional assistance is not received. In addition, necessary Capacity Building activities are at risk of being excluded due to low appeal coverage.

This operation will be completed by 9 June 2009; a final report will be made available by 9 September 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

## The situation

Tropical Storm Gustav impacted **Jamaica** on 28 and 29 August, 2008 bringing extensive rain and wind damage to infrastructure and personal effects. Reports from the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) reflected that a total of 72 communities were affected. Communities in the parishes of St. Catherine, Kingston and St. Andrew, Portland, St. Thomas and St. Mary suffered from landslides, flooding and torrential winds. A total of 12 fatalities were confirmed as a result of Tropical Storm Gustav.

The Ministry of Agriculture reported damages to 70 percent of the banana crops in St. Mary, 80 percent in St. Thomas and 90 percent in Portland. Preliminary estimates reveal that the overall agricultural sector sustained damages totalling \$1.7 billion Jamaican dollars.

Approximately 2,000 people sought refuge in the 100 emergency shelters that were opened island-wide. Reports from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security indicated that 463 houses were totally destroyed while another 2,065 sustained major damages. The Ministry of Housing, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security are coordinating efforts to relocate the families who lost their homes.



**A house destroyed after the hurricane in Inagua.**  
Source: Bahamas Red Cross Society

Jamaica is experiencing a harsh rainy season which has adversely affected the completion of livelihood assessments in some parishes.

The **Bahamas** Red Cross Society (BRCS) was responding to the damages caused by Hanna when Hurricane Ike interrupted relief activities on 7 September 2008. The BRCS was able to pre-position emergency relief items such as water, food parcels, cots, blankets and flashlights as requested to several islands including Mayaguana, Grand Bahama, New Providence, and Crooked Island. Ike caused most damage in the island of Inagua, while the southern islands such as Mayaguana, Acklins, Crooked and Ragged Islands sustained lesser damages. There were no reports of fatalities or injuries. Main communication systems were interrupted impeding assessments and distribution of relief items such as food, water and roofing tarpaulins. Infrastructure including telephone, transportation, electricity and water systems also sustained damages. Coordination

of the response, particularly of relief transport, was done with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Based on the detailed damage assessments and the 2007 census, it was estimated that approximately 500 to 700 families were affected.

On 1 September, hurricane Hanna hit the **Turks and Caicos** moving from a tropical storm to a category one hurricane. The weather system stayed over and around the Islands for three days causing some damage to housing and flooding. On 6 September, Hurricane Ike hit the Turks and Caicos as a category four hurricane causing extensive damage to housing and other structures as well as some flooding. Grand Turks was directly hit with an estimated 80 percent of housing damaged of which 20 percent was severely damaged. The official population figures for Turks and Caicos Islands are more than 33,000 people, with approximately 25,000 on Providenciales, more than 6,000 on Grand Turk, 1,600 on South Caicos and about 100 people on Salt Key. An estimated 6,950 people have been affected on Grand Turk, South Caicos and Salt Cay, and several thousand on Providenciales.

Blanket distributions and more targeted relief distributions have been completed in the most affected areas identified by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) on 9 and 10 September. The identified areas are: Grand Turk (West Bank, North Back Salina, South Back Salina and Overback), South Caicos, Salt Cays and Providenciales (Five Cays, Kew Town, Bight and Blue Hills). Infrastructure is currently being re-established in Grand Turk through the government, Bermuda Regiment and private companies.

Unsolicited donations from both within the island and externally continue to be given received and distributed. These include second-hand clothing, water, soft drinks, food and generators.

## Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation, through its **Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)** and the **Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO)** have been in close contact with the National Societies of the Bahamas and Jamaica, as well as the British Red Cross overseas Branches of the Turks and Caicos and Cayman Islands. One Federation disaster management delegate was initially deployed to Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Island to support the overseas branch, with an additional joint follow up visit with the regional representative of the CRRO. Additionally, there were three Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members from Jamaica, Guyana and United States in Bahamas supporting the relief operation.

**Jamaica Red Cross (JRC)** along with other relief agencies distributed items to assist those affected by Tropical Storm Gustav. In addition to relief items, the JRC replaced school supplies for students who lost these items during the passage of the storm. JRC volunteers along with the Ministry of Agriculture conducted assessments to ascertain the damage to livelihood for farmers. Additional assessments are still being conducted in some branches by JRC volunteers. Other livelihood displacements are being incorporated in the assessments. Jamaica National Foundation has donated cash towards relief items in addition to a pledge for restoration of the livelihoods of small farmers in three (Portland, St. Thomas and St. Mary) of the five affected parishes.

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** worked closely with NEMA and had a representative at the NEOC or in regular communication with the NEOC leadership throughout the emergency and early response phase. Close coordination and information sharing between the Department of Social Services (DSS), NEMA and BRCS helped all efficiently manage the early response phase. Additionally, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) provided key assistance with transportation of relief items from the BRCS to the affected islands.

The **Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI OSB)** branch of the British Red Cross (BRC) continues to coordinate closely with the government, in particular the Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) of the Disaster Management Office, NGOs (Rotary, Shelter kit, Samaritan Purse, Salvation Army) and private companies (such as IGA Supermarket, Projectech). The Turks and Caicos Islands branch of the British Red Cross (BRC) particularly, has been closely working with church groups on Grand Turk and Providenciales to identify, and distribute items to the most vulnerable people.

Close coordination has taken place between the BRC and the Federation based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in May 2008 as well as an Operational MOU for this particular operation signed on September 2008. BRC has agreed to cover the costs of the TCI operation within this Emergency Appeal with logistics and human resource support from the International Federation.

TCI OSB has received assistance in distributing relief items from 15-30 cadets, Rotary staff from Provo, Red Cross volunteers and church groups.

### **National Society Capacity Building:**

Many of the National Societies in the region benefit from disaster preparedness programmes, focussing on Vulnerability Capacity Assessments, community disaster response teams (CDRT), micro mitigation programmes and trained National Intervention teams. This is supported by regional training in these areas, as well as sharing lessons through the Regional Disaster Management Network. Also, during the pre-hurricane meeting that took place in Panama from 14 to 17 May 2007, National Societies from countries prone to hurricanes in the Americas participated actively in the development of a Contingency Plan for the region. The development of the regional Contingency Plan helped explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice.

In general, the National Societies affected by Gustav, Hanna and Ike were well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks both within country and between National Societies in the region, trained personnel and

pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All the National Societies have a role in the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

In the case of Jamaica, the country has experienced four major hurricanes in the past 56 years: Hurricane Charlie in 1951, Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and now Hurricane Dean. Lessons learnt from hurricanes Gilbert, Ivan and Dean were used by the **Jamaica Red Cross (JRC)** to make better preparations for this year's storm season, so the impact was reduced and response effort was well organized. An evaluation of last year's response to Hurricane Dean has just been concluded and shared with the National Society. The JRC has a signed MOU with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), with whom a close working relationship has been established. The 13 branches of the JRC were activated in response to Hurricane Gustav along with 14 CDRT, trained through the DIPECHO projects. The National Society has the mandate by government to manage shelters.

The Bahamas had a recent experience in disaster response last year with Hurricane Noel. **The Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)** volunteers supported relief activities in shelters, evacuated people in the affected regions and performed initial assessments. Within their plan of action for Noel a cash distribution programme was implemented successfully, reason it is once more included in this emergency response operation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, the **JRC** held meetings with the Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management's Shelter and Care Committee, and the Jamaican Emergency Operations Centre. Jamaica Red Cross National Intervention Teams (NITs) responded to the emergency and all 13 branches were activated along with 14 pre-trained community disaster response teams (CDRTs). JRC stocks were relocated to accessible locations. JRC provided cooked meals, blankets and hygiene kits in several shelters located in different parishes throughout the island. JRC continues providing relief to the needs of the 2,000 families included in this appeal. Thus far 1,977 families have received basic relief items and 100 families have received school supplies. Additional planned livelihood rehabilitation activities will not be undertaken if further support is not received.



**Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteers in Inagua distributing relief items.**

**Source: Bahamas Red Cross Society**

sent to Acklins via private charter on 11 September after receiving reports of emergent food needs but not being able to establish communication to verify. Additional relief and recovery supplies are currently being mobilized for Inagua and Acklins. All relief distributions were completed on 17 September 2008. A total of 556 families have been assisted by the emergency response efforts. Additional assistance is being considered between 100 and 300 families in the most affected island of Inagua via cash distribution programming. Recovery and capacity building activities to include are psychosocial support (PSP), SPHERE trainings and planning of pre-positioning of disaster preparedness supplies.

**Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI OSB)** has completed the distributions of relief items (mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, stoves, shelter tool kits, tarpaulins, jerry cans and water purification tablets) on Grand Turk and Provo.

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)** mobilized relief items the day after hurricane Ike hit the islands on 8 September, mainly to Inagua, the most affected island.

BRCS and Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member assessment teams began distributing emergency relief supplies in Inagua on 8 September, the day after the passage of Hurricane Ike. Transport and early distribution was done in coordination with NEMA and the Royal Bahamas Defense Force with additional transport assistance from the US Coast Guard. A RIT and BRCS volunteer with emergency supplies were

In addition, TCI OSB facilitated Rotary Shelter Box distribution of 146 shelter boxes (each box contains family tent, kitchen items, tool box, mosquito net and water carrier) in Grand Turk. The beneficiary list was compiled by church groups to identify the most vulnerable.

## Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Objective: 4,000 families (20,000 people) affected by the floods will have benefited from the distribution of food (in Jamaica) and non-food items (2,000 families in Jamaica, 500 in Bahamas and 1,500 in Turks and Caicos) in order to help them recover from the floods.</b>	
Expected results	Activities planned
Approximately 20,000 people in the affected countries will receive essential food and non food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

### Jamaica

#### Progress:

The distribution of relief items was accomplished over an eight-week period. The plan of action indicated a six-week period for the completion of relief distributions; however, adverse weather conditions delayed the process.

Both food and non-food items were distributed based on the results of the assessments which were conducted after the passage of Tropical Storm Gustav. All the JRC branches that participated in the distribution provided period reports on the distribution of the relief items. These were supported by distribution records indicating that beneficiaries signed for all items received. The table below shows the distribution of relief items completed by the Jamaican Red Cross branches as of 5 November:

ITEMS	Westmoreland	Trelawny	Clarendon	St. Ann	KSAB	St. Catherine	Portland	ODPEM	St. Elizabeth	St. Thomas	St. Mary	NHQ	TOTAL
Tarpaulins	51	25	191	32	128	112	142		20	41	15	15	772
Hygiene Kits	16	23	38	12	275	45	298		13	147	13	1	881
Kitchen sets	17	14	22	22	265	13	169			32			554
Blankets	20	33	42	25	241	20	178		5	12	15	2	593
Buckets	16	10	48	22	11							18	125
Jerry cans		33	8	41	228	37	74			90	5		516
Double bed base				1		1				5			7
Double Bed Mattress	3		2	2	1	5	87		2	4	12	1	119
Single Bed Base					1								1
Single Bed Mattress			1				18				1	1	21
Double Bed Sheet (Box)	6				2		84		1	6	21		120

<b>Gallons Bleach</b>		5	7	6	4		28		6		4		60
<b>Food Packages</b>			5		277	242	502	20	20	150	58	8	1282
<b>Mosquito Nets</b>					440	110	129			180		44	903
<b>Bottles Water</b>			12									84	96
<b># OF FAMILIES SERVED</b>	57	64	242	2	395	307	642	20	20	156	72		1977

A combination of items in transit from PADRU to JRC, prepositioned stock at JRC branches as well as JRC national warehouse will cater to the needs 2,000 families.

The distributions were given to head of families or their representatives. The branch leadership monitored and evaluated the distribution process and was able to make the necessary adjustments to meet the needs. Staff from the National Society headquarters provided additional support and guidance towards the distribution process.

#### **Challenges:**

All branches carrying out distribution experienced delays; however, the distributions were rescheduled and eventually accomplished. These delays were caused by completing Jamaica Red Cross month of activities in October to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as adverse weather conditions.

#### **Bahamas**

##### **Progress:**

The Bahamas Red Cross Society finished all distributions by 26 September 2008 in the islands of Abaco, Acklins, Crooked, Grand Bahama, Inagua, Mayaguana and New Providence. BRCS distributed food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, tarpaulins, blankets and mosquito nets as stated in the previous operation's update.

##### **Challenges:**

Major issues were encountered in the transportation of relief items to the outer islands. This slowed down the distribution of items to beneficiaries on Inagua and Acklins Islands. Transport was initially coordinated entirely through NEMA during the emergency. Once the hurricane was past, transport was slow to return to pre-hurricane levels due to damage to infrastructure, high needs, and continued weather concerns. Charter planes had to be utilized to get goods to islands without regularly scheduled flights, cargo space, or mail boat schedules that would not meet the needs of beneficiaries. Nevertheless the distribution process was completed and more than 500 families received relief items.

#### **Turks and Caicos Islands**

##### **Progress:**

CDERA rapid needs assessments identified the most affected areas, then discussions with the Board of churches and community organisations further identified the main needs of families, which were shelter, water and food.

By working with civil groups and the government, beneficiary lists were created in Grand Turk and Providenciales to identify the most vulnerable.

The figures below were items dispatched for distribution between 11 September and 7 October:

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Grand Turks</b>	<b>Providenciales</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Water purification tablets</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>
<b>Hygiene kits</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>680</b>
<b>Jerry cans</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>2,930</b>

<b>Kitchen sets</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>675</b>
<b>Mosquito nets</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>3,692</b>
<b>Shelter kits</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>659</b>
<b>Stoves</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>642</b>
<b>Tarpaulins</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>2,856</b>

On 7 October, 900,000 water purification tablets, 2,145 jerry cans, 1,318 mosquito nets and 49 tarpaulins remain in stock, along with 78 stoves, 20 hygiene kits, 20 kitchen sets and 37 shelter kits.

TCI OSB has played a key role in the coordination of relief activities by facilitating the distribution of relief items from other agencies and of unsolicited goods. The branch has attended daily coordination meetings with the EOC (Emergency Operating Office) and with the private sector and NGOs in order to avoid duplication of efforts. With the help of the private sector TCI OSB set up the TCI Red Cross and Recovery Centre in Providenciales from where regular electronic newsletters were circulated.

BRC has employed the services of a consultant to carry out an evaluation of the relief activities, as well as to look into options for longer term recovery work with TCI OSB. The consultant joined the branch team on 10 November for a period of approximately three months.

Relief phase was finished after four weeks. There is a possibility of carrying out a six month recovery programme. Further thought needs to be taken by TCI OSB to see if it is appropriate to start Community Based First Aid (CBFA), Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) and PSP longer-term programmes with support from PADRU.

#### **Challenges:**

Some small discrepancies in the stock levels, led to an investigation that revealed several contributors including: not using professional shipping companies meaning not enough on the importance of documentation, the recipients not being at the destination to sign for goods, increased volume of goods at already stretched ports and not enough time being devoted to the management of systems.

#### **Health, Water and Sanitation**

<b>Objective: The relief workers, those affected people temporarily accommodated in shelters and those who have been adversely affected by the hurricane will benefit from psychosocial support (PSP).</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Psychosocial support is provided to the most affected people in Jamaica, Bahamas and Turks and Caicos.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Psychological Support to the relief workers and those most affected by the emergency. PSP programmes can either be aimed at individual support or mainstreamed and integrated in other health, community-based and relief programmes.</li> </ul>
Red Cross staff and volunteers in Bahamas Red Cross are trained in PSP techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a PSP workshop and training for volunteers.</li> <li>• PSP training for the Bahamas Red Cross.</li> </ul>

#### **Jamaica**

##### **Progress:**

Psychosocial Support was provided to both relief workers as well as those adversely affected by Tropical Storm Gustav. A total of four interventions were done. In addition, the Jamaica Red Cross printed 4,000 brochures and 1,000 posters with stress management tips and other useful information to help the people affected by the disasters.

In one of the interventions provided, 20 volunteers received psychosocial support who were engaged in general assistance following Tropical Storm Gustav. The main objectives of the support were to demonstrate how to

recognize the physical and psychological symptoms such as headaches, loss of appetite and helplessness. The support included discussions and coping strategies they could use. In another intervention, JRC volunteers leaders in psychosocial support with the assistance of a Federation disaster management delegate provided PSP assistance to women, men and children in the shelter at Tavern in St. Andrew.

#### **Challenges:**

A PSP intervention scheduled for a shelter in a St. Catherine community was cancelled because the team was called to another assignment (non-Red Cross). The intervention was not rescheduled as the occupants of the shelter returned home and felt they no longer needed the intervention.

#### **Bahamas**

##### **Progress:**

The BRCS distributed 50 mosquito nets on Acklins Island along with information sheets to families. Instructions were also given to the volunteers distributing so that they could help explain how to use the mosquito nets to those who were not able to read. Two nets per family and instruction sheets will also be distributed to 183 families on Inagua Island (400 nets). Hygiene kits were also distributed with educational brochures in several communities. 1,000 nets were received from PADRU. After distributions, 550 will remain in the warehouse. It is expected that additional requests for nets will take place in response to both the initial distribution and the informational meeting the PADRU representative had with key government leaders early on in the response.

A PSP workshop is planned in Bahamas pending appeal coverage.

##### **Challenges:**

The island of Exhuma is reported to have the presence of malaria. Limiting the spread of this may be helped by increase use of bed nets. PADRU disaster management delegate and senior administrator spoke with key government officials about this and provided them with bed net information.

#### **Turks and Caicos Islands**

##### **Progress:**

Psychosocial Support (PSP) was done by church groups as part of their pastoral activities supported by the Samaritan Purse through training for trainers. TCI OSB is also looking into the possibility of PSP in longer-term work with support from PADRU and the Caribbean Regional Representation.

#### **Rehabilitation of livelihoods**

**Objective: To assess the early recovery needs and design appropriate interventions to help protect livelihoods.**

<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<p>Appropriate recovery interventions are assessed.</p> <p>100 banana workers and small farmers in Jamaica will have alternate means of livelihoods.</p> <p>Students in Jamaica will receive school supplies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct needs analysis and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Identify priority livelihood interventions based on needs and capacities.</li> <li>• Identify stakeholders supporting livelihood interventions and ensure proper coordination.</li> <li>• Carry out initial early recovery interventions.</li> </ul>

#### **Jamaica**

##### **Progress:**

Based on the assessments as well as coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jamaica Red Cross branch representatives the following actions were taken:

60 students received replacement school supplies in the parishes of St. Catherine and Kingston and St. Andrew. An additional 40 beneficiaries are being processed to receive similar benefit.

138 farmers are scheduled to receive farm items including seeds, fertilizer, chickens, feed and vitamins to restart or boost their livelihood needs. These farmers are from the parishes of St. Thomas and St. Mary. Other branches are still compiling the information for this intervention.

#### **Challenges:**

The information regarding the livelihoods needs is being gathered and submitted by branch representatives not as rapidly as expected. To date, only two of the five affected branches have updated information on beneficiaries. The Jamaica Red Cross interventions will be limited to the support provided by the Jamaica National Foundation, a charitable foundation based in Kingston. These funds are earmarked for three of the affected five parishes. Provisions were made for the other two branches through this Federation's appeal. The funds are not available unless the appeal receives further financial support.

#### **Bahamas**

##### **Progress:**

Inagua and Acklins were the islands that had major livelihoods disruptions and where interventions are required. The Island of Inagua suffered major damage to the primary employer, Morton Salt. The plant will be out of service for at least two months while repairs are made. All 300 families on the island will be affected by this closure. It will be necessary for appeal coverage in order to implement a cash grant project to all affected households on Inagua. This project would enable households to purchase items such as food and building materials that meet their early recovery needs until their livelihoods are restored. Assessments were carried out to assess the need for cash and the targeting of the beneficiaries for this programme; however, due to the level of appeal coverage, the programme is on hold. If funded, this programme will be implemented in accordance with the process and lessons learned from a similar successful cash distribution program piloted in response to the 2007 Hurricane Noel.

Acklins Island, while suffering less damage to homes and infrastructure, suffered a three week disruption in the major livelihoods of many of the residents: fishing or bark gathering. Additionally, the disruption in mail boat deliveries left many families without access to food. Currently, the first transport to Acklins was the Red Cross chartered flight that sent in emergency food and water parcels along with an assessment team. The communities in Acklins included many women, children and frail elderly who were living at or below the poverty level. 45 families were identified that required additional assistance with food, basic hygiene kits, diapers, mosquito nets and blankets. Interviews with community leaders and beneficiaries identified the needs and estimated that food items were required for two additional weeks (beyond the initial emergency food distribution) until livelihoods, income and mail boat service are fully restored. A total of three shipments and distributions are required to meet this need. The first two shipments of emergency food, water and hygiene items were sent by chartered plane and distributions have been completed. The third and final shipment was sent on 16 September by mail boat.

##### **Challenges:**

Full appeal coverage will be required to complete proposed cash distributions on Inagua.

#### **Turks and Caicos Islands**

##### **Progress:**

TCI OSB is considering implementing with the British Red Cross, a cash voucher program to help people rebuild or restore their livelihoods, managed by the British Red Cross.

#### **Communication**

<b>Objective: The Red Cross Societies will facilitate adequate visibility of the response activities through the development of a comprehensive communication strategy.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Red Cross volunteers will have proper visibility equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaboration of visibility material (stickers, t-shirts, caps, etc.</li> <li>• Local and international interviews.</li> <li>• Elaboration of press releases.</li> <li>• Elaboration of brochures.</li> </ul>

## Jamaica

### Progress:

As stated in the previous operations update, four press releases were sent out to the media houses from which information was read in several newscasts and carried in the print media. Over seven interviews were facilitated with both local and international media houses. Two photographers were also contracted to take additional photographs of different activities in the operation.

## Bahamas

### Progress:

The Bahamas Red Cross Society headquarters had an adequate amount of visibility items such as t-shirts for volunteers and stickers for products. Additional visibility items were ordered from PADRU and are being distributed to affected islands for use in the response. Replenishment of items, particularly volunteer t-shirts and caps will be needed. The Senior Administration, President and PADRU representative gave numerous interviews to the media including appearances on several popular TV shows such as Bahamas at Sunrise and People Helping People.

Excellent community feedback has been received. Responses included the donation of a chartered aircraft for transporting relief items to Inagua after a plea was made on TV for assistance with this.

If the cash distribution project is implemented, a press release will be issued as was done during the pilot cash program of Hurricane Noel. At the end of the response phase, a press release will be issued to thank the community for their response.

## Turks and Caicos Islands

### Progress:

The President and Vice-Deputy of TCI OSB conducted regular interviews with local media. The BRC Air Operations/Warehouse delegate wrote a blog on the BRC website, which has attracted international attention.

TCI OSB circulated electronic newsletters and updates to the island, and information on the BRC website. To support the TCI OSB in its media and information to the public, BRC deployed a communications delegate for a period of three weeks on 26 September.

## National Society Capacity Building

<b>Objective: The capacity of the Red Cross Societies in disaster response and preparedness will have been strengthened.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The Red Cross volunteers will be better prepared in disaster response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct several capacity building trainings and workshops; one of these workshops includes a SPHERE training.</li> </ul>

## Jamaica

### Progress:

A national Sphere training is tentatively scheduled for early next year if the funds are available.

## Bahamas

### Progress:

Capacity building of volunteers and staff of the Bahamas Red Cross Society in the form of trainings or workshops is planned to begin once the response phase is completed. Furthermore, the success of the existing CDRT program with DIPECHO VI led the Bahamas Red Cross Society to request implementation of CDRT training on the hardest hit island of Inagua. This programme will include CDRT training, Vulnerability Capacity Analysis (VCA) and providing equipment to the newly trained CDRT's in the communities.

More than 100 volunteers contributed to the reorganization of the BRCS warehouse which was also supported by in-country RIT's.

**Challenges:**

Capacity building activities for the Bahamas risk being cut from the budget due to lack of appeal coverage which will adversely affect the BRCS response capacity.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Importantly, public communication highlights the pivotal role of the National Societies themselves, raising their profile within their own countries and thereby contributing to attracting future volunteers and funds and promoting the importance of proactive communication.

A total of 19 RIT members from National Societies in the region have been trained on communications this year. This training aims at strengthening the capacities of regional human resources to support emergency operations. This pool of skilled communication professionals is available for deployments as required. The communications activities outlined in this preliminary appeal are aimed at supporting the National Society to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations, before, during and after an emergency. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. A detailed communications plan of action has been completed and it is currently being implemented.

The BRCS headquarters composed a list of priority items needed as donations (non-perishable food and hygiene items, e.g.) and is distributing these to community members or organizations who inquire about donating goods.

A videographer was contracted to document relief, assessment and distribution efforts at BRCS headquarters as well as on the Island of Inagua. The resulting documentary will be used for public communication of what and how the Red Cross responded to the hurricanes of September 2008 as well as for increasing general awareness of the BRCS and its activities.

The Communication delegate in Turks and Caicos Islands assisted the branch in increasing its exposure to the media with ideas and the development of ways to communicate our work. This has resulted in many of the country's newspapers running stories of the hard work the Red Cross volunteers and staff have been doing. The Communication delegate also wrote several entries on the operation to her blog which is published on the British Red Cross website.

A visit from the Chief Executive of the British Red Cross also brought welcomed interest from the local media.

### 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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.***

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### **Global Agenda Goals:**

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org)
- In Panama: Jean Pierre Taschereau, Disaster Management Delegate, PADRU; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: [jp.taschereau@ifrc.org](mailto:jp.taschereau@ifrc.org)
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Tanya Wood, Representative of the Regional Representation Office; phone: (868) 624 1557; fax: (868) 627 9627; email: [tanya.wood@ifrc.org](mailto:tanya.wood@ifrc.org)
- In Panama: María Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org)
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41 22) 730 42 74; fax: (41 22) 733 03 95; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org)

[<Interim financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDR49003 - Carribean - Hurricane Season

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/08-2008/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/08-2009/06
Appeal	MDR49003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	2,010,991					2,010,991
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	110,000					110,000
<i>British Red Cross</i>	399,267					399,267
<i>Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund</i>	53,834					53,834
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	58,420					58,420
<i>VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief</i>	2,500					2,500
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>	<b>624,021</b>					<b>624,021</b>
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)</i>	227,100					227,100
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	29,200					29,200
<i>New York Office (from Kraft Foods)</i>	28,625					28,625
<i>Trinidad &amp; Tobago - Private Donors</i>	6					6
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>	<b>284,931</b>					<b>284,931</b>
<u>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	98,846					98,846
<b>C3. Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>	<b>98,846</b>					<b>98,846</b>
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	345,000					345,000
<b>C5. Other Income</b>	<b>345,000</b>					<b>345,000</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	<b>1,352,797</b>					<b>1,352,797</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>1,352,797</b>					<b>1,352,797</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>67%</b>					<b>67%</b>

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	1,352,797					1,352,797
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-791,427					-791,427
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>561,371</b>					<b>561,371</b>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR49003 - Carribean - Hurricane Season

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/08-2008/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/08-2009/06
Appeal	MDR49003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>2,010,991</b>					<b>2,010,991</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	199,700	112,288					112,288	87,412
Clothing & textiles	114,310	53,892					53,892	60,418
Food	87,170	807					807	86,363
Water & Sanitation	21,500							21,500
Medical & First Aid	1,925							1,925
Teaching Materials	36,000							36,000
Utensils & Tools	214,200	96,777					96,777	117,423
Other Supplies & Services	412,200	50,796					50,796	361,404
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>1,087,005</b>	<b>314,560</b>					<b>314,560</b>	<b>772,445</b>
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Vehicles	36,000							36,000
Computers & Telecom	3,500							3,500
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	1,650							1,650
Others Machinery & Equipment	22,000							22,000
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>63,150</b>							<b>63,150</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	3,000	439					439	2,561
Distribution & Monitoring	304,022	194,713					194,713	109,309
Transport & Vehicle Costs	16,500	149					149	16,351
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>323,522</b>	<b>195,300</b>					<b>195,300</b>	<b>128,222</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	5,550							5,550
Regionally Deployed Staff	28,050	15,142					15,142	12,908
National Staff	17,500	2,334					2,334	15,166
National Society Staff	32,500	424					424	32,076
Consultants	10,000							10,000
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>93,600</b>	<b>17,900</b>					<b>17,900</b>	<b>75,700</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	128,000							128,000
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>128,000</b>							<b>128,000</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	39,000	34,019					34,019	4,981
Information & Public Relation	21,000	3,808					3,808	17,192
Office Costs	12,000	1,019					1,019	10,981
Communications	31,500	6,823					6,823	24,677
Financial Charges	6,000	-7,893					-7,893	13,893
Other General Expenses	1,500							1,500
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>37,777</b>					<b>37,777</b>	<b>73,223</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	130,714	50,804					50,804	79,911
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>130,714</b>	<b>50,804</b>					<b>50,804</b>	<b>79,911</b>
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries	74,000	19,863					19,863	54,137
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>19,863</b>					<b>19,863</b>	<b>54,137</b>
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		155,223					155,223	-155,223
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>155,223</b>					<b>155,223</b>	<b>-155,223</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>2,010,991</b>	<b>791,426</b>					<b>791,427</b>	<b>1,219,565</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>1,219,565</b>					<b>1,219,565</b>	