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Emergency appeal operations update Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis: Hurricane Irma

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDR429009	Date of issue: 21 September 2017
Operations update n° 1	Timeframe covered by this update: 12-19 September 2017
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 8 September 2017	Timeframe: six months (up to 31 March 2018)
Appeal budget: 1,128,171 Swiss francs	Appeal coverage: 79% (Donor's response list)
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: 61,418 Swiss francs DREF allocated for Antigua and Barbuda; and 64,301 Swiss francs DREF allocated for Saint Kitts and Nevis	
N° of people being assisted: 1,000 families (500 families)	
Host National Societies presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross (ABRC): 1 national headquarters, 100 volunteers, 5 staff members, and 1 branch Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society (SKNRCS): 1 national headquarters, 250 volunteers, 1 paid staff member and 6 branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the French Red Cross Platform for Regional Intervention in the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC), American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Danish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, the Bahamas Red Cross Society, Spanish Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)	

Appeal History

6 September 2017: Hurricane Irma, a powerful Category 5 hurricane packing winds more than 185 miles per hour, impacted several eastern Caribbean countries sweeping over Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. The IFRC allocates 61,418 Swiss francs for ABRC and 64,301 Swiss francs for SKNRCS from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

8 September 2017: The IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for 1,128,171 Swiss francs to assist 500 families (2500 people) for six months.

9-18 September 2017: The IFRC deploys surge capacity to both countries to support both National Societies with coordination efforts, damage and needs assessments and response activities.

19 September 2017: Hurricane Maria impacts both Antigua & Barbuda as well as Saint Kitts and Nevis

21 September 2017: Operation Update no. 1 issued.



Photo 1: Volunteers with the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society offload packs of bottled water to be distributed to people affected by Hurricane Irma (Photo: Giovanni Zambello / IFRC).

Summary: Hurricane Irma, a powerful Category 5 hurricane packing winds more than 185 miles per hour, impacted several eastern Caribbean countries sweeping over Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Hurricane Irma brought widespread destruction to Barbuda Island. Almost 75 per cent of the houses were either completely washed away or with damage beyond repair. Public infrastructure, including power systems, schools, water services and hospitals were also severely impacted. The island was declared inhabitable and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda published a decree to enforce a full evacuation of the island population to Antigua, as no public services could not be provided which could put at high risk the well-being of the population in view of the upcoming Hurricane. Consequently, relief and basic recovery efforts had to be temporary stopped. Hurricane María left high level of rains and some flooding in the island on top of the devastating consequences of Hurricane Irma.

Likewise, Saint Kitts was also hit with strong winds and high waves up to 20 feet. The impact left behind houses with partially destroyed roofs and much debris on many of the roads. Compounded with the arrival of Hurricane Maria, ten days later, and ongoing assessments, volunteers had to hunker down and wait for the all clear to continue their work. National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) preparing to complete its assessments, with the help of SKNRC by Sunday 24th September. These two events arriving within a short time of each other have placed additional pressure on restoring the Island to normalcy in a short time.

Coordination and partnerships

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross and St Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Societies are leading the response action with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Movement partners. The National Societies have participated on a daily basis in the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). In these coordination meetings, information has been shared with humanitarian partners in both countries. The ABRC and the SKNRCS are working in close relationship with national authorities in charge of disaster response in the countries. Joint assessments of the situation have been ongoing.



Photo 2: Director General of the St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross, along with its volunteers loading some of the pre-positioned items. Source: IFRC

The IFRC is ensuring coordination with Movement and external partners by establishing information sharing mechanism including the [Dashboard](#), joint task force meetings (including with IFRC staff in the affected countries, the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas, Country Cluster Support Team in Trinidad and Tobago and the IFRC's team in Geneva), as well as coordination meetings with Movement partners. Furthermore, the National Societies and the IFRC are actively participating in coordination meetings established by the national emergencies management agencies or Antigua and Barbuda, and St Kitts and Nevis.

Antigua and Barbuda: With support from USAID/OFDA, ABRC is distributing relief items—such as mattresses, hygiene kits, and clean-up kits—to 1,000 hurricane-affected people in Antigua. ABRC also opened a [Hurricane Irma Relief Fund](#) to receive donations to support relief efforts in Barbuda. Additional partners of the ABRC include TickeTing, The Halo Foundation, Inc., Nods- Antigua, Government of Antigua and Barbuda, USAID, and the UN Refugee Agency.

St Kitts and Nevis: The Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society is closely coordinating with national authorities to provide an efficient, timely and adequate response to the at-risk populations. The St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross participated in a coordination meeting with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in preparedness and response activities and was the only agency with pre-positioned stock.

Thus far, the areas assessed were: district 6, 7 and 8, which are the ones identified by NEMAs preliminary assessments as having the most affected; the 3 districts have an approximate population of 12,000 people.

Registration of beneficiaries has started using mobile devices with Open Data Kit (ODK) technology; up to 20 September a total of 42 households have been assessed and registered. The National Society in coordination meetings with NEMA in preparation for Hurricane Maria.

On behalf of the ABRC and the SKRCS, the IFRC thanks the donors and partners who have kindly contributed to this emergency appeal: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society (Canadian government), Danish Red Cross (Danish government), Private donors from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, the Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund, Japanese Red Cross Society, and ShelterBox.

Operational implementation

Overview

The National Societies have focused during the first weeks after the storm in providing **first aid, supporting damage and needs assessments, distribution of relief items, beneficiary registration using ODK in collective centres and affected areas.**

The IFRC has mobilized a surge team to each country to strengthen and support the National Societies' capacities. The team is supporting the National Societies with coordination and response activities, technical expertise for specific sectorial assessments (health, shelter, livelihoods, cash transfer programming) and developing the detailed Emergency Plan of Action based on assessments results.



Antigua and Barbuda

In anticipation of direct impact from Hurricane Irma, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross has activated its internal disaster response protocols in coordination with the activation of the national disaster response system; the National Society has also carried out national assessments ahead of the storm to identify critical areas that are likely to pose a challenge to its response activities. Additionally, the ABRC has positioned Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) and community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in six high-risk communities to respond to a potential emergency, and it has plastic sheeting, jerry cans and emergency back packs that were distributed.



St Kitts and Nevis

Before the passage of the hurricane, the St Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society mobilized volunteers to 6 districts around the island, and it pre-positioned supplies in 5 areas: Saint Kitts' north-western, western, eastern side and the southern and one on the island of Nevis. It also activated some 100 volunteers to be ready for the response. The volunteers were prepared to conduct assessments immediately after Irma's passage, and they had received necessary forms such as the initial 24-hour assessment form, the distribution form and message handling forms. The SKRC had prepositioned stocks of non-food items (NFIs) for 100 families that were distributed.

Due to the preparations for the passage of Hurricane Maria on September 19-20, some activities had to be momentarily paused to carry out preparedness actions.

This first operation update reflects current available information. Further details will be reported in the next report.

Planned interventions	Implementation (%)
 Health	
Outcome 1 The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	
Output 1.1 Target population is provided with first aid services	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and deployment of first aid kit • Mobilisation of volunteers to provide first aid service to beneficiaries 	<i>Ongoing</i>

Progress on implementation:

Antigua and Barbuda: In preparation for the third hurricane to target the twin island state within a span of two weeks, the ABRC started the pre-distribution, on 18 September, of relief supplies such as tarpaulin, water and other basic items, along with First Aid/emergency assistance ahead of the arrival of Maria. Items were distributed to ten households in some of the most vulnerable communities in Antigua. The rehabilitation process was further delayed in preparation for Hurricane Maria.

Output 1.2 Psychosocial first aid and psychosocial support activities are provided to people affected by hurricane Irma

Activities planned:

- Printing and distribution of information on stress management and coping mechanisms
- Training of Red Cross and staff volunteers in Psychosocial Support (PSS) in Emergencies
- Implementation of PSS activities (managing stress, strengthening coping mechanisms, preventing violence in shelters) for beneficiaries and volunteers
- Mobilization of a PSS Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to support the National Societies

Ongoing

Progress on implementation:

Antigua and Barbuda: A Psychosocial Support specialist from the Danish Red Cross was deployed to Antigua and Barbuda for one month to help strengthen the capacity of the National Society in supported the affected population. A rapid assessment that looks at immediate needs and long-term in relation to the recovery phase was completed. There is ongoing discussion with the national authorities and external partners to complement the work that is taking place.

Output 1.3 Epidemic prevention measures carried out in areas affected by Hurricane Irma

Activities planned:

- Printing of Information of Education and Communications materials on epidemic control
- Household and collective centre visits to sensitize and develop prevention activities to decrease the risk of communicable diseases
- Carry out a community mobilization strategy of Community-Based Surveillance approach
- RIT deployment to support health assessment

To be implemented later

100%

Progress on implementation:

Antigua and Barbuda: The Ministry of Health presented a formal request to the ABRC, in coordination with the IFRC, to set up a medical field station on Barbuda to provide basic medical services to the personnel and Barbudan population that will be part of the clean-up and rehabilitation activities in the coming weeks. The exact location on the island and the type of medical/clinical materials were confirmed and agreed with the Ministry of Health and the process was initiated for the shipment in during the course of this coming week. This was supported by a health delegate from the Canadian Red Cross.



Photo 3: Officials from the Ministry of Health, the Barbuda Branch of the ABRC and a delegation of the IFRC during the site visit of the medical facility in Barbuda.
Source: IFRC

St Kitts and Nevis: Red Cross volunteers will work alongside the community to reduce the risk of epidemic outbreaks.



Water; Sanitation; Hygiene promotion

Outcome 2 Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities for at least 500 families

Output 2.1 Distribution of hygiene-related goods (non-food items), which meet Sphere standards, to at least 500 families in areas affected by Hurricane Irma

<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Red Cross volunteers on conducting water, sanitation and hygiene assessments • Initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities • Procurement and pre-positioning of 500 hygiene kits (1 per family) • Procurement of 1,000 jerry cans (2 per family) • Procurement of 500 14-litre buckets (1 per family) • Procurement of 1,000 mosquito nets (2 per family) • Coordination with other water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) actors on target group needs and appropriate response 	<i>Ongoing</i>
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Progress on implementation:

Antigua and Barbuda: IFRC stock arrived via charter flight carrying 19 tons of humanitarian aid in Antigua on 9 September. Including items for different sectors for 300 families.

Output 2.2 Hygiene promotion activities, which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items, is provided to the target population

<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of educational hygiene promotion materials to the most vulnerable households • Hygiene promotion activity for 500 families 	-
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To be reported in later updates



Livelihoods; Nutrition; Food security

Outcome 3 Immediate food needs of the disaster affected population are met

Output 3.1 Appropriate food rations are distributed to vulnerable households

<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of volunteers and orientation on distribution protocols. • Distribution of food rations to 500 households (300 Antigua and Barbuda, 200 Saint Kitts and Nevis) • Monitoring and reporting on distributions 	-
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To be reported in later updates.



Shelter (including household non-food items)

Emergency Phase

Outcome 4 The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met

Output 4.1 Essential non-food items are provided to the target population

<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replenishment of 100 emergency backpacks from Antigua and Barbuda's initial emergency response 	Ongoing
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of non-food items (kitchen sets, blankets) to 500 households (300 in Antigua and Barbuda, 200 in Saint Kitts and Nevis) • Mobilization of volunteers and orientation on distribution protocols • Shelter RIT/Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) deployment to support detailed assessment • Monitoring and reporting on distributions 	100%
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Progress on implementation:

Antigua and Barbuda: After the passage of the storm, the ABRC distributed relief items in collective centres, and with the support a national intervention team member started working early on needs assessments. It also activated additional response teams.

As part of an agreement between the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross (ABRC) and the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), the registration of persons from Barbuda who were displaced by Hurricane Irma is ongoing with about 70 per cent of the population registered so far. A total of 245 households (1,031 persons) are currently registered and the process continued on 20 September.



Photo 4: Volunteers with the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society register people evacuated from Barbuda who are now staying with families and friends (Photo: Giovanni Zambello / IFRC).

St Kitts and Nevis: Shelter assessment is ongoing in the affected areas to determine the level of affectation of the houses damaged. Assessments had to be stopped in preparation for Hurricane Maria.

On Monday 18 September, the National Society pre-positioned stock in the North and South of mainland St. Kitts, as well as on Nevis island.

Output 4.2 Target population is provided with emergency shelter assistance

<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replenishment of 1,150 Tarpaulins of the Emergency Phase • Distribution of shelter kits (2 tarpaulins and 1 Shelter Tool Kit) to 500 families • Technical orientation for volunteers and beneficiaries on the construction of emergency shelters • Selection and registration of beneficiary households that will receive shelter assistance • Preparation and dissemination of beneficiary and stakeholder communication (including feedback and response mechanism) • Monitoring and reporting on distributions and assistance • Develop the shelter strategy for recovery phase 	100% Ongoing
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Progress on implementation:

In St Kitts and Nevis: Market assessments is being done, focused on CTP for shelters



Photo 5: Shelter Specialist doing a walkthrough of a storage facility in St. Kitts. Source: IFRC.



Quality programming (areas common to all sectors)

Outcome 5 Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) is ensured through the realization of CEA activities

Output 5.1 Target population stays informed through consistent, reliable and actionable key messages

Activities planned:

- Hiring of a CEA Officer for three months (one in Antigua and Barbuda and one in Saint Kitts and Nevis)
- Consistent dissemination of lifesaving messages through context-specific communication channels (community radios, loud speakers, social media, *What Now* messaging service etc.)
- Production and printing of CEA materials for emergency distribution kits to inform affected population
- Rumour and feedback tracking system established to tackle misinformation originating from target population

To be implemented later

Progress on implementation:

To be reported in later updates.

Outcome 6 Contribute to household economic security of the disaster targeted population

Output 6.1 Unconditional cash transfers are provided to targeted households to meet their essential needs

Activities planned:

- Deployment of RIT specialized in CTP
- Conduct a cash feasibility study
- Rapid market assessment
- Induction CTP training for volunteers
- Open Data Kit (ODK) training for volunteers
- Identification and selection of beneficiaries
- Selection and procurement of financial service provider (if necessary, a new provider)
- Distribution of unconditional cash to beneficiaries (200 households in Saint Kitts and Nevis and 300 in Antigua and Barbuda)
- Monitoring and beneficiary communication and accountability system

100%

In progress

Progress on implementation:

Antigua and Barbuda: A RIT in Livelihoods from the Spanish Red Cross was deployed to support the ABRC. A livelihoods and cash feasibility study and market analysis is being carried out to assess the local market to support a Cash Program. A cash coordination meeting was held on 18 September with all actors supporting cash programming.

In St Kitts and Nevis: Market assessments is being done with support from a RIT member specialised in CTP.

Outcome 7 Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.

Output 7.1 The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system.

Output 7.2 Operation activities are disseminated at the local, national and regional levels.

Activities planned:

- Hiring of operational staff, including an operations manager to support the activities in the field
- Training for volunteers
- Community assemblies to present the project
- Monitoring visits

In progress

Progress on implementation:

Antigua and Barbuda: The ABRC activated the Airbus foundation agreement to make one helicopter available for assessments and team deployment.

Currently six members compose the surge team on the ground supporting the ABRC including:

RC/RC	Position
Canadian RCS	Health RIT
IFRC	Operations Manager
IFRC	Finance
Danish RC	PSS FACT
Spanish RC	CTP Specialist
IFRC	Senior Officer, Social Media
IFRC	General RIT

An IFRC communications delegate was deployed to Antigua and Barbuda for a two-week period to support communications efforts around the emergency, in order to advocate for greater action in response to growing humanitarian needs.

Sustained media relations efforts have been carried out by the IFRC communications surge delegate to ensure consistent Red Cross and Red Crescent voice and presence in the international media.

IFRC's fundraising activities and communication needs have been supported by the IFRC communications surge delegate through the collection and production of regular communication content and products (e.g. photos, videos, testimonies).

St Kitts and Nevis: Currently three members compose the surge team on the ground supporting the SKNRCs including:

RC/RC	Position
American RC	CTP RIT
Swiss RC	Shelter FACT
Bahamas RCS	General RIT

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Caribbean

- Josephine Shields Recass, head of Caribbean country cluster office; email: josephine.shieldsrecass@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas

- Iñigo Barrena, head of the disaster and crisis department; mobile: +507 6679-3238; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org
- Diana Medina, communications manager for the Americas, phone: +507 6780-5395; email: diana.medina@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Cristina Estrada, response and recovery lead; phone: +41 22 730 45 29; email: cristina.estrada@ifrc.org
- Susil Perera, Senior Officer, response and recovery; 41(0)79 708 6028; email: susil.perera@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Marion Andrivet, Emergency Appeals & Marketing Officer; phone: +(507) 317-3050; email: marion.andrivet@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Stephany Murillo, Regional Logistics senior officer, phone: +507 317 3050; mobile: +507 6679-9674, email: stephany.murillo@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Priscila Gonzalez; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team coordinator; email: priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org



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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 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.