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# Emergency appeal operation update

## Jamaica: Hurricane Sandy

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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### Emergency appeal n° MDRJM003 GLIDE n° TC-2012-000180-JAM Operation update n°2 4 January 2013

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**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 13 November to 27 December 2012.

**Appeal target (current):** 1,211,693 Swiss francs in kind, cash or services.

**Appeal coverage:** 34% [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report or here to link to contact details>](#)

#### Appeal history:

This Emergency Appeal was launched on 30 October 2012 to seek 1,211,693 Swiss francs in cash, in-kind, or services to support the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) to assist 3,400 families (17,000 beneficiaries) that were affected by Hurricane Sandy for a 9-month period. The operation is scheduled for completion on 30 July 2013, with its final report presented within three months of the closing date of this operation.

Hurricane Sandy, which reached Jamaica, in late October 2012 caused one death and led to the destruction of homes and agricultural crops. Some homes were completely destroyed and the roofs of others incurred severe damage. In addition to the loss of personal belongings from these homes, subsistence crops (sugar cane, banana, plantain) and family orchards were also ruined.

The Jamaica Red Cross received 150,000 Swiss francs on 29 October 2012 to respond to the immediate needs in the parishes affected by Hurricane Sandy through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The IFRC, in the name of the Jamaica Red Cross, sincerely thanks the generous donors to the DREF and encourages others to contribute to this operation.

**Summary:** Hurricane Sandy, as a category 1 storm, reached South-eastern Jamaica on 24 October 2012. The hurricane caused one fatality and injured others. Fallen trees blocked several roads and made some communities inaccessible. Hospitals, clinics and health centres also suffered damage. The hurricane destroyed houses and led to collapsed roofs in Portland and the Mount Pleasant area. Local flooding as a result of the hurricane was reported in Pampthret and Port Maria where families were forced to evacuate to community centres.

Teams from the Jamaica Red Cross and the Ministry of Labour Social Services (MLSS) conducted assessments and relief distributions in the most affected parishes. During this operation, humanitarian distributions were organized for the most vulnerable households. As of the closing date for this reporting period, 2,336 families had received non food items (NFIs) and 686 families had received food parcels from the prepositioned contingency stock in line with the SPHERE standards. A local private company, Grace Kennedy Limited, donated food which the National Society organized, packed and distributed to 300 additional families.



Hurricane Sandy led to destruction of homes and other infrastructure in Jamaica. Source: Jamaica Red Cross.

Due to the lack of funds obtained for this appeal, shelter and early recovery activities have been postponed until the needed resources are received.

## The situation

Hurricane Sandy made landfall in Jamaica as a category 1 storm on 24 October 2012, hitting South-eastern Jamaica with 129 kilometres per hour winds and generating torrential rainstorms throughout the country. The hurricane caused one death and led to the injuries of several others. Hurricane Sandy damaged homes, health and educational facilities, and crops in Portland, Mount Pleasant and St. Mary. Hospitals, clinics and health centres also were affected. While road blockages caused some communities to be inaccessible, debris was cleared. Basic services, also affected by the hurricane, were also restored.

However, the heavy precipitation wreaked additional havoc on this Caribbean nation. On 10 November 2012, the town of Port Maria in St. Mary parish was severely flooded due to the heavy rains. The Jamaica Red Cross immediately began distribution of cleaning kits, blankets and mattresses. In response to the National Society's efforts to obtain local partnership for its relief actions, the LIME Foundation, a telecommunications company, supported the purchase of an additional 50 cleaning kits and 100 hygiene kits. These non-food items, valued at over 4,650 US dollars were distributed on 22 November to people affected by a second-wave of flooding.

As of 24 November 2012, all official shelters had been closed except one in Manchioneal, Portland where three families (8 persons) remain housed. Other affected individuals and households have either returned to their homes or have sought shelter with other family members.

Health officials, as well as the National Society, are still monitoring dengue and leptospirosis in the affected parishes. Although it was reported that the trend is decreasing, the numbers of cases remain high, with projections that the quantity of cases could increase in February and March 2013. The Jamaica Red Cross was requested to strengthen prevention messages at the community level and a meeting was held with the Director of Vector Control, Public Health towards this end.

The National Society, and other institutions, carried out assessments of the damaged areas between 26 October and 22 November 2012. Assessments continued due to the flooding and possibility of further floods; the soil is currently saturated which leads to flooding when new precipitation occurs. Floods have been registered in Port Maria, St. Mary and Retreat and Shirley Castle in Portland.

Following the heavy rains on 25 and 26 November in Portland and St. Mary parishes, JRC volunteers with a regional intervention team (RIT) delegate assessed the damages in inner Portland district. Although few houses were flooded, two houses were destroyed by mudslides. The owner of one of these homes also lost all his crops, as they were buried under the debris and mud. Based on the assessments, assistance will be provided according to established selection criteria.

Latest figures based on MLSS and JRC assessments as of 24 December 2012, show a higher level of damage and needs than previously reported. The following table details the most current figures of affected population:

Parish	Total population*	Population affected	Damages	Needs based on damages
Portland	81,744	26,310 (5,262 families)	Long Bay is the worst hit area with partial to complete roof damage (40-60% of houses damaged). Some communities are isolated, including Claverty Cottage with 400 people. 25 JRC volunteers mobilized.	Relief items, PSP, vector-borne disease prevention and public awareness raising, optional livelihood support/cash transfer.

St. Thomas	93,902	20,645 (4,129 families)	Some communities have 40-60% damage to roofs; total destruction of some houses; loss of crops and fruit trees (100%); flooding in some communities, especially areas of White Horses, Botany Bay, John's Town; major damage in Johnson Mountain; 1 school damaged and 1 church destroyed in Morgan Lane.	Relief items, PSP, vector-borne disease prevention and public awareness raising, optional livelihood support/cash transfer.
St. Mary	113,615	10,325 (2,065 families)	Flooding, loss of roofs, total destruction of some houses. Many JRC volunteers affected in this parish with JRC volunteers from other parishes mobilized. Loss of crops (100%). In Port Maria 2 hospitals, 1 market and 1 home for the elderly have lost their roofs or have been damaged, with flooding for a second time on 10 November 2012.	Relief items (especially food, blankets, mattresses and cleaning kits), PSP, vector-borne disease prevention, public awareness-raising, optional livelihood support/cash transfer.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289,261</b>	<b>57,280 (11,456 families)</b>		

\* The Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Census 2011.

Of the 11,456 affected families assessed, the Jamaica Red Cross will assist 3,400 families (17,000 people), nearly 30 per cent of the total affected families, in collaborative actions with the Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

## Coordination and partnership

The Jamaica Red Cross has assumed the overall coordination of the emergency response activities that comprise this operation. The National Society and the IFRC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and an IFRC RIT delegate is based in the field to support branches in relief activities for the first three months. The RIT delegate works in close collaboration with the operations coordinator and senior management team at the National Society's headquarters. The Caribbean disaster management delegate based in the disaster and crisis response and early recovery unit in the Americas Zone, is the budget holder.

The Jamaica Red Cross maintains coordination and engages in joint activities with state institutions and authorities. After the passage of Hurricane Sandy, the National Society has regularly participated in the National Emergency Meetings coordinated by the Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management in which the Prime Minister, representatives of ODPEM, the Water Commission, Jamaican Public Services, three communication companies (Flow, Digicel and LIME), other state ministries and humanitarian actors coordinate actions. The Ministry of Health (MoH) also participates in these meetings; the MoH Vector Control and Health Promotion Officers are working in all fourteen parishes establish vector control measures. These meetings allow actors to organize assessments and relief assistance to avoid duplication and to ensure coverage in all affected areas.

The ODPEM, supported by the Ministry for Labour and Social Security, has the primary responsibility to coordinate activities on a national level; these institutions have provided food and water to collective centres and communities that were marooned and inaccessible. The Jamaica Red Cross works closely with the MLSS in the field to share assessment information. The MLSS has provided transportation to JRC volunteers engaged in assessments.



The Jamaica Red Cross supported 150 families with mattresses in St. Thomas Parish.  
Source: IFRC

Additionally, the Jamaica Red Cross works with private companies that have donated to the response effort. The private companies, Grace Kennedy and LIME Foundation, have contributed additional supplies so that the National Society could expand its food and non-food item distributions.

#### **National Society Capacity Building:**

The Jamaica Red Cross continues to build upon pre-existing capacities, including human resources and prepositioned stocks. Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Sandy on the island, the National Society had food parcels, hygiene kits, jerry cans, tarpaulins, and blankets ready for distribution to 500 families.

The National Society currently has 237 members in its Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) and 26 members of its National Intervention Team (NIT). In addition to these CDRT and NIT members, the JRC has 25 trained and specialized volunteers in Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA), 35 disaster mental health volunteers (psychosocial support), 27 gender and sexuality & reproductive health volunteers, 20 micro-economic cash transfer volunteers, 50 Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) volunteers and 2 Epidemic Control Volunteers (ECV). These human resources have been employed during this operation and their skills continue to be strengthened through practice in the response effort, as well as their contact with state institutions like the OPDEM.

While no specific objective exists in this operation to strengthen the National Society's capacities, this goal is cross-cutting to all relief actions and eventual early recovery initiatives implemented by the Jamaica Red Cross.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### **Overview**

Thanks to the prepositioned stocks of food parcels and non-food items for 500 families, the National Society could deliver these goods in a timely manner to the most vulnerable people during the first assessment phase. Additionally, the JRC has pre-agreements with local suppliers to procure food and other products once the prepositioned stock is distributed. The DREF assistance and the donations from corporate partners allowed the Jamaica Red Cross to respond efficiently to the identified needs.

The National Society has created a plan of action based on assessments and other information gathered in the affected areas. As of the closing date of this report, the overall distribution plan was in the process of being finalized, following the completion of assessments on 21 November.

Since the beginning of the emergency response, 52 volunteers from the three targeted parishes and more than 100 volunteers and staff from national headquarters have worked on the relief efforts. Since 20 November, a RIT member from the Canadian Red Cross is based in Portland parish to support this parish and the two other seriously affected parishes: St. Mary and St. Thomas. This technical assistance is aimed at providing general support for relief activities in the field and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) at the branch level.

### **Progress towards outcomes**

#### **Progress and challenges**

While initial assessments were finalized on 2 November 2012, relief distributions continue as of the end of this reporting period. Contacts are underway with the Ministry of Health and JRC ECV trainers and PSP volunteers to be able to initiate the health component according to the plan of action.

Since the beginning of the relief phase, more than 150 volunteers and staff were mobilized to assess the three most affected parishes and to distribute NFIs to 2,336 families and 1,012 food parcels plus other food and NFI donations received as in-kind donations. The National Society has also aimed to replenish existing stocks and use its local procurement options with funds from this appeal and national-level partnerships.

The absence of vehicles at the branch level has affected the quantity and speed of distributions. Vehicles from the JRC headquarters in Kingston and those of volunteers were used in distributions. A slight decrease in distributions has occurred following those which took place initially, detailed in Operations Update no. 1, since the national contingency stock and the stock prepositioned in branches' warehouses has been distributed. The recent NFI shipment from Panama will replenish these stocks. The lack of funding within the established timeframe has delayed

some interventions and has prevented the implementation of the training in the beneficiary electronic database and distribution system, Mega V, at the initial stage of the relief operation.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: 1,000 affected families (total of 5,000 people) in St. Thomas, St. Mary and Portland have their most urgent and immediate basic needs met.**

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage and Needs Assessments for affected areas.</li> <li>• Training of Jamaica Red Cross in Mega V (beneficiary electronic data base and distribution system).</li> <li>• Implementation of Mega V for beneficiary registrations and distributions.</li> <li>• Beneficiary targeting strategy and registration for the operation.</li> <li>• Relief items distribution carried out for the most affected and vulnerable families.</li> <li>• Monitoring of the relief activities and reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency damage and needs assessments (DANA) in the most affected areas in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.</li> <li>• Train the JRC team on the Mega V beneficiary registration system.</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance to Jamaica Red Cross for Mega V facilitated beneficiary registrations and distributions.</li> <li>• Develop the beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance by using the Mega V relief distribution system.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Deliver 1,000 food parcels (replenish 500 used from prepositioned stock and cover additional 500 families) to support food security and immediate needs of the affected people.</li> <li>• Deliver targeted non-food items (hygiene kits, cleaning kits, tarpaulins, blankets and jerry cans) for 1,000 families based on identified needs.</li> <li>• Distribute 1,000 mattresses for affected children, elderly people and disabled people.</li> <li>• Monitor relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

Volunteers from the Jamaica Red Cross distributed food and non-food items based on prior assessments and the prioritization of the most vulnerable populations. The relief distributions of food and non-food items continued during this reporting period. The table below lists NFIs that were distributed as part of the relief objective, as well as items that are part of the emergency health objectives and that contribute to decreasing the possibility of epidemics following the hurricane. These figures will be updated in the next operation update.

Parish	Food parcels	Kitchen kits	Stoves	Tarpaulins	Mattresses	Blankets	Flashlights	Jerry cans	Cleaning kits	Mosquito Nets	Hygiene kits	Buckets	Water boots	Rain coats
Clarendon	-	-	50	50	10	-	10	100	20	20	80	-	-	-
KSAB	-	-	73	25	-	50	168	-	-	-	268	180	-	-
St. Ann	-	-	50	155	10	10	135	250	116	-		108	-	-
St Elizabeth	-	-		10	-	-	-	-	-	-		130	-	-
St Catherine	-	15	5	50	-	-	20	120	25	-	30	210	12	12
Manchester	-	60	49	171	9	463	7	160	-	-	96	64	5	-
Portland	268	200	-	450	30	320	-	310	100	200	360	40	6	12
St Mary	101	-	-	265	150	300	-	110	90	-	150		31	30
St Thomas	317	250	-	500	35	490	-	310	50	400	260	155	12	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>1676</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>1633</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>1360</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>1244</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>

The Jamaica Red Cross has made significant progress towards meeting its projected goal of assisting 1,000 affected families (5,000 people) in St. Thomas, St. Mary and Portland to have their most urgent and immediate basic needs met. The distributions in the three most affected parishes, which are the locations in which the National Society has focused its relief distributions, reflect the number of families reached with food, NFIs and/or mattresses. In St. Mary, Portland and St. Thomas a total of 2,336 families have been reached with NFIs and 1,012 food parcels were distributed during the operation as detailed in the table below:

Parish	St. Mary	Portland	St. Thomas	No. families reached	Projected no. families to be reached	Percentage achieved
Food	409	362	241	1,012	1,000	101%
NFI (families)	777	810	700	2,336	1,000	233%
Mattresses	131	65	150	346	500	69%

### Emergency shelter and violence prevention

**Outcome: To provide 50 improved safer houses for the targeted most vulnerable affected families in St Thomas, St Mary and Portland.**

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 safer houses (earthquake, hurricane and flood resistant) are built for the most vulnerable families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of targeted families based on needs assessments and registration.</li> <li>Procurement of material for the construction of 50 Safer Houses</li> <li>Hiring of technical experts and support staff</li> <li>Implementation of the build back better safer houses initiative to build earthquake-hurricane-flood resistant improved housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome: To provide safer schools in affected areas</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 primary schools retrofitted with hurricane resistant safer roofs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement of material for the retrofitting of 3 schools</li> <li>Construction of retrofitting changes to 3 schools.</li> <li>Implementation of the Protected Schools methodology and provision of disaster risk reduction materials to 3 schools</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome: To support youth violence prevention in the affected schools</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Violence prevention campaigns (3) implemented in target schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JRC youth teams perform violence prevention campaigns in 3 affected schools in target areas.</li> </ul>

While the assessments have identified target families, the current level of donations to this appeal will not allow for the implementation of shelter and violence prevention activities. These activities will be postponed until funding is available.

### Emergency health and care (dengue prevention and epidemic control)

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<b>Outcome: Dengue preventive measures are implemented in the affected areas after Hurricane Sandy to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Epidemic Control for Volunteer training takes place.</li> <li>Cleaning campaigns are carried out and target areas cleaned</li> <li>The spread of dengue and leptospirosis is prevented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training/refresher training on Epidemic Control for Volunteers: dengue and leptospirosis for 15 people from each targeted area (10)</li> <li>Cleaning campaigns of vector breeding sites with the MoH health teams and communities.</li> <li>Distribution of mosquito nets to 1,000 targeted families.</li> <li>Production of vector-borne disease control (dengue and leptospirosis) awareness-raising material (MoH materials reproduced with Jamaica Red Cross emblem)</li> <li>Public awareness-raising and communication campaigns for dengue prevention with collaboration of the Ministry of Health and JRC ECV staff and volunteers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychosocial support is provided to community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSP volunteers provide support for traumatized families through one-to-one meetings with the families affected.</li> </ul>

members in St. Thomas, St. Mary and Portland.	
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The Jamaica Red Cross worked with the Ministry of Health to coordinate an epidemic control campaign with harmonized messages. Additionally, the process to implement an Epidemic Control for Volunteers training is underway. In this manner, the JRC volunteers' skills will be strengthened for actions during this emergency, as well as those in that might arise in the future.

As mentioned in the distribution table in the relief distributions objective, JRC volunteers have distributed mosquito nets for 600 families and provided educational talks on their appropriate use.

Early-recovery	
<b>Outcome: To provide alternative livelihoods for 500 targeted affected families in St. Thomas, St. Mary and Portland following the loss of subsistence crops and destruction of houses.</b>	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most vulnerable receive immediate assistance for livelihoods through micro-economic initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection of 500 targeted beneficiaries.</li> <li>Cash transfer programme (micro-economic initiative) for 500 targeted beneficiaries who lost their subsistence crops is carried out for income generating activities to ensure food security for the most vulnerable families.</li> <li>Implementation of micro projects in 10 farms in risk-prone areas such as the construction of dykes and protective walls.</li> </ul>

The selection of 500 beneficiaries, as stated in the Emergency Appeal (30 October 2012), employs selection criteria that benefit families who suffered from severe damage to houses and livelihoods; households with large numbers of children; disabled people; elderly or single, female-headed households who have no possibility of support from family or relatives or access to insurance. While the selection process is complete, the implementation of livelihood activities depends on future funding for this appeal.

Logistics	
<b>Outcome: The local logistics capacity of the Jamaica Red Cross to respond with relief items is strengthened with the support of standardized items prepositioned in the IFRC's Zone Logistics Unit in Panama as well as enhanced with technical support</b>	
Outputs	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced logistics capacity and technical support facilitate the distribution of relief items to 1,000 families and other related activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of the logistics mobilization table.</li> <li>Management of the logistics mobilization of the appeal and maintenance of relations with donors.</li> <li>Procurement of transport services through the ZLU transport network.</li> <li>International procurement.</li> <li>Pipeline management of in-kind goods.</li> </ul>

The IFRC zone logistics unit continues to support the emergency operation by dispatching relief items through the emergency appeal, as well as pipeline management of goods imported to Jamaica. A shipment of NFIs was sent to Jamaica and arrived in port on 19 November 2012. Beyond the needed items for ongoing relief distributions, part of this shipment is a replenishment of the National Society's prepositioned contingency stock.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information	
<b>Outcome: Emergency Communications</b>	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Beneficiary feedback on the operation is ensured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of beneficiary stories during the operation for publication.</li> <li>Production of photographs from the operation.</li> <li>Issue of communication and public visibility reports.</li> </ul>

With the aim of ensuring dissemination of this emergency, the Jamaica Red Cross hired a professional team for communications. This team edited and published two beneficiaries' stories and experiences following Hurricane

Sandy. Pictures and articles have been discussed on social networks, as well as published on the websites of the IFRC and the Canadian Red Cross. The published information is available at the following links: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/americas/jamaica/sandys-strong-winds-destroy-homes-and-livelihoods-in-jamaica-60231/> , <http://www.ifrcmedia.org/blog/jamaican-red-cross-working-to-restore-lives-and-livelihoods-following-hurricane-sandy/> (21 November 2012), and <http://www.ifrcmedia.org/blog/jamaican-red-cross-working-to-restore-lives-and-livelihoods-following-hurricane-sandy/>. The Canadian Red Cross also published information on this emergency on its National Society webpage: <http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=44585&tid=001>

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