

# Emergency appeal operation update

## Jamaica: Hurricane Sandy

### Emergency appeal n° MDRJM003 GLIDE n° TC-2012-000180-JAM Operation update n°1 19 November 2012

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 30 October to 12 November 2012.

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

[<click here to view the attached Revised Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

**Appeal coverage:** 30% (362,237 CHF in soft and hard pledges); [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

**Appeal history:** This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 30 of October 2012 for CHF 1,211,693 for 9 months to assist 17,000 beneficiaries.

**Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 150,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) to respond.



**Photo 1.** People from Port Maria, parish of St Mary have been affected by severe floods for the second time on November 10. Mathieu Léonard, IFRC.

## Summary

The first two weeks following the emergency appeal were characterized by massive mobilization of the Jamaica Red Cross volunteers and their governmental counterparts who have worked in collaboration towards the assessment and distribution of relief items, to address the most immediate needs of the affected population. As of 15 November, the assessments revealed a total of 6,170 families with damage houses (minor to severe) and more than 37,000 farmer families affected (total of 215,850 people affected by Hurricane Sandy) In the first weeks, 1,632 families have received some humanitarian assistance in terms of non food items (NFI), 450 have received SPHERE standard food parcels from the contingency stock and more than 300 received additional food supplies (mainly tins of corned beef with tins of vegetables) from a private company (Grace Kennedy) donation. The evaluations carried out until 12 November 2012 have shown that 5,153 families have been affected in three parishes: Portland, St. Mary and St. Thomas.

This Emergency Appeal seeks 1,211,693 Swiss francs in cash, kind, or services to support the JRC to assist 3,400 families (17,000 beneficiaries) for 9 months through an operation which will be completed by the end of July 2013. A Final Report will be made available by the end of October 2013 (three months after the end of the operation). This Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the Jamaica Red Cross and seeks to support 3,400 of the families most severely affected by Hurricane Sandy. Families have lost their homes as houses incurred severe roof damage and there has been loss of personal belongings, and total destruction of subsistence crops (sugar cane, banana, plantain) as well as family orchards.

150,000 Swiss francs were allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 29 October 2012 to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish the DREF are encouraged.

[< here to view contact details >](#)

## The situation

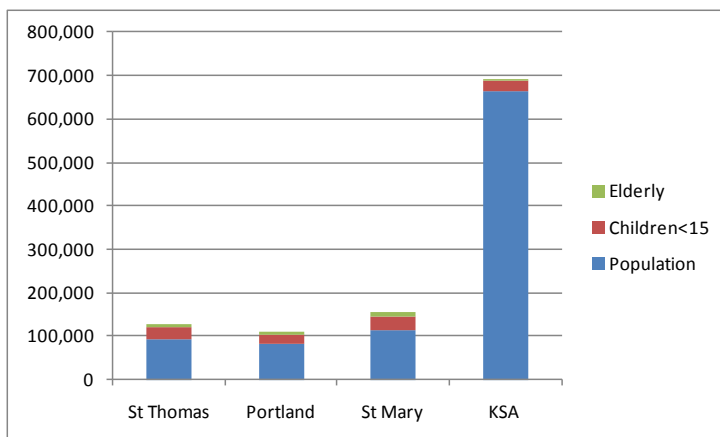
On 24 October, Jamaica was directly hit by Hurricane Sandy, a category 1 hurricane. Sandy made landfall over south eastern Jamaica around 14.00 hours local time (19:00 hours UTC) with winds reaching 129 kilometres per hour and severe torrential rains. One person was killed and a number of people were wounded by fallen branches and debris. Several roads were made impassable by fallen trees, which made many communities inaccessible. The roads have since been cleared and most have become functional. Many communities experienced electricity cuts, which resulted in non functioning water systems. The Jamaican Public Services (JPS) and the Water Commission have been undertaking the restoration of electricity and water supply in affected areas, but there are still areas where supplies have not been restored.



**Photo 2.** More than two weeks after the passage of hurricane Sandy, many towns have not yet seen the re-establishment of their electricity and water supply. JRC

The most severely affected parishes are in the north eastern-eastern areas of Jamaica and include: St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary which have a total population of 289,261 (Census 2011, Statistical Institute of Jamaica).

The gender balance is approximately 50/50 in the communities and the ratios of children and elderly from the population are as shown below:



**Figure 1.** Overall number of children and elderly in the affected area (KSA – Kingston Is used as an example of a larger Parish).

The saturated soil from the heavy rains, and the 129 kilometres per hour winds affected agricultural areas, leaving plantain, banana and sugar cane damaged, as well as family orchards growing papaya, banana and plantain, breadfruit, ackee, lime, june plum trees, causing loss of livelihoods for many families who are subsistence farmers. Food insecurity is expected to increase over the next six months for families who have lost all their subsistence crops and who are without insurance or income to provide them with a safety net following the disaster. There has been further flooding in Port Maria in St. Mary parish, due to the already saturated soil that will worsen the impact to the already damaged crops. It is essential to provide assistance to these families in the next two weeks. Based on the Ministry of Agriculture, 37,000 farmers have been severely affected (information as of 7 November) by Hurricane Sandy. For small farmers, dependent on

subsistence crops, the impact is severe and current rains will worsen their situation with increased food insecurity.

As of 12 November 2012, all official shelters are closed. Only one remains open in the town of Manchioneal, Portland with 20 beneficiaries. People have returned to their homes, living under tarps or are being housed with family members or neighbours.

In terms of health, both dengue and leptospirosis surveillance is ongoing, and the situation is being monitored closely, and vectoral campaigns are planned for high risk areas.

Since 26 October until the current date, teams from government authorities, as well as the Red Cross teams have been carrying out assessments of the damaged households and areas. These assessments have provided initial information of the situation, until further assessments by the JRC, the National Environmental Agency (NEPA) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) teams have been analysed by the Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) which is coordinating the overall data analysis.

The information in the below Table 1 is based on JRC assessments as of 12 November 2012.

**Table 1.** Most affected parishes: total population affected, damages and needs.

Parish	Total population*	Population affected	Damages	Needs based on damages
Portland	81,744	8,050 (1,610 families)	Long Bay is the worst hit area – partial to complete roof damage (40-60% of houses damaged); some communities isolated including Claverty Cottage with 400 people. 25 volunteers mobilized.	Relief items, PSP, vector-borne disease prevention and public awareness raising, optional livelihood support/cash transfer, housing.
St.Thomas	93,902	12,390 (2,478 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 to Johnson Mountain one school damaged and in Morgan Lane one church destroyed.	Relief items, PSP, vector-borne disease prevention and public awareness raising, optional livelihood support/cash transfer, housing.
St. Mary	113,615	5,325 (1,065 families)	Flooding, loss of roofs, total destruction of some houses, many Red Cross volunteers affected (only 10 volunteers working – more to be mobilized from other less affected parishes), loss of crops (100%). In capital Port Maria 2 hospitals, one market and a home for the elderly have lost their roofs or have been damaged. On 10 November, Port Maria was flooded for a second time.	Relief items (especially food, blanket, mattresses and cleaning kits), PSP, vector-borne disease prevention public awareness-raising, optional livelihood support/cash transfer, housing.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289,261</b>	<b>25,765</b> <b>(5,153 families)</b>		

\* The Statistical Institute of Jamaica Census 2011.

Of the 5,153 affected families assessed as of 12 November, the Jamaica Red Cross will assist 3,400 families (17,000 people) working together with ODPEM as well as MLSS. Further assessments will continue until Friday 16 November for the most remote communities that have not been reached yet.

On Saturday 10 November, the town of Port Maria in the St. Mary parish was severely flooded due to heavy rains. Electricity and water supplies have been partially cut, and many public services and businesses have been flooded, in addition to households in the area. Four adults are currently sheltered, three of them are vulnerable (two elderly and one disabled). JRC teams from St. Mary, Portland and Kingston national office distributed cleaning kits, tarpaulins and blankets on Sunday 11 November. Further damage assessments are ongoing at the moment and priority of assistance is given to assist this population that was already hit severely during the passage of Hurricane Sandy.

Priorities other than providing NFI and food parcels to most affected families (funds secured already), will be providing housing through Safer Houses construction. Also, as soils are saturated, the situation for families who have lost their subsistence crop and who are already living in high food insecurity, will need fast assistance under this Emergency Appeal for supportive income and livelihoods through cash-transfer outputs.

## Coordination and partnerships

Since the passage of Hurricane Sandy, the Jamaica Red Cross has taken part in the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) coordinated by ODPEM. In these coordination meetings, information is shared with humanitarian partners in the country, and partners have divided the work plan for assessments and relief assistance, so that only one organization/team is working in a particular affected area to avoid duplication of relief assistance. ODPEM is coordinating all activities, and the Ministry for Labour and Social Security is working under ODPEM, providing food and water to collective centres as well as performing assessments in the field. MLSS teams work in close collaboration with JRC teams in the field, sharing assessment information and providing some JRC volunteers with transportation in order to do assessments.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is part of the National EOC for the coordination of health aspects of the emergency; MoH Environmental Health teams are working in each of the parishes (total of 13) to set up vector control measures. The Jamaica Red Cross also participated in a coordination meeting with the Prime Minister; representatives of ODPEM, the Water Commission, JPS, three communication's providers (Flow, Digicel and Lime), all government Ministries and humanitarian NGOs were also present.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to Hurricane Sandy's contact, the National Society had prepositioned stocks: food parcels, hygiene kits, jerry cans, tarpaulins, blankets for 500 families, which were all distributed to the most vulnerable people during the first assessment phase.

The Jamaica Red Cross has pre-agreements with local suppliers in order to mobilize food to keep distributing as an addition to the prepositioned stock. In this matter they avoided a gap in distribution and were able to provide assistance through funds supported by the DREF and some external corporate partnerships. A plan of action has been developed on the basis of information from the field; a final distribution plan will be decided upon the assessments are completed.

In terms of human resources, the Jamaica Red Cross has a total of 237 Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) members and 26 National Intervention Team (NIT) members, some of whom are participating in the distribution of relief items and other response actions. St. Mary has less NIT and CDRT members than the other parishes, since their volunteers have been heavily impacted by the hurricane. As such, the parish is receiving support from other parishes, for example from St. Ann. The National Society has also 25 trained and specialized volunteers in Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA), 35 disaster mental health volunteers (PSP), 27 gender and sexuality and reproductive health volunteers, 20 micro-economic cash transfer volunteers, 50 Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) volunteers and 2 Epidemic Control Volunteers (ECV), to support specific technical aspects under this emergency operation. Fifty-two volunteers from the three targeted parishes and more than 100 volunteers and staff are doing volunteer overtime from National headquarters, and have been working on the relief efforts since the beginning of the emergency response.

A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Canadian Red Cross arrived in the field on 7 November. Based on discussions with the National Society, the RIT will be based in the Portland parish as of 13 November, to support the three parishes most affected: St. Mary, Portland and St. Thomas, giving

support for all relief activities directly in the field with a special focus on PMER and capacity building of the branches.

## Progress towards outcomes

Most activities that have been carried out so far are relief activities, which include mobilization of volunteers for assessments and distribution of food and NFI's to address the immediate needs. The other sectors' activities will be implemented as the appeal gets funded.

**Progress or achievements:** The main achievement has been the mobilization of more than 150 volunteers and staff, in order to assess the 3 most affected parishes and to distribute NFI to 1,632 families. These items have included 450 food parcels, plus a number of other food and NFI from in-kind donations in order to address the immediate needs of the vulnerable families, while ensuring replenishment and procurement of its relief capacities with international appeal and local partnerships.

**Challenges or constraints:** The main challenges have been to find transportation in the form of 4x4 vehicles in order to reach the remote areas. Government vehicles are mainly regular vehicles that do not allow access to all areas. For this reason, a few areas remain unassessed. Also, the current funding gap is limiting the National Society with immediate actions to provide supportive livelihoods actions and housing for families who have lost their crops and homes.

## The proposed operation

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>	
<b>Outcome:</b> 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.	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage and Needs Assessments affected areas.</li> <li>• Training of Jamaica Red Cross in Mega V (beneficiary electronic base and distribution system).</li> <li>• Implementation of Mega V 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>

**Progress:** DANA assessments were conducted in all parishes. A few remote communities are still being assessed until Friday 16 November. The following table shows the relief items, NFI and food parcels that were taken out of the prepositioned stock and distributed in the communities. One thousand six hundred and thirty-two families have so far received NFIs and 450 families have received standard food parcels for one month.

Outside the prepositioned stock, extra donation of food has been received through Grace Kennedy company as to provide food items to more than 300 families. Also, local tender has been contacted to procure 1,000 food parcels, from which 500 will replenish the contingency stock within the National Society warehouse system. Food will be received around 15 November and will be further distributed after this date.

As for the NFIs, an international shipment from the RLU is being shipped and will be arriving in Jamaica on 18 November. This stock will replenish the contingency stock for 500 families and will be distributed immediately to another 500 families registered during the assessments. Each kit contains 2 tarpaulins, 5 blankets, 1 cleaning kit, 1 hygiene kit and 2 jerry cans. Mattresses will be distributed to vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women, disabled and elderly people.

**Table 2.** Relief items distributed by Jamaica Red Cross as of 12 November 2012 from pre-positioned stocks.

Parish	Jerry cans	Tarpaulins	Mattresses	Flashlights	Blankets	Cleaning kits	Mosquito nets	Hygiene kits	Food parcels	Kitchen kits	Stoves	Rain boots	Rain coats
Clarendon	100	50	10	10	-	20	20	80	-	-	50	-	-
St Elizabeth		10	-	-	-	-	-		-			-	-
St Catherine	15	50	-	20	-	25	-	30	-	15	5	12	12
Portland	310	450	30	-	320	100	200	360	150	200		6	12
St Mary		265	10	-	300	40	-	50	100	-	-	31	30
St Thomas	310	500	15	-	490	50	400	260	200	250	-	12	12
<b>Total</b>	735	1,325	65	30	1,110	235	620	780	450	465	55	61	66

**Challenges:** The lack of 4x4 vehicles has delayed the finalization of assessments in most remote areas. The funding has not been fast enough to cover the cost for budget, the funds necessary will be sent later this week. Mega V training has not been given yet due to the lack of funds. This beneficiary registration and distribution training would be essential to improve the effectiveness of JRC beneficiary registration and distribution system. The distribution of relief supplies and supply control movements from point of dispatch to end user have been improved in the past days with the collaboration of the National Society and RIT deployed.

#### 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	Activities planned
50 safer houses (earthquake, hurricane and flood resistant) are built for the most vulnerable families.	<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- later when implementation of the build back better safer houses initiative to build earthquake-hurricane-flood resistant improved housing.</li> </ul>

**Outcome:** To provide safer schools in affected areas.

3 primary schools retrofitted with hurricane resistant roofs.	<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>
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**Outcome:** To support youth violence prevention in the affected schools.

Violence prevention campaigns (3) implemented in target schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JRC youth teams perform violence prevention campaigns in 3 affected schools in target areas.</li> </ul>
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**Progress:** Assessment of damages and identification of potential beneficiaries meeting criteria identified in the appeal has been recorded. Final beneficiary selection will be finalized after the assessments are completed.

**Challenges:** The National Society has not been able to start the Safer Houses housing output according to the work plan, as there is a funding gap of CHF 353,464. This is a priority need for funding as hundreds of people are still homeless and living in their relatives or neighbours homes.

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

<b>Outcome:</b> Dengue preventive measures are implemented in the affected areas after hurricane Sandy to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities planned</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 ECV (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 logo).</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 members in St Thomas, St Mary and Portland.</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>

**Progress:** Cleaning campaigns of vector breeding sites are ongoing. Six hundred and twenty mosquito nets from prepositioned stock have been distributed and 3,000 more will be arriving from the IFRC warehouse in Panama on 18 November.

**Challenges:** As the soil is currently saturated and further rains have worsened the situation in St. Mary parish, the possibility of increases in vectoral and diarrhetic diseases is increased. Activities under vector campaigns will be started with the first transfer of funds.

#### Early-recovery

<b>Outcome:</b> 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</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The most vulnerable receive immediate assistance for livelihoods through micro-economic initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection of 500 targeted beneficiaries (see criteria below).</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>

**Progress:** Livelihood data is being collected during the assessments in order to begin selection of the 500 targeted beneficiaries.

**Challenges:** The funding gap (CHF163,550) existing under this appeal for early-recovery, prevent the National Society from initiating the activities under this appeal work plan. The families that have lost their subsistence crops and livelihoods, have increased food insecurity and will worsen the families situation in upcoming months if this outcome is not started in the next couple of weeks.

### Logistics

**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.

Outputs	Activities planned
Enhanced logistics capacity and technical support facilitate the distribution of relief items to 1,000 families and other related activities.	<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 international procurement</li> <li>• Pipeline management of in-kind goods.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The IFRC's zone Logistics Unit is supporting the emergency operation not only with the dispatch of relief items through the emergency appeal, but also with the pipeline management of goods imported to Jamaica. A shipment of non-food relief items has been sent to Jamaica and will arrive in port on 18 November. Part of the shipment will be to replenish the contingency stock of JRC and the balance will be distributed to beneficiaries.

**Challenges:** Due to strikes in the Panama harbour during October 2012, shipment to Jamaica was delayed due to long queuing lists for shipments. The stocks were sent out with the first shipment possible, and will be arriving in Kingston on 18 November.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public information

**Outcome:** Emergency Communications.

Outputs	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>

**Progress:** Two beneficiary stories have been produced, one by a JRC staff and one by the RIT delegate. One has been published on 9 November and the other one has been transmitted to public affairs of IFRC Americas zone and to the Canadian Red Cross Society where the RIT is from, for local awareness.

**Challenges:** None.

### Capacity of the National Society

The Jamaica Red Cross has 120 volunteers mobilized for this operation. Twelve staff members are currently working at headquarters level. A total of 237 Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) members and 26 National Intervention Team (NIT) members are ready to participate in the distribution of relief items. For technical aspects of the operation, the Jamaica Red Cross has experience in working in vector-borne disease prevention campaigns, micro-economic initiative/cash transfer for violence prevention purposes, PSP and Safer Houses. The capacity of the National Society for Safer Houses is evidenced by houses built in 2009 which have withstood Hurricane Sandy.

### Capacity of the IFRC

The International Federation through the DCRER and in coordination with the regional representation for the Caribbean is providing support to the Jamaica Red Cross in organizing the provision of initial relief items, development of a plan of action, logistics and human resources, as needed.

In addition to the disaster response capacities in the Americas zone office, there are experienced resources available in the region, in particular through the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) system which ensures the deployment of specialized personnel to assist a sister National Society. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT)

member who has experience in PMER and relief has been deployed to support the Jamaica Red Cross for this operation on 7 November. In addition, a DM delegate will carry out a monitoring visit in February 2013.

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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.
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