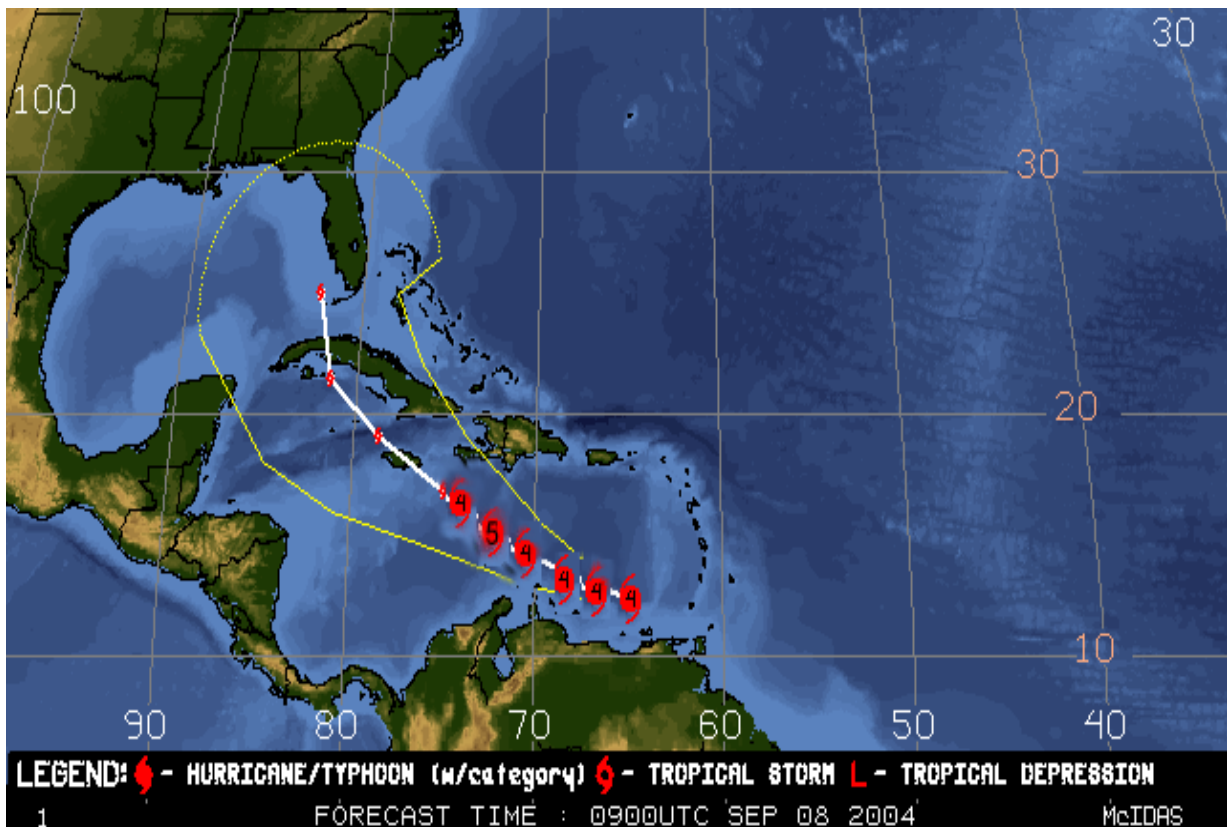


HURRICANE IVAN

Caribbean Crisis Appeal

12 SEPTEMBER 2004



UNICEF Crisis Appeal – Hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean Islands

ISSUE:

Hurricane Ivan, the ninth tropical storm in a record season of disasters, rolled into the Eastern Caribbean on 2 September 2004 with devastating impact. As of this writing, the hurricane has killed over 60 people and displaced or left homeless over 80,000 persons to date, mainly in Grenada but also in Jamaica, the Cayman Islands Barbados, St Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago and the northern coast of Venezuela. The trajectory of the storm is now expected to take it over the western portion of Cuba. Hurricane Ivan is the sixth strongest storm ever to have hit the region, according to the National Hurricane Center and is likely to be the most damaging natural disaster to affect the Caribbean since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988.

- Grenada: In only two hours' passage over the island, the hurricane wreaked "total devastation" according to UNICEF's Caribbean Area Office Representative, Jean Gough, on the ground in Grenada since 9 September. Fully 90% of houses and buildings were flattened; basic infrastructure and services have been interrupted; the prison was destroyed and all inmates escaped; widespread looting and insecurity ensued. Neighbouring CARICOM islands including Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago dispatched troops to re-establish order and a 24 hour curfew has been imposed in major towns. An estimated 60% of the 102,000 population has been displaced, and is struggling to cope without roofs, water, electricity, food, transportation, or basic amenities. Between 5,000 and 8,000 persons are living in shelters. Virtually all supplies and equipment were lost or water-damaged during the hurricane, leaving the population in immediate need of water, food, medicines, construction materials and basic relief items (blankets, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, kitchen utensils, etc.). The Prime Minister, whose own home was destroyed, declared a national disaster on 8 September 2004.
- Other Windward Islands: Some 200 homes were destroyed in the south of Barbados. Flooding interrupted schools in Trinidad, which had only initiated the academic year one week before. The centre and west of the island have been the most affected. Tobago had electricity cut off for days, and still has 30% of the population without power. The storm destroyed the roof of the principal hospital of St. Vincent, damaging structure and equipment. St. Lucia was slightly affected, particularly in terms of crops and farmland. Surging waves and heavy rainfall affected coastal populations as far south as Venezuela.
- Jamaica: The hurricane made landfall on 10 September as a category 5 storm, bringing with it high winds and storm surges. Although the storm shifted west, sparing Kingston a direct hit, the storm forced up to 15,000 people to seek refuge in 285 emergency shelters throughout the island. Communities and social infrastructure have been particularly hard hit on the western part of the island. Roads remain blocked by debris hindering humanitarian assessments. Incidents of looting have been reported.

- Other islands potentially affected: Haiti, the poorest country in the hemisphere, has minimal disaster management even in the best of times. At present, with an interim government and United Nations forces (MINUSTAH) still battling civil unrest, and what little resources available directed toward the recent flood disaster in south-central Haiti, the country's emergency response capacity is even further weakened. The Dominican Republic, although further east of the storm's predicted trajectory, may well receive excessive rainfall, flooding and sea surges from the outer edges of the hurricane. While Cuba is historically among the best prepared societies in the region in terms of natural disaster, the country has been recently debilitated by the passage of Hurricane Charley, less than one month ago. Despite the activities of pre-disaster brigades—evacuating populations, cutting tree limbs, reinforcing structures—the last hurricane caused severe interruptions to water and electricity, and widespread damage to crops, forcing the authorities to dig into emergency food reserves. Hurricane Ivan, coming close on the heels of the last emergency, will likely pose serious threats to the availability of safe water, nutrition and health of vulnerable populations. It is predicted to pass directly over western portion of the island, with grave consequences to residents of Havana.

ACTION:

- UNICEF has been in close contact with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the co-ordinating body for natural disasters in the Eastern Caribbean. Following the Operations Order of the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management (of which UNICEF is a member), UNICEF is participating with CDERA, PAHO, International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), DfID, Oxfam and USAID in the first international mission to Grenada following the passage of Hurricane Ivan. The inter-agency team is currently conducting an assessment of priority relief needs. In Jamaica, UNICEF is working with OCHA and national authorities to ensure a coordinated response to meet current and projected humanitarian needs.
- In conjunction with the IFRC, UNICEF has already airlifted to Grenada basic emergency health supplies sufficient to meet the initial primary health care needs of 5,000 people. In addition, UNICEF has also provided oral rehydration salts, water purification tablets, jerry cans and supplies for the treatment of trauma.
- In Grenada, initial arrangements among the agencies have divided up the sectoral interventions in order to capitalise on technical advantages of each partner. UNICEF has taken the lead in the educational sector to ensure the rapid resumption of schooling through the provision of school -in-a-box kits, tents to serve as temporary schools, and recreational kits for children in shelters. UNICEF will also provide psycho-social rehabilitation for children and families traumatised by the sudden collapse of society on Grenada.
- Two UNICEF staff members, one psychologist/emergency specialist and one public health/education specialist, have been dispatched to Grenada via Barbados, to re-initiate educational systems as quickly as possible, and to ensure the provision of any necessary psycho-social support. UNICEF is also sending water and sanitation

specialists to work with national authorities and other agencies to help repair the water system on which the island depends.

- UNICEF staff has been mobilized from countries throughout the region to provide support in Barbados, Grenada and Jamaica. They will be providing technical assistance on each island affected by the hurricane as access is made possible.
- UNICEF is airlifting emergency health kits, water and sanitation supplies, education materials and other relief items to Jamaica from the UNICEF warehouse in Copenhagen. UNICEF, in conjunction with partners and collaborating agencies, will provide as required essential medicines, immunization cold chain support and vaccination equipment to ensure that basic health emergencies are averted.
- For the 5,000-8,000 Grenadians currently in shelters, and the 10,000-15,000 more in shelters on Jamaica, UNICEF will carry out educational and advocacy activities to protect the rights of children and women in an unstable situation. This is particularly important in light of the high incidence of sexually transmitted disease (including HIV/AIDS), domestic violence, and abuse of children in the sub-region.

IMPACT:

- The initial provision of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and rapid support to the water and sanitation sector will help prevent deaths from dehydration due to diarrhoea, a common phenomenon in post-hurricane emergencies. The rapid importation of significant quantities of health kits, essential medicines and other key health inputs from the UNICEF supply warehouse in Copenhagen will likewise ensure the survival of children in Grenada, Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean.
- Re-starting basic schooling activities in communities affected by the hurricane will be essential to ensure that children's right to education is not abrogated, despite the emergency conditions. This also serves to restore some semblance of normalcy and hope, essential elements for reconstruction.
- Rapid initiation of psycho-social support activities will be vital to avoid the negative impacts on children and families from the disaster. The provision of recreational kits in shelters and the training of adolescents to support the children's psycho-social recovery will begin to achieve that goal.
- Activities to ensure the protection of children's and women's rights, particularly in the context of displaced persons, separated family members and shelter-dwellers, constitutes one of the key elements of UNICEF's action in any emergency situation. Past experience has shown that UNICEF intervention at the level of shelter management, local authorities and national media can have an important impact to prevent sexual abuse, violence and intimidation against children.

OVERALL BUDGET:

This is a first estimate of immediate needs, based on initial assessments in Grenada and Jamaica, as well as forecasts for the remaining trajectory of the hurricane. UNICEF is co-ordinating its response with the other agencies and will also participate in any consolidated appeal prepared by the UN system in which longer term strategies and needs will be identified. The following table includes the cost of items sent to date, initial interventions already planned with partners as well as technical support costs.

Sector	Budget
Health & nutrition	\$350,000
Education	\$350,000
Protection & psycho-social recuperation	\$200,000
Water & sanitation	\$150,000
Communications & logistics	\$200,000
Cross-sectoral support	\$85,000
Sub-total	\$1,335,000
UNICEF indirect programme support cost (12%)*	\$160,200
Total	\$1,495,200

* The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.

Further details of the emergency programme can be obtained from:

Alfredo Missair, UNICEF Deputy Regional Director, TACRO, Panama
Tel: + 507 315-7400 – E-mail: amissair@unicef.org

Olivier Degreef, UNICEF EMOPS, Geneva
Tel: + 41 22 909 5655- Fax: + 41 22 909 5902- E-mail: odegreef@unicef.org

Gary Stahl, UNICEF PFO, New York
Tel: + 1 212 326 7009- Fax: + 1 212 326 7165- E-mail: gstahl@unicef.org

Corporations interested in supporting this appeal should contact UNICEF's Regional Fundraising Manager, David Girling, on tel: +507-315-7400 (ext. 7416) in Panama City

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