

DOCUMENT 5:

SITUATION REPORTS

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
☐ Observers
☐ Those indicated on each report

Distribution to :

- ☐ Directing Staff
- ☐ Observers
- ☐ All Ministries, including Deputy Prime Minister
- ☐ Director, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Relief Co-ordination (ODP)
- ☐ Director, National Civil Defense
- ☐ National Press Representative

Situation Report 1: 11th September

From: Met Office

To: Deputy Prime Minister, All Ministries, Director ODP, Director National Civil Defense
(9 in total)

A Hurricane of 100 mph with gusts of up to 120 mph is threatening Hispaniola and the Caribbean today, Sunday, and is expected to intensify for the next 24 - 36 hours. The public have been warned of the possible impact through radio and TV broadcasting. This is the strongest hurricane for the last 30 years.

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
 ☐ Observers
 ☐ All Embassies - 4 total
 ☐ All NGOs - 4 total
 ☐ National Press Representative

Alert Message : 11th September

From: Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP)

To: All Embassies, NGOs, UNDRO/UNDP Headquarters

A Hurricane of 100 mph, which is expected to intensify, is threatening Hispaniola and the Caribbean according to the Met. Office and US National Hurricane Centre.

Hurricane warnings are issued. UNDRO with CARICOM and Government Disaster Co-ordination Office monitoring situation. The island has not suffered a major hurricane for 30 years; public largely ignored early warning.

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
 ☐ Observers
 ☐ All Embassies - 4 total
 ☐ All NGOs - 4 total
 ☐ National Press Representative

Situation Report 2: 12th September

From: Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP)

To: UNDRO/UNDP Headquarters, All Embassies, NGOs, UN Agencies on the island.

At 14.00 hrs GMT Gust of Hurricane force being experienced in Eastern Isabella. The Hurricane expected to move across island during the afternoon of 12th September. Thorough preparedness measures set up by Government Disaster Co-ordination Office.

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
 ☐ Observers
 ☐ All Embassies – 4 total
 ☐ All NGOs – 4 total
 ☐ UN Agencies – 4 total
 ☐ National Press Representative

Situation Report 3: 13th September

From: Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP)

To: UNDRO/UNDP Headquarters, All Embassies, UN agencies and NGOs on the island.

One of the largest Atlantic Hurricanes hit mainly the island of Isabella but also three other islands. The eye of the Hurricane moved across island in east-west direction, causing heavy damage to structures and agriculture. Winds up to 140 mph experienced in the capital of Port of Queen, forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes. Damage caused to International Airport. Electricity and telephones are out of order. Water system has been shut off to reduce further damage.

Residents of low lying areas along south coast evacuated and emergency shelters set up in schools and churches. Authorities are carrying out damage assessment. International assistance is requested, by the Government through UNDP, from UNDRO.

Distribution to :

- ☐ Directing Staff
- ☐ Observers
- ☐ All Embassies – 4 total
- ☐ All NGOs – 4 total
- ☐ UN Agencies – 4 total
- ☐ National Press Representative

Situation Report 4: 14th September

From: Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP)

To: UNDRO/UNDP Headquarters, All Embassies, UN Agencies and NGOs on the island.

1. Metropolitan Port of Queen, the capital of Isabella, is extensively damaged, with many buildings partially or totally destroyed. Power, water and telephone services largely inoperative.
2. According to Government estimates, 60-70% of Port of Queen's population had houses destroyed. 50-55,000 people moved to temporary shelters, such as schools.
3. Communications with areas outside Port of Queen totally disrupted, initial reports indicate very large damage to housing, infrastructure and crops.
4. Airports in Port of Queen and Bay area still closed to commercial traffic.
5. Five are reported dead; thirty are missing.

Appeal for International Assistance:

6. Government quoting extensive and severe damage - requested UN Secretary General to mobilise international assistance through UNDRO and other appropriate agencies.
7. Donors are requested to inform UNDRO of the type and value of their contributions, with copy to UNDP Resident Representative at Port of Queen.

Distribution to :

- Directing Staff
- Observers
- OFDA/USAID Representative in Isabella
- Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP)
- UNDP Resident Representative

From: UNDRO Headquarters, 14th September

To: Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP) and UNDP Resident Representative

UNDRO is providing emergency grant of US \$ 25,000 and sending relief co-ordination officer from headquarters. UNDP donating US \$ 50,000.

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
 ☐ Observers
 ☐ OFDA/USAID Representative in Isabella

From: Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP), 14th September

To: OFDA/USAID in Isabella and UNDRO Headquarters

1. Send Disaster Assessment Survey Team (DAST).
2. Specialists in engineering, medical response, logistics, and communications are required.
3. Heavy lift helicopters for transport of food and injured; communications equipment, food for easy preparation, emergency medical supplies, chain saws with spare parts are needed.

Airport still not fully functioning. Government of Isabella trying to open it. Runway lights and control tower are not working. Prime Minister has given authority for US Government emergency relief aircraft.

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
 ☐ Observers
 ☐ Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP on Caribbean
 Disaster Planning Project (CDPP)
 ☐ OFDA/USAID Representative in Isabella

From: OFDA/USAID in Washington, 14th September

To: OFDA/USAID Representative in Isabella; Project Manager, representing UNDRO/UNDP
 on Caribbean Disaster Planning Project (CDPP)

1. Sending 9600 blankets, 200 tents, plastic sheet, 10 chain saws, 18 large water tanks from stockpile in Panama.
2. Establish government capacity to receive and distribute four plane loads of goods.
3. We need 'needs assessment' done by US team before we can accept a shopping list.
4. We will send, today, OFDA/PAHO American Red Cross Rescue Team on US government aircraft to assist damage assessment. PAHO has TCS 9000 portable satellite to bring along.
5. OFDA has limited money for Isabella. We also have to spend on other islands hit by the hurricane. Helicopters are too expensive to provide. We need accurate needs assessment by our teams.

DOCUMENT 6:

INVITATION TO THE MEETING

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
☐ Observers
☐ All Participants

Document 6: Invitation to the Meeting

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
 ☐ Observers
 ☐ All Participants

From : Office of Prime Minister 14th September

To : All concerned parties

Our island has been hit by a devastating Atlantic Hurricane on 12th September. This tragic disaster is the largest and the most severe event of the last thirty years. Damage to property and economy has been extensive and an International Appeal has been pledged through the UNDP from UNDRO. As the Co-ordinator of emergency relief activities, I would like to request your attendance at an urgent meeting of responsible Government offices, UN Agencies, NGOs and Donor Country representatives on 15th September at 14.00 hours in the Prime Minister's Office, for a briefing and co-ordination session of our respective efforts.

Yours sincerely.

Prime Minister

DOCUMENT 7:
BACKGROUND
INFORMATION
ON THE
ISLAND OF 'ISABELLA'

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
☐ Observers
☐ All Participants

Document 7: Background Information on the Island of 'Isabella'

Distribution to : ☐ Directing Staff
 ☐ Observers
 ☐ All Participants

General Information

The island of Isabella is located in Eastern Caribbean, west of Haiti and south of Cuba.

It has a population of 2.5 million people with one third living in the capital, Port of Queen, in the southeast. The second most populated locale is Bay Area in the northwest, with approximately 300,000 people. The rest of the population live in rural areas constituted of 14 parishes.

The island's economy suffers from high rates of inflation and unemployment.

Communications: Government owned radio and TV broadcasting operates throughout the country. Telephone, telex and fax services are widely available. Telephone lines are laid above ground. The VHF system is effective as long as the strategic repeater stations are in operation. CB radios have limited use because of their short range during poor weather conditions. Early warning of impending hurricanes are issued from commercial radio stations.

Transport: The main road network parallels the coast, with limited North-South connections. Secondary roads fan out from the main road to connect 1200 villages and towns.

Two Ports: Bay Area and Port of Queen are equipped to handle cargo and vessels.

A railway connection operates between Port of Queen and Bay Area but needs extensive repair.

There are international airports in both cities, four airfields for domestic traffic and thirty privately owned airstrips used by sugar and bauxite companies.

Utilities: Electricity, gas, water and sewage will be affected by serious hurricanes. Substandard drainage in urban areas can lead to serious flooding. Sewage can contaminate the water system in flood conditions. In rural areas, water is collected from stand pipes located along the road. In the southwestern areas water tanks are used to store water for dry periods.

All electricity cables are above the ground and can suffer damage in a hurricane. There are some generators in critical facilities such as hospitals and cold storage.

Economy: Tourism, banana and coffee export, sugar and bauxite are the main sources of income.

Hazards: The island is situated in an active hurricane region. However, there have not been very serious events during the last 30 years. On the coastal line, huge waves generated from the winds and surge conditions can reach far onto the shore in low lying coastal areas. In the coastal areas residential and commercial buildings extend to the edge of the sea. Excess water saturates the soil, creating landslides and mudslides. Most of the low lying areas are prone to flooding but are also the sites of the best farm land and concentrated population. The run-off from the surrounding mountains rushes down to the low lying cities. Marginal low lying areas in cities, which are occupied by low income groups, are at high flood risk.

Disaster Plan

In 1980 the Government established the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Relief Co-ordination (ODP) within the Office of the Prime Minister. ODP interacts extensively with the relevant ministries and organisations engaged in development and relief.

ODP is a co-ordinating body. In this capacity its function is not that of directly providing relief, but in developing and mobilising existing resources at the national and parish level. ODP works directly with the ministries, Parish Disaster Committees and voluntary organisations such as the national Red Cross.

Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP) Resources

The Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP) is the principal co-ordinating office for all disaster preparedness and relief activities. This office maintains detailed inventories of the resources required and available during a disaster.

In addition to the specific resource listings below, ODP maintains lists of commercial suppliers of communications equipment (printing, public address systems, mobile and hand-held radios), pharmaceutical and shelter supplies, household utensils, portable lighting units, generators, water storage units, water treatment equipment, bandages, bedding, medical supplies, food, transportation and evacuation equipment, fire stations, salvage and recovery services.

Ministry Plans

The emergency relief operations of the various ministries would be co-ordinated through the National Disaster Committee during a national disaster. However, individual ministries have been encouraged to develop emergency command centers and procedures for activating the centers during the critical phases of emergencies. The Ministry of Health has developed such a plan. Other ministries with a potential role during emergency situations, i.e., Construction (Housing & Public Works), Public Utilities, National Security, and Local Government, have developed ad hoc methods of addressing these situations. The Directorate of Housing in the Ministry of Construction maintains a large store of prefabricated housing construction supplies which could be dispensed if necessary. The Directorate of Maintenance produces a monthly report on the national distribution and condition of all its equipment (trucks, front-end loaders, rollers, graders, pick-ups, etc.).

Parish Plans

Each parish has established a Parish Disaster Committee which is composed of: the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Parish Councilors, Secretary, Senior Police, Fire Brigade, Medical and Poor Relief Officers the Superintendent of Roads and Works, the Parish Managers of Central Government Ministries, and representatives of voluntary agencies active in the parish, the private sector, ham-radio and CB radio clubs or operators, and the Information Service.

Medical Facilities: There are 26 Hospitals and Health Facilities on the island, 10 located in Port of Queen and 5 in Bay Area. There are several clinics in rural areas.

Road Clearing and Construction : The Directorate of Maintenance in the Ministry of Construction (Housing and Public Works) is responsible for maintaining the roads throughout the island. The Directorate operates 67 stations or substations with seven regional headquarters. Equipment is concentrated in the areas of greatest traffic density and use, but is less than adequate in all stations. At any one time, at least 60 per cent of the equipment is out of service.