

Tropical Storm/Hurricane Hanna, late-August to early September 2008

EVENT BRIEFING, 5 September 2008 - CORRECTED

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Hanna became the 8th named system of the 2008 hurricane season on 28 August when it formed as a Tropical Depression east of the northern Lesser Antilles. The storm then took a looping track through the southern Bahamas (see map below) before heading northwest and into the US mainland.



Hanna made two landfalls in the southern Bahamas. The first one was on Great Inagua Island, the southernmost island of The Bahamas, on 2 September as the system was transitioning from a brief period as a minimal Category 1 hurricane to a Tropical Storm. The second landfall was the following day when it crossed North Caicos as a Tropical Storm.

As shown in the graphic above, Hanna passed through the middle of the Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI). However, the relatively low wind speeds of Hanna meant that wind-related losses estimated via the parametric formulae in the CCRIF policies were below the trigger threshold (representing the policy deductible) in TCI. For The Bahamas, loss generation is heavily weighted to Nassau (where most of the economic activity occurs), which received no significant adverse wind conditions so that the policy did not trigger there either.

Hanna passed well to the north of Haiti's north coast during the southernmost part of its looping track. Although bringing a lot of rain to Haiti (and to the southern Bahamian islands), the wind speeds were not of even Tropical Storm strength at any of the measuring points in Haiti.

A technical annex attached to this report provides a summary of the calculations undertaken by the Facility Supervisor for Hanna in all three member countries impacted.

CCRIF has again noted the significant damage inflicted in Haiti and the moderate damage inflicted in TCI and the southern Bahamas from the heavy rains which accompanied Hanna. CCRIF is working as quickly as possible to meet requests from the participating countries to have a rainfalltriggered policy available by the start of the next hurricane season.

In the meantime, it is worthy of note that, due to the parametric nature of the CCRIF policies, the fact that rainfall-induced damage is not included in the hurricane loss model used by CCRIF means that the risk of rainfall damage is not included in the pricing of policies. This means that governments are not paying for rainfall-induced losses in their premiums. While clearly desirable, the addition of a rainfall trigger to policies will also increase the premium costs.