

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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: HURRICANES DENNIS & EMILY

Appeal no. 05EA14
15 July 2005

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 EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 758,000 (USD 587,505 OR EUR486,390) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 35,000 BENEFICIARIES (6,000 FAMILIES) FOR 3 MONTHS

(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget)

NOTE: GIVEN THE DEVELOPING NATURE OF THIS DISASTER AND ONGOING DAMAGE AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS, THIS APPEAL WILL BE REVISED TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES AS HURRICANE EMILY PROGRESSES THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN. THE FEDERATION'S APPROACH TO THIS OPERATION AND THE STRATEGY OUTLINED IN THIS APPEAL ARE INTENDED TO BE FLEXIBLE; DONORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE TIMELY SUPPORT, WITH MINIMUM EARMARKING.

CHF 250,000 HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF).

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>

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

The situation

Although it is still early in the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from 1 June to 30 November, the Caribbean region has already been affected by two major hurricanes. The first hurricane of the season was Dennis, which caused at least 60 deaths in the Caribbean before weakening to a tropical storm over the southern United States.

The storm's rain battered the southern coast of **Haiti**, causing rivers to overflow and roads to be flooded. A team from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that Dennis caused flooding in Les Cayes and Grand Anse in the country's southern region. Coastal villages were evacuated. According to data from the Civil Protection, at least 20 people have died as a result of the storm. About 254 people are believed to be in shelters in Les Cayes, 100 in shelters in Port-Salut, and 300 in Grand Anse. The PAHO/UNDP team reports that 17 houses have been destroyed and 16 have been heavily damaged. The hospital in Les Cayes is flooded but continues to treat patients. One of the main bridges in Grand Goâves, in the southern part of the country, has collapsed, completely blocking access. An assessment undertaken by the Civil Protection with the participation of the Red Cross branches in the affected areas indicates that 1,500 families are homeless as a result of the flooding in Grand Anse of whom 675 are in urgent need of assistance. The collapse is the cause of several of the deaths being reported. The Haitian government has allocated five million gourdes (USD 123,653) towards the relief effort.

Hurricane Dennis struck **Jamaica** on Thursday, 7 July, as it strengthened to a category three hurricane. The storm brought hurricane force winds that extended outward from the centre up to 50 miles. Although wind damage was not intense, the system brought substantial flooding causing severe mudslides. Residents of low lying areas as well as coastal towns – where a large part of the population lives – were advised to seek higher ground. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) confirmed that approximately 8,000 persons were affected in Jamaica, and this number is expected to rise as assessments continue. Persons were moved to shelters, mostly in the north eastern section of the country. In St. Thomas, main roads remain impassable and several communities have been cut-off. Many persons are unable to return home as their homes were either washed away or the water has not yet begun to recede. The main bridge to Port Antonio, Portland has been destroyed while St. Mary is said to have experienced substantial agricultural damage. The parishes of St. Thomas, St. Mary and Portland appear to be the areas that have sustained the greatest impact though effects of Dennis were felt in other parishes across the island. Some businesses in Jamaica have now returned to their normal functions and there are no major reports of power outages. There is however a temporary loss of water in some areas and the National Water Commission confirmed that just less than 30 percent of supply systems were not operating at normal capacity.

Hurricane Dennis, at that time a category four hurricane, pounded **Cuba** for ten hours on Friday, 8 July before heading back into the Gulf of Mexico and moving towards the United States. Hurricane Dennis left ten people dead across the country and destroyed thousands of houses in the provinces of Habana, Camaguey, Ciego de Ávila, Tunas, Santiago de Cuba, Matanzas, Sancti Espíritus and Guatanamo. In total, more than 1,400,000 people were evacuated, including tourists, 196,000 of which were moved to emergency shelters. Once the hurricane had passed over Cuba, national authorities, together with the Civil Defence and the Cuban Red Cross began conducting damage and needs assessments. While evaluation teams are still collecting data from throughout the country, the Cuban Civil Defence Agency is currently estimating that some eight million people were affected by the hurricane and

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some 40,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. The high winds and heavy rains also cut water and electrical services in the affected parts of the country. Crews are currently working to restore these services. As of yesterday, 13 July, 19,200 remained evacuated, 17,700 of whom are in the 250 shelters scattered around the country, particularly in the western part of the island. Cuba's immediate needs are for materials to cover roofs, mattresses, generators, chlorine tablets, canned foods, transport materials, jerry cans, hygiene kits and first aid kits. There is likely to be a longer term need for rehabilitation and repair of housing. As well, the damage suffered by the agriculture industry may result in longer term food needs. There will be a National Disaster Committee meeting in Cuba next week, after which international assistance may be requested.

Hurricane Emily, the second major hurricane of the season, first began to form on 12 July in the eastern Caribbean Sea and moved towards the Windward Islands. Tropical Storm Emily was upgraded to a category one hurricane late Wednesday night, 13 July, and hurricane warnings were issued for Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Tobago. A tropical storm warning was issued for Trinidad and a tropical storm watch was issued for Martinique. All tropical storm warnings for the Windward Islands have now been discontinued.



As of 1100 CET Hurricane Emily is continuing to strengthen as it moves across the eastern Caribbean and is now a dangerous category four storm. Emily is moving towards the west-northwest near 33km/hr (21 mph). Maximum sustained winds have increased and are now near 215km/hr (135mph), with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is forecast during the next 24 hours. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the northern coast of Venezuela. A tropical storm warning is also in effect for Bonaire, Curacao, and Aruba. In addition, the government of the Dominican Republic has issued a tropical storm warning from Punta Salinas westward to the Dominican Republic/Haiti border. The government of Haiti has issued a tropical storm warning from the Dominican Republic/Haiti border to Port-au-Prince. The government of Jamaica has issued a hurricane warning for Jamaica.

Hurricane Emily passed over the island of **Grenada** early Thursday morning, 14 July, where it caused significant damage to buildings and crops. The skies have now cleared, allowing the Red Cross and other actors to further the assessments of damage already begun. The island is still without electricity. It is expected that electricity will probably be restored in the next 48 hours. Damage to water dams has affected the water system. Approximately 1,800 residents have occupied the 48 temporary shelters that have been opened on the island. Some of the shelter occupants have been destitute since Hurricane Ivan in 2004. With businesses closed, there will soon be a need for the provision of food. It is possible that the Chamber of Commerce will provide assistance in this area. The parishes of St. Patrick and St. Andrew have been the most affected, as well as the dependencies of Carriacou and Petit Martinique. The damage is less severe in the parish of St. David. The major health facilities are operating, however there have been reports of damage to the Carriacou hospital's roof. As of yet, there are no reports of casualties caused by the storm. Some roads have been blocked by landslides and overflowing rivers. The Grenada Red Cross (GRC) will undertake an aerial assessment, to better understand the damage inflicted by Emily. As well, 30 Red Cross volunteers and staff members have been dispatched to assess the most vulnerable parishes. Following the assessments, the GRC will focus on distributing materials and on providing psychosocial support, for which trained experts are already available because of training received in response to Hurricane Ivan. There may also be a need for the GRC to support the management of shelters. A Federation disaster management delegate will arrive in Grenada tomorrow, 15 July, to support assessment and response activities.

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In the other countries affected by Hurricane Emily, there appear to be at this time only minimal needs that are being addressed by their respective governments and Red Cross Societies. In *St. Vincent and the Grenadines*, a damage and needs assessment will be carried out to determine the full extent of the damage, although preliminary reports indicate that 11 houses have lost their roofs: seven on the main island of St. Vincent, one in Cannau and three in Union. In total, 530 people were evacuated to 31 shelters in the country. In *Trinidad and Tobago*, a rapid nationwide assessment was conducted yesterday, 14 July. There have been no casualties as a result of Hurricane Emily. In Tobago, two houses were destroyed and thirty suffered roof loss. In Trinidad, six houses suffered partial roof loss, and some 200 to 300 houses suffered flood damage. Several roads were affected by localized flooding, but the water has now subsided. Several landslides were reported in Trinidad and North Tobago. Aranguez Bridge washed away. Reports of Cunupia Bridge being washed away are being investigated. Water mains burst in Maraval, Trinidad. The Princess Elizabeth Home for children with cerebral palsy in Trinidad was flooded, and clean-up is underway. There was localised disruption to electricity supplies. In North Trinidad, the power was cut to 1,300 houses, but it has now been restored. In East Trinidad, the power was cut to 3,300 houses; in Tobago 11,000 houses were without power; of these, power has since been restored to 8,200 houses. Full restoration of electricity is expected by July 15th. Trinidad's main airport and Tobago's airport were both closed overnight, 13 to 14 July and have since re-opened. Both land and cellular phone lines are operating normally. Overall security in Trinidad and Tobago is good.

As Hurricane Emily now moves towards the Netherlands Antilles of *Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire*, the Overseas Branches of the Netherlands Red Cross is attending meetings with disaster committees. Red Cross volunteers are on standby and the contingency plan has been activated.

The needs

Immediate needs:

Grenada: Immediate needs are for temporary shelter, water, hygiene supplies, first aid kits, and possibly food. Following Hurricane Ivan, there is also a shortage of plastic sheeting/tarpaulins for those whose roofs were damaged by the storm. Many people still remain destitute from "Ivan". Psychosocial support will also be important for Grenada, especially considering that the country is still recovering from the 2004 hurricane season.

Haiti: As a result of Hurricane Dennis, in the Ouest Department, 554 families are in need of assistance and needs have also been identified in the Sud and Sud Ouest Departments, primarily for drinking water, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, blankets and mattresses. Should Hurricane Emily veer north as it passes through the Caribbean Sea, Haiti's needs may be expanded.

Jamaica: Jamaica's needs from Hurricane Dennis were covered by the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), which needs to be replenished (especially considering there remain four months in the 2004 hurricane season). Jamaica's needs were for food and non-food items, as well as for psychosocial support to the affected population. Persons affected by Hurricane Dennis may be further challenged by Hurricane Emily.

Longer-term needs:

Given that the islands affected by Hurricanes Dennis and Emily are still recovering from the devastating effects of the 2004 hurricane season, there is an important need for strengthening the response and recovery capacities of the national societies. This may include: strengthening the National Societies' relief departments; strengthening and expanding national intervention teams (NIT); developing and strengthening community-based disaster preparedness initiatives; and, promoting education in risk mitigation and preparedness measures.

In *Grenada* especially, it is anticipated that there will be a need for rehabilitation and repair of housing, including for those that lost their houses in Hurricane Ivan, especially in low-lying areas which are vulnerable to storm surges and flooding. The longer-term rehabilitation and repair component of the appeal also covers the need to provide support

Coordination

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The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has coordination responsibility for the Federation for this operation.

In *Haiti* coordination is taking place on a regular basis between the Federation which has the lead role regarding natural disasters, the ICRC which is the lead agency in the country, PNS (French, Netherlands, and Spanish Red Cross). Etc.), UN agencies and UNICEF in particular and NGOs regarding preparations and response activities for Hurricanes Dennis and Emily. At a coordination meeting held yesterday, information was released following an assessment undertaken by the Civil Protection with the participation of the Red Cross branches in the affected areas in the wake of Hurricane Dennis.

In *Grenada*, the GRC is working with the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA).

In *Jamaica*, the Jamaica Red Cross has met with the Government of Jamaica and international development partners to share information and coordinate responses.

The proposed operation

Objectives and activities planned

Grenada

Emergency relief (non-food)

Objective 1: 3,000 vulnerable families (15,000 people) will have benefited from the provision of non-food to assist them in recovering from the hurricane.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

Grenada Red Cross (GRC) will provide non-food relief items to the most vulnerable persons, with priority being given to those in shelters and those who have been temporarily displaced. The items to be distributed include:

- Plastic sheets.
- Tarpaulins.
- Jerry cans.
- Hygiene kits.
- First aid kits.
- Raincoats and boots for volunteers.

Psychosocial Support

Objective 2: Persons in shelters and those who have been adversely affected by the hurricanes will have benefited from the provision of psychosocial support.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The GRCS will provide psychosocial support to those affected by the storm. The focus for this assistance will be those in temporary shelters.

Haiti

Emergency relief (non-food)

Objective: 1,000 vulnerable families (5,000 people) have benefited from the provision of hygiene kits to assist them in recovering from the hurricane.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The hygiene kits will be distributed to 300 families in the Bonne Gent area of Grand Anse; 100 families in the Sud Department, 550 families in the Ouest Department and 50 families in the Sud Ouest Department.

Jamaica

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Emergency relief (non-food)

Objective 1: 1,000 vulnerable families (5,000 people) have benefited from the provision of food and non-food relief items to assist them in recovering from the hurricane.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The Jamaica Red Cross will:

- provide non-food relief items to the most vulnerable persons, with priority being given to those in shelters and those who have been temporarily displaced.
- prepare and distribute food packages through the JRC branch network.
- provide the following non-food items: blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, kitchen sets.

Psychosocial Support

Objective 2: Persons in shelters and those who have been adversely affected by the hurricanes have benefited from the provision of psychosocial support.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

Jamaica Red Cross is cognizant of the need to take a holistic approach to serving persons after a disaster event. It is for this reason that the JRC will provide psychological support to those who have been impacted by Hurricane Dennis, as a result of loss of property and and/or temporary displacement. This will be carried out by the JRC Disaster Mental Health team. The DMH unit has responded both locally and internationally. There are volunteers who are professionals in the field who are on roster to provide these services.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Through continued public and media relations it is hoped that the public will develop an even better understanding of the mission of the Jamaica Red Cross and the activities the organization undertakes in serving humanity. As a member of the International Federation, the Jamaica Red Cross seeks to promote the Fundamental Principles in all activities and subsequently facilitate additional visibility of the Movement on whole.

Capacity of the National Society

The *Haitian National Red Cross Society* has experience in responding to disasters which are frequent, given the vulnerability of the country; however, it is recognized that further human resources, recruitment of volunteers and training of staff and volunteers are essential. Under the plan of action 2005 – 2008 of the National Society, a major focus has been placed on strengthening technical, material and financial resources in order to ensure reinforced disaster response capacity.

The *Jamaica Red Cross*, through the Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) trained through the DiPECHO IV project in the country, has experienced, motivated volunteers working in communities, playing a key role in providing a link between affected communities and local Red Cross branches. The Jamaica Red Cross has particular expertise in psychosocial support and has further strengthened its mental health programme following Hurricane Ivan.

The *Grenada Red Cross Society* gained considerable experience in hurricane response in the wake of Hurricane Ivan. A main focus of the National Society's response was the provision of roofing material in order to repair damaged roofs. The National Society was severely affected by Hurricane Ivan, particularly since the headquarters collapsed, but has now recovered and continues to assist those whose lives were disrupted by the hurricane.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation's PADRU has a number of experienced disaster management delegates who monitored the evolution of Hurricane Dennis and are following the development of Hurricane Emily; a disaster management delegate was deployed to Haiti on 6 July in order to provide support to the Federation Country Delegation and the Haitian National Red Cross Society. Given the change in direction of the Hurricane's path, he left Port-au-Prince on 14 July and is now on standby in Trinidad. In addition, a disaster management delegate was assigned to ensure coordination with the Cuban Red Cross and a further delegate with the Jamaica Red Cross. A Regional Intervention

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Team (RIT) alert was issued on 12 July and eight trained members are available for deployment should this prove necessary. The Regional Delegation is also ensuring close coordination with the national societies affected by Dennis and which may be affected by the passage of Emily; the regional health delegate was deployed to Barbados on 13 July and the Regional Disaster Preparedness Delegate reached Saint Vincent on the same day.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Haitian National Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross and the Grenada Red Cross Society will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the operation, with the support of the Federation, together with an overall evaluation. Regular reports on the operation will be published on the Federation's web site and news articles issued.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 05EA014

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TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	141,000
Clothing & textiles	39,000
Utensils & tools	120,000
Other relief supplies	150,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	450,000
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<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	49,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Distribution & storage	13,000
Transport & vehicle costs	175,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Expatriate staff	4,000
National staff	15,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	21,000
Information expenses	3,000
Administrative & general expenses	28,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	308,000
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	758,000
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LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	758,000
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