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# Information Bulletin no. 1

## Tropical Storm Laura and Marco

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin N° 1	Date of issue: 24 August 2020
Date of disaster: Ongoing	<b>IFRC Focal Points:</b> <u>In Dominican Republic:</u> Raphael Hamoir; Disaster Management Coordinator <a href="mailto:raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org">raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org</a>  <u>In the Port of Spain CCST:</u> Rhea Marie Pierre, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator; <a href="mailto:rhea.pierre@ifrc.org">rhea.pierre@ifrc.org</a>  <u>In Panama ARO:</u> Daniel Arango, Disaster Management Coordinator; Hurricane Season, Preparedness & Response; <a href="mailto:daniel.arango@ifrc.org">daniel.arango@ifrc.org</a>
<b>IFRC Category allocated to the disaster:</b> To be defined. IFRC Alert II activated. <sup>1</sup>	
<b>National Societies activated:</b> Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society, British Red Cross, Dominican Republic Red Cross, Cuban Red Cross, Dominica Red Cross Society, Haitian Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross and Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society.	
<b>Red Cross partners involved:</b> American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Netherland Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, French Red Cross, and ICRC	
<b>Other partner organizations involved:</b> Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); National Emergency Operations Centers(EOC), World Food Programme (WFP).	

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Tropical Storm Laura seems to have mainly impacted the southern areas of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- The Dominican Red Cross is assessing the situation in Uvilla, Barahona, where the local branch has reported important floods. The level of several rivers is closely monitored, as floods could still affect the countries' portions.
- The Dominican Red Cross, World Food Programme, and IFRC are coordinating to evaluate the affected families' assistance. The decision to activate emergency assistance will be taken in the next 48 hs, considering the national response capacity.
- The Haitian Red Cross is assessing the situation and doing some food distributions in Petion-Ville, Cité Soleil, and South-East department.

<sup>1</sup> 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 the event causing adverse effects.

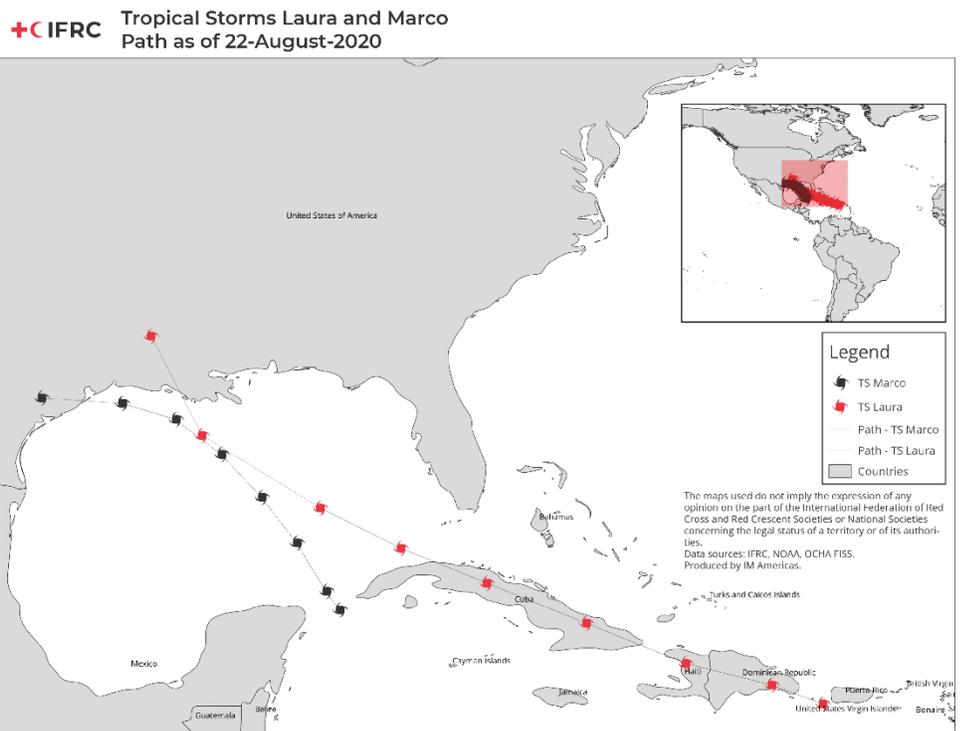
## CONTEXT

### Tropical Storm Laura

According to the latest forecast by the National Weather Service (NWS) on August 24, 2020, 09:00:00 GMT Tropical Storm - Laura, is in the Atlantic Ocean with maximum sustained winds of 102 km/h (63 mph), and wind gusts up to 120 km/h (75 mph).<sup>2</sup> According to the forecast, the cyclone is headed West-northwest at about 33 km/h (21 mph) and is expected to remain at this strength over the next 24 hours. It is cautioned, however, that the storm's actual position may shift significantly over the next few days.

Based on the current forecast (the storm's center and path), Tropical Storm - Laura made landfall at Camagüey (Cuba), with sustained winds of about 102 km/h (63 mph).

According to the Pacific Disaster Center<sup>3</sup>, an estimated 3.59 Million people, 1.38 Million households, and 407 billion of American dollars (USD) of infrastructure<sup>4</sup> are potentially exposed to moderate to severe damaging winds (with damage expected closer to the shores). All shorelines in the path of the storm are exposed to potential storm surge, and inland areas within the proximity of the storm are exposed to potential flooding.



### Tropical Storm Marco

Tropical Storm - Marco, is in the Atlantic Ocean with maximum sustained winds of 93 km/h (58 mph), and wind gusts up to 111 km/h (69 mph). According to the forecast, the cyclone is headed Northwest at about 17 km/h (10 mph) and is expected to weaken over the next 24 hours. It is cautioned, however, that the storm's actual position may shift significantly over the next few days. Based on the current forecast (the storm's center and path), Tropical Storm - Marco is within 299 km (186 miles) from United States, and the center is expected to make landfall within the next 20 hours, along the shores of/near Louisiana, with sustained winds of about 83 km/h (52 mph).<sup>5</sup>

For the extended forecast, models do not show a concentrated population exposed to moderate or severe damaging winds (within the extended forecast area) at this time. All shorelines in the path of the storm are exposed to potential storm surge, and inland areas within the proximity of the storm are exposed to potential flooding.<sup>6</sup>

## EARLY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE

### Netherlands Overseas territories

<sup>2</sup> NOAA. [Tropical Storm Laura. 24 August 2020.](#)

<sup>3</sup> Pacific Disaster Center. [Tropical Storm Laura.](#)

<sup>4</sup> The cost represents the total replacement value of the infrastructure.

<sup>5</sup> NOAA. [Tropical Storm Marco. 24 August 2020.](#)

<sup>6</sup> Pacific Disaster Center. [Tropical Storm Marco.](#)

Saba, Statia and Sint-Maarten: flooding in low laying areas - no major damage reported. Roads were cleared. No report of people being sheltered in Sint-Maarten.

### **St. Kitts and Nevis**

Fallen trees, and power outages were reported. Close to 4,000 people were affected. Power has been restored in some areas, and government agencies are progressively restoring the service.

### **Dominican Republic**

Limited damages (trees and poles down) reported in the southern Province of the Dominican Republic, including the capital Santo Domingo. Flash floods reported in several parts of the country, most severe floods reported in Perdernales and Barahona.

Dominican Red Cross is specifically assessing and monitoring the situation in Uvilla, Barahona where support to the population might be required. The level of several rivers in the country is being monitored for potential floods as the water keeps rising. As of August 24, the following were reported: 1,791 houses affected, 9 houses destroyed, 8,955 people relocated, and 382 in shelters.

The Dominican Red Cross activated its branches and integrated the local Committees for Prevention, Mitigation, and Response to contribute with evacuations and debris clearing in various areas of the country. Volunteers supported the rapid assessments along with committees on August 23. Psychosocial services provided in the municipality of Quisqueya, Santo Domingo Oeste, San Francisco. Food distribution to 450 families in San Francisco de Macoris, along with the Presidency's Social Assistance.

### **Haiti**

Flash floods reported in several parts of the country, most severe reported in the Metropolitan Area, South-East, South departments. At least 11 people reported dead because of Tropical Storm Laura. The initial information reported 35 people in shelters and about 10 houses that have been destroyed. This information will be completed with the ongoing assessments.

Haitian Red Cross volunteers have been deployed to support Rapid assessments in the impacted areas and are coordinating with civil protection both nationally and locally. Volunteers have also been distributing food parcels in some areas impacted by the floods: Petion-Ville, Cité-Soleil, and South-East department.

### **Cuba**

Cuban Red Cross reports that Tropical Storm Marco did not produce damages in Pinar de Rio province despite the heavy rains. On August 24 in the morning, the Cuban Red Cross reported floods, light damages to housing and crops in the Provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Granma and the entire country was placed on alert for Tropical Storm Laura.

Cuban Red Cross reports that Tropical Storm Marco did not produce damages in Pinar de Rio province despite the heavy rains. On August 24 in the morning, the Cuban Red Cross reported floods, light damage to housing and crops in the Provinces of Santiago de Cuba, and Granma. The entire country was placed on alert for Tropical Storm Laura.

Cuban Red Cross has activated 12,000 volunteers in preparation for Tropical Storm Laura to contribute to the pre-evacuation of 250,000 people in six Provinces ahead of the storm. Response teams have been placed on stand-by.

### **United States**

Tropical Storm Marco is predicted to make landfall along the Louisiana coast later today through Tuesday. While the storm is weakening, it could still bring almost 60 mph winds, up to 10 inches of rain in some areas, and a dangerous storm surge, which could cause coastal flooding. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Laura is expected to bring heavy rain to the Florida Keys, then turn toward the Gulf Coast and grow to hurricane strength. Starting Wednesday, Laura could produce up to 15 inches of rain in some areas near the Texas and Louisiana border north into the Mississippi Valley. The two storms combined could bring a prolonged period of dangerous weather to the Gulf Coast, with Louisiana likely to see the brunt of both tropical systems.

American Red Cross has prepositioned relief supplies, and more than 400 trained disaster workers are standing by to provide emergency shelter to communities threatened by both Laura and Marco. Additional workers are standing by if needed. More than a dozen shelter teams are on the ground in Baton Rouge, with more spread out across the expected impacted areas to make sure people have a safe place to stay. AmCross is coordinating closely with multiple community partners and emergency officials to provide aid after the storms make landfall.

## IFRC ACTIONS

The IFRC activated its Regional virtual Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and activated its internal protocol. The IFRC ARO and the Country Cluster Support Teams (CCSTs) in Port of Spain and Santo Domingo are currently monitoring Tropical Storms Laura and Marco, contacting, and coordinating with its National Societies presently located in the path of the hurricane. The Communications team is sharing material on Social Media about the events and the work of the Red Cross.

Stock prepositioned to mobilize if needed:

Standard Items	Stock Quantity							
	RLU Panama	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Honduras	Dominican Republic	Trinidad & Tobago	Partner National Societies	Stock in Transit
Blanket light thermal	9,090	1,260	4,400	2,500			14,980	
Blanket medium thermal	17			2,500		600		
Bucket plastic	600					200	3,010	2,000
Family tent				50			732	
Hygiene kit	1,292				700			2,308
Cleaning kit	680							5,380
Jerrycan	21,680		1,100		3,450	200	1,064	
Kitchen set	340	280	650		810	200	2,353	5,000
Mosquito net	43,713				3,850			
Shelter toolkit	3,364				1,488			2,307
Tarpaulin	23,031		1,150		3,826	200	10,720	

### Resources

- [GO Platform](#) is constantly updated. Check future [Field Reports](#) from National Societies for updates.
- Regional [Preparedness dashboard](#)
- [Hurricane monitoring Dashboard](#).
- [2020 Regional Contingency Plan](#)
- [Twitter IFRC Americas](#)

## Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

### Dominican Red Cross:

- Dr. Ligia Leroux, President; email: [ligia.leroux@cuzroja.org.do](mailto:ligia.leroux@cuzroja.org.do)
- Sergio Rafel Vargas Puente, Manager Pre-Hospital Care and Relief Services; email: [socorros@cuzroja.org.do](mailto:socorros@cuzroja.org.do)

### Haitian Red Cross Society

- Président, Dr. Guiteau Jean-Pierre; email: [president@croixrouge.ht](mailto:president@croixrouge.ht)
- Acting Executive Director, Guetson Lamour; email: [g.lamour@croixrouge.ht](mailto:g.lamour@croixrouge.ht)

#### In the IFRC Americas Regional Office:

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#### In CCST Dominican Republic and Port of Spain:

- Ariel Kestens; head of country cluster office POS CCST; email: [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org)
- Elias Ghanem; head of country cluster office [elias.ghanem@ifrc.org](mailto:elias.ghanem@ifrc.org)

#### In IFRC Geneva:

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#### 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 Humanitarian 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.