



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
*Regional Office of the*  
 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND  
 DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATION PROGRAM**  
**Activation of SUMA following Hurricane Luis**

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Hurricane Luis struck the Caribbean region from 4 September to 6 September, severely affecting, among others, the islands Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Maarten. Extensive damage to housing left thousands of people homeless. Water and electricity supply was disrupted. Damaged roofs and walls of hospitals led to the evacuation of patients and losses in medical supplies and equipment. Following is a summary of SUMA activities in the aftermath of Hurricane Luis.

**Antigua:**

On 6 September, when the airport in Antigua opened, a fully equipped SUMA team arrived and was ready when the first flight with donated relief supplies arrived on 7 September. The inventorying of relief supplies was conducted largely at the airport itself. The SUMA Team set up operations at the international airport alongside the military personnel of the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), who were responsible for off-loading supplies from arriving aircraft.

The SUMA Team consisted of two members from Barbados, one from Jamaica, two from Saint Lucia and one from Costa Rica.

Daily reports were printed at the SUMA CENTRAL level, which was set up at the