

End of grant report

Prepared for the Isle of Man International
Development Committee



Country: Haiti

Project title: Hurricane Matthew emergency appeal

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Summary

Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti on 4 October 2016 as a category four hurricane, causing massive destruction in the areas of Grande-Anse, Sud, Nippes, and Nord-Ouest. Neighbouring countries, including the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, the Bahamas and the eastern coast of the USA were also affected. The hurricane led to extensive flooding and mudslides, electricity and water shortages, and damage to road infrastructure, buildings and agriculture across the Western Caribbean.

Haiti felt the most severe consequences. The government reported 546 deaths and 439 injuries. About **2.1 million** people were affected in total, left in urgent need of shelter, clean water and medical treatment. Many sources of food were destroyed, leaving 850,000 people in urgent need of food assistance.

In the Dominican Republic, more than 36,500 people were evacuated and 3,000 homes were destroyed, flooded or damaged.

More than one million people were evacuated in eastern Cuba. The town of Baracoa was particularly affected and 90 per cent of its houses were damaged.

The Bahamas sustained damage to property and roads as well as experiencing power cuts, whilst Jamaica suffered damage from strong winds and flooding in south eastern parts.



“The destruction we saw was incredible... It was plain to see what this hurricane did to people’s livelihoods, food sources and every aspect of their life.” – Dr Lynda Redwood-Campbell, pictured, IFRC assessment team, among the first to reach many storm-battered areas of Haiti.

Response of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Emergency phase: October – December 2016

Before Hurricane Matthew hit, Red Cross teams were prepared to respond. Evacuation routes had been identified, shelters reinforced, roads stabilised and emergency relief items prepositioned.

Based on Matthew’s predicted path, the Red Cross sent staff and volunteers to areas where the hurricane would likely have an impact. This helped them to quickly and efficiently reach 3,500 families with the relief items that had been pre-positioned in local branches.



14 year-old Mia and her friend Jessie came together to pick up the tarp for their families. “I have to bring the tarp home as soon as possible to help reinforce our roof. But we will not keep the contents of the hygiene kits to ourselves. I want to share it with my neighbours and friends who need it just as much as me” she said.
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The Haiti Red Cross, having a permanent presence in Haiti, carried out first response activities as soon as they could after the hurricane hit – first aid and basic health care for the injured, family reunification for those who had lost their loved ones and psychosocial support in damaged and destroyed communities, as well as distributing relief items. Emergency response teams on standby, from the Red Cross Movement’s global network, were deployed to Haiti the same day Hurricane Matthew hit to help assess the situation, identify the needs and develop an emergency plan of action. These teams identified health, water and sanitation, shelter and livelihoods as sectors requiring interventions. They also conducted market assessments and confirmed that, as the market in Haiti was still functioning, cash transfer programming would be a feasible part of the livelihoods recovery and shelter interventions.

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Erney, 47 years old, smiled as a Haitian Red Cross volunteer helped him carry the tarp and box he’d just received. “Everything back home was broken by the hurricane. As soon as I get home, I will put up the tarp. I am very thankful to Red Cross,” he said.
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with just a few clicks, all the information they could need to make informed decisions about the operation.

During the emergency phase of the operation, the Red Cross Movement distributed emergency relief items to around 42,470 families. This included safe drinking water, food parcels, tarpaulins, jerry cans and buckets, repair tool kits, shelter kits, hygiene kits, cholera sets and cooking materials.

Joseph's story:

Joseph Raymond, 60, has been living in his small home at the top of a hill in the town of Anse D'Hainault with his wife and three children for so long, he cannot remember when he moved there. He is a farmer, and he owns three hectares of land where he cultivates yams, rice and other crops.



However, when Hurricane Matthew passed through Anse D-Hainault, all of his crops were destroyed.

"We had no food. We went digging in the fields to find any yams that were still there," says Raymond.

Raymond and his family received a relief package from the Red Cross, which included hygiene items, some food, water, a kitchen set, two tarps and some tools to repair the home.

Red Cross volunteers then visited Raymond and the people in his neighbourhood to make sure they had secured their tarps properly.

"The tarp is very important for us because we were under the rain before," said Raymond.

The Red Cross was the first organisation to provide assistance to this community since the hurricane struck. Many of the houses in the area collapsed under the strength of Matthew.

"Everyone ran down to the bottom of the hill. The houses were falling," said Joseph.

Most people in his neighbourhood, including his family, were able to find shelter in cars and wait out the storm.

Raymond is thankful for what he received from the Red Cross, he hopes to be able to use the tools to work in his fields, to clear the debris and regrow his crops.

Recovery phase: January 2017 – April 2018



The operation's emergency phase ended early this year and a long-term team will remain in Haiti until April 2018 to support communities in their recovery. The sectors identified as requiring longer-term intervention are: water, sanitation and hygiene, health, shelter and livelihoods.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

During the recovery phase of the response, our teams have been restoring clean water supplies and repairing water infrastructure which was damaged by the hurricane. When water and sanitation infrastructure is wiped out or damaged during a disaster, this can create a breeding ground for water-related diseases such as cholera. To prevent the spread of these diseases, communities have received water disinfectant solutions and training on how to disinfect their water at home. Hygiene promotion campaigns have also been spreading awareness of hand washing practices, and drain and bin cleaning.

Health – first aid and psychosocial support

To reduce the health risks of those affected by the hurricane, Red Cross teams have been providing first aid training and distributing first aid kits to volunteers and members of the community, including students, teachers, health staff and drivers. Volunteers have also received training to provide psychosocial support, who have since gone on to reach 8,212 people with psychosocial support through visits in the home, group awareness sessions and activities in schools. To prevent the spread of disease, volunteers have delivered health promotion and sensitisation activities on cholera and malaria, while distributing mosquito nets, to 2,500 members of the community.

Shelter

Shelter repair kits and tools have been distributed and members of the communities have received training on how to repair damaged houses. An agreement has now been reached for our teams to repair 570 damaged houses and build 150 new structures. These are currently under construction and will be finished by the end of the recovery period in April 2018.

Livelihoods

As the markets are still functioning in Haiti, it was agreed that providing families with cash grants would be the best way to help them recover their livelihoods in the long-term, rather than continuing to provide food parcels and other aid items. Cash grants enable individuals to buy the essentials that they need, such as food, seeds or sheep. Cash also helps to keep the economy going after an emergency, which speeds up recovery.

Our teams worked with the local authorities to identify 2,200 families who would benefit the most from cash grants and the cash transfer began in May 2017. Volunteers have also delivered community sessions providing advice on how to spend and manage the cash grants.

Red Cross emergency response – in figures

- 11 Red Cross societies co-ordinating and operating in Haiti
- 170 emergency personnel and six emergency response units deployed
- 212,350 people or 42,470 families reached with items including:
- Food and livelihoods: 598 food kits, 15,467 kitchen sets, 300 agricultural tool sets
- Water and hygiene: 757,410 litres safe water, 60,005 water purification items, 19,422 jerry cans, 11,816 buckets, 15,975 hygiene kits, 2,728 bars of soap
- Health: 24,053 mosquito nets, 3,481 cholera kits, 600 rehydration serums
- Shelter: 24,689 tarpaulins, 3,060 tool kits, 11,982 shelter kits, 7,929 blankets



Thank you for your support