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Information Bulletin

Americas: Hurricanes Isaac and Florence

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: Ongoing since 6 September 2018	Point of contact (name and title): Raphael Hamoir: raphael.hamoir@croix-rouge.fr PIRAC.Americas@ifrc.org Cell Phone: +590 690 74 12 72
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the French Red Cross-PIRAC (Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean), Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, British Red Cross overseas branches, Dominica Red Cross Society, Haiti Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross overseas branches, Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society; Partner National Societies (PNSs) such as American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross.	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)	

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

The situation

HURRICANE ISAAC

According to the United States of America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Hurricane Centre (NHC), **Hurricane Isaac** continued to track westward and toward the Caribbean on Monday morning (10 September 2018) on a path that could bring it across the Lesser Antilles by Thursday, 13 September 2018. As of 11 AM Atlantic Standard Time (AST) (1500 Coordinated Universal Time [UTC]) on Monday, Hurricane Isaac was located about 1,150 miles east of the Windward Islands, and it was moving west at 14 mph. Isaac had winds of 75 mph, making it a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

The hurricane is expected to move westward through the week, and it is forecasted to strengthen and become a category 2 hurricane before weakening and impacting the islands between Antigua and St Lucia by Thursday. Isaac is a small hurricane, as hurricane-force winds extend outward up to only 10 miles (20 km) from the centre and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to just 45 miles (75 km).

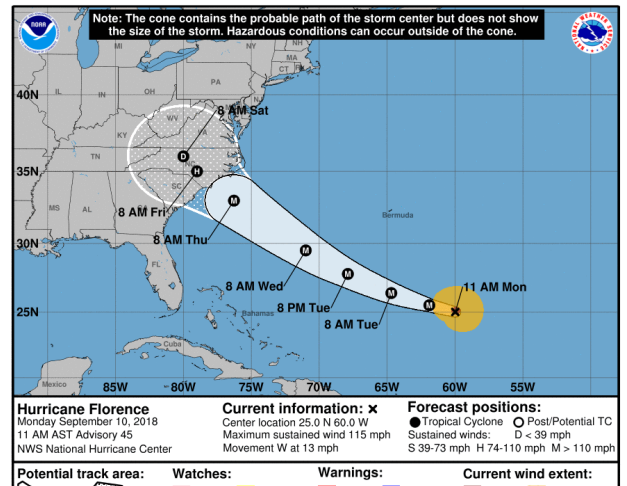


Predicted trajectory of Hurricane Isaac as of 11 AM AST, 10 September 2018. Source: NOAA

- Isaac is a small hurricane and uncertainty in the forecast is higher than normal. Although Isaac is forecast to begin weakening when it approaches the Lesser Antilles, it is still expected to be at or near hurricane intensity when it reaches the islands.
- Interests in the Lesser Antilles should continue to monitor Isaac over the next few days

HURRICANE FLORENCE

The NHC issued an alert at 11 AM Atlantic Standard Time (AST) (1500 UTC) on 10 September 2018 that **Hurricane Florence's** centre was located near latitude 25.0 North, longitude 60.0 West. Florence is moving toward the west near 13 mph (20 km/h). The alert indicated that the hurricane is moving in a west-north-westward motion with an increase in forward speed expected over the next couple of days. A turn toward the north-west is forecast to occur late Wednesday night (12 September 2018). On the forecast track, the Florence's centre will move over the south-western Atlantic Ocean between Bermuda and the Bahamas Tuesday, 11 September 2018 and Wednesday and approach the coast of South Carolina or North Carolina on Thursday. According to the NHC, satellite data indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 115 mph (185 km/h) with higher gusts. Florence is a category 3 hurricane. Further strengthening is anticipated, and Florence is expected to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane through Thursday. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 30 miles (45 km) from the centre, and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 140 miles (220 km). The estimated minimum central pressure is 962 mb (28.41 inches).



Predicted trajectory of Hurricane Florence as of 11 AM AST, 10 September 2018. Source: NOAA

Watches and Warnings

HURRICANE ISAAC

1. The NHC has not put any coastal watches or warnings in effect for Hurricane Isaac. Météo-France has placed all French territories under a Hurricane watch.
2. Isaac is expected to be a hurricane when it moves through the Lesser Antilles on Wednesday, and the chance of some islands receiving a direct impact from wind and rainfall are increasing; however, Isaac is a small hurricane, and it is too early to determine exactly where it will make landfall.
3. Due to its small size, there is greater than usual uncertainty about Isaac's current intensity, and confidence in the official intensity forecast is also lower than normal. Rapid increases or decreases in intensity, which are difficult to predict, are possible over the next couple of days.
4. The NHC is also monitoring a disturbance in the Caribbean that could become a tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico later this week.



Earliest arrival time of tropical-force winds for Hurricane Isaac. Source: NOAA

Earliest reasonable arrival of Hurricane Isaac's Tropical-Storm-Force Winds. Source: NOAA

HURRICANE FLORENCE

1. According to the NHC, there are no coastal watches or warnings in effect.
2. Interests in the southeastern and mid-Atlantic states should monitor Florence's progress.
3. Storm Surge and Hurricane watches could be issued for portions of these areas by Tuesday morning.
4. Hurricane Florence is currently located about 500 nautical miles south-south east of Great Britain's Overseas Territory Bermuda and moving west at 11 knots; a small craft warning will be in effect from tonight into Wednesday night. There are strong rip currents and swells anticipated along the island's South Shore

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

National Societies actions



Antigua and Barbuda

HURRICANE ISAAC

Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society (ABRCS) actions

- ABRCS and IFRC leadership meeting today (10 September 2018) to discuss and review preparedness measures.
- ABRCS has launched social media and public awareness bulletins.
- ABRCS reviewing stocks and fuel.
- ABRC all-staff meeting scheduled for today to discuss situation
- Coordinating the delivery of Shelter Recovery Materials to beneficiaries (Fri-Mon)
- Storage of important documents (current files to be transferred to Antigua) ongoing
- Storage of fuel in safe area for generators

Office Compound:

- All remaining shelter materials will be stored in container
- Pallets will be assembled (stock piled, tie together and stabilized behind the containers)
- All other bulky items/materials to be tied and reinforced to the container

Staffing

- Discussion and finalization of support staff
- Safe house in Antigua identified
- All staff to report post-impact where communication is interrupted
- ABRCS volunteers and staff continue to support preparedness activities
- Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue (ABSAR) placed on standby

Emergency Fund:

- Accessible post or pre-impact for preparation/planning

Stocks:

- Water transferred and stored in container on Barbuda
- Tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, Illumination light, family kits safely stored in container on Barbuda

Public Awareness and Education:

- ABRCS started sharing advisories on the present systems with the public on social media platforms, and it is disseminating hurricane disaster preparedness tips.



Barbados

Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS) actions

- National Society placed on Standby
- Coordination meeting today (10 September 2018) with national authorities, CDEMA and other regional response agencies
- Will meet with BRCS to discuss preparedness



British Overseas Territories

British Red Cross (BRC) actions

- Bermuda
 - ✓ Branch placed on alert
- Anguilla
 - ✓ Branch placed on alert
- Montserrat
 - ✓ Branch placed on alert
 - ✓ Review of the Hurricane contingency plan
 - ✓ Checking satellite phones
 - ✓ Coordinating with national authorities
 - ✓ Coordinating with British Red Cross's headquarters



Dominica

Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) actions

- Disaster management committee has been formed
- Shelter Management, Damage Assessment, Search and Rescue were completed, and trained teams have been reactivated
- Disaster training for disaster officers and selected volunteers conducted
- Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) Refresher training conducted and initiation done in four communities.
- Public information sharing on Climate Change, Preparedness, mitigation and response activities
- DRCS's shelter programme put on hold until hurricane passes
- Back-up generators, water tanks filled, vehicles fuelled at DRCS's headquarters
- Getting curfew passes to allow DRCS to conduct activities if the government imposes a curfew
- Inter-agency meeting with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other major agencies tomorrow, 11 September 2018
- DRCS has contingency stock
- Linkages with government systems in the following areas:
 - ✓ Office of Disaster Management (ODM) for early alerts, training in shelter management
 - ✓ Health for First Aiders stationed at hospital to provide aid
 - ✓ Programme for tracing missing people
 - ✓ Food and General Supplies, logistics and administrative support, tracking and clearing of relief, shelter training in management of branches and liaisons with local government



Dutch Overseas Territories

Netherlands Red Cross (NRC) actions

- NRC placed its three overseas branches on alert:
 - Sint Maarten
 - Saba
 - Statia



French Overseas Territories

French Red Cross (FRC) actions

- All 4 French Red Cross Branches of the Caribbean have been placed on alert:
 - Saint Martin
 - Saint Barthelemy
 - Guadeloupe
 - Martinique
- Volunteers from these territories are on standby and following information from national authorities.
- Branch representatives taking part in coordination meetings with national authorities.
- Coordination meetings held between branches and FRC headquarters.
- Stock pre-positioned in each of the territories, and items are currently being shipped to Saint Barthelemy for local contingency



Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society (SKNRCS) actions

- IFRC operations coordinator spoke with SKNRCS director general about preparedness and readiness for the hurricane
- SKNRCS confirmed that Saint Kitts and Nevis's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is conducting public awareness messages.



Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC) actions

- SLRC placed on Standby
- SLRC is coordinating with the Saint Lucian government

HURRICANE FLORENCE



United States of America

American Red Cross (AMCROSS) actions

- AMCROSS is mobilizing volunteers, disaster workers and relief supplies to North and South Carolina and Virginia
- Activated its emergency operations centre (EOC) in Horry County, South Carolina
- Preparing to open 16 collective centres in Horry County that can hold up to 12,000 people
- Provided phone numbers in Horry County for the purchase of relief supplies and staffing for the collective centres¹
- Sharing preparedness messages through its social networks
- Closely monitoring the situation
- Coordinating with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

¹ Edwards, Erin. "The American Red Cross prepares to open shelters". WMBF News. 10 September 2010. <http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/39056128/the-american-red-cross-prepares-to-open-shelters>.

IFRC actions



Actions

- Initiated discussions with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/ Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) on preparedness and response readiness in the Caribbean
- Closely monitoring the situation
- Coordination between the IFRC's Caribbean Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) and operational teams in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia
- Coordination with IFRC resources in the region
- Coordination with vulnerable National Societies
- Sharing of three informational messages since last Friday, 7 September 2018
- Issued an information bulletin about the Hurricane Isaac and Florence
- Developed a [Dashboard](#) for monitoring purposes
- Declaration of Institutional Alert level II²
- Reviewing field operations preparedness in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia, including checklist for Field Office Tent.
- All field staff have been briefed on the developing situation
- All IFRC personnel are currently at operations base and will remain there until further notice (out of an abundance of caution).
- No IFRC personnel will return to the field until clearance is given by their respective operations manager
- Pre-positioned resource in Panama to contribute to management of the shelter cluster should it be activated.

Table: Available IFRC and National Societies Stocks in the Caribbean

	Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society	Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society	Dominica Red Cross Society
Standard Items	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
Blankets- Light thermal	1,210	3,131 (incl. 1,380 fleece)	1,605
Blankets- Medium thermal	0	0	803
Plastic Buckets	220	372	794
Family Tents	0	0*	1,391
Hygiene Kits	131	74	1,373
Jerry Cans	503	825	7,178
Kitchen Sets	270	233	1,363
Mosquito Nets	460	646	4,962
Shelter Toolkits	135	100	576
Household Kits	0	0	1,932
Tarpaulins	77	300	1,845
Volunteer Kits	0	0	0
IFRC Vests	0	0	1
Tropical Mobile Storage Units (TMSUs) and Warehouse tents	0	0	5
Mosquito Net Curtains for doors and Windows	0	0	0
Water and sanitation Items (2&5)	0	0	0
Medical Items	0	0	2

² Alert 2. Is issued when an event or crisis occurs and there is a need to take specific and predetermined protection measures and ensure that appropriate monitoring of the event is conducted due to its development, behaviour and characteristics and the possibility of the event causing adverse effects. (For more information, please refer to the IFRC's Americas Region Emergency Standard Operating Procedures).

PIRAC Response Capacities – As of June 2018

Non-food items (NFIs)

	Guadeloupe (Average: 300 families)	Martinique (Average: 600 families)	French Guiana (Average: 150 families)
Shelter Tool Kits	200	500	308
Tarpaulins	458	1,900	2,139
Blankets- light	1,170	3,630	810
Blankets- heavy		1,650	750
Mosquito Nets	1,600	1,400	1,430
Cleaning Kits	500	500	
Jerrycans (10L)	1,423	1,200	360
Jerrycans (20L)			810
Lanterns	1,368	816	600
Floor Mats			2,950
Kitchen Sets			277

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) Equipment

	Guadeloupe	Martinique	French Guiana
Water treatment unit 4m3/h	1	1	1
Bladder 10m3	2	6	1
Bladder 5m3		7	
Bladder 2m3		4	
Tap stand	2	2	2
Water storage capacities (tank, connectors, pipe)		Total: 500 m ³	

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Caribbean:

- Caribbean Country Cluster Office; email: TrinidadOffice.Americas@ifrc.org

IFRC Regional Representation in the Caribbean:

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In Geneva:

- Ruben Romero, Operational Support Lead a.i. Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery); email: ruben.romero@ifrc.org

In IFRC Regional Office for the Americas:

- Inigo Barrena, disaster response and crisis and early recovery head; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org
- Felipe Del Cid, continental operations manager for the Americas, email: felipedelcid@ifrc.org

How we work

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.