

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

14 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. 4; Period covered: 9 – 14 June 2004; Appeal coverage: 74.3%; [\(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website\).](#)

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 624,251

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

Operational Summary: After weeks of torrential rains causing destructive floods and mudslides in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the situation remains critical for the affected people and the probability of further damages and victims continues to threaten, especially in Haiti.

In Dominican Republic the International Federation delegates based in the field in the most affected areas; the provinces of Independencia (town of Jimaní), Elias Piña, Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez (the Bajo Yuna region), have established the field presence and are preparing for the distributions of the food and non-food relief items, confirming beneficiary surveys together with the local Red Cross. In Jimaní distributions of plastic sheeting, kitchen tables and chairs as well as kitchen and hygiene sets have been carried out. A community gas stove has been installed in a big tent, and as of today 14 June, food will be cooked there to 39 families living in shelters. Smaller distributions of goods donated to the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) locally have also taken place. In Elias Piña the two water plants run by a Spanish Red Cross delegate and volunteers from the DRC are now providing more than 35,000 people with potable water on a daily basis. Logistics have been working with local procurement and on customs clearance of the goods that arrived to Dominican Republic last week.

On Saturday 12 June the International Federation was the first organisation to reach isolated Mapou in Haiti by car. Up until this date the area could only be reached by helicopter or foot, making distributions very hard. The International Federation delegates together with six Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) volunteers and delegates from the French and Netherlands Red Cross have been active mainly in the areas of temporary shelter, water and sanitation and health, as well as preparing for the distributions to take place as soon as logistics issues are solved. To date material for 350 temporary shelters has been distributed as well as water purification tablets to all affected families. The United Nations World Food

Programme (WFP) has delivered food aid during the last days to isolated villages in the mountainous Mapou area for the first time since floods devastated the region. The International Federation is going to distribute non-food relief items once the food distributions have finished and logistics constraints are overcome.

ECHO has announced a multi-donor grant of approximately 550,000 EURO. OFDA has confirmed a contribution of 250,000 USD. The following National Societies have provided cash or in-kind support to this appeal: American, Austrian, British, Canadian, Danish, French, Japanese, Lichtenstein, Netherlands, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Turkish Red Cross.

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 waters in the area of Mapou still stand 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 Provinces of Independencia (the town of Jimaní, located on the border with Haiti), Elias Piña, Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez (the Bajo Yuna region). 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. There was also a vast loss of crops including rice and plantain and food shortages are foreseen.

Operational developments

On Saturday 12 June a Federation car was the first vehicle to reach Mapou after the disaster. This was made possible after a Federation delegate had organized 30 people to clear a little road with axes, shovels and

wheelbarrows. Earlier the International Federation had sent in two small motorcycles to the area for transportation between the villages but even that was hard. Mapou is located in a mountainous area where it has only been possible to reach the affected villages by helicopter or foot. Little foot trails go between the villages but there is still risk of landslides. In the lakes water still stand high and the water is contaminated. There are still human bodies and animals floating in the lakes, and the Red Cross is still taking care of the human bodies. This is done not so much because of the health risk as nobody is using the water, but for psychosocial purposes. The team of Cuban doctors in the area is working closely with the International Federation. They are doing health mappings on a daily basis. Malaria and dengue are endemic in the area and cases are confirmed of both.

The International Federation is working in the villages of Mapou, Barois (Bawa), Saint Michel, Na Roche and Nan Galette. Focus has been on temporary shelter and water and sanitation. In these villages they use cisterns to collect rain water which were washed over by the floods. The short-term solution is chlorine tablets.

The operation is facing some delays due to logistical problems, mainly in Haiti. Assessments are on-going on the best way of reaching Mapou and how to organize logistics. Now that the area can be reached by road, the relief goods will most likely be brought in from Dominican Republic by truck. Volunteers of the Pedernales branch of the DRC have reached the area by road from the border, but they have not been able to get into the affected area.

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

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 2,000 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)

In the Dominican Republic distributions have been delayed due to the customs clearance process. It is expected that this will be solved during Monday 14 June, which would mean that the relief items would reach Jimaní in the province of Independencia and the provinces of Elias Piña, Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez in the coming days. Distributions will then take place immediately. However, some distributions in Jimaní and of items received locally by the DRC have taken place during the last days. Meanwhile, the DRC with support from the Federation, have been confirming censuses.



Arrival by truck within vicinity of Mapou, 78 bundles of plastic sheeting, enough for 234 homes.

On Sunday 13 June, the DRC, with bilateral support from the Netherlands Red Cross, set up a tent with a community gas stove in Jimaní. Cooking for 39 families in shelter will start today, Monday 14 June. A Red Cross volunteer will manage the community kitchen and coordinate with other organizations making sure that nutritional aspects are considered. 140 chairs, 35 tables and plastic sheeting were also distributed to the same families. In Jimaní to date, a total of 400 hygiene and kitchen sets have been distributed. Distributions of locally received items have also taken place in the camps with Haitian refugees.

In Mapou the International Federation has distributed 360 picks, 100 wood saws and 2 large tents. Also a generator and 2 motor cycles have been brought into the area. Material for 132 temporary houses has been distributed. In total to date 350 houses have been relocated. The construction is organized in phases. First groups are informed why they need to move. Then groups of 20 people are instructed how to build the temporary houses; a model house is built, and the people are then organized to help each other build the houses. The construction is also followed up as sheeting is not distributed until the frame is built and inspected. All tools are lent and brought back. A local community leader is in charge of this. Houses are built on Government land near the original villages. The plan is to build the temporary houses so that the permanent houses can be built in the same place. People are encouraged to use material from their old homes, wood from destroyed trees, but they are told not to cut the remaining trees.

During the reporting period logistics have been engaged in procurement, warehousing and transport. The logistics coordinator has worked out of Port-au-Prince, in particular organizing logistics for Mapou. On 10 June the Committee on Contracts (CoC) met to approve the contracts for the first procurement of food.

Constraints:

Distributions in Dominican Republic and Haiti are delayed as the relief items that arrived in Dominican Republic are pending customs clearance. The logistics constraints in the Mapou area are also another delaying factor as well as lack of local authorities. The Federation team in the field deals with an ad hoc committee. Security is a concern, and distributions need to be well organized as there is a risk of riots. The HNRCS also lacks volunteers in the area.

Health

Objective 1: 2,000 beneficiary families will have benefited from the distribution of health relief items, reducing their vulnerability to disease.

Preparations for further distributions have been carried out as mentioned above.

Constraints:

Distributions in Dominican Republic and Haiti are delayed as the relief items that arrived in the Dominican Republic are pending customs clearance. The logistics constraints in the Mapou area are also another delaying factor.

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)

In Elias Piña in the Dominican Republic, the two water treatment plants are now producing water to 35,000 people distributed in 31 locations. Tanks of 1000 – 4000 litres have been installed in the beneficiary communities where the water is distributed on a daily basis. Water is also distributed to public institutions such as the local hospital and a jail. As water is being distributed key public health messages are given out to the communities in educational sessions. The message on the importance of drinking clean water distributed from the Red Cross, instead of water from the river, has gone through as people come to queue up by the distribution tanks.

In Haiti, in the Mapou area, water purification tablets have been distributed in all the affected villages. This was made possible by organizing 3 Red Cross teams of two people each who went to all communities door to door. The team of Cuban doctors have participated in the activities by delivering key health messages in Creole together

with Red Cross volunteers. They are using HNRCS material, which has three modules containing the following areas: water and food hygiene; environmental hygiene and how to avoid dengue and malaria; latrines.

In Mapou, the Red Cross team is still collecting corpses from the flood water, up to ten every day. Up to date a total of 58 bodies have been recovered. Once they are identified, the bodies are buried. If they were not recognised, the corpses are photographed before burial, making a record of where it is buried.

Constraints: The Federation has deployed delegates from the Haiti Social Crisis appeal operation to assist in this floods operation, but deploying adequate human resources support in Haiti remains a constraint.

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)

In Jimaní, Unicef psychosocial activities for children will be organized in the community tent set up by the Red Cross.

In Mapou, needs are great and the Federation is deploying a psychological support delegate to arrive in the Mapou area this week.

Constraints

Human resources in Mapou have been insufficient, resulting in needs being unmet.

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 been carried out. However, as communities are involved in the selection of beneficiaries, in the construction of shelters, in the organization of distributions, their capacities are already being strengthened.

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 been carried out. However as the Federation delegates are working with the local Red Cross, involving them in the organization of distributions, logistics and shelters capacities are being strengthened. Also, the local Red Cross is getting familiar with standard Federation rules and procedures.

In Jimaní, the branch had been shut down but is now to be reopened, as new volunteers are joining the Red Cross. During this week a basic training course on the Red Cross and its principles was organized for 30 new volunteers and another one is being organized for another 30 volunteers next week.

Federation Coordination

Two to four Federation delegates have been in the Mapou area in the last days working together with six HNRCS volunteers and two delegates from the French and the Netherlands Red Cross. There is close cooperation in health and water and sanitation with MSF, Oxfam, and the team of Cuban doctors. The Ministry of Health has a limited presence in the area but has been assessing needs over the last days.

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 the field, in Belle-Anse, one hour's drive by car south of Mapou. There is no HNRCS branch in Belle-Anse, and the closest is located in Jacmel, west of Belle-Anse. The roles and numbers of delegates are being defined. Currently there is a disaster management delegate coordinating the Floods operation. The French and the Netherlands Red Cross have deployed one delegate each to the operation in the areas of relief and a temporary shelter. In the next days logistics, watsan, and psychological support delegates are due to arrive.



In the Dominican Republic there are currently three delegates based in the field; one in each of the provinces of Independencia (town of Jimaní) and Elias Piña and one covering the Baja Yuna region in the provinces of Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez. The operation in the Dominican Republic is run by an operations coordinator. In Dominican Republic there are currently three logistics delegates, two of them also involved with the operation in Haiti. The operation in the two countries is being temporarily managed by the Head of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit, PADRU. There is a reporting delegate reporting on the whole operation out of Santo Domingo. The regional information officer of the regional delegation is also in Santo Domingo supporting the operation in terms of communications. Finance staff of the Federation regional delegation and regional finance unit in Panama is also supporting the operation both in Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince. Delegates have been deployed both from Participating National Societies and National Societies in the region (the Costa Rican and Mexican Red Cross).

Coordination is also taking place with the present UN organisations. As the UNDAC team left from Dominican Republic the UNDP took over coordination. The International Federation together with the DRC have participated in all relevant meetings ensuring that activities are coordinated. Coordination is ongoing between representatives of the Federation and among others UNDP, WFP, PAHO, UNICEF, ECHO, Movimondo and Intermond to ensure maximum benefit of resources available and actions taking place.

In the field, the delegates of the operational centers and the local Red Cross are coordinating with UNDP, UNICEF, PAHO, local authorities as well as international and national NGOs.

The Federation and the HNRCS continue to ensure coordination in Mapou with WFP, UNICEF, OXFAM, MSF, Télécommunications sans Frontières, Agro Action Allemande, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and Médecins du Monde (MDM). In Port-au-Prince coordination initiatives are on-going. As the UNDAC team left from Dominican Republic the OCHA office took over coordination. Coordination is on-going, in particular with OCHA and WFP, which are coordinating with authorities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Federation is working with the HNRCS and DRC 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 Dominican Republic priority was given to vulnerable children, handicapped and elderly people in the emergency phase. In the following phases priority will be given to pregnant women, people in shelter and women in charge of households. In Haiti the victims represent some of the hardest hit by the disaster and the most remote and difficult to access. They are also identified because of their extreme vulnerability to further loss of property and life from potential landslides and flooding. When it comes to temporary shelter priority has been given to all those who lost their houses and those whose houses are in the most dangerous areas.

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 visited Elias Piña in Dominican Republic to write a news story on the water and sanitation activities for the Federation homepage. She also left for a second field trip to Jimaní on 13 June. In Haiti the information and reporting delegate spent all last week in Mapou documenting the activities in words and photos.

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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,433,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 74.3%	
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	
JAPANESE - RC		64,700	USD	81,781	07.06.04	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				10,000	03.06.04	
LUXEMBOURG - PRIVATE DONOR		125	EUR	192	10.06.04	
SWISS - RC				190,000	02.06.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				125	08.06.04	
TURKISH - RC		10,000	USD	12,640	09.06.04	
BRITISH RED CROSS		17,459	GBP	39,937	11.06.04	
SWEDISH RED CROSS		500,000	SEK	82,436	11.06.04	
DANISH RED CROSS		143,000	CHF	143,000	11.06.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,695,261	CHF	69.7%

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	