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Information Bulletin

Mexico: Hurricane Franklin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| Information Bulletin no. 1 | Date of issue: 9 August 2017 |
| Date of the event: 7 August 2017 | Point of contact: Santiago Luengo, Disaster Manager Coordinator and Emergency Shelter focal point; email: santiago.luengo@ifrc.org |
| Host National Society presence: The Mexican Red Cross has a national headquarters, 555 branches and 30,201 volunteers nation-wide. | |
| N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) | |
| N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: National Civil Protection System; Mexican National Armed Forces; Mexican authorities at municipal and state levels. | |

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

Tropical Storm Franklin hit at 22:45 local time on Monday 7th (03:45 GMT Tuesday) near the town of Pulticub, in the south-eastern Mexican state of Quintana Roo, on the Yucatan Peninsula, according to the National Weather Service of Mexico (SMN for its Spanish acronym).

The National Civil Protection System maintains a red alert (maximum danger) for the central, east, south and west regions of Quintana Roo; an orange alert (high danger) for Yucatan, the north of Quintana Roo, central, southeast, east and north of Campeche, and a yellow alert (moderate danger) for the south and southwest regions of Campeche, and the southeast and east areas of Tabasco.



Photo 1: Mexican Red Cross volunteers from the Campeche branch Support evacuation efforts in the general hospital of in coordination with Mexican authorities in Support of the population. Source: Mexican Red Cross.

The centre of the storm hit land with maximum sustained winds of 95 kilometres per hour, according to the SMN report issued at 01:15 local time (06:15 GMT) on Tuesday. At midnight, the centre of the tropical storm was located approximately 25 kilometres south of Punta Herrero, 105 kilometres northeast of Chetumal, and 125 kilometres south of Tulum, all of Quintana Roo's populations.

The system now moves through the Gulf of Mexico and has become a Category 1 hurricane. This will cause torrential storms in the regions of Quintana Roo, and intense storms in areas of Yucatan, Campeche, Tabasco and Chiapas. Likewise, wind gusts exceeding 70 kilometres per hour and three to five meters high waves in

Quintana Roo are forecast, and wind gusts exceeding 60 kilometres per hour with waves from one to two meters in Yucatan and Campeche.

The SMN, in coordination with the National Hurricane Center of the United States, maintains a hurricane monitoring zone from the coasts of Veracruz to Río Panuco, Veracruz state, as the rains continue until Friday, 11 August.

On Tuesday 8 August, the Government issued an Early Warning through the Early Warning System Portal (SIAT for its Spanish acronym).

Damages: In the state of Quintana Roo, there are no serious incidents reported, although about 300 people have required some type of care in the accommodations that were installed in the southern area of the state. Significant damage is expected in the states of Veracruz and Puebla due to rains and winds caused by the storm.

Government actions:

The National Coordination of Civil Protection of the Ministry of the Interior reported that the State Protection Units of Quintana Roo, Campeche, Oaxaca, Puebla, Veracruz, Tabasco and Chiapas are carrying out preventive actions in coordination with municipal authorities and delegations of the Public Federal Administration to reduce the risk of possible negative impacts to the population. In turn, the government has started the re-establishment of basic services.

Also, classes at the elementary level were suspended for 8 August 2017. Through the response protocols, the ND-III Plan of the National Army has been activated. The airport has been reopened on 8 August in Chetumal, Quintana Roo.

In the State of Puebla, where a greater rainfall impact is expected, a permanent monitoring session has been established.

The Government of Mexico also mobilized two Liaison and Coordination missions (ECO for their Spanish acronym) to areas impacted by Hurricane Franklin.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

National Society response:

The Mexican Red Cross with its extensive network of 120 branches in the states expected to be the most affected (Hidalgo, Estado de México, Puebla, Querétaro, Tlaxcala and Veracruz), has initiated mobilization and monitoring efforts to respond. In addition, the Mexican Red Cross has pre-positioned stock of non-food items to provide humanitarian assistance to at least 5,000 families.

The National Society through its social media channels has issued prevention and care messages to the population. In addition, coordination meetings have been held with the state-level Councils of the Civil Protection System.

The National Relief Coordinator of the Mexican Red Cross has been deployed to the area of impact. Also, volunteers from state branches are activated to support damage and needs assessments and, if required, the distribution of humanitarian aid.



Image 2: Map with forecast trajectory of Hurricane Franklin as of 9 August 2017, Source: [National Hurricane Center of the United States](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov).

The National Headquarters of the Mexican Red Cross maintains permanent monitoring. It also has humanitarian items ready-to-distribute in its national warehouse.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actions:

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) maintains permanent monitoring of Hurricane Franklin from its Regional Office for the Americas. The IFRC has been in communications with the National Society about the current situation. In addition, the Crisis and Disasters Unit has developed a Dashboard, that is available at the following link:

<https://app.klipfolio.com/published/21aae91c7384b94aecf9a46ef7e6b505/dc-aro-op-2>

The IFRC also initiated the activation of roles and responsibilities of the Regional Office of America personnel in its Phase of Alert II.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.