

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## HAITI: SOCIAL UNREST

5 May 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 07/04; Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 29 March – 30 April 2004; Appeal coverage: 71.6%;** ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 5 March 2004 for CHF 1,388,000 (USD 1,071,915 or EUR 879,495) for 9 months
- A revised plan of action was developed and outlined in Operations Update no. 2 dated 30 March; the budget was revised accordingly, however, the funding target remains unchanged.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 60,000.

**Outstanding needs : CHF 394,239**

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (01.52/2004)

**Operational Summary:** The on-going instability in Haiti and the overall difficult context is resulting in slow progress towards implementation of the Emergency Appeal objectives. However, during the reporting period, the focus has been on carrying out the groundwork for activities and on the recruitment process for delegates and technical staff who will work with the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS). A health delegate has now been recruited who will begin work in Haiti in mid May. Social mobilization initiatives and a polio vaccination campaign were carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MoH), targeting 79,000 children aged five and under and involving 150 Red Cross volunteers. Successful coordination initiatives with the ICRC, as lead agency in Haiti, as well as with Partner National Societies and external partners, are continuing. The response to the Appeal has been positive, however, there is an urgent need to identify experienced delegates to work together with the HNRCS in the areas of IT and telecommunications, water and sanitation and logistics, together with a Head of Delegation. At present, funding from the 2004 Annual Appeal for the Caribbean earmarked for Haiti, is being transferred to the Appeal in response to Social Unrest. Operations Update no. 4 will provide more details in this respect.

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background

Political and social instability throughout Haiti since September 2003 developed into an acute crisis as of January 2004; however, although the situation thereafter has gradually improved, the context remains difficult and security precarious. Humanitarian organizations have returned to the field, are carrying out assessments and have begun the implementation of relief programmes. In the capital, the situation has gradually returned to normal, with most schools having reopened after being closed since December. On 14 March, the first WFP convoy since the armed revolt erupted in early February reached Cap-Haïtien.

The transition government formed on 17 March seems to be open to the backing of international organizations leading to overseas support for structural reforms. This support will, to a large extent, depend on the capacity of the new government to restore stability in the country through the use of reconciliatory and unifying skills.

In general, it appears that the humanitarian situation is significantly deteriorating in most parts of Haiti. Humanitarian agencies' assessment reports indicate that prices of commodities of first necessity have risen in urban markets. The poorer sections of the population have been forced to sell possessions to purchase basic necessities and remittances from abroad, which constitute a substantial income source in Haiti, have been blocked since many banks and cash transfer houses are not working. Health institutions are insufficiently provided with essential drugs and electricity and a safe water supply have sharply diminished in some regions. In addition, a number of limited nutritional surveys show deterioration amongst sample populations.

## Operational developments

Despite the best efforts of the interim government, the situation in Haiti remains extremely delicate, particularly as citizens' expectations have not been met. Basic services such as access to running water, electricity, and garbage removal remain erratic or unavailable.

Security remains volatile with crime on the increase and a curfew is still in force from midnight to 5:00 a.m. Less than half of Haiti's 5000 police have returned to their posts since Mr. Aristide's departure on 29 February. Contacts between the United States-led multilateral interim force (MIF) and armed groups have barely yielded minimal results. Moreover, there has been no systematic effort to disarm those groups which refuse to hand over their weapons and are awaiting compensation or official recognition.

The United Nations has committed to send military and police forces to Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, as of the latter half of May as the vanguard of an 8,300-strong United Nations stabilization mission that is planned to take over from the MIF on 1 June. The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) will consist of 6,700 troops, 1,600 civilian police and additional international and local civilian staff, and has an initial mandate of 24 months.

Political divisions remain unresolved. The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), which will organize elections in 2005 to elect a new President and members of parliament, will begin work on 1 May. However, Mr. Aristide's party, Fanmi Lavalas, has so far refused to nominate a representative to the CEP. In addition, Fanmi Lavalas has complained of political persecution which is denied by the government.

The overall humanitarian situation has not improved. Although aid has been scaled up in some areas as a result of increased access, the needs still far outweigh the means in place. Even before the recent crisis, Haiti faced enormous challenges. For instance, half of the country's children did not receive routine immunizations and half did not even attend primary school and the illiteracy rate was over 55 per cent. Moreover, an estimated 380,000 people are infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. The current situation has only served to increase the strain of poverty on vulnerable people.

The Red Cross Movement continues to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable. The American Red Cross will receive USD 7 million to collaborate with Red Cross Societies in Guyana, Haiti and Tanzania to reach more than 760,000 in-and-out-of-school youths between the ages of 10 and 24 with messages concerning HIV prevention.

A fleet of 32 six wheel trucks and eight 4-wheel drive vehicles has arrived in Port-au-Prince as part of a grant made possible by the Norwegian government with support from the Norwegian Red Cross. The fleet will bolster

the World Food Programme (WFP)'s logistic capacity to deliver food aid to rural communities in remote and mountainous areas in Haiti.

The Federation continues to work with the Haitian National Red Cross Society towards implementing the objectives defined in the revised plan of action under the Emergency Appeal.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact**

### **Emergency Relief**

*Objective 1: To boost the emergency response capacity of HNRCS branches.*

First aid and volunteer materials arrived in Port-au-Prince on 23 March. Clearing goods from the port is proving complicated because of new procedures and new port staff. Quotations for printing the emblem on the cotton vests (dossards) and helmets have been obtained and a distribution list covering eight regions has been established. Refresher courses in First Aid will be organized in conjunction with the distribution of materials. At present, further progress relating to this objective is subject to the clearance of the goods through customs.

*Objective 2: To reduce and prevent the spread of diseases and boost improved sanitation by promoting public information and health education through awareness campaigns with a main focus on the importance of clean drinking water, good hygiene and sanitation practices.*

In recognition of the technical aspect of this objective, the Haitian National Red Cross has identified a technical consultant to provide assistance regarding water testing and identifying the type and quantity of water treatment products as well as appropriate beneficiary institutions. In cooperation with the Haitian National Red Cross Society branch in Gonaïves, equipment for volunteers participating in community refuse collection activities is being purchased and information materials are being drafted for distribution by volunteers to communities in targeted areas. A training workshop is being planned in Gonaïves for HNRCS staff and volunteers on the practical aspects of clean drinking water, good hygiene and sanitation. Contacts with the authorities concerning the final disposal of refuse collected by the community including that collected in waste receptacles provided by the Haitian National Red Cross Society, are expected to commence in the near future.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)'s Acting Head of the Regional Logistics Unit will undertake a mission of one week in Haiti to assist in the sourcing of supplies and in providing technical assistance regarding procurement procedures.

### **Disaster Management**

*Objective 1: To implement an emergency telecommunications system with VHF and satellite phones.*

The establishment of an emergency telecommunications system is under implementation in close cooperation with the ICRC; however, activities are temporarily on standby pending the recruitment of a Federation Telecommunications Delegate who will conduct extensive training of Haitian National Red Cross Society branch and headquarters personnel in the use and maintenance of the equipment, including that installed both by the ICRC and within a previous Norwegian Red Cross supported project. The ICRC Telecommunications Delegate has rehabilitated two VHF repeater stations and the HNRCS has recruited a National Telecommunications Coordinator for an initial period of three weeks. The Coordinator's initial task of installing VHF radios in the seven ambulances donated by the French Red Cross to the HNRCS is currently underway.

*Objective 2: To facilitate the development of the Haitian Red Cross Society's disaster response system in view of outbreaks of social unrest and the vulnerability of the country to natural disasters, particularly floods, drought and hurricanes.*

Terms of reference are under preparation for the post of Deputy Head of the Haitian National Red Cross Society Relief Department. Discussions have taken place with regard to organizing emergency response teams at national

and regional level. This is intended to complement work undertaken by the Federation, the French and Netherlands Red Cross Societies and other partners to strengthen disaster response at local level.

***Objective 3: To reinforce preparedness and response strategies in National Societies in potential host countries in view of possible population flows outside Haiti.***

The increased number of Haitians seeking to leave Haiti for reasons of personal or economic security during the present reporting period has led to a resumption of planning for material assistance to National Societies close to Haiti in meeting the immediate needs of asylum seekers. The recruitment by the Federation of a Disaster Management delegate which is in process will support this objective, as well as objective 2 listed above.

## **Health**

***Objective 1: To help to meet emergency relief needs arising from the crisis situation in Haiti.***

The procurement list for hygiene parcels to be distributed to educational and health centres and orphanages in urban and rural areas in the north west of the country has been finalized and the procurement process, supported by the PADRU Acting Head of the Regional Logistics Unit, will commence shortly. Planning with the Haitian National Red Cross Society branches of Cap-Haïtien and Port-de-Paix for the organization of training in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion in emergencies, together with refuse collection activities and the distribution of printed materials, will commence shortly.

***Objective 2: To boost the availability of safe blood in response to the current crisis through reinforcement of the voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation programme carried out by the HNRCS.***

The hiring process of a consultant to assist the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the recruitment and retention of non-remunerated, voluntary blood donors is ongoing. The consultant is expected to work in close cooperation and with technical assistance planned by the WHO/PAHO for the HNRCS blood service.

***Objective 3: To strengthen the Haitian Red Cross Society's medico-social section through the provision of technical support, equipment and training, thereby enhancing assistance to vulnerable groups, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS and First Aid.***

Additional First Aid materials to replace materials used in the existing First Aid kits are to be purchased and work has begun in this respect. Terms of Reference for a Deputy Head of the Haitian National Red Cross Society Health Department are under preparation. Two HIV/AIDS peer education training of trainers sessions are scheduled to take place in May. Discussions are currently taking place regarding the appropriateness of the introduction into the Appeal of community health activities, taking into consideration potential funding opportunities.

## **Promotion of Humanitarian Values**

***Objective 1: In cooperation with the ICRC, to conduct awareness campaigns to enhance knowledge of Humanitarian Values and the Fundamental Principles and to promote the image of the Haitian National Red Cross Society.***

Initial discussions have taken place between the Federation's Communications Delegate and the Head of the Haitian National Red Cross Society's Information Department regarding enhancement of the image of the Red Cross in Haiti. Discussions also included preparations for Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, 8 May, producing articles for the media, including the Federation web site, and production of posters illustrating the Fundamental Principles in the Creole language for use throughout the HNRCS.

## Organizational Development

*Objective 1: To support the HNRCS in the modernization of its institution in line with the criteria for a well-functioning National Society, improving its service to vulnerable people.*

The Haitian National Red Cross Society has produced a technical specification for a human resources database and a consultant is currently being sought to assist with the information technology required to complete the database which includes staff, volunteers, together with personnel trained in First Aid and in emergency response. The curriculum for regional and national governance training has now been agreed upon ahead of a workshop to be held in mid June. Other activities within this objective include the identification of regional resources to support improved volunteer management within the HNRCS.

*Objective 2: To reinforce the capacity of Red Cross branches on either side of the Haitian/Dominican Republic border.*

The Federation funded the participation of the HNRCS in a polio vaccination campaign including both the social mobilization and vaccination components of the activities. The Haitian National Red Cross Society supported the Ministry of Health in a week-long social mobilization campaign which was launched prior to vaccination week. During this week, 150 Red Cross volunteers trained by the Ministry of Health administered oral polio vaccine to children aged five and under in four of the total five departments targeted. Vaccination took place in 13 communes in Nord'Est, Plateau Central and l'Ouest Departments bordering the Dominican Republic, as well as the town of Gonaives in Artibonite department. Results of the vaccination campaign are currently being compiled; the MoH/HNRCS seek to vaccinate a total of 79,000 children in vulnerable areas. Training in Vulnerability and Capacity assessment for six of the total 13 regions covered by the Haitian National Red Cross Society will take place between 18 and 20 May, whilst training in the remaining seven regions is planned for later in the year. This will allow regional officers to train local non Red Cross disaster committees in identifying vulnerability, introducing participatory assessment techniques and planning for activities to increase communities' capacities to cope with natural and man-made disasters at the local level.

## External coordination activities

Coordination meetings continue to be held on a regular basis between the UN agencies and the Red Cross Movement. The Federation Office in Haiti has initiated weekly technical meetings between the Haitian National Red Cross Society, Partner National Societies working in Haiti and the ICRC. The Federation Office has contributed to UNOCHA's work in establishing a more comprehensive coordination of agencies present in Haiti at the operational and decision-taking levels.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and Initiatives

- The Federation is working with the HNRCS, in close cooperation with the ICRC, to ensure an impartial response to the current crisis and to assist the most vulnerable.
- The Federation will continue helping the HNRCS to work in the framework of its approved national development plan (NDP) and the emergency plan of action.
- Coordination between all components of the Movement is taking place under the ICRC, as lead agency; external partnerships are sought in order to maximize resources and ensure optimum impact of activities.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, a successful polio vaccination campaign took place with the participation of 150 HNRCS volunteers.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Communications Delegate visited the towns of Gonaives and Cap Haitien. In Gonaives still images were taken of ICRC activities at the general hospital. In Cap Haitien contact was made with Red Cross staff and governance to plan a future visit to cover various activities. A trip was made to Cité Soleil to cover Red Cross activities as well as to Fond Parisien for the opening of a week-long polio vaccination campaign. A further visit was made to the border town of Lascahobas to cover the Haitian National Red Cross Society social mobilization in

the context of the polio vaccination campaign. During the reporting period, an article was published on the Federation website and the photo gallery was posted on the Reuters Alertnet website.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

APPEAL No. 07/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

29/04/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,388,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 71.6%
BRITISH - RC		760	GBP	1,777	30.03.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
IRISH - GOVT		200,000	EUR	315,100	26.03.04	
ITALIAN - GOVT		200,000	EUR	315,100	30.03.04	HEALTH, WATER/SANITATION, HYGIENE ACTIVITIES
JAPANESE - RC		35,400	USD	44,834	17.03.04	RELIEF SUPPLIES
NORWEGIAN - RC				85,000	16.02.04	EQUIPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				761,811	CHF	54.9%

## KIND AND SERVICES ( INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC				74,400	15.03.04	REPRESENTATIVE
SPANISH - RC		100,000	EUR	157,550	01.03.04	BILATERAL: TELECOM EQUIPMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				231,950	CHF	16.7%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED						
				0	CHF	