

# CARIBBEAN RED CROSS SOCIETIES

tons of relief materials to the islands and provided summer holidays for some 350 Montserrat children to Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Jamaica and St. Lucia

- At the Second Caribbean Conference on Natural Hazards and Disasters in 1996, the Red Cross accepted the role of the lead agency in community disaster preparedness planning in the Caribbean and is implementing a comprehensive, Caribbean-specific community-based disaster education and preparedness programme
- The Community-Based Disaster Preparedness Programme's five key components include: *community preparedness training and education, disaster response training, logistics, emergency communications and community disaster mitigation micro-projects*

## Health & Welfare Programmes

### Caribbean Vulnerability

- The Caribbean has one of the fastest growing HIV rates in the world and the second highest overall rate only to Africa, with at least 1.9% of the population affected
- Sexuality among Youth has been heightened
- Injuries and accidents are one of the leading causes of death in the Caribbean
- The expanding poor and elderly population is overwhelming traditional government social services, resulting in numerous unmet community needs
- Crime and violence are at an all time high across the region

### Red Cross Response

- Caribbean Red Cross Societies are committed to addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis through developing a Caribbean AIDS network and expanding Jamaica Red Cross' internationally acclaimed youth peer-to-peer counselling programme region-wide
- In most Caribbean countries, the Red Cross is the lead agency in providing lifesaving first aid and CPR skills, training some 25,000 people every year and offering Red Cross first aid stations at sporting events, concerts, large meetings and other public gatherings
- Responding to local needs, many Caribbean Red Cross Societies also provide meal and food distribution to the poor and elderly, home-nurse training and care and blood transfusion service



## Youth Programmes

- Red Cross school programmes are established in most Caribbean countries, aiming to involve youth in the Red Cross and its activities as partners and as leaders
- Through learning about the Red Cross Movement and participating in international friendship activities, Youth members acquire a greater appreciation and acceptance of differences of all people
- The Red Cross also address Youth as an important vulnerable group; the Jamaica Red Cross *Uplifting Adolescent Project* provides inter-city at risk Youths with the provisions of literacy, numeracy and marketable skills

## Promoting Humanitarian Values

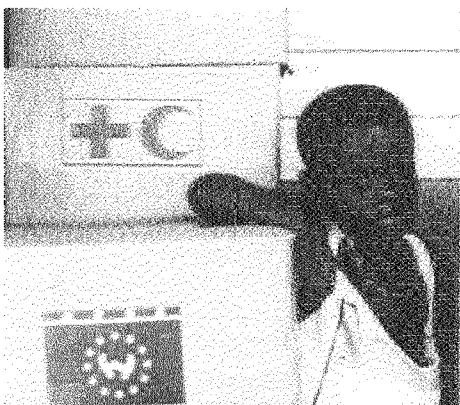
- Red Cross is a leading advocate for human rights worldwide, particularly by prohibiting torture and inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment
- Through the Geneva Conventions, the Red Cross is a principal channel for dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, working with police and defence forces, as well as teachers and community leaders to promote fair treatment and the physical and mental well-being of all people

### **RED CROSS RATED TOP CARIBBEAN CHARITY**

*The initial results of an on-going public image survey being conducted across the region highlights the Red Cross Societies as the most visible and respected non-profit in the Caribbean — nearly four times more visible and respected than the next top rated organisation.*

## Help is Always Needed and Help is Always Appreciated

As man and nature erode the Caribbean's traditional protections and make the region even more vulnerable to disasters and social ills, never before has the Red Cross needed the help more.



Red Cross needs your support *now* to maintain a constant state of readiness. It must invest in essential technology, training, public education, supplies and equipment to deliver its high level of assistance in all disasters.

The Red Cross is not a government agency. As a private, not-for-profit organisation, it depends primarily on the generosity of the public to deliver its services.

Your gift will be well-managed, carefully spent and gratefully acknowledged. Most importantly, it will be deeply appreciated by the countless victims of disasters and emergencies, whose burden would be lightened by your generosity.

## Caribbean Red Cross Disaster/Development Fund

Few businesses could survive if they repeatedly faced millions of dollars in sudden, unexpected expenses. This is the Red Cross challenge each time a hurricane roars ashore or a volcano erupts or a flood leaves a community homeless.

To ensure its continued ability to assist people in crisis, the Red Cross is turning to business leaders who understand the importance of preparedness, planning and aggressive action and calling on them to demonstrate their regional leadership and community commitment by supporting the Caribbean Red Cross Disaster/Development Fund.

A contribution to the Disaster/Development Fund is a sound invest in the community, where Red Cross training equips people with lifesaving skills and disaster preparedness expertise. In an emergency that training truly saves lives.

While the public is generous during highly visible disasters that capture regional and international attention, most of the 1,100 Red Cross relief operations each year in the Caribbean draw little media coverage and therefore fail to attract sufficient donations to cover costs. And for the more than 719,000 people whose lives are affected by disasters every year in the Caribbean, there is no such thing as a *small* disaster.

Support of the Disaster/Development Fund will ensure that the Red Cross can be there, for *all* emergencies, when help can't wait.

CARIBBEAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES' KEY DATA*	Country Population	Volunteers & Members	National Society Staff	Total Beneficiaries (1993)	Expenditures (1997 in UDS)
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	65,647	1,720	7	25,000	\$40,000
BAHAMAS	259,367	750	10	2,449	\$400,000
BARBADOS	257,030	250	3	2,450	\$90,200
BELIZE	219,296	1,225	11	13,000	\$70,700
CUBA	10,951,334	22,000	2,000	250,000	\$1,800,000
DOMINICA	82,926	600	2	38,000	\$47,300
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	8,088,881	6,000	150	5,300	\$380,000
GRENADA	94,981	1,140	2	125	\$25,400
GUYANA	712,041	500	28	15,000	\$34,500
HAITI	6,731,539	3,000	128	30,000	\$391,400
JAMAICA	2,595,275	29,000	33	20,000	\$393,600
ST. KITTS & NEVIS	41,369	211	2	3,400	\$42,000
ST. LUCIA	157,882	700	4	4,400	\$71,100
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	118,344	2,100	3	785	\$24,400
SURINAME	436,418	4,025	9	5,150	\$130,000
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	1,272,485	7,350	13	98	\$132,400

\*Does not include Caribbean branches of American, British, French, or Netherlands Red Cross

*It was like our whole world ended and we had to start over.*

*I don't know what we would have done without the Red Cross!*

-Disaster Victims

For more information or to support the Red Cross activities in the Caribbean, contact your local Red Cross Society or the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies—Caribbean Regional Delegation (phone 809-686-79612; fax 809-686-9495; or e-mail [ifrcsd@codetel.net.do](mailto:ifrcsd@codetel.net.do)). Or visit our website at [www.caribredcross.org](http://www.caribredcross.org).