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Information Bulletin

Americas: Hurricane Irma



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Red Cross, Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, British Red Cross overseas branches, Bahamas Red Cross Society, Canadian Red Cross Society, Cuban Red Cross, Dominican Red Cross Society, French Red Cross-PIRAC (Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean), Haiti Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross overseas branches, Norwegian Red Cross, Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), United Nations system agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, OCHA, IOM), DG-ECHO, Pan American Health Organization [PAHO], government of affected countries, USAID/OFDA, DFID, among others.	

This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time. Information bulletins no.1, 2 and 3 are available [here](#).

The Situation

On 11 September, the centre of Tropical Storm Irma was located near latitude 30.3 North, longitude 83.1 West at 11:00 EDT. The centre of Irma is in southwestern Georgia at present. On the forecast track, it will move into eastern Alabama Tuesday morning.

After its passage through Cuba on 9 September, Irma severely impacted northern and central Cuba, causing coastal and river flooding. The extremely powerful and historic hurricane also barrelled through Florida bringing extreme winds, torrential rains and dangerous storm surges.



Photo 1: Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross (ABRC) volunteer support damage and needs assessments in Barbuda after the passage of Hurricane Irma. Source: ABRC.

It should also be noted that Hurricane Jose (Category 2) was located near latitude 26.4 North, longitude 69.2 West. Jose is moving toward the north near 19 km/h. A turn toward the southeast is expected for Tuesday night and Wednesday. Jose expected to weaken as it meanders far Northeast of the Bahamas for the next couple of days.

Initial damage and needs assessments are ongoing for the affected countries and territories. Preliminary reports indicate the most severely affected are **Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Saint Martin, St Maarten, Saint Barthélemy and Turks and Caicos Islands**. At least 25 people have been reported dead, several injured and severe damage to major infrastructure, health centres, loss of electricity, and limited access to clean water. Figures are expected to rise as damage and needs assessments continue in several countries.



Antigua and Barbuda

Damage and needs

Comments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical facilities including roads and communications systems remain ravaged. • In Barbuda, electricity and water services are not operational while the island's only school has been damaged and classes are suspended¹. • 50% of the population of Barbuda has been rendered homeless. • 1,300 Barbudan evacuees registered by the Government as of September 9; but unregistered evacuees are present on Antigua². 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross (ABRC) is conducting assessments and distributing relief items in the collective centres. • With support from USAID/OFDA³, ABRCS is distributing relief items—such as mattresses, hygiene kits, and clean-up kits—to 1,000 hurricane-affected people in Antigua and Barbuda. • ABRC has also opened a Hurricane Irma Relief Fund to receive donations to support relief efforts in Barbuda. • Partners of ABRC include: TickeTing, The Halo Foundation, Inc., Nods- Antigua, Government of Antigua and Barbuda, USAID, the UN Refugee Agency and IFRC. • DG-ECHO has contributed EUR 18,000, AECID EUR 10,000 to the replenishment of the initial DREF allocated to Antigua and Barbuda. • IFRC is deploying surge support for assessments to the islands to support assessments (cash transfer programming). Also, a communications surge staff is also in Antigua to support the ABRC.
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Saint Kitts and Nevis

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 10% of houses suffered minor damages. • The Ministry of Agriculture reported light to medium damage to tree crops and livestock, but potentially costly. Damage to green houses and fences reported. • The airport is open, but there is significant damage to property and infrastructure, as well repeated power failures. • Schools are expected to reopen on Tuesday. • Concerns about the risk of vector and waterborne diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society (SKNRCS) is conducting rapid damage assessments. • Red Cross volunteers will work alongside the community to reduce the risk of epidemic outbreaks. • Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) continues active to coordinate relief activities. • AECID has contributed EUR 10,000 to the replenishment of the initial DREF allocated to St. Kitts and Nevis. • IFRC is deploying surge support to the islands to support assessments (cash transfer programming).

The IFRC launched a joint [Emergency Appeal for Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis](#)⁴. More than **50 percent** of this operation is dedicated to provide cash transfers (CTP) to the affected population to contribute to the restoring of the local economy and to re-establish households' structures.



British Overseas Territories

[British Red Cross appeal](#) open for Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, and Turks & Caicos. The UK Government will match public donations to the British Red Cross appeal. The three affected branches prepared for the hurricane by activating their contingency plans and checklists. They are coordinating with their governments.

The British Red Cross is monitoring the situation, and is deploying two Psychosocial Support Team members and 6 emergency response team members to the affected areas. However, airport access remains unclear so it is not possible to give an arrival date in country at this time.

¹ UNICEF: <http://reliefweb.int/report/turks-and-caicos-islands/unicef-beefs-response-survivors-hurricane-irma-yet-another-deadly>

² USAID/OFDA, Fact Sheet 4: <http://reliefweb.int/report/antigua-and-barbuda/caribbean-hurricanes-fact-sheet-4-fiscal-year-fy-2017>

³ USAID/OFDA, Fact Sheet 3: <http://reliefweb.int/report/antigua-and-barbuda/caribbean-hurricanes-fact-sheet-3-fiscal-year-fy-2017>

⁴ For current contributions to this Appeal please view the [Donors' Response List](#) and [IFRC Dashboard](#) as information is updated daily.

The British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands and Anguilla Branches all have a satellite phone and can offer short calls to those wanting to contact relatives. Enquiries are being received by other British Red Cross Overseas Branches regarding relatives in the affected areas. British Red Cross is unable to do active tracing on the ground currently due to disrupted communications, but it will be working to support efforts in this regard once communications are re-established.

Anguilla

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 deaths confirmed. • Numerous persons have lost their homes, belongings and vehicles. • 3 damaged shelters. There is damage to homes, schools, government building, vehicles, heavy equipment, fuel stations, and businesses across the island is extensive. • Access to telecommunication services and electricity have been disrupted. • Hospital limited operations capability. • 80-90% school's premises affected. • No running water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Cross volunteers are carrying out assessment and supporting relief activities in coordination with local authorities. • RFA Mounts Bay has delivered 6 tonnes of emergency aid - rebuilt and secured the EOC - restored power to the hospital - reinforced shelters - cleared the runway at the airport⁵.

British Virgin Islands

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments reported severe and critical damage. • 7 deaths (RC DMIS report) • Power is out across the Islands, communications are down, roads are blocked, and only one hospital is operational • Reports of looting and damage to a prison that has breached security • The department of Disaster Management building has been badly damaged and they are working from the hospital. • Severe damage to houses. • Airport is only operational for military supply flights. • Shelters are cramped during the night and cannot take more people and are lacking some basic necessities. Lots of unofficial shelters are coming up for people to stay at night. • Anagoda is the most concerned island. • Urgent needs: Food, drinking water; blankets and tarps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Red Cross is supporting search and rescue, first aid, needs assessments and shelter activities. 4 persons rescued. • Roof of RC office building and multiple vehicles destroyed. • RC volunteer estimates that 50% or more of the population is displaced - staying with families or in shelters. • RC volunteers: about 9 active - 4 are in the RC office and 3 in shelters. • RC attended briefing meeting with Governor. • Stocks: RC gave out all their stocks after the floods and remaining since the storm. • RFA Mounts Bay has cleared roads, including to the police station - provided further support in the British Virgin Islands. • British Ministry of Defence ship arrived to the BVI and brought relief items to support. • A helicopter is being sent to the British Virgin Islands from Cayman Islands to map the damage.
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Turks and Caicos

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial assessments have reported damage to police stations and collective centres in South Caicos. • Power and internet are down • The airport and the sea port are closed. • Electricity supplies has failed on Grand Turk, which means water production was also out. • Worst affected areas: South Caicos, Salt Cay (completely under water), Grand Turks, some areas in Provo such as Five Keys. • Some security issues on the roads at night. • Assessments of hurricane-related damages and needs remained ongoing as of 10 September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Red Cross (BRC) pre-positioned by boat & air some of their supplies to the smaller islands and actively gave out sandbags to the public. Additional relief items requested from BRC HQ. • 2 BRC delegates deployed on 10 September to Antigua until access is possible to Turks and Caicos Islands to support assessment and response planning. • RC volunteers are supporting damage and needs assessments. • For all its Overseas Territories affected, the UK government deployed human resources (staff, marines, engineers, medics and specialists) and relief supplies (shelter tool kits, solar lanterns, buckets and rations). • Canadian RC has dispatched relief items for 500 families in coordination with BRC.
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The Bahamas

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airports remain closed. • Officials warn that there could be delays in disaster relief while some government agencies are cut off from communications. • National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported limited damage—including to telecommunications equipment, roads, and other infrastructure—in the southern Bahamas islands, following the passage of Hurricane Irma⁶. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With USAID/OFDA support, the Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS) is providing emergency relief items to 3,000 hurricane-affected people in The Bahamas. • The BRCS has on hand several volunteers who are packing food parcels and other items for distribution once initial assessments are complete.

⁵ UK Government update, 10 September 2017: <http://reliefweb.int/report/british-virgin-islands/hurricane-irma-uk-government-actions-update-10-september-2017>

⁶ USAID/OFDA, Fact Sheet 3: <http://reliefweb.int/report/antigua-and-barbuda/caribbean-hurricanes-fact-sheet-3-fiscal-year-fy-2017>

- Some structural damage reported in the southern Bahamas Islands. Damage assessments following Hurricane Jose ongoing⁷.
- Per a NEMA request, USAID/OFDA plans to support an initial overland flight to evaluate damages and related needs in the southern Bahamas once weather conditions allow.



Cuba

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irma had severely impacted northern and central Cuba. • 10 deaths confirmed⁸ in the areas of La Habana, Matanzas, Camagüey and Ciego de Ávila. • Most affected provinces: Habana, Mayabeque and Matanzas. • Reports of massive destruction to major crops such as sugarcane and plantain and poultry farms.⁹ • More than 1 million people have been evacuated specially from the municipalities in the northern coastline in Central and eastern Cuba. • In Havana, preliminary reports indicate severe impact. Many flooded streets and buildings have shifted after strong waves from the sea hit them. One of the most affected areas is the Centro Habana municipality affected by flooding and damages to housing. • Significant damage to houses and public infrastructure, reported particularly in Guantánamo's Baracoa city. • More information on damages and needs are expected to come in as assessments are ongoing. • Damages to schools are reported in 7 municipalities in Villa Clara (Caibarién, Remedios, Camajuani, Encrucijada, Sagua la Grande, Quemado de Güines and Corralillo). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,340 CRC volunteers deployed throughout the country, providing first aid, psychosocial support and helping families restore contacts with their relatives and people who they cannot locate after the hurricane. • CRC is supporting the Government with search and rescue. • In the Ciego de Avila province, CRC teams evacuated more than 1,000 seniors living in care centres. In Las Tunas, RC teams focused their activities on relief and rescue as rivers overflow and flooding endangers the people in this province. • 571 aid and response groups active on the ground now providing services throughout the country. • IFRC Communications delegate deployed to Cuba and supporting the Cuban Red Cross (CRC). Additional IFRC delegates on stand-by to be deployed to support the CRC with assessments and to coordinate further Movement response mechanisms. • The Norwegian Red Cross has deployed its Deputy Regional Representative for the Americas to Cuba to support the CRC. • The Government of Cuba deployed armed forces, medical staff, and search-and-rescue teams to support initial response activities and has identified 40,000 metric tons (MT) of food available to assist hurricane-affected households. Authorities have also distributed chlorine and is conducting activities to clean sewage and collect solid waste throughout affected provinces. • UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, FAO, PAHO) and other agencies (ECHO) are coordinating with the Government to support response efforts and deploy staff to support assessments.



Dominican Republic

Damage and needs	Comments
<p>As per the situation report no. 10 of the Government of the Dominican Republic.¹⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow alert remains in place for the Montecristi province. • Green Alert remains for provinces of San Cristobal, Peravia, San José de Ocoa and Azua¹¹. • There are reports of localized flooding, blocked roads, damage to buildings and fallen power cables in some coastal communities; electrical supply and phone networks are down in some areas • 993 houses affected • 1,474 persons displaced with relatives • 98 people in collective shelters • 15 isolated communities • 58 aqueducts damaged, affecting 1, 452,006 users. • 5 provinces on alert¹² • Livelihoods in affected communities are anticipated to be an area of need when recovery efforts begin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search and rescue operations, first aid and psychosocial support are on-going in Nagua, Santiago, Bajo Yuna and the east regions. Teams are on standby to provide support to vulnerable communities. • Dominican Red Cross (DRC) volunteers are supporting national and local authorities in shelter management and providing support to hurricane-affected populations. DRC specialized teams including Epidemic Control for Volunteers and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion are being mobilized to the affected areas. • Canadian Red Cross are also in country supporting the DRC with assessments. • IFRC has set its health response roster on standby. The roster is composed of IFRC regional staff located in different countries, including staff from the Zika Caribbean project. • The Government deployed search and rescue personnel. • Ministry of Agriculture is coordinating rapid damage assessments.

⁷ USAID/OFDA, Fact Sheet 4: <http://reliefweb.int/report/antigua-and-barbuda/caribbean-hurricanes-fact-sheet-4-fiscal-year-fy-2017>

⁸ Government of Cuba, information note 11-Sept: <http://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/nota-informativa-del-estado-mayor-nacional-de-la-defensa-civil-sobre-fallecidos>

⁹ OCHA, Situation Report no. 4- 10 Sep: <http://reliefweb.int/report/antigua-and-barbuda/caribbean-hurricane-irma-situation-report-no-04-10-september-2017>

¹⁰ Government of the Dominican Republic: <http://www.coe.gob.do/index.php/boletines?download=238:informe-de-situacion-no-9-huracan-irma-domingo-10-de-septiembre-hora-11-00-am>

¹¹ Government of the Dominican Republic, 10-Sept.: <http://www.coe.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/236-coe-disminuye-alertas-instituciones-asisten-a-ciudadanos>

¹² Dominica Republic National EOC, Situation Report no. 9 – 10-Sept.: <http://www.coe.gob.do/index.php/boletines?download=238:informe-de-situacion-no-9-huracan-irma-domingo-10-de-septiembre-hora-11-00-am>

French Overseas Territories

French Red Cross [appeal for donations](#) is active to support the Caribbean Regional Intervention Platform (PIRAC) in the French territories. Additional actions by the FRC include:

- A French Red Cross Restoring Family Links team landed in Guadeloupe; they are setting up their systems, and they should be deployed to St Martin soon. This teams joins the surge support deployed (25 volunteers) in previous days waiting to reach Saint Martin and Saint Barthélemy.
- Guadeloupe and Martinique branches mobilizing volunteers for assistance to Saint Martin.

St Barthélemy

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread flooding and power outages. Several homes have been damaged and roofs blown off. • Need for water and food reported 	

Saint Martin

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access to the island is now possible¹³. • The island's jail was reportedly destroyed and its 250 inmates remained at large and there have been reports of looting. Security concerns around health care facilities and medical stocks¹⁴. • Widespread flooding and destruction of livelihoods, housing and infrastructure • At least 10 deaths, more than 110 injuries, and widespread infrastructure damage across the island of St. Martin. The governments of France and the Netherlands have deployed emergency response teams to support relief efforts in Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten. • 95% of the territory's infrastructure suffered damages. • Need for water and food reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Red Cross volunteers were among the first humanitarian teams to arrive to Saint Martin by boat jointly with member of civil protection and police forces. • RC volunteers established a logistics base to facilitate coordination and relief activities. • 300 family kits have been deployed (for 1,200 affected people). • French Red Cross also mobilized its Restoring Family Links services. • PAHO personnel (2 members) deployed.
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Haiti

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial reports indicate extensive damage to agricultural fields, livestock and banana plantations in the affected areas. • The St. Thomas Hospital in Haiti suffered structural damage and is undergoing repairs. • Immediate needs identified in affected areas include: mattresses, potable water, cleaning of drains and latrines, and medication. <p>Caracol (Nord Est):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 houses flooded • 2 collective centres opened: Ecole Efrata (38 persons); Ecole Presbyteral (246 persons) <p>Ferier (Nord Est):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 houses flooded • 39 houses with minor damages • 3 neighbourhoods are flooded: Merande, Latasse, Bedoux. • 2 collective centres opened with 282 people. <p>Ouanaminthe (Nord Est):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 houses flooded. • 14 flooded houses in Gallard, Oliviers Vertiers, Plaine de Rose, DiLaire, Remise Village. • 3 collective centres: EFACAP (362 families); Lycee Capois La Mort (67 people); Vapor (84 people) and Dilair Church (48 people) • 1 child is missing • 3 injuries <p>Fort-liberte/Malfety (Nord Est)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 380 houses, 3 schools and 1 church flooded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments are ongoing by several humanitarian organizations in coordination with the Government of Haiti. • The following institutions are present in the affected areas: Haiti Red Cross Society (HRCS), Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action (MJSAC), Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC); municipal government, UNICEF, Oxfam, Caritas, International Organization for Migration (IOM), WFP, UNFPA, ADRA International, FAO, Plan International, • HRCS mobilized resources jointly with Movement partners' support (American, Canadian, German, Spanish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and ICRC). • American Red Cross: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conducted rapid assessments in the four most affected communes in Nord Est (Ferrier, Fort-Liberté/Malféty, Ouanaminthe and Caracol); these were joint assessments with the Haiti Red Cross Society, DPC, Oxfam, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), UNICEF and Plan Haiti. ○ Distribution of non-food items (NFIs) done on 9 September in the commune of Fort Liberte ○ A quick assessment done in the localities of Petite Anse, Milot and Vertiers (Cap-Haitian), North that is severely affected to allow for a future distribution ○ Evaluation started on all 5 municipalities identified by the Regional Committee of the Red Cross and priorities by the Government (DPC and Partners) as the most affected in the North West. ○ Evaluation in 4 localities in Port-de-Paix: 3 at vulnerables localité-s Nan Palan, Dèyè TiPoòdpè and Haut Fourneau 6th communal section Paulin la Corne

¹³ French Red Cross: <http://www.croix-rouge.fr/Actualite/Ouragan-Irma/Les-secours-arrivent-a-Saint-Martin-2143>

¹⁴ OCHA: <http://reliefweb.int/report/antigua-and-barbuda/caribbean-hurricane-irma-situation-report-no-04-10-september-2017>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 collective centres: National School of Malfety and Dispensaire with 3,384 people. 	<p>(Port de Paix) and 1 for the municipality of Anse-à-Foleur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among the 19 shelters that have been put in place the great north in Gran Nò Pi Djanm Program 9GNPD), 4 is been used in the North-West in the commune of Baie de Henne. Distribution in the locality of Malfet in the commune of Fort-Liberte, 45 hygiene kits, 57 cholera kits- Number of families reaches 57. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRCS and Movement partners are participating in the departmental emergency operations centre (EOC) meeting with humanitarian partners and governmental authorities
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Netherlands Overseas Territories

The Netherlands Red Cross [Safe and Well](#) website has been launched to facilitate the communication inside the disaster affected areas to family members. At present, the Netherlands Red Cross cannot yet conduct active tracing on the ground.

Saba

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent water, food and fuel shortages Government of Saba communicated to have water left for 1 day Marines are deployed to support in clearing rubble and making roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Saba and Statia, Red Cross volunteers were active in shelter management during Hurricane Jose. On Saba, volunteers have also been active in distribution of relief goods.

St Marteen

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many buildings suffered extensive damage, large parts of the population are effectively homeless. Water provision is not functional and electricity has very limited coverage. Security situation is especially worrying. The military is attempting to improve this with presence of military at checkpoints. Safety situation is starting to show signs of improvement but is still unstable. Local government is not fully operational in St Maarten The communication infrastructure has been damaged but it is partly functioning. Air traffic is getting more regular. Airport and harbour still not fully operational but airport is improving. Hospital severely damaged, manned but not fully functional, patients have been evacuated to St. Eustatius by military. Limited staff and limited generator power. Hospital management has indicated the hospital can only be expected to be operational for a further 2 days. The pharmacy is non-functional. Priority Government/defence is bringing water and food to the island. On 11 September, vast amount of drinking water and food supplies will be distributed. Canada, Venezuela, Argentina have been granted permission to evacuate their citizens. Netherlands is also evacuating citizens from other countries. Damage from hurricane Jose is minor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team of 5 delegates from the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) transported on Sunday 10 September by military plane to St Maarten. 2 teams of 12 emergency response volunteers are also on route. More relief items including ready to eat meals, shelter toolkits and tarps will be transported from the Netherlands shortly. NLRC teams expect on Monday preliminary health assessment. Based on this the NLRC will develop its health intervention. NLRC is also scaling up on shelter and Restoring Family Links. The Ministry of Defence of The Netherlands deployed 2 marine vessels and 1 coastguard vessel who provided water, food, but supplies are running low. Roads are being cleared where possible.
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United States of America and its territories

American Red Cross:

- The American Red Cross has a massive relief effort underway across multiple states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to help people in the path of Hurricane Irma's fury. Relief efforts stretch from the U.S. Virgin Islands through Florida to the mid-Atlantic region. A [donation campaign](#) is active on its website to support affected areas. The American Red Cross [Safe and Well website](#) is active as well.
 - The American Red Cross has committed USD 100,000 to assist in meeting the immediate needs of those affected by Hurricane Irma on the island nations.
- Further information provided by American Red Cross below:

Puerto Rico

Damage and needs	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage and needs assessments are ongoing High-speed winds and rains have left more than a million people without power and tens of thousands without water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Defence (DoD) resources on the scene and working to open relief item pipelines and provide logistical support.

Reports from the island include flash flooding and hospitals forced to rely on generators.

- Preliminary damage assessment indicates almost 500 homes received major damage with some still inaccessible.
- **More than a million people are without power**
- Air traffic has resumed, with some airports only allowing relief flights for coordination.
- Several thousand people remain in emergency shelters and that rescue teams are still searching for missing people.
- 154 people spent last night in 6 evacuation centres.

- Red Cross workers are there now to help provide food, shelter and comfort to those affected. The Red Cross is also working in close collaboration with local officials and community partners to coordinate response efforts.
- Ahead of the storm, the Red Cross sent additional blood products to areas of the Southeast including Puerto Rico likely to be impacted by the storm and we are prepared to send more to ensure patient needs continue to be met.

United States Virgin Islands (USVI)

- Damage and needs assessments are ongoing
- Preliminary reports cite extensive damage to homes and buildings, as well as destroyed schools.
- Many roads are inaccessible.
- No power available on St. John, St. Thomas, most of St. Croix
- Hospitals damaged and patients being relocated
- Four people are confirmed to have died in the US Virgin Islands, and authorities in the United States are expecting the toll to rise
- Heavy damage is reported on the U.S. Virgin Islands. Many are without power, food and water.

- A public health emergency and a state of emergency have been declared in the US Virgin Islands.
- **Dozens of American Red Cross workers are there now to help provide food, shelter and comfort to those affected**, with additional Red Cross disaster workers and relief supplies are on the way.
- The Red Cross is also working in close collaboration with local officials and community partners to coordinate response efforts.

Continental United States

- The storm is not over in Florida.
- Today, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina could see heavy rain from Irma.
- **More than 6M people without power across Florida and Georgia**, and utility companies are working to turn the power back on.
- Some 23 area hospitals are closed.
- In Florida, **more than 6.3 million people were asked to evacuate.**
- The storm's threat extends miles inland toward Alabama and Tennessee and up the East Coast.
- Overnight an estimated **208,000** people sought refuge from Hurricane Irma in as many as **680** government and Red Cross evacuation centres across **6** states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This includes-
 - In **Florida**, an estimated 200,100 people in 587 evacuation centres.
 - In **Georgia**, more than 6,500 people in over 40 evacuation centres.
 - In **Alabama**, about 40 people in 16 evacuation centres.
 - In **South Carolina**, about 660 people in 23 evacuation centres.
 - On the **U.S. Virgin Islands**, almost 380 people in 6 evacuation centres.
 - In **Puerto Rico**, 154 people in 6 evacuation centres.
 - In **Tennessee**, 131 people in 4 evacuation centres.
 - In **North Carolina**, 33 people in 4 evacuation centres.

- The American Red Cross (ARC) is working side by side with its partners, to provide safe refuge and support to Floridians forced from their homes by the largest evacuation in state history.
- **More than 1,800 Red Cross workers are responding to Irma now, with 400 more on the way.**
- The Red Cross is deploying truckloads of relief supplies to support this response effort.
- 100 emergency response vehicles activated for Irma.
- The Red Cross is also working in close collaboration with government officials and community partners in multiple states to coordinate response efforts.
- The Red Cross in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Maryland is also monitoring the storm and preparing to respond if necessary.
- The Red Cross provided comfort, blankets and hygiene items for families in the evacuation centres. On 10 September, Red Cross disaster workers conducted damage assessment.
- The Red Cross pre-positioned additional blood products and stocked many of our hospital partners to capacity in areas of the Southeast likely to be impacted by the storm.

IFRC actions

- Orange alert declared
- **Information Dashboard on Irma and Jose [available here](#).**
- At least 7 surge staff are currently deployed. On 12 September, 2 specialists in cash transfer will be deployed (1 Regional Intervention Team member – RIT to St Kitts and Nevis, and a Spanish Red Cross delegate to Antigua & Barbuda).
- In the upcoming days, 3 additional RITs will be deployed: 1 general RIT (St Kitts and Nevis), 1 psychosocial support (Antigua & Barbuda), 1 CTP (Antigua & Barbuda), as well 1 FACT for shelter (Antigua & Barbuda).
- Continuous monitoring Tropical Storm Irma as well as Hurricane Jose for its destructive potential.
- Regular updates on forecasts for Irma and Jose are shared with Movement and external partners.
- Pre-positioning of non-food items ongoing for following Red Cross National Societies: Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis.
- Coordination is ongoing with IFRC country cluster offices based in Port Au Prince and Port of Spain.
- Contact and coordination with all Red Cross National Societies affected by the passages of the storms, Overseas branches of the British, French and Netherland Red Cross Societies located in affected territories. Coordination is in place with IFRC technical departments in Geneva to facilitate information sharing and support.

- IFRC Health team is following up with the health focal points at the affected National Societies to gather updates of the situation in terms of health.
- **The International Committee of the Red Cross, American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross are also supporting and coordinating the response efforts through their staff present in Panama.**
- IFRC is also sharing key messages to the affected population and with Red Cross National Societies.
- Technical support provided to the different documents/plans developed in the context of the emergency.
- In addition, to the Emergency Appeal for Antigua & Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis, two DREFs have been approved.



Photo 2: Haiti Red Cross Society volunteers conducting damage and needs assessments in Anse à Foleur. Source: HRCS

		
Country	Haiti	Dominican Republic
Type	DREF	DREF
Budget	CHF298,588	CHF298,588
Beneficiaries	10,000	10,000
Replenishments	ECHO: EUR 50,000 AECID: EUR 30,000	ECHO: EUR 90,000 AECID: EUR 30,000

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 (NGOs) 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.

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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