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Information Bulletin

Americas: Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Florence



Information Bulletin N° 2	Date of issue: 12 September 2018
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, Netherlands Red Cross overseas branches, Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society; American Red Cross	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the United Nations system (United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA], United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA], Pan American Health Organization [PAHO]), Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPM) in Trinidad and Tobago, Samaritan's Purse, the International Organization of Migration (IOM), Office of Disaster Management (ODM) in Dominica	

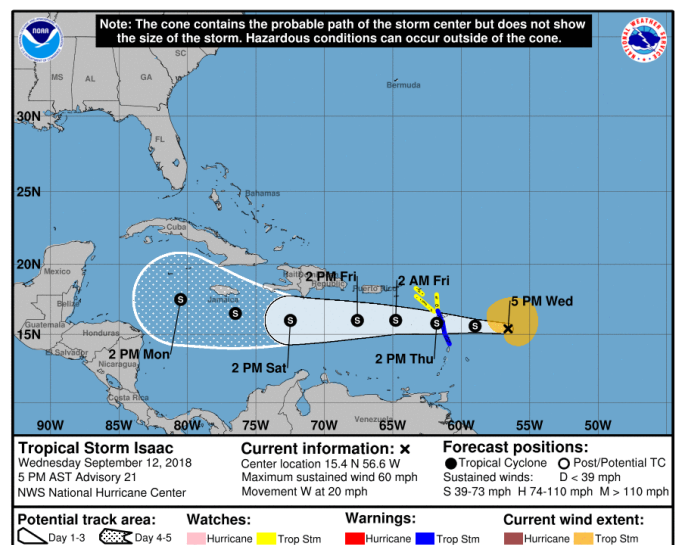
This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

Tropical Storm Isaac

According to the United States of America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Hurricane Centre (NHC), **Tropical Storm Isaac** continued to track westward and toward the Caribbean on Wednesday morning (12 September 2018) on a path that could bring it across the Lesser Antilles by Thursday, 13 September 2018.

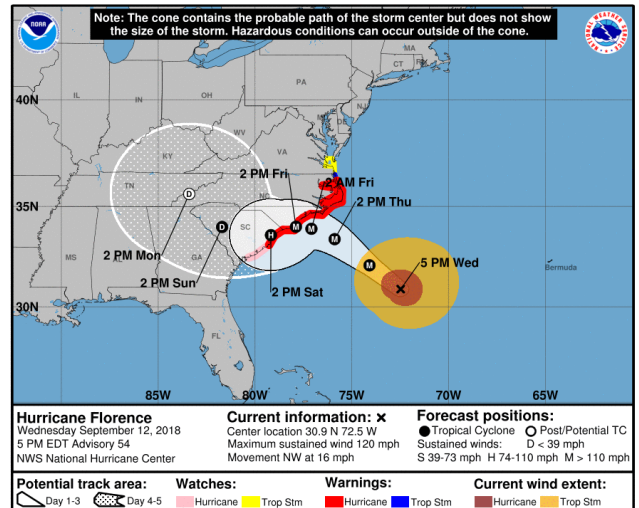
As of 5 PM Atlantic Standard Time (AST) (1800 Coordinated Universal Time [UTC]) today, Tropical Storm Isaac was located about 295 miles (480 km) east of Martinique, and it was moving west at 20 mph (31 km/hr.), according to the National Hurricane Centre. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles (280 km), primarily to the north of the storm's centre. Isaac had wind speeds of 60 mph (95 km/h). The storm is expected to weaken gradually over the next few days, and it is forecast to move across the central Lesser Antilles and into the eastern Caribbean Sea on Thursday (13 September 2018) and then move across the eastern and central Caribbean Sea through Saturday, 15 September 2018.



Predicted trajectory of Tropical Storm Isaac as of 5 PM AST, 12 September 2018. Source: NOAA

HURRICANE FLORENCE

The NHC issued an alert at 2 PM Atlantic Standard Time (AST) on 10 September 2018 that **Hurricane Florence's** centre was located near latitude 30.9 North, longitude 72.5 West. Florence is moving toward the northwest at around 16 mph (26 km/h), and this general motion, accompanied by a gradual decrease in forward speed, is expected to continue through Saturday. On the forecast track, Florence's centre will move over the south-western Atlantic Ocean between Bermuda and the Bahamas tonight, and it will approach the coast of North Carolina or South Carolina in the hurricane warning area on Thursday and Friday (14 September 2018) and move slowly near the coastline through Saturday. A reconnaissance aircraft found that maximum sustained winds have decreased to 125 mph (205 km/h) with higher gusts. Florence is now a category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Some fluctuations in strength will be possible through Thursday morning. Although slow weakening is expected to begin by late Thursday, Florence is still forecast to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane when it nears the U.S. coast late Thursday and Friday. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 70 miles (110 km) from the centre, and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 195 miles (315 km). The minimum central pressure based on reports from the reconnaissance aircraft is estimated to be 949 mb (28.03 inches).



Predicted trajectory of Hurricane Florence as of 5 PM AST, 12 September 2018. Source: NOAA

Watches and Warnings

According to the NHC's Advisories for Isaac and Florence as of 5 PM AST on 12 September 2018:

TROPICAL STORM ISAAC

Tropical Storm Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Martinique * Dominica * Guadeloupe
Tropical Storm Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Antigua * Montserrat * Saint Kitts and Nevis * Saba * Saint Eustatius * Saint Martin and St. Maarten

HURRICANE FLORENCE

Storm Surge Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * South Santee River South Carolina to Duck North Carolina * Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, including the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers * North of Duck, North Carolina to the North Carolina/Virginia border
Tropical Storm Warning	* North of Duck, North Carolina to the North Carolina/Virginia border
Hurricane Warning	* South Santee River, South Carolina to Duck, North Carolina

Interests elsewhere in the south-eastern and mid-Atlantic states should monitor Florence's progress.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

National Societies actions

TROPICAL STORM ISAAC



Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society (ABRCS) actions

- ABRCS and IFRC leadership had a meeting yesterday (11 September 2018) to discuss and review preparedness measures.
- ABRCS is regularly updating its social media accounts and issuing public awareness bulletins
- ABRCS volunteers put on alert, including a group of disaster management volunteers
- ABRCS staff and volunteers are receiving updates through WhatsApp on the developing situation
- 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
- ABRCS's public education and information sharing intensified (radio, television, Facebook and Instagram)
- List of district disaster coordinators released by the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is being circulated by the ABRCS
- List of collective centres for Antigua and Barbuda released by NODS is being circulated by the ABRCS circulated
- Emergency meeting held with ABRCS staff; latest forecast shared during the meeting
- Preparedness and safety tips shared by the disaster risk reduction (DRR) senior officer
ABRCS staff and volunteers will be sent home to shelter at home; the National Society will convene at office tomorrow once the director general and president have given all clear



British Overseas Territories

British Red Cross (BRC) actions

- Anguilla
 - ✓ Branch and National Society personnel placed on alert
 - ✓ Basic documents developed (needs assessment tools, donation certificates, among others)
 - ✓ Visibility (t-shirts, vests) prepared and placed on standby
 - ✓ National Society conducted an inventory of all emergency response items
- Montserrat
 - ✓ Branch placed on alert and continuously monitoring the situation
 - ✓ Review of the Hurricane contingency plan
 - ✓ Coordinating with national authorities
 - ✓ Coordinating with British Red Cross's headquarters



Dominica

Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) actions

- Disaster management committee has been formed
- Awareness creation and preparedness level enhanced ahead of possible flooding
- DRCS issued a Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) report about its preparedness actions

- DRCS held an emergency coordination meeting with United Nations agencies, Samaritan's Purse, IOM and the IFRC; the meeting was coordinated by the UNDP
- DRCS tested satellite phone's functionality; the National Society is exploring the possibility of borrowing a satellite phone from the ODM
- DRCS held an all-staff meeting to inform its personnel about the situation and determine overnight staff at the National Society's headquarters
- All DRCS volunteers and disaster response team alerted; DRCS personnel assisting with preparedness actions.
- DRCS personnel keeping informed through short message service (SMS) texts
- DRCS issued assessment forms so that volunteers can identify damages; DRCS information management (IM) team is working on Open Data Kit (ODK)-friendly format; the DRCS IM team will check to see if ODM/UNOCHA template is available for use to have a common template



Dutch Overseas Territories

Netherlands Red Cross (NRC) actions

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

The following actions have been taken in all the above-mentioned territories:

- Availability of staff and volunteers for coming days checked and on standby
- Coordination between NRC's headquarters and its overseas branches (Saint Maarten, Saba, Saint Eustatius)
- Coordination between branches and local government
- Continuous monitoring of the Caribbean's weather forecast by the Caribbean desk at NRC's headquarters and at the branch level
- Available pre-positioned stock shared



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, additional items have been prepositioned on Saint Barthelemy as part of the hurricane contingency plan.
- Awareness-raising activities ongoing in Guadeloupe and Martinique



Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society (SKNRCS) actions

- Continuous coordination and communication between director general and disaster risk management (DRM) delegate in Antigua
- Continuous coordination and communication between Nevis branch director and DRM delegate in Antigua
 - SKNRCS had a disaster committee meeting today; discussed Nevis's vulnerability to flash flooding, and the limited availability of tarpaulins on Saint Kitts since the tarpaulins are mainly pre-positioned on Nevis.
 - Replacement relief items for goods used during the Hurricane Maria operation will arrive in Panama this week;

HURRICANE FLORENCE



United States of America

American Red Cross (AMCROSS) actions

- More than 1,600 people spent Tuesday night (11 September 2018) in 36 Red Cross and community collective centres in South and North Carolina.
- More than 1,500 disaster workers are either on the ground or in route to the region
- AMCROSS has additional disaster workers, vehicles, equipment and relief supplies moving into key areas today. Some 80 emergency response vehicles and more than 120 trailers of equipment and relief supplies have been deployed.
- AMCROSS is coordinating closely with its government partners and other non-profits to prepare for Hurricane Florence
- As the storm passes, the Red Cross is preparing to provide shelter for tens of thousands of people until they can return home or find other places to stay.
- Sharing preparedness and key messages through its social networks
- AMCROSS headquarters is closely monitoring the situation
- Soliciting donations of platelets and type O blood from eligible donors in unaffected parts of the United States to ensure an adequate blood supply and to compensate for the blood drives that had to be cancelled in the South-east due to the impending hurricane
- AMCROSS Blood Service employees are preparing facilities and equipment in case of power outages by ensuring that back-up generators are working properly, and vehicles are fueled
- AMCROSS has pre-positioned additional blood products and stocked many of its hospitals in the areas in the South-east that are likely to be impacted

IFRC actions



IFRC

Actions

- The IFRC's Regional Office for the Americas (ARO) 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
- Holding daily coordination meetings with vulnerable National Societies and regional IFRC human resources
- Sharing of five informational messages since last Friday, 7 September 2018
- Issued [information Bulletin no. 1](#) and Information Bulletin no. 2 about the Hurricane Isaac and Florence
- Developed a [Dashboard](#) for monitoring purposes
- Declaration of Institutional Alert level II¹

¹ 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).

- 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).
- Relief items ready to be deployed from IFRC warehouse in Panama if needed
- 3 IM personnel pre-positioned at ARO to support response operations
- ARO activated its regional emergency operations centre (EOC)
- ARO is coordinating its actions with the IFRC's headquarters in Geneva
- Sent Surge alert to all regional National Societies and IFRC personnel to determine availability for response actions

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
Tropical Mobile Storage Units (TMSUs) and Warehouse tents	0	0	5
Water treatment plant	0	0	1
Medical Items	0	0	2
Solar lights	0	0	3,251

	RLU- Panama	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Honduras	PNS Stock	Stock in Transit
Standard items	Stock Quantity	Stock Quantity	Stock Quantity	Stock Quantity	Stock Quantity	Stock Quantity
Blanket light thermal	-	1,260	4,400	2,500	18,590	14,000
Blanket medium thermal	17	-	-	2,500	-	-
Bucket plastic	4,228	-	-	-	2,394	-
Family tent	-	-	-	50	1,000	-
Hygiene kit	25	-	-	-	500	2,000
Jerry can	11,535	-	1,100	-	1,895	13,650
Kitchen set	1,185	280	650	-	500	3,520
Mosquito net	8,254	-	1,400	-	24,000	20,500
Shelter tool kit	1,794	-	-	-	1,000	-
Shelter KIT (2 tarpaulins + tools)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household kits	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tarpaulin	6,478	-	1,150	8	15,000	12,000

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² The acronym RLU stands for Regional Logistics Unit (part of the IFRC), and the acronym PNS stands for Partner National Societies

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

	Water treatment unit 4m ³ /h	Bladder 10m ³	Bladder 5m ³	Bladder 2m ³	Tap stand	Water storage capacities (tank, connectors, pipe)
Guadeloupe	1	2	0	2	2	0
Martinique	1	6	7	4	2	Total: 500 m ³
French Guiana	1	1	0	0	2	0

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:

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In IFRC Regional Office for the Americas:

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- 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.



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.