

# 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

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI: FLOODS

1 June 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. 13/04; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 28 to 31 May, 2004; Appeal coverage: 45%.**

*Note: the list of contributions for this revised appeal is currently being updated, and will be made available in the next Operations Update (no. 2) to be issued shortly.*

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 28 May 2004 for CHF 912,248 (USD 717,176 or EUR 592,446) for 3 months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries (2,000 families).
- Budget increased to CHF 2,431,797 and number of beneficiaries increased to 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries). Operation extended by 3 months to 28 November 2004; Final Report is therefore due on 28 February, 2005.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000.

**Outstanding needs: CHF 841,821 (USD 674,138 or EUR 550,689)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2004 Annual Appeal for the Caribbean (no. 01.52/2004), and Haiti: Social Unrest, Emergency Appeal no. 07/2004.**

**Operational Summary:** The extent of the floods disaster which has hit the Dominican Republic and Haiti is much greater than anticipated. The hardest-hit areas are the town of Jimaní in the Dominican Republic on the border with Haiti and the Provinces of Independencia, Barahona, Bahoruco, Elias Piña and Duarte. In Haiti, the south, southeast and western regions of the country have been severely affected. In Fonds Verrettes, a town of 45,000 inhabitants in the West Department, deliveries of food and medicines are now taking place. However, Mapou, a rural town of several thousand, located 50 kilometres southeast of the capital of Port-au-Prince, is still isolated by flood waters and access is possible by helicopter only. Assessments by the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) and the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) are continuing; current estimates indicate that as many as 2,000 people are dead and many more are missing and feared dead. In view of the scale of the disaster and the significant humanitarian needs, the Federation has increased the number of targeted beneficiaries to 5,000 families (25,000 people) and the revised appeal budget including the distribution of stoves, two water treatment plants and the trucking of water tankers in the Dominican Republic stands at CHF 2.4 million. The following national societies have provided cash or in-kind support to this appeal: Belgian, Swedish, Canadian, American, Spanish, Swiss, Austrian, Netherlands Red Cross, and the Japanese Red Cross has indicated forthcoming support.

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

- *In the Dominican Republic: Dominican Red Cross, Ligia Leroux, President; email [cruz.roja@codetel.net.do](mailto:cruz.roja@codetel.net.do), phone 1-809-682-3793, fax 1-809-688-8044*
- *In Haiti: Haitian National Red Cross Society, Michaèle Amédée Gédéon, President; email [croroha@haitiworld.com](mailto:croroha@haitiworld.com), phone 509-510-9813, fax 509223-1054*
- *In Panama: Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), Nelson Castaño, Head of PADRU; email*

## Dominican Republic & Haiti: Floods, Appeal no. 13/04; Operations Update no. 1 (revised budget)

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### Background

More than two weeks of heavy rain caused severe flooding throughout the Dominican Republic and Haiti on the island of Hispaniola. Death tolls in the two countries are far higher than originally expected, and are expected to continue climbing as more areas are reached by assessment teams. According to the Haitian Civil Protection, the current death toll in Haiti stands at 996 and officials say that more than 1,600 are still listed as missing. In Belle Anse (Mapou) in the South East Department of Haiti, 175 bodies have been recovered, in Bawa, a town near Mapou, there are 110 people dead and 100 missing. Also in the South East Department, the town of Galet Maro (Gosier) reports 100 dead and 150 injured. In Fonds Verrettes, located in the West Department on the border with the Dominican Republic, there are 237 dead. In total, over 16,000 families have been affected by the floods, with 1,698 houses destroyed and 1,687 houses damaged. In addition, large amounts of crops and livestock have been lost.

In the Dominican Republic, the death toll stands at 401 people. In Jimaní (Province of Independencia) alone, there are 385 dead and many more missing. In total, some 5,000 people (1,000 families) in or near Jimaní are in need of humanitarian assistance. Also severely affected are the Provinces of Barahona, Bahoruco, Elias Piña and Duarte. In Arenoso, in the Province of Duarte, 2,582 families have been affected and between 30 and 40 families are being sheltered in the Arenoso School. In addition, the regions surrounding the Yuna River in Duarte Province account for 70 percent of all the rice crops in the country, the majority of which have been destroyed by the flooding. The yellow alert declared by the Dominican Republic National Emergency Commission ended on Sunday, 30 May throughout the country, with the exception of the Yuna River basin from the Hatillo dam to Samana Bay, the northeast region and the border zone with Haiti. On 29 May an earthquake registering 4.4 on the Richter scale hit the flood-affected area, according to the Dominican Seismology Institute, but caused no further damage.

Given the severity of the flooding and the already weak infrastructure of the two countries, many areas are still inaccessible, except by helicopter or by foot. In Haiti, the Federation is trying to gain access to the most affected areas which have received little assistance: Bawa, Na Roche, Saint Michel and Non Galette. There is a need for immediate assistance in these areas where some 350 are missing and at least 100 people have lost everything. In these communities there is also a need for food assistance for 2,000 people. In the town of Mapou, although flood waters have now receded by approximately one metre, the town is still standing in waters of between 4 – 5 metres in depth.

The Federation will provide relief to a total of 3,000 families in the Dominican Republic as follows: 500 in Jimaní, 500 in Independencia, and 2,000 in the Provinces of Elias Piña and Sanchez Ramirez and the Bajo Yuna region. Another 2,000 families are targeted in Haiti in the South East Department of the country. A total of 5,000 families (25,000 people) will thus receive emergency aid.

### Operational developments

The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) and Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) undertook immediate action to save lives. Red Cross volunteers have taken part in search and rescue operations, evacuation and distribution of food and water to the affected population. Local Red Cross branches released and distributed their limited



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emergency stocks of basic relief items to affected families. The Dominican Republic Red Cross activated its psychological first aid teams which continue to work with those who not only lost their houses, but also their family members.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has deployed the Head of Unit and a disaster management delegate to the Dominican Republic, as well as a telecommunications delegate, the Acting Head of the Regional Logistics Unit to Haiti, and the Regional Officer from the Federation Secretariat in Geneva. In addition, a communications delegate from the Lima Regional Delegation, a communications officer from the Panama Regional Delegation, and the Head of the Regional Finance Unit have been mobilized to the Dominican Republic and the regional health delegate from the Panama Regional Delegation has been deployed to Haiti. In order to further reinforce and support the operation, human resources in the area of logistics and disaster management have been deployed to the Federation by the British, Canadian, Swiss, and Spanish Red Cross.

One of the major challenges related to this humanitarian operation is logistics, particularly in Haiti, given that the areas in urgent need of humanitarian assistance are rural towns and villages which are currently isolated by flood waters. In Haiti, helicopter service provided by the Multinational Interim Forces was initially relied upon but as of 29 May the ICRC was able to secure a small helicopter used to make two trips a day from Port-au-Prince.



From the outset, the ICRC took the lead in the floods response operation in providing the logistical support necessary to begin relief operation on the ground. Furthermore, the National Society has maintained a permanent presence in Mapou since 28 May. The ICRC water and sanitation delegate conducted an aerial survey of the area surrounding Mapou, identifying the communities of Non Galette, Bawa, Saint Michel and Na Roche as high-risk areas. Two priorities have been set for the immediate

future: to provide safe temporary shelter for those living in these isolated communities that are at high risk of further landslides/flooding during the rainy season and to monitor and respond to the health needs of the population with particular focus on water sanitation aiming to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases. This risk results from the many bodies and livestock that still remain in flooded areas.

The French Red Cross in collaboration with Medecins du Monde (MDM) has established a small clinic in Mapou to provide for the immediate needs of the population. Between 28 and 30 May, a total of 153 consultations took place. There are currently sufficient medical supplies in place provided by MDM. A French Red Cross delegate in Mapou is working to recover dead bodies and the ICRC has provided an inflatable boat, an outboard engine and a boat operator in order to facilitate this task. The ICRC has also sent pick axes, shovels, boots, rubber gloves, 7,500 water purification tablets, 45 kg of chlorine powder, 100 body bags and stretchers to Mapou. Twenty local volunteers have been recruited to assist in recovering the corpses and ensuring burial.

The Netherlands Red Cross has dispatched equipment to Mapou by donkey, including 10 wheelbarrows, 75 pairs of rubber gloves, 75 shovels, 75 pick axes, raincoats and 5 megaphones. A Netherlands Red Cross delegate has been mobilized to Mapou and will work on the issue of the provision of temporary shelter.

A disaster management specialist from the Haitian National Red Cross Society is working as the Red Cross Movement's focal point in Mapou, providing liaison with the Civil Protection Agency, coordinating with MDM and also with Télécommunications sans Frontières which has set up an operations centre in the local school.

At present, relief to the affected areas can be provided by air only, impacting transportation costs included in the revised budget. Discussions between ECHO, DFID and OFDA are taking place in order to rent a cargo helicopter to be secured with joint DFID and ECHO funding.

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As of May 31, the Federation will assume overall coordination of the Movement's efforts at providing relief in Haiti. It has targeted 10,000 vulnerable people in the Mapou area.

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

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

**Objective: 5,000 beneficiary families in the Dominican Republic and Haiti will have received food and non-food relief to assist them in recovering from the effects of the flooding.**

#### **Progress/Achievements:**

Over the weekend of 29 – 30 May, two aircraft arrived in Santo Domingo, carrying some 35 tonnes of relief goods for the flood victims. The first airplane, sent from the warehouse in the Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) based in Panama, reached the Dominican Republic on the afternoon of Saturday, 29 May carrying 750 hygiene kits, 2,250 pieces of plastic sheeting, 750 kitchen sets, 400 aprons for volunteers, 100 tents and 750 jerry cans for the safe storage of water. On 30 May, a second aircraft chartered by the Spanish Red Cross, brought in two water treatment plants, 235 first aid kits, 500 pieces of plastic sheeting, 2,000 jerry cans and 100 tents. A further consignment planned in the coming days will bring 6,000 impregnated mosquito nets, 1,250 kitchen sets, 55 tents, 3,250 pieces of plastic sheeting, 5,000 bed sheets 1,275 hygiene kits and water purification powder.

In Haiti, 100 plastic sheets provided by UNICEF were sent to Bawa where needs have been identified for 150 families. Beneficiaries will be identified in the communities of Na Roche, Saint Michel and Non Galette and relief goods will be distributed accordingly.

Under the revised plan of action for the flood response operation, 1,000 stoves will also be distributed in the Dominican Republic; this will avoid the use of firewood which is contributing to deforestation in the flood-affected areas.

#### **Constraints:**

Access to the affected region in the South East Department of Haiti is possible by helicopter only, as a result of the flood waters and mudslides. The presence of numerous decaying corpses and dead livestock in the flood waters is a serious health risk. Furthermore, access by truck in the Dominican Republic along the border with Haiti is proving difficult.

### **Health**

**Objective 1: 5,000 beneficiary families will have benefited from the distribution of health relief items, reducing their vulnerability to disease.**

#### **Progress/Achievements:**

The regional health delegate from the Panama Regional Delegation has been working closely with representatives of the ICRC and OXFAM in Haiti. The delegate also visited the hard-hit town of Mapou with the ICRC, the HNRCS and the Haitian Minister of Health. A full evaluation of the health situation in Mapou began on 31 May, which will be used to ensure that the health needs of the local population are adequately met. In addition, quantities of relief items have now reached the Dominican Republic and planning for distributions in the Dominican Republic and Haiti is underway.

#### **Constraints:**

Certain distributions will be made by air, increasing transportation and distribution costs significantly.

**Objective 2: Targeted communities affected by the floods will have an increased awareness of health, hygiene and sanitation issues.**

#### **Progress/Achievements:**

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Water contamination in Haiti is visible as corpses of humans and animals are being discovered in what used to be traditional water sources for the local population, such as the river in Mapou. A public health campaign is currently being implemented by the Civil Protection Agency warning people not to drink untreated water. The health campaign also includes providing information to the general public about the symptoms of common illness and encourages people displaying those symptoms to seek health care.

Improving sanitary conditions is a main priority of the operation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In order to prevent the proliferation of diseases, hygienic practices are being promoted through the design and use of educational materials focusing on public health messages.

As water sources have been destroyed or contaminated in many areas, two water treatment plants were sent to the Dominican Republic, provided by the Spanish Red Cross. These plants will be sent to the town of Elias Piña, the provincial capital, on 1 June 2004. The trip from Santo Domingo to Elias Piña will take seven hours by truck. Elias Piña is a town of approximately 30,000 inhabitants, 5,000 of whom are Haitian migrants. This area was selected because there is currently no available water source as all water pipelines were destroyed by the floods. These plants will be installed by the Red Cross, including some 40 Dominican Red Cross volunteers, in coordination with the local mayor and governor. In addition, water tankers are being shipped from Panama to the Dominican Republic this week to assist in providing beneficiaries with safe, clean water. When these tankers arrive in the Dominican Republic they will also be sent to Elias Piña.

### **Impact:**

The spread of waterborne diseases is now under control in the affected areas of the Dominican Republic as beneficiaries are now aware of the dangers of drinking water from contaminated sources and are seeking immediate treatment for illnesses.

### **Constraints:**

The water treatment plants needed to be installed near an area affected by the floods, but not in an area so seriously affected that operations could not be carried out. Now that a final location has been determined, these plants will soon begin providing much needed clean water to thousands of beneficiaries.

### **Objective 3: Targeted communities will have benefited from psychosocial support and family linking and tracing projects, improving the overall well being of the beneficiaries.**

#### **Progress/Achievements:**

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Dominican Red Cross has been providing psychosocial care to the affected families and has been assisting in compiling information and undertaking needs assessments. In Jimaní, two psychologists, with the help of DRC volunteers trained in psychosocial support, attended beneficiaries affected by the floods. Psychologists and volunteers are using individual, collective and family therapy to treat affected persons. Psychologists are also providing psychosocial support to DRC volunteers who took part in the search and rescue activities.

A major component of the operation will focus on family linking and tracing. Preliminary discussions are taking place with the ICRC and the American Red Cross in this respect in the Dominican Republic. A member of the Haitian National Red Cross Society is working on-the-spot in Mapou, making announcements on the radio in order to provide information to family members who were separated during the disaster.

### **Impact:**

Beneficiaries in affected areas of the Dominican Republic are receiving psychosocial care to help them deal with the loss of loved ones, homes and livelihoods. In addition, DRC volunteers who worked in Jimaní and other affected areas have received psychosocial care and have reported “feeling better”.

### **Constraints:**

The psychosocial support teams do not have enough personnel to provide assistance to all those affected by the floods. To address this need, the group is currently exploring the possibility of setting up a more permanent psychosocial care programme in Jimaní for the next two months.

## Strengthening of response capacity

**Objective 1: The capacities of the communities in the affected areas will have been strengthened.**

### Progress/Achievements:

Work on this programme area will begin once the immediate relief needs of the flood-affected population have been attended to.

**Objective 2: The capacities of Red Cross branches on the Haitian/Dominican Republic border will have been strengthened.**

### Progress/Achievements:

Cross-border initiatives between the Dominican Republic and Haiti will be carried out through exchanges of experience and knowledge, taking into account language issues.

## Federation Coordination

In the Dominican Republic, the Federation is carrying out coordination initiatives with the PNS which are active in the flood response operation: the French Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. To date, the Spanish Red Cross has provided 10.5 tonnes of humanitarian relief including two water treatment plants and has made available two water and sanitation delegates and a logistician.

Furthermore, several coordination meetings have been held with external partners including PAHO, the World Food Programme, OCHA and ACTED France. On-going discussions are taking place with ECHO. As a result, OCHA has requested the Federation to facilitate inter-agency coordination. Discussions are planned to take place on 1 June with an UNDAC representative.

In Haiti, coordination initiatives are taking place both in Port-au-Prince and in the field. The Red Cross Movement is liaising with UN agencies and NGOs including OXFAM. Moreover, Movement coordination meetings are held on a regular basis.

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

The Federation is working with the Haitian and Dominican Red Cross Societies to assist the most vulnerable. The planned operation, as well as search and rescue and emergency assistance activities carried out to date, are based upon the principle of humanity; beneficiary selection criteria focuses on the level of vulnerability of those affected, respect of the culture of the beneficiaries, and ensuring gender sensitivity.

Activities planned for this appeal are based on the SPHERE project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response. The operation is guided by principles and rules relating to transparency in the drawing up and dissemination of narrative and financial reports. All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

In Haiti, the Federation is working with the UN to ensure that food drops carried out by helicopter include all communities in need of assistance. To date, given its difficult location, the community of Saint Michel has not received food.

A strategic plan in communications has been designed. This includes visibility activities with the media, donors and the affected communities.

The Red Cross Movement in Haiti has been particularly visible since representatives were active on the ground from the outset of the emergency. The Federation's Information and Reporting Delegate has given numerous interviews with representatives of the press and his photographs of the disaster have been published world-wide.

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

**REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY**  
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS**

APPEAL No. 13/2004

TYPE	VALUE
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	123,000
Clothing & textiles	81,000
Food	679,000
Water and sanitation	114,000
Medical & first aid	26,000
Utensils & tools	110,000
Other relief supplies	180,000
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>1,313,000</b>
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Land & buildings	9,000
Computers & telecom. equipment	21,000
Other equipment	85,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	158,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Warehousing and distribution	203,000
Vehicle costs and transport	140,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Expatriate staff	364,000
National staff	40,000
Workshops & Training	30,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	24,000
Information expenses	28,000
Administrative & general expenses	18,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>1,120,000</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>2,433,000</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET REQUEST</b>	<b>2,433,000</b>