

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

8 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

This Information Bulletin (no. 03/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 100,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in order to ensure response in affected islands and in anticipation of Hurricane Ivan striking Jamaica. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports as Hurricane Ivan continues its trajectory, the Federation will consider international support through an Emergency Appeal.

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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>

The Situation

Hurricane Ivan strengthened into a category 3 storm on Tuesday morning, 7 September, and passed south of the island of Barbados with fierce winds, ripping off roofs and cutting power; however, the island was not hit directly. The storm, with winds of up to 90 mph, uprooted trees and left a trail of debris. In Tobago, over 560 people from low lying coastal areas were evacuated to seven shelters on the island. The storm affected Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia and impacted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, causing particular damage to homes. In Saint Vincent, it appears that the windward side of the island incurred significant damage and there are unconfirmed reports that the islands of the Grenadines were also affected. Later on Tuesday, Hurricane Ivan developed into a category 4 storm, as it passed directly over Grenada. Several hundred people from low-lying areas of Saint George's, the capital, had been evacuated in anticipation of potential flooding. At least three people were killed, concrete houses were reduced to rubble, trees were uprooted and telephone and electricity services were knocked out as Hurricane Ivan passed over the island. Current information indicates that there is significant damage and continuing power and utilities failure. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) reports that the emergency operations centre was destroyed and an alternative centre is being established. In addition, the

main hospital was damaged, as well as some shelters; those people housed in the affected shelters were moved. At present, around 1,000 people remain in shelters and numbers of those taking refuge in Grenada are steadily increasing.

Today, on the morning of 8 September, the storm is 190 miles east of Bonaire, retaining its category 4 strength. Ivan is currently forecast to pass north of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao and may further gain in intensity. The long-range forecast indicates that Ivan will strike Jamaica on Friday and western Cuba on Sunday. A Hurricane warning is in effect for Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao and a tropical storm warning is in place for the Guajira Peninsula of Colombia and the coast of Venezuela.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In Barbados, the National Society confirms that the hurricane warning has been lifted for the island. Power has been restored to various parts of the island and the water supply remains uninterrupted. Shelters are still open, but numbers of those accommodated are not available. Red Cross volunteers are currently conducting post impact damage assessments. The Saint Lucia Red Cross reports that minor roof damage has been incurred; four shelters were opened, housing some elderly people and people living on the waterfront were also evacuated to shelters. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Red Cross informs that a storm surge flooded coastal areas and destroyed 19 homes and at least 40 more homes were damaged in other areas. The Saint Lucia Red Cross will undertake a damage and needs assessment later today. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross reports a total of some 1,000 people in 28 shelters, 25 of which are staffed with Red Cross personnel. Red Cross teams are involved in damage and needs assessments currently taking place. Damage in Trinidad is minimal; however, in Tobago, there are power outages in parts of the island mainly as a result of downed lines. In addition, 14 villages are affected and at least 23 homes lost part or all of their roofing. The Trinidad branch of the National Society will deploy vehicles to Tobago to assist with relief efforts, together with food and personnel.

It has not been possible to contact the Grenada Red Cross Society since Tuesday, afternoon, 7 September. During the course of the day, the National Emergency Management Agency will conduct damage and needs assessments in Grenada. It is anticipated that there will be significant needs on the island as a result of the force of the hurricane strike.

A meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group is being held this morning. Discussions will focus on relief to those affected in Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society is coordinating a relief effort as part of the National Emergency Management Agency's role as a sub regional focal point for CDERA, with responsibility for Grenada. Emergency supplies from a sub regional warehouse are being prepared for deployment.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has deployed a disaster management delegate who will arrive in Port of Spain today for mobilization to Grenada. Two members of the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office are also planning to travel to Grenada as soon as the airport is open. A further disaster management expert from the Secretariat is currently being mobilized to Jamaica. PADRU, the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office and the Panama Regional Delegation are liaising closely with the National Societies of the affected islands in the Caribbean. Close monitoring and preparedness work is taking place with the Jamaica Red Cross.

A further allocation from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of CHF 100,000 is being prepared in order to ensure effective response to assist the most vulnerable in the wake of Hurricane Ivan.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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