

# 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

24 August 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. 04; Period covered: 1 May 2004 to 15 July 2004; Appeal coverage: 106.4%;** ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 5 March 2003 for CHF 1,388,000 (USD 1,071,915 or EUR 879,495) for 9 months to assist targeted beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 60,000

**Outstanding needs : None**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (01.52/2004), Dominican Republic & Haiti: Floods Emergency Appeal (13/2004)**

**Operational Summary:** Progress towards the objectives of the appeal has been slow from the outset, due to the instability of the situation in Haiti. Although much effort has been put into identifying delegates and technical staff, recruitment for Haiti has been difficult in general. The emergency situation that resulted after severe floods hit the country has now stretched these limited human resources even further, as recently recruited delegates, including the disaster management delegate, have been transferred to the floods operation in line with the emergency appeal launched by the Federation on 28 May (Appeal 13/2004). Given the severity of the flooding, work towards the objectives of the social unrest appeal has been limited as most available resources have been diverted to the flood relief effort. As the situation in flood-affected areas slowly begins to improve, it is hoped that more progress will be made towards the objectives of both appeals.

**The budget for the social unrest appeal is currently under revision and will be attached to this operations update shortly.**

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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

The on-going precarious situation in Haiti degenerated significantly as of early February as rebel groups clashed with government supporters and the country suffered increasing degrees of violence and insecurity. By the end of February, rebel factions held the north and centre of the country, including the second largest town, Cap-Haïtien, and the northern/central region was inaccessible as roads were barricaded. Hospitals were attacked, infrastructure destroyed, and the port, homes and shops were looted. The crisis culminated on Sunday, 29 February as President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled the country. A transition government was formed on 17 March and, although the situation has gradually improved since then, the context remains difficult. The humanitarian situation is significantly deteriorating in most parts of Haiti and health institutions are insufficiently provided with essential drugs. In addition, a number of limited nutritional surveys show deterioration amongst sample populations.

The continual political tensions in Haiti have exacerbated the major underlying problems in the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere and has the lowest human development indicators in the Americas with 24% of births attended by skilled personnel; 46% of the population with access to clean drinking water; an infant mortality rate of 79 per 1,000 live births; 17% of children under five underweight for their age, and an adult literacy rate of 50.8% (UNDP Human Development Report 2003). The population suffers acute poverty with major inequalities, a lack of access to clean water, medical care and public services. The current crisis is paralyzing health services, transport and education and affecting the distribution of food. As a result, levels of vulnerability, already high in the country, are continuing to rise and fragile coping mechanisms are being eroded.

## Operational developments

On 1 June the UN peacekeeping mission began with the first contingent of Brazilian troops to arrive in Haiti. The UN has replaced the Multinational Interim Force of 3,600 troops that was led by the United States. The peacekeeping mission, which was sanctioned by the Security Council in April, plans to send a total of 8,000 soldiers and policemen from 14 countries for a period of 6 months. Approximately 3,000 are in place already. The 1,900 U.S. Marines sent to help stabilize the country following the departure of Mr. Aristide left Haiti by the end of June.

Socio-political stability in Haiti remains fragile. During the reporting period there were two separate protests by supporters of former President Aristide. On 18 May, protests turned violent as about 500 protestors were blocked by armed former soldiers. A month later about 5000 supporters protested but no violence was reported. On 15 July another march took place involving some 3000 protesters.

The security situation in Haiti has not improved. Around 25,000 people remain armed around the country. A report by Amnesty International in June underlined the fact that armed groups, former insurgents, criminal gangs, escaped prisoners and militias loyal to former President Aristide remain armed, active and a threat to human rights. The report revealed that armed groups still control much of the country, spreading insecurity and fear. Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue announced that measures would be taken after 15 September to disarm gangs and other groups possessing illegal weapons. There are approximately 2,500 police in Haiti, whereas an estimated 40,000 are necessary to maintain law and order.



Heavy rains caused severe flooding in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, leaving thousands dead and destroying homes and crops.

In addition to the already fragile situation in the country, several days of heavy rain in late May brought severe floods to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The rains caused devastation across a wide swath of the island of Hispaniola, although the majority of the damage was concentrated around the southern border region between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The latest available figures indicate that there are around 2,000 dead. Hundreds of people are still missing and are presumed dead. In addition, thousands more have been displaced by the flooding, which destroyed homes and crops throughout the affected areas.

In Haiti, the worst affected regions are the South, West and South East Departments. In the area surrounding the town of Mapou, in the South East Department, hundreds of homes have been destroyed and the local water source has been contaminated by thousands of human and animal corpses. The villages of Barois (Bawa), Nan Galette, Na Roche and Saint Michel are in particular danger of further flooding should heavy rainfall in the region continue. These villages are in urgent need of food and water. In the West Department, at least 237 people died in the border town of Fonds Verrettes when a flash flood swept through the area. The Federation launched an emergency appeal for Haiti and the Dominican Republic on 28 May (Appeal 13/04). Relief operations in Haiti in response to the flooding have been slowed as, until recently, many of the affected areas were only accessible by helicopter. Work towards the objectives of the social unrest appeal has been limited as most available resources have been diverted to the flood relief effort.

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

### **Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)**

**Objective 1: To boost the emergency response capacity of Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) branches.**

#### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

First aid kits, 1,000 cotton vests and 500 safety helmets have been cleared from customs. A private printing firm has been commissioned to print the Red Cross emblem on the vests and helmets. Printing is complete on the helmets, and 40 helmets were distributed by the HNRCS to volunteers in Thiotte. A total of 100 vests have been completed thus far, and the rest will be finished in the next few days. The first aid kits were distributed to regional branches during a "Safer Access" seminar conducted by the ICRC.

First aid courses continue to take place at the HNRCS headquarters in Port-au-Prince every weekend. Since May, 56 individuals have been trained.

The Federation funded the rehabilitation of the Red Cross branch in Cité Soleil. This was carried out in collaboration with the ICRC which provided a delegate to oversee the construction. The work has since been completed and the branch office was inaugurated in June.

**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.**

#### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

A technical consultant has been identified to determine the type and quantity of water treatment products needed, as well as which beneficiary institutions will be targeted. The consultant has not yet been hired, and the rest of the proposed activities in this area are pending his recruitment.

### **Disaster Management**

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

#### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

##### **Red Cross VHF Network**

In close cooperation with the Haitian National Red Cross Society, the ICRC and the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), a countrywide VHF network has been installed for use by members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is being fine tuned. This network includes 5 VHF repeaters, 11 base stations installed in various HNRCS branches and regional committees, and radios in 12 ambulances, plus handsets. Training in operation, installation and maintenance for volunteers is scheduled for July and August. To accomplish this activity, an additional training telecommunications delegate has been requested and is expected to arrive shortly.

ECHO Partners VHF Network

As part of the ongoing cooperation with ECHO partner relief agencies, a VHF network is in the process of being installed. Permission from the Communication Ministry is being obtained for the use of five pairs of frequencies in order to install an equal number of repeaters around the country. Parallel to this activity, the HNRCS and the Federation have already installed two VHF stations plus seven handsets to cover the area of the floods operation in Mapou and Belle-Anse, as well as two satellite telephones for e-mail and voice communication to Port-au-Prince. This is complemented by the installation of an HF radio in Belle-Anse for coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP). The bulk of the installation process will take place between July and August, requiring the presence of another telecommunications delegate. In addition, seven base stations will be installed in HNRCS branches and/or regional committees as focal points for ECHO partner agencies to contact Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement members.

**Objective 2: To facilitate the development of the Haitian National 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.**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Terms of reference for the deputy head of the relief department of the Haitian National Red Cross Society have not yet been completed. However, following a meeting with the president of the HNRCS, a request was made to the head of PADRU to assist with the organization of emergency response teams at the national and regional level. PADRU is currently working on a proposal which will be negotiated with the HNRCS by the Federation Representative in the coming two weeks.

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

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The HNRCS is exploring the resumption of a project to provide first aid and other assistance to Haitians repatriated to Port-au-Prince by the US Coast Guard, as well as those returned from the Dominican Republic along border areas. Preliminary discussions will be held with Haitian immigration authorities to explore how the HNRCS can assist returnees.

**Health**

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

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

A total of 2,700 hygiene kits have cleared customs and are presently in Port-au-Prince; but, they have yet to be distributed to orphanages and educational and health centres as planned. 2000 of these parcels already in place will be borrowed for the floods operation. These will be returned to the social unrest operation once a consignment of hygiene kits arrives from Santo Domingo.

**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.**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

A consultant to help the HNRCS with the recruitment and retention of non-remunerated blood donors has been identified by the Secretariat. However, the candidate is not available before October, and is available for only three periods between October and November. Discussions are ongoing with the HNRCS to determine the most opportune period for the consultant's mission.

**Objective 3: To strengthen the Haitian National 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.**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Although HIV/AIDS education sessions were organized in Port-au-Prince in June and in Jacmel in July, the Federation did not participate in these activities as there is currently no health delegate present in the country. For the 8 May celebrations of World Red Cross Red Crescent Day the reporting and information delegate assisted the HNRCS with the design of the Stamps Campaign in Creole. The stamp designs, which are part of the Federation’s “The Truth about AIDS” anti-stigma campaign, focus on countering myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS transmission.



Stamps for “The Truth about AIDS” anti-stigma campaign were designed in Creole for use in Haiti, and were presented on 8 May during World Red Cross Red Crescent Day celebrations.

**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.**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

An information session for secondary school students at a cultural centre was conducted with the HNRCS’s communications coordinator. The history of the Federation and the Fundamental Principles were presented by the reporting and information delegate, who also answered questions posed by members of the audience. The Federation also funded 8 May celebrations for World Red Cross Red Crescent Day in Port-au-Prince. In addition, technical support and training has been given to the HNRCS communications coordinator in the use of various software packages used in graphic design.

In coordination with the ICRC, a digital projector and three digital cameras were purchased and donated to regional branches to assist the HNRCS communications coordinator with dissemination and communications activities. Also in coordination with the ICRC, seven posters of the Fundamental Principles will be printed for the HNRCS in Creole (200 copies of each). The posters will be distributed to all branches across the country. Several printing companies have been consulted, price quotations have been gathered and one company has been identified. The Federation team is now in the process of gathering the remaining items needed to complete the layout of the posters, including high resolution photos from the audio visual department of the Secretariat.

Still images taken of various Red Cross activities were digitized and shared with the HNRCS and the ICRC. The ICRC has retained 38 images for the photo library in Geneva, for which captions were also provided.

## 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.**

### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Although no consultant has yet been hired to help the HNRCS with the information technology required to complete a human resources database, a candidate has been identified. The database will include staff and volunteers, together with personnel trained in first aid and in emergency response.



The creation of a human resources database will help the National Society identify staff and volunteers trained in first aid and emergency response, helping to improve its service to vulnerable people.

The HNRCS senior vice president proposed that the governance element included in the ICRC seminar on conflict preparedness held in June be replaced with a more full fledged seminar on governance later in the autumn. A request has been made to the Federation's Secretariat to assist with a three to four day seminar.

In the spirit of applying newly adopted Statutes, the HNRCS is moving forward on the recruitment of an executive officer, which is intended to clarify the lines between governance and management. A job

advertisement for this position was posted in the national newspaper.

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

No activities have been carried out within the social unrest appeal during the period covered by this report. However, some activities have taken place to strengthen the capacities of the HNRCS branches in the regions affected by the floods, many of which are in the border region. As a result of coordination with the World Food Programme, a half-day training seminar was held on 10 July with the Haitian National Red Cross Society disaster management coordinator and the President of the Red Cross regional branch in Jacmel. Methods for generating information through surveys to be used in creating new distribution lists were reviewed. In turn, 15 Red Cross volunteers from Jacmel will be trained in survey techniques and will then be mobilized to Mapou for five days to gather necessary data in order to review existing distribution lists. Another 13 Red Cross volunteers in Mapou have been assisting in the construction of temporary shelters.

## External Coordination Activities

The Federation Representative in Haiti participates in the weekly OCHA coordination meetings, which include the presence of most humanitarian agencies and NGOs working in the country. Attendance at other meetings is also ongoing, such as meetings with ECHO and its partners in Haiti. Most meetings have been coordination meetings revolving around relief assistance to flood victims.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

- The Federation continues 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 continues helping the HNRCS to work in the framework of its approved national development plan (NDP) and emergency action plan.
- Coordination between all components of the Movement continues under the ICRC, as lead agency; external partnerships are sought in order to maximize resources and ensure optimum impact of activities.

**Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

Communications activities have revolved mainly around the floods operation in Mapou, with the reporting and information delegate working to ensure media coverage of Red Cross activities. Journalists were taken to the field, and the delegate participated in a Canadian Red Cross press conference. In addition, the reporting and information delegate gave dozens of interviews to both local and international news agencies, such as the BBC, Reuters, Associated Press, PBS McNeil Lehrer News Hour, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Every opportunity was taken to promote the HNRCS and its work. Photos from the operation highlighting the work of the HNRCS were offered to news agencies such as Reuters, resulting in wide international publication. Five articles were written for the Federation website, highlighting the Movement's response to flood victims in Mapou, as well as other activities undertaken by the HNRCS. Three photo galleries of stills taken by the reporting and information delegate have also been posted on the AlertNet website. These three stills show the HNRCS polio vaccination campaign, living conditions in violent slums, and Red Cross relief activities in the country.

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

APPEAL No. 07/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/08/2004

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

## CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> |  |         |     | 1,388,000 |          | <b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>                           |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|-----------|----------|---|
|                                |  |         |     |           |          | <b>106.4%</b>                                   |
| BRITISH - RC                   |  | 760     | GBP | 1,777     | 30.03.04 | PROGRAMME SUPPORT                               |
| ECHO (04000)                   |  | 300,000 | EUR | 467,850   | 14.05.04 |   |
| IRISH - GOVT                   |  | 200,000 | EUR | 315,100   | 26.03.04 |   |
| ITALIAN - GOVT                 |  | 200,000 | EUR | 315,100   | 30.03.04 | HEALTH, WATER/SANITATION,<br>HYGIENE ACTIVITIES |
| JAPANESE - RC                  |  | 35,400  | USD | 44,834    | 17.03.04 | RELIEF SUPPLIES                                 |
| MONACO - RC                    |  | 20,000  | EUR | 31,190    | 13.05.04 |   |
| NORWEGIAN - RC                 |  |         |     | 85,000    | 16.02.04 | EQUIPMENT                                       |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH     |  |         |     | 1,260,851 | CHF      | 90.8%   |

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR   | CATEGORY  | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE     | COMMENT                           |
|---|-----------|----------|------|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| BRITISH - RC  | DELEGATES |          |      | 8,200     | 15.03.04 |                                   |
| CANADIAN - RC   |           |          |      | 13,200    | 23.06.04 | INFORMATION/REPORTING<br>DELEGATE |
| NORWEGIAN - RC  | DELEGATES |          |      | 37,400    | 08.06.04 | HOD                               |
| SPANISH - RC  |           | 100,000  | EUR  | 157,550   | 01.03.04 | BILATERAL: TELECOM<br>EQUIPMENT   |
| Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete. |           |          |      |           |          |                                   |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES   |           |          |      | 216,350   | CHF      | 15.6%                             |

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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