

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

9 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. 3; Period covered: 4 – 9 June 2004; Appeal coverage: 66.3%.
[\(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website\).](#)

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 820,547

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal 01.51/2004

Operational Summary: The operation in Haiti is facing major constraints in terms of access to the targeted flood victims in the worst hit area of Mapou in the South East department. Flood waters are subsiding, albeit slowly. The Federation/ Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) operation is carried out in close cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP), and the intention is that both organizations will target the same vulnerable families. The first food distributions were to be carried out on 8 June and the Federation distributions of non-food relief items were to follow on 9 and 10 June. However, as a result of technical and security concerns, the WFP distributions have now been delayed until 10 June. The Red Cross role in health is focused on clean water, sanitation, public education, and psycho social support. In the Dominican Republic the situation is more stable and logistics delegates have prepared airlifts for Mapou in coordination with the Dominican Red Cross (DRC). On 8 June a ship with four containers containing water and sanitation equipment, vehicles, tankers, hygiene and kitchen sets, tents and bed sheets arrived in Santo Domingo from Panama. In Elias Piña 38,000 beneficiaries are now receiving water from the water treatment plants donated to the operation by Spanish Red Cross. The beneficiary number will increase to 43,000 beneficiaries in the coming days as more communities are reached. In the basin area of Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez Provinces rainfall continues. This area is affected by floods during the rainy season each year.

ECHO has announced a multi-donor grant of approximately EUR 550,000 and a contribution of USD 250,000 has been confirmed from OFDA. In addition to donations from DFID, the WFP and a multinational company, the American, Austrian, Belgian, British, Canadian, Danish, French, Japanese, Lichtenstein, Netherlands, Spanish, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies have provided cash or in-kind support to this appeal.

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 up to 2,000. Hundreds of 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, 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, 414 people lost their lives, 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. Access to these regions is improving slowly as roads are being repaired.

Operational developments

In Haiti, the Mapou area (Southeast Department) is still critical. The area is not accessible by road and it is still necessary to fly several kilometres by helicopter to reach Mapou and its surroundings. Many of the survivors of the floods are traumatized by the disaster which washed away their homes, families and friends, cattle and crops. Dead bodies continue to float in the lake or are trapped in flooded houses, and approximately 1,000 dead livestock remain in the water, resulting in putrefaction and contamination of the water sources.

The evolution of the situation in Mapou depends to a large extent on the weather and rainfall patterns over the coming weeks. Critical factors are the fragility of the risk zones below the eroded mountainsides which represent a constant danger for a number of communities. These and the entire flooded area are at significant risk at the onset of the hurricane and rainy season. For this reason an evacuation operation is taking place in the village of Barois (Bawa) (population 500). Half of the population in the villages of Na Roche (population 700) and Saint Michel

(population 500) also need to be resettled. To date, 103 families have been evacuated and another 150 families need to be moved.

The loss of food supplies compounded by crop damage has impacted on availability of food in the region and this will continue to be a problem for the months ahead. Community members report that market prices for basic food stuffs have risen by 50% or more and the disaster is threatening food security. In addition, there is currently a problem of a lack of availability of water which has been heightened by the absence of rain since the disaster.

Security issues are a significant concern for this operation and are exacerbated by the delay in providing food to the affected area. It is expected that a significant and orderly insertion of food resources will have a positive effect with regard to the overall security climate.

Central to the evolution of the disaster scenario in Mapou is the nature of the weather in the coming weeks. Heavy rains would bring a strong possibility of renewed flooding and / or landslides and would naturally worsen the situation and increase the needs for additional to the population. Nevertheless, some rain is needed to alleviate the shortage of drinking water.



An inflatable boat purchased by the ICRC is used to recover corpses from the flood waters. As many as 10 bodies are recovered every day

Tracing activities continue in the Haitian National Red Cross Society following the mission of the tracing officer to the Mapou area.

During the reporting period, the Federation delegations together with the DRC and the HNRCS have further developed the operational plan of action and budget. Field structures are also being established and adapted in order to meet the needs.

In the Dominican Republic, the Federation has now established three operational centres in the field in the Red Cross branches. The operational zones are located in the affected departments of Independencia (where the worst hit town of Jimaní is situated), Elias Piña, Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez together with the National District, served by the Santo Domingo delegation. A logistics base has been established in Pedernales on the border with Haiti which will also serve Mapou; warehousing is also being organized in Barahona.



*Map of the Dominican Republic and Haiti showing the operational areas
Courtesy of ReliefWeb*

In Haiti much of the operation is coordinated out of Port-au-Prince, given the difficult circumstances in the field. An operational centre is also being established in Mapou. The roles and numbers of delegates are being defined.

The logistics structure has also been established. The logistics coordinator is based in Santo Domingo together with a base logistician. A third logistician in Dominican Republic is working in the border region supplying Mapou. In Haiti it is most likely that there will be two logistics delegates – one for the Mapou area and one for Port-au-Prince.

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)

During the reporting period, logistics experts have been working on procurement, warehousing, transportation, and in particular, organization of airlifts to Mapou. On 8 June a ship with four containers containing water and sanitation equipment, vehicles, tankers, hygiene and kitchen sets, tents and bed sheets arrived from Panama. Distributions are being prepared for the coming days.

In the field, the Dominican Red Cross with support from the Federation, has been validating beneficiary surveys. In the province of Duarte, where floods recur periodically, Red Cross branches have participated in disaster preparedness projects. The branches are familiar with the communities and were thus able to provide immediate response, thanks to previous efforts. Nevertheless, community leaders clearly need further training.

Over the weekend of 5 – 6 June, the Dominican Red Cross distributed basic food parcels and milk to 48 families in shelters in Jimaní. The National Society also distributed 350 hygiene and kitchen sets and 6 tents for Red Cross volunteers that had come to help.

Constraints: The logistics constraints in the Mapou area are delaying distributions, particularly as a result of the need to use helicopter transportation.

Health

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

During the reporting period no distributions of health relief items have taken place. Preparations for distributions have been carried out as mentioned above.

Constraints: The logistics constraints in the Mapou area are delaying distributions, particularly as a result of the need to use helicopter transportation.

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)

The Federation's regional health delegate is in the field in Mapou, continuing work with the Haitian National Red Cross Society to further define the health component of the plan of action. The proposed plan of action in relation to health has been developed in close coordination with OXFAM, MSF, MDM and with input from the Ministry of Public Health. The Red Cross role in health will be in the area of ensuring clean water supplies, sanitation, public education, and psycho-social support while OXFAM will take on more of the infrastructure needs for the water supply. MSF will support the Cuban Medical Brigade in Mapou, thereby covering the needs relating to medical intervention. A Federation water and sanitation delegate is currently being recruited. MSF has agreed that their psychosocial support expert will work with the Federation delegate currently being recruited.

The Red Cross teams are still retrieving corpses from the flood waters, as many as ten every day. Once they are identified, the bodies are buried. In the event that the bodies are not identified, the corpses are photographed before burial, and a record of the location of the burial is kept.

In Elias Piña in the Dominican Republic, the two water treatment plants are now producing water for 38,000 people. The team is increasing the number of beneficiaries as more communities are reached. The total target of beneficiaries is 43,000 people. Tanks with a capacity of between 1,000 and 4,000 litres have been installed in the beneficiary communities. As water is being distributed key public health messages are given out to the communities in educational sessions. The water treatment plants will provide clean water for three months or until some time as the rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure has taken place. The Spanish Red Cross is working on a proposal to rehabilitate urgently the water infrastructure in the area together with INAPA, the national water company. The water treatment plants will eventually be brought back to the headquarters of the Dominican Red Cross and staff and volunteers will be trained on how to use them.

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 DRC psychosocial support team is continuing activities in Jimaní. UNICEF which is also carrying out psycho social activities in Jimaní, has requested the participation of three Red Cross volunteers trained in first aid to take part in activities.

In Mapou there are major needs in the area of psychosocial support and the Federation is now recruiting a psychological support delegate.

Constraints: There are currently insufficient human resources in Mapou which is being addressed through recruitment of delegates and local personnel.

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)

During this phase the focus is on immediate needs and thus none of the specific activities in the appeal have yet been carried out.

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)

During this phase the focus is on immediate needs and thus none of the specific activities in the appeal have yet been carried out.

Federation Coordination

ECHO announced the allocation of a multi-donor grant of approximately EUR 550,000 based on the Federation's revised emergency appeal of 1 June. The Federation is now in the process of agreeing on an internal division of labour and a memorandum of understanding with the Partner National Societies involved; the French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies. These three National Societies have delegates participating in the operation.



The clinic in Mapou attends to those in need of medical assistance.

Apart from the activities carried out by Spanish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross delegates within the emergency appeal operation, both National Societies have provided support directly to the Dominican Red Cross. Furthermore, the Spanish Red Cross is campaigning for funding for rehabilitation activities.

A German Red Cross representative is also in the Dominican Republic, working on funding proposals after having completed assessments in the field in the border area between Mapou and Jimaní. German Red Cross activities will be complementary to the Federation emergency appeal.

Coordination is taking place with UN organizations. As the UNDAC team left the Dominican Republic, the UNDP took over coordination. On 7 June the Federation and the Dominican Red Cross participated in UN technical meetings in the areas of logistics, food security, health and water and sanitation. On 8 June the Federation together with the Dominican Red Cross, participated in the interagency meeting and the meeting with the donors organized by the UNDP. Coordination is ongoing between representatives of the Federation, OCHA, ECHO, PAHO, UNICEF, WFP, Movimondo and Intermund to ensure maximum benefit of resources available and actions taking place.

In the field, the delegates working in the operational centres and local Red Cross branches are coordinating with UNDP, UNICEF, PAHO, local authorities, World vision and other international and national NGOs.

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, which is coordinating with the authorities.

In the Americas region the Bahamas Red Cross has launched a campaign for the floods victims in Haiti and the Netherlands overseas branch of Saint Martin has donated 5,000 dollars to those affected by flooding.

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 and is being implemented. During the reporting period stickers for the items to be distributed were designed and printed both for the Dominican Republic (in Spanish) and for Haiti (in French and Creole). The regional information officer in the Dominican Republic visited Pedernales and Anse a Pitres, in the border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti respectively border to write a story for the internet on the joint work between branches.

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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,433,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 66.3%	
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	DISASTER MANAGEMENT DELEGATE
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		99,000	CAD	91,575	02.06.04	
ECHO		550,000	EUR	844,800	03.06.04	
Swedish RC		500,000	SEK	83,565	08.06.04	
Japanese RC		64,700	USD	80,250	08.06.04	
Swiss RC		190,000	CHF	190,000	08.06.04	
Liechtenstein RC		10,000	CHF	10,000	08.06.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,498,965	CHF	61.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRIAN - RC		58,000	EUR	89,088	04.06.04	280'000 WATERMAKER SACHETS
BRITISH - RC				2,000	08.06.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
BRITISH - RC				4,000	08.06.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
CANADIAN - RC				1,400	01.06.04	DELEGATE
SPANISH - RC				6,000	08.06.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC				3,000	08.06.04	REPORTING DELEGATE
SWISS - RC				8,000	02.06.04	ASSESSMENT DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				113,488	CHF	4.7%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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