



After being severely ravaged by Tropical Storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike in September 2008, the Pan American Health Organization [PAHO] collaborated with the national health authorities of the Turks and Caicos Islands [TCI] to support their post-disaster recovery efforts. There was much dislocation of the population, including the national health staff, on some of the islands such as Grand Turk and South Caicos, due to extensive damage of homes and buildings, including the Grand Turk Hospital.

PAHO immediately mobilized its staff and consultants in the areas of disease surveillance; environmental health and sanitary engineering; disaster management and response; and entomology from different locations in the Caribbean and deployed them to the TCI in order to provide timely technical expertise to the authorities.

Additionally, PAHO secured the services of thirteen professionals from Ministries of Health in Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis, Jamaica, Belize and Grenada. These persons provided operational assistance in areas such as vector control management, water sanitation, public health inspection, mental health and public health nursing. Approximately US \$85,000.00 was spent by the Organization to support the deployment of these staff to the TCI.

PAHO also procured equipment and supplies, such as pesticides, water testing kits, spraying and fogging equipment, etc at a cost of approximately US \$44,000.

The timely and efficient PAHO response to this disaster was enabled through a grant, which was generously provided by the United Kingdom Department for International Development [DFID].