

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 & HAITI: FLOODS

4 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. 2; Period covered: 2 – 3 June 2004; Appeal coverage: while the attached list of contributions reflects a coverage of 12.3%, the actual appeal coverage is 50% (based on pledged being recorded) and this will be reflected in the updated list of contributions to be made available on the web shortly.

(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website).

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 revised and increased to CHF 2,431,797 and the number of beneficiaries increased to 25,000 (5,000 families). The operation was 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 xx (USD xx or EUR xx)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal no. 01.51/2004

Operational Summary: Faced with the devastating floods in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, Federation response mechanisms were immediately implemented. The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) mobilized disaster management delegates to both countries in order to support the two national societies, and resources are also being deployed from the Panama Regional Delegation, Partner National Societies and National Societies in the region. The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) has carried out distributions of food, water and relief goods to those affected by the floods in the Provinces of Independencia, Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez. Assessments and beneficiary surveys are on-going and lists of 450 beneficiary families in Jimaní are now complete. The psychosocial team has put forward a proposal to continue support over a three month period, given the suffering and the scale of the disaster. In Haiti, a distribution of relief items by the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) took place on 1 June in Barois (Bawa). However, there is an urgent need for food supplies in the Mapou area. Families from high-risk zones are being encouraged to build temporary shelters on elevated ground. The main challenges related to the operation are the logistical constraints since flood waters continue to impede access by road, and transportation of relief goods to affected communities in Haiti can be carried out by helicopter only. A large numbers of corpses and dead animals remain in the flood waters in the area of Mapou, posing potential health risks. There is a new funding need for body bags and equipment for the recovery team since it is urgent to bury the dead. The Federation is ensuring coordination with UN agencies, international NGOs and national agencies in order to maximize resources available. There is a major need for human resources in disaster management/logistics, and health/psychological support, and national societies are encouraged to support the operation with delegates.

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, 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, phone 509-510-9813, fax 509223-1054
- In Panama: Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), Nelson Castaño, Head of PADRU; email ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone 507-316-1001, fax 507-316-1082
- In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department; email olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org, phone 41-22-730-4535, fax 41-22-733-0395

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

A week after heavy rains brought devastating floods to Haiti and the Dominican Republic the death toll stands at around 2,000. In Haiti, 996 bodies have been recovered and an estimated 1,600 people are still missing. In the Dominican Republic, 414 bodies have been recovered and 274 people are still missing. Of the missing, there are expected to be few survivors. The rains caused several rivers across the island of Hispaniola to overflow or break their banks, the water flooding into nearby towns and villages. Deforestation and poverty were major contributors to the high loss of life, as mudslides buried homes and victims, and poorly constructed houses were swept away by rushing water.



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, there are 388 dead and around 1,500 missing. Hundreds of homes in the area have been destroyed and the local water source has been contaminated by thousands of human and animal corpses. The flood waters in the area of Mapou are receding by approximately 20 centimetres per day. However, water still stands at a depth of between five and ten metres. The villages of Barois (Bawa), Nan Galette, Na Roche and Saint Michel are in particular danger of further flooding should the 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. In addition, thousands of homes and crops have been destroyed. Relief operations in Haiti have been slowed as many of the affected areas are accessible only by helicopter.

In the Dominican Republic, the hardest-hit areas are the town of Jimaní, located on the border with Haiti and the Provinces of Independencia, Barahona, Bahoruco, Elias Piña and Duarte. According to the government's

Emergency Operation Centre, in Jimaní alone there are 393 dead and another 274 are missing. Throughout the country, more than 15,000 people and 3,000 homes have been affected by the floods, and 1,600 families are currently homeless. Many of the affected persons in the border region of the Dominican Republic are Haitian migrants, most undocumented. There are still 21 water pipelines out of service throughout the affected areas, although 95 percent of the area's electricity has been restored. Access to these regions is improving slowly as roads are being repaired.

Operational developments

With funding received directly from the Chinese Red Cross, the Dominican Red Cross has assisted vulnerable flood-affected families in the Provinces of Independencia and Duarte. In Jimaní (Independencia) 65 Red Cross volunteers carried out the distribution of 500 mattresses and medicines to the local hospital. In addition, a total of 410 families were provided with basic food items, water and milk. The families assisted are from the communities of Jimaní Viejo, Los Espartillos, El Cerro, La "Q", 27 de Febrero INVI, La 40, La 50, El Centro, Barrio Militar and Albergue. Teams from the Provinces of Azúa and Barahona together with the DRC headquarters, provided logistics support to the team in Jimaní. In the Province of Duarte in the north east of the country, 52 volunteers carried out distributions to assist 1,085 families with the provision of basic food items and water. In addition, emergency relief was provided to flooded communities in the Bajo Yuna region by DRC air rescue units supported by teams from the towns of Santiago, San Francisco de Macorís, Bonaó, Tomborill, Hostos, Villa Rovas, Nagua and the DRC headquarters. In addition, Red Cross rescue brigades are using boats in order to reach the worst-hit areas to carry out beneficiary surveys and assessments and provide medical assistance. Communities reached by the rescue teams include Arenoso, Palma Sola, Los Platanitos, El Aguacate, El Mango, Las Coles, El Laurel, Barrio Lindo, Callejón de Tilo, Urungo, Cruce de la Cabima, La Garza and Los Cacaos. However, certain communities, such as Los Peinados and Los Contreras remain inaccessible. In the Province of Sanchez Ramirez, 86 families in the town of Cotui and 72 in Nagua received a donation of food from the Dominican Red Cross.

The DRC has a total of 862 volunteers who are taking part in the floods response operation. The Federation team consisting of members of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), the Panama Regional Delegation and delegates deployed by sister National Societies from both within and outside the region are reviewing the operational response structure in terms of personnel to ensure optimum coverage so that the targeted vulnerable population can be reached as soon as possible.

Three delegates specialized in disaster management, logistics and water and sanitation are on the ground in Mapou, together with two HNRCS workers involved in logistics and one working in the area of psychosocial support. A Netherlands Red Cross delegate is coordinating the construction of temporary shelters and two French Red Cross delegates are dealing with body recovery and the running of the field clinic. The Haitian National Red Cross Society is in the process of identifying five volunteers to boost relief efforts in Mapou. Given the priority for shelter in Barois, Saint Michel, Nan Galette and Na Roche where homes have been swept away by the floods, together with the danger of more homes in high-risk areas being destroyed in the event of further rain, the construction of temporary shelters on elevated ground has begun. As of 1 June, demonstrations on how to build shelters are taking place: 1 has been built and two are currently in progress. Families from high-risk zones are being encouraged to build temporary shelters in safe areas on high ground and land has been identified which is state-owned. Two journeys were made by helicopter on 3 June between Port-au-Prince and Mapou; the helicopter brought in building supplies including 50 hammers, 5 wheelbarrows, 10 machetes, 50 pickaxes, 50 shovels, 2 gallons of paint, 2 paint brushes and 4 bags of cement, together with food and water.

The HNRCS has received financial and in-kind contributions from companies, banks and insurance companies. In addition, American Airlines has offered free cargo space and airplane tickets for a period of one month.

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 (activities implemented within this objective)

On 31 May, a truck with relief supplies left Santo Domingo for the logistics base in Pedernales where there is a Red Cross warehouse. This consignment consisted of kitchen sets, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting and jerry cans. As a result, on 1 June, the following items were distributed to approximately 150 families in the village of Barois in the area surrounding Mapou, Haiti:

- 110 hygiene kits.
- 150 kitchen sets.
- 150 pieces of plastic sheeting.
- 300 jerry cans.

Beneficiary surveys have been completed in Jimaní (Dominican Republic) and 450 beneficiary families have been selected to receive relief goods. A truck left the Federation's warehouse in Santo Domingo on 3 June, carrying 200 kitchen kits, 200 hygiene kits, 200 jerry cans and 1 tent. These goods are expected to be distributed today, 4 June, to these families. Given the high level of need in Jimaní and the surrounding areas, the Federation is coordinating its efforts with UNICEF to ensure that the needs of all those affected by the floods are met.

A delegate from the Netherlands Red Cross is currently in Arenoso, in the Province of Duarte, to carry out an evaluation of the situation and assess the number of families affected, damages to homes and infrastructure and determine the needs of the beneficiaries in the area.

In addition, a representative from the German Red Cross went to Pedernales in the Dominican Republic and Vilansapit in Haiti to participate in needs assessment meetings with local representatives of the Dominican and Haitian Red Cross Societies, as well as with representatives of other organizations present in the area, such as the Pan American Development Foundation. A proposal was drawn up to provide bilateral assistance to complement the ongoing relief efforts by distributing basic house rehabilitation kits, water filters, and kerosene stoves to 2,000 families in the Haitian communities of Vilansapit, Katye-Banan, Boukan-Gùyom and Bwadam. The German Red Cross is considering expanding these activities to include the communities surrounding Mapou as soon as logistics facilities are established. The German Red Cross is also working to provide the Dominican Red Cross with a generator for emergency use and is considering the possibility of supporting a group of Cuban doctors working in Haiti by supplying them with medical equipment.

The Haitian National Red Cross Society continues to conduct beneficiary surveys: a total of 1,600 families have been identified to date in 20 of the 26 villages in the Mapou district. Beneficiary lists were compiled by the National Society in coordination with the Department of Civil Protection. Ten teams of three people will today begin to cross-check these lists in order to finalize them.

Impact:

A number of distributions have taken place, assisting those worst affected by the floods with the provision of food, water and relief goods in the Dominican Republic and with relief items in Barois. Coordination with Red Cross and external partners is maximizing the impact of relief activities to meet the needs of vulnerable, affected families.

Constraints:

Mapou and the surrounding communities continue to be cut-off and access is possible by air only. So far, the helicopters used have a limited cargo capacity and it was necessary to carry out six trips between Pedernales and Barois in order to carry out the transportation of relief goods on 1 June. Furthermore, 46 hygiene kits were not distributed and on its final trip the helicopter had to land in a different spot when members of the community became agitated and began throwing stones. This security issue is being examined in order to make sure that distributions are orderly and that those in need receive help.

At present, the main priority is food. Food supplies are urgently needed as current supplies cannot last more than three to four days. If heavy rainfall occurs, the building of temporary shelters in safe areas will be hampered and there is the risk that people will return to live in the high-risk zones.

Health

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

At the request of the Netherlands Red Cross, 10 condoms will be included in each of the hygiene kits that are being distributed to 5,000 affected families in both countries. In Mapou, 203 consultations have taken place at the field clinic over the last three days. Those who come to the clinic are provided with water purification tablets which are sufficient for the needs of a family for a one week period. At the same time, explanations as to the use of the tablets are given. The Cuban medical team at the field clinic is recording the incidence of disease by locality. At present, the health situation is under control.

The health delegate is ensuring awareness-raising regarding sanitation issues in priority communities. A sanitation system has been installed in the operations base and the clinic.

The condoms will be clearly identified and accompanied by a pamphlet containing information regarding the correct use of the condom and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. This activity is in line with the youth programme already being carried out by the Netherlands Red Cross with the National Societies in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Impact:

The health situation in both the Dominican Republic and Haiti is stable. Interventions in the Mapou area have, to date, ensured that adequate safe water is available and that illnesses are treated.

Constraints:

The high level of flood waters contaminated by large numbers of human and animal corpses continues to pose a potential health risk. Moreover, should heavy rainfall occur, the supply of clean drinking water may be further affected.

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

There is now a great need to identify and dispose of a large number of corpses still in the water surrounding Mapou. The Federation's regional health delegate currently in the field estimates that there are around 1,000 bodies and an equal number of animal corpses. The Red Cross team working in the area is photographing bodies for identification purposes and attempting to bury them as soon as possible before they begin to pose a more serious health risk to the rest of the population. The Federation is currently seeking new funding to purchase 500 body bags, as well as boots, gloves, masks, overalls and aprons for the team that will be working to recover and bury the bodies. The Haitian National Red Cross Society does not have sufficient volunteers to work with the team recovering corpses and recruitment of members of the community to work on this urgent task is being considered.

On 2 June, two water treatment plants were sent to Elias Piña in the Dominican Republic. It is hoped that by Friday, 4 June these plants will be producing potable water for the local population of 30,000 people. The water treatment plants, which were donated by the Spanish Red Cross, were transported from Santo Domingo to Elias Piña by truck. Both plants run on gasoline, which will be procured from the nearest local supplier. Besides providing residents in the area with drinking water, the project will also include training members of the community in how to properly maintain and use the water treatment plants. The plants have been transported together with chemicals required for water purification for a four day period; local suppliers of the chemicals have now been identified.

Impact

Two water treatment plants are now in place in Elias Piña and 30,000 people will thus receive clean drinking water as of today, 4 June.

Constraints

The flood waters in Mapou, although receding each day, remain high and continue to isolate the area.

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 (activities implemented within this objective)

The psychosocial support team of the Dominican Red Cross has developed a proposal to begin a three month programme to provide psychosocial support to those in need. The psychological state of the community, which had at one point seemed to be improving, has become more serious as Mothers' Day is traditionally celebrated in the Dominican Republic on 30 May. This holiday has provoked increased feelings of depression and loneliness in those who have lost family members. Psychologists working in the area have described the situation as that of "collective grief." In order to combat these issues, over the last three days, the psychosocial support team has attended to 30 persons in need of psychological support or care. The efforts of psychosocial support team are being carried out in coordination with World Vision.

In Mapou, the HNRCS psychologist is visiting communities and facilitating group meetings in order to support those who have lost family members and to identify villages in which there are particular problems.

Impact

Psychological support mechanisms are available to help those in distress following the disaster.

Constraints

Resources for psychosocial support are limited, most particularly in Haiti. Given the situation in Mapou, it is also likely that Federation and National Society personnel may need counselling support.

Strengthening of response capacity

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The design of key disaster preparedness messages for high-risk communities in the Mapou area is under way. In addition, a system for surveillance mapping of incidents is being established. These initiatives will be further developed once the emergency distribution phase of the operation has closed.

Impact

Residents are receiving information regarding the dangers of living in high-risk areas and how to prepare themselves to mitigate the potential effects of a disaster.

Constraints

Given the need to focus on relief efforts to respond to the immediate needs, this component of the operation is, as yet, in its early stages.

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

DRC and HNRCS branches in the border region are working together to carry out assessments of needs in the area and to provide relief to flood-stricken communities. Eight volunteers from the DRC branch of Pedernales and eight from the HNRCS branch of Anse-à-Pitre worked together to deliver basic food items and water to 57 families in the communities of Arrecife, Bucan-Dion and Buadon-Boni on the Haitian side of the border.

Impact

Links between the DRC and HNRCS branches in the border area are being strengthened through effective activities.

Constraints

Given the need to focus on relief efforts to respond to the immediate needs, this component of the operation is, as yet, in its early stages.

Federation Coordination

In Jimaní, a PADRU disaster management delegate has established coordination with UNDAC, Intermond and national NGOs. On 3 June a coordination meeting was held in Santo Domingo between representatives of the Federation, OCHA, ECHO, PAHO, UNICEF, WFP, Movimondo and Intermond to ensure maximum benefit of resources available and actions taking place.

The Federation and the HNRCS continue to ensure coordination in Mapou with UNDAC, Télécommunications sans Frontières, Agro Action Allemande, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and Médecins du Monde (MDM). In Port-au-Prince coordination initiatives are on-going, in particular with OCHA and WFP.

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.

In particular, the operation will prioritize those who have lost their home, especially the elderly, children, disabled persons, pregnant women and persons being housed in shelters.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A strategic plan in communications has been designed. This includes visibility activities with the media, donors and the affected communities. In addition, banners have been created in French and Spanish to give visibility to Red Cross activities throughout the two countries. The banners are being used during distributions of relief items in order to help beneficiaries to identify the distribution centre. Also, volunteers and Red Cross staff taking part in the relief effort will receive t-shirts and bags displaying the Red Cross emblem.

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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

04/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,433,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 12.3%
AUSTRIAN - RC		40,000	EUR	61,440	03.06.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		100,000	CAD	92,500	02.06.04	
CANADIAN - RC		48,470	CAD	44,835	01.06.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		99,000	CAD	91,575	02.06.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				290,350	CHF	11.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADIAN - RC				1,400	01.06.04	DELEGATE
SWISS - RC				8,000	02.06.04	DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				9,400	CHF	0.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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