

ALERT

AmericasRelief Team

August 26, 2006

Tropical Storm Ernesto

AmericasRelief Team is monitoring the following events

Tropical Storm Ernesto Update 1 - August 26, 2006.

According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC), as of 5:00 p.m. EDT, the center of Tropical Storm Ernesto was located approximately 300 miles south-southwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and approximately 660 miles east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica (14.3N, 67.6W). Ernesto is moving toward the west-northwest near 16 mph, and this motion is expected to continue for the next 24 hours. Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is possible during the next 24 hours. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 90 miles from the center.

Rainfall amounts of 3 to 6 inches are expected in association with Ernesto across portions of Hispaniola and Jamaica with 1 to 3 inches expected for parts of Puerto Rico and the Netherland Antilles.

There are heavy rainfalls predicted for the eastern part of Jamaica, southwestern areas of Cuba and majority of Central America. Because of limited infrastructure capacity, minimal rainfall can have significant impacts in countries like Haiti.

The NHC's projected five-day trajectory of the storm is depicted below.

LAC Tropical Storm Watches

Haiti: The Government of Haiti has issued a tropical storm watch for the southwestern peninsula of Haiti from the Haiti–Dominican Republic border westward to the southwest tip of Haiti. **Jamaica:** The Government of Jamaica has issued a tropical storm watch for Jamaica. A tropical storm watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area within 36 hours.



The following message was provided by Gregg Nakano, Humanitarian Coordinator Officer, USAID:

Below is a graph showing the frequency of tropical storms and hurricanes in a hundred year cycle. To utilize - find the date of interest and read the number of times that there has been a tropical storm or hurricane over the past 100 years.

For example- In a 100 year cycle on 20 August there will be 50 tropical storms, of which 20 will become hurricanes. The peak is 10 September where there will be 100 tropical storms, of which 50+ will become hurricanes in a 100 year cycle. The reason there are more than 100 storms for 100 years is the possibility of simultaneous storms - for example TS Debbie and Ernesto.

Historic data shows that the hurricanes normally form between 14 August and 17 November. The peak probability for Category 3 hurricanes is between 3 September and 25 September.

<<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gifs/peakofseason.gif>>

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AmericasHumanitarian Logistics Relief Team

Getting disaster relief in effective ways to our Caribbean Basin friends