



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Operations 2008

Red Cross Response to the 2008 Hurricane Season

**International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies
Caribbean Regional Office**



International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies:

187 National Societies (16 in the Caribbean + 16 Overseas Branches)

**Federation Regional or Country Offices
(Caribbean Office in PoS, Trinidad)**

7 Zonal Offices (Americas Zone in Panama)

Zonal Disaster Management Unit (PADRU based in Panama)

Secretariat in Geneva



Key Components of Caribbean Red Cross Disaster Management System:

- 1. Based on National Society Response – working as auxiliary to Government**
- 2. Supporting system linking Community, National, Regional and International response mechanisms**
- 3. Based on standardized training & tools (Preparedness, Response & Recovery)**
- 4. Dedicated surge capacity (human, material and financial)**
- 5. Volunteer based**



Community Level:

- **First-Aid training**
- **Vulnerability & Capacity Assessments**
- **Micro mitigation projects** (eg hurricane straps, drainage ditches, shelter shutters, etc.)
- **Community Disaster Response Teams** (made up of local stakeholders)
- **Community Disaster Response Plans** (roles and responsibilities, resources, contact information, evacuation plans, etc.)
- **Local simulations**



What this meant in the 2008 Hurricane Season:

- **Jamaica RC activated 14 CDRT in preparation for Gustav**
- **Bahamas alerted its newly trained CDRTs on Long Island prior to Ike**
- **Cuba activated 448 CDRTs with 1,376 volunteers**

South Long Island CDRT prior to the storms -
checked on the elderly,
liaised with the local police, NEMA and Red Cross keeping them up to date on activities,
put on shutters,
got ply wood materials for others without shutters,
secured water for the shelters.
helped bus the vulnerable to the shelters,
helped these persons return safely to their homes after etc. etc. etc”.



National Level:

- **Red Cross National Intervention Teams**
- **MoUs developed with Government**
- **Warehousing / Pre positioning stocks**
- **Communication equipment**
- **Virtual Warehousing**
- **Red Cross response plans**
- **Simulations**



What this meant in the 2008 Hurricane Season:



- **All Red Cross Societies were active in the National EOC**
- **Initial relief goods were moved from central warehouses and were the first goods to be distributed**



Regional Level

- **Federation (PADRU) Relief and logs capacity**
- **RITS – Regional Responders**
- **CDERA – CDM Framework**
- **Pre Hurricane Meeting**
- **Regional RC DM Network**



What this meant in the 2008 Hurricane Season:

- **Relief goods from PADRU**
 - 6 flights
 - 11 ships
- **Deployment of Regional Personnel:**
 - Turks & Caicos - RITS from Belize, 2 PADRU,
 - Bahamas – RITS from America, Jamaica, plus PADRU
 - Haiti – 2 RITS, 4 PADRU





International level:

- **International Appeal System**
- **Disaster Response Emergency Fund**
- **Field Assessment and Coordination Teams**
- **Emergency Response Units** (health, logistics, hospitals, watsan etc)
- **Disaster Management Information System**



What this meant in the 2008 Hurricane Season:

- **In Haiti –**
 - **The Cluster system was activated**
 - **Deployment of International Assessment and Coordination Team**
 - **5 ERUs**
- **3 International Appeals were launched totalling 17,822,200 USD**



What this means:

**More than 130,000
people have been
provided with
direct support
from the Red
Cross in the
Caribbean in the
last 3 months.**



Thank you