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Message: Tropical Storm Warning for Jamaica discontinued as Gustav passes; Aug 30, 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 3

The Event: Hurricane Gustav, which impacted Jamaica on August 29 as a Tropical Storm, and is now a category 3 hurricane, no longer poses a major threat to Jamaica. Jamaica's Meteorological Service has lifted the Tropical Storm Warning that was in effect for the island. A significant decrease in rainfall has already been observed over eastern parishes and will soon be experienced across the rest of the island. Weather conditions will therefore return to normal today.

The Prognosis: At 1100 am EDT, the center of Hurricane Gustav was located near latitude 21.2 North longitude and 82.1 West or about 185 miles (295 km) East of the western tip of Cuba.

Gustav is getting a little stronger as it moves toward the Northwest near 14 mph (22 km/hr).

Maximum sustained winds are near 125 mph (205 km/hr) with higher gusts. Gustav is a category three hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

NATIONAL RESPONSE: JAMAICA

Communities affected

As at 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, a total of 72 communities have been reported affected to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), most of which are from the parishes of St. Catherine, Kingston and St. Andrew.

Casualties and Injuries

As at 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, there have been four (4) confirmed deaths due to Gustav in Jamaica, with several persons still missing. There have been no further confirmation of casualties or injuries arising from Hurricane Gustav.

Shelters

As at 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, checks by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) with the Parish Disaster Offices have revealed that there are 1605 persons being housed in 96 shelters island-wide.

Infrastructure

As at 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, the National Works Agency (NWA) has begun clearing roads and restoring access to communities. Work is being done to repair the Kintyre Bridge and the Nutmeg Bridge in August Town, as well as the Westmoreland Bridge in St. Mary.

At 7:32 am EST on Saturday, August 30, 2008, the ODPEM indicated that the situation in Jamaica is such that:

1. There is slow access through the south-south east corridor of the island; and
2. The Banana industry suffered significant damage, with 70-100% major crop loss in parts of the island.

Utilities

As at 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, the Jamaica Public Service Company is currently restoring power supply to their customers island-wide, with priority being given to critical customers.

The National Water Commission has reported that 65% of their systems were affected by the weather situation.

Health

As at 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health continues to offer health care services to the public. Few hospitals reported minor flooding including Port Antonio, Victoria Jubilee and Bellevue Hospitals. Electricity has been restored to a few hospitals are without electricity supply but are using generator. The Ministry continues to respond to health emergencies as well as its surveillance exercise.

Other

As at 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, rapid aerial reconnaissance team has been deployed to assess the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Thomas and St. Mary.

ODPEM has advised the Jamaican population to continue monitoring radio and television stations for further advisories and to avoid areas that are at risk from flooding and landslides. The NEOC continues to be activated.

Needs: At 6:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, ODPEM has provided a preliminary list of its immediate supply requirements, which is appended to the bottom of this Situation Report.

Regional Response:

At 9:00 a.m. EST, August 30, 2008, Jamaica has indicated that the aftermath of Gustav is a Level 1 event, meaning that it is a local incident within a CDERA Participating State, which can be dealt with in the regular operating mode of the emergency services, and for which no regional response required

. The CDERA Coordinating Unit will therefore focus on information sharing duties only.

Regional engineering battalions remain on standby to provide support pending an assessment of the damage by Jamaica's Ministry of Works.

The CDERA Technical Standby Teams have been stood down.

Next Advisory: CDERA will continue to monitor the situation and share Situation Reports as issued by the ODPEM in Jamaica.

Contact Details: The CDERA CU 24hr contact number is 246 425 0386

At 6:08 pm on Friday, August 29, 2008, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) in Jamaica was operational in response to Tropical Storm Gustav. ODPEM has advised that at this time the event is being managed at Level I. This will be reviewed upon completion of the damage assessment and needs analysis. A reconnaissance mission is planned to provide a complete assessment of the situation and determine the actual needs of the country. ODPEM has provided a preliminary needs list.

Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management: Immediate Supply Requirements – Tropical Storm Gustav – August 30 2008

DESCRIPTION	IN STOCK	REQUIREMENT
Tarpaulin	810	9190
Blankets	3172	6828
Cots	3759	6241
Mattress - Single	1081	8919
Emergency Lighting	00	1000
Mattress - Double	710	4290
Hygiene Kits - Children	00	2500
Hygiene Kits – Adult Male/Female	00	3000
Water Container - Family	5583	14417
Plastic Sheeting	467	533
First Aid Kits (100 Man)	63	137
Lanterns - Battery	1596	3404
LPG Butane 2 Burner Gas Stove	113	387
LPG Cylinder	60	440
Pampers (Mixed Sizes)	259	741
Raincoat (Mixed Sizes)	97	403
Meals Ready to Eat MRE')	00	3000
Quick Erect Shelters	00	10
Portable Bathrooms	00	150
Logistics Support for IDA/Areal reconnaissance		