

# 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

18 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. 5; Period covered: 14 – 18 June 2004; Appeal coverage: 85%;**  
*(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 2,433,000 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 364,279**

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

#### Operational Summary:

The relief operation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti is now beginning to stabilize. The International Federation's teams of delegates in the capital cities and in the field of both countries are reviewing plans according to the progress of the operation and the current humanitarian needs. At the time of publication of this Operations Update, relief goods were being distributed to vulnerable communities. The road to Mapou is now open and distributions are being prepared for next week. An operational centre is being established in Belle-Anse, south of Mapou, to facilitate the operation and its logistics. The relief goods will be brought in by road from Pedernales, which is located in the Dominican Republic on the border with Haiti.

Today, 18 June, another ship is expected to arrive in Santo Domingo from Panama containing two tanker trucks from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) that were previously donated by the British Red Cross for use in the earthquake operation in El Salvador in 2001. These tankers will be handed over to the Dominican Red Cross to be used in the water treatment activities in Elias Piña.

ECHO has confirmed a multi-donor grant of EURO 550,000; OFDA has announced a contribution of USD 350,000. Cash or in-kind support for this appeal has been provided by the American, Austrian, British, Canadian, Danish, French, Japanese, Lichtenstein, Netherlands, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss and Turkish Red Cross Societies, together with a number of private donors.

*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 [ifrcpa07@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcpa07@ifrc.org), phone 507-316-1001, fax 507-316-1082
- In Geneva: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department; email [luis.luna@ifrc.org](mailto:luis.luna@ifrc.org), phone 41-22-730-4274, 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

More than two weeks of heavy rain in May caused severe flooding throughout the Dominican Republic and Haiti on the island of Hispaniola. The rains caused several rivers across the island of Hispaniola to overflow or break their banks, the water flooding into nearby towns and villages. According to the latest available figures, around 2,000 people have been killed and many more are still missing. 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, at least 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.



The houses of beneficiaries that are being included in the Federation's relief efforts are marked with a Red Cross as in the town of Elias Piña.

## Operational developments

The relief operation has now stabilized and the initial planning is being reviewed based on activities and progress so far, and on the current humanitarian needs. Furthermore, plans are being revised taking into consideration the transition from relief to rehabilitation and development. The relief phase of the operation is currently scheduled to end on 23 August, at which time the rehabilitation phase will begin.

In the Dominican Republic, the Bajo Yuna region in the Provinces of Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez has been affected by prolonged, constant rains. The Yuna River has risen slowly again, affecting the already hard-hit communities in Arenoso.

In Mapou, Haiti, activities have been focused on the construction of temporary shelters. The Federation water and sanitation, logistics, and telecommunications delegates are making further assessments in order to refine the plan of action. With relief goods in the pipeline, distribution plans are being further defined.

The Federation logistics delegate in Dominican Republic, who is also working in Haiti, is working closely with the Federation team in Haiti to define the logistics plans, using Pedernales, located in the Dominican Republic on the border with Haiti, as a base connecting with the operational centre in Belle-Anse.

## 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):

Today, 18 June, food distributions are taking place in the Dominican Republic in Arenoso, in the Province of Duarte and in Jimaní. To date, 450 hygiene kits, 450 kitchen kits and 450 jerry cans have been distributed in Jimaní. In addition, three meals per day are being cooked for the community in the community tent that has been set up. There is a Red Cross volunteer present on a permanent basis in the tent.

In Mapou, the construction of shelters continues. It is a positive sign that people who have been advised by the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) that they are living in danger zones are moving to the safe areas to construct shelters. The distribution plan for Mapou is being defined. As the road into the community is now open, distributions are scheduled to take place in the coming week. To date, 103 hygiene kits and 150 kitchen kits have been distributed in Mapou.

Today, 18 June, another ship is scheduled to arrive in Santo Domingo from Panama, containing two tanker trucks from PADRU that were previously used in the El Salvador earthquake operation in 2001. These trucks were donated by the British Red Cross for the regional response system. The tankers will be loaned to the Dominican Red Cross to be used in the water treatment activities in Elias Piña. In addition, the ship contains pumps and tubes, as well as 200 first aid kits.

Two pickups and one land cruiser have arrived from the leasing programme in PADRU. The pickups are assigned to the Federation delegates seconded by the Spanish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. These delegates are based in Elias Piña and Duarte/Sanchez Ramirez, respectively. The land cruiser will be assigned to the Mapou area.

During the reporting period the logistics team has been engaged in procurement, warehousing and transport. All goods that arrived in Santo Domingo have now been cleared through customs. The logistics coordinator has worked out of Port-au-Prince and has also been working in the field in the Mapou area. The Federation logistics delegate for Haiti arrived this week.

**Constraints:**

Conditions in the remote Mapou area are still a constraint for the progress of the activities. This is now being overcome by establishing the operational centre in nearby Belle-Anse rather than Port-au-Prince. Conditions in the Dominican Republic are improving; however, it is worth mentioning that delegates in the field are confronted with various constraints, such as having electricity for only four hours per day.

**Health**

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

No distributions took place during the reporting period.

**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, an agreement has been reached with the national water company, INAPA, that the International Federation will be in charge of the water distribution in the town of Comendador and that INAPA will be in charge in Los Llanos. This means that the number of beneficiaries being reached through the Red Cross operation is 17,740 persons, which constitutes 75% of the total population in that area. The water is being distributed in 39 different locations. Since 4 June, more than 500,000 litres have been distributed. Ten local residents are permanently working in this project and some 15 volunteers are also involved in the activities.



People in the town of Comendador, Elias Piña, receiving water at the distribution sites in their community.

In Jimaní, basic hygiene promotion activities are carried out from the community tent set up by the Red Cross.

In Haiti, to date, 35,500 aquatabs have been distributed in the 5 most affected communities around Mapou: Nan Galette, Na Roche, Barois (Bawa), San Michel and Mapou. Each tab chlorinates one gallon of water. Chlorine aquatabs were also distributed through the clinic run by Cuban doctors.

The Austrian Red Cross has donated 280,000 watermakers, which arrived in the Dominican Republic and are being transported to Mapou. The watermakers clear and chlorinate turbid water, such as that found in the cisterns in Mapou and surrounding villages after the flooding. A ration of the product can clean 20 litres of water and immediately provides potable water for affected populations.

In Mapou, the Red Cross team continues to collect corpses from the flood water.

**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 is carrying out psychosocial activities in the community tent set up by the Red Cross.

In Mapou, the psychosocial needs are great and the Federation is deploying a psychological support delegate who will arrive in the Mapou area as soon as possible.

**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):**

In the field, activities to strengthen the communities' capacities are commencing. In Mapou, community involvement in shelter construction is one example of this. The communities are now more aware of danger areas, and wish to move to safer locations to avoid similar catastrophes in the future.

In Jimaní, the Federation delegate, in cooperation with PAHO, has facilitated community organization by forming community committees in the areas of health, nutrition, children, security and development. One representative of each committee then in turn is participating in the general committee.

The Federation delegate based in Duarte and Sanchez Ramirez is coordinating with Movimondo, which is planning a project in community disaster preparedness and early warning along the Yuna River.

**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 the immediate needs of the affected population 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 becoming more familiar with standard Federation rules and procedures.

Although not on the border, it is worth mentioning the efforts under way in the Province of Duarte. On 15 June a Federation delegate met with seven branch presidents of the local Red Cross to discuss possible future action. It was agreed that they will work on a contingency plan for floods and within a month a meeting will take place to start this activity.

**Federation Coordination**

The Federation logistics and water and sanitation delegates have arrived in Haiti, and are currently in Mapou. A house that will be used as the operational centre has been identified in Belle-Anse, one hour's drive by car south of Mapou. The delegates will also be staying there overnight. In Port-au-Prince, a new office for the Federation's floods operations team has been identified, as the office space in the Haitian National Red Cross Society is not sufficient, given that there are now two operations being carried out in Haiti: the Floods operation and the Social Unrest operation. The new office will be in the same area as many of the international organizations, which will facilitate movement and coordination.

The Federation delegation in Haiti is making efforts to raise the profile of the HNRCS in this operation. The disaster management delegate coordinating the operation is working closely with his counterpart in the HNRCS, the National Relief Director. The disaster management delegate is also participating in all UN agencies' coordination meetings, sharing information about the Federation's plans and activities. The Federation and the HNRCS continue to ensure coordination in Mapou with the UN agencies, OXFAM, MSF, Télécommunications sans Frontières and the team of Cuban doctors.

The Federation and the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) are in the process of drafting a memorandum of understanding regarding the operation. The Federation, together with the DRC, have participated in all relevant meetings occurring in the country, ensuring that activities are coordinated. On 15 June the Federation and the DRC participated in a UNDP coordination meeting for donors and on 16 June in a meeting chaired by the President of the Dominican Republic. Coordination is ongoing between representatives of the Federation and the UNDP, WFP, PAHO, UNICEF, ECHO, Movimondo and Intermond to make the most of the resources available and the actions being carried out.

In the field in the Dominican Republic, the Federation delegates and the local Red Cross are coordinating with UNDP, UNICEF, PAHO, and local authorities, as well as with other international and national NGOs.

### **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. The regional information officer left Dominican Republic on 15 June. Her tasks have now been handed over to the DRC. The reporting delegates based in Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince met to plan for the reporting work until the end of the operation.

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

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

18/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,433,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 85.0%	
AUSTRIAN - RC		40,000	EUR	61,440	03.06.04	
BRITISH - RC		17,459	GBP	40,295	10.06.04	
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	
DANISH - GOVT/RC				152,295	09.06.04	CASH-FOR-KINDS & PROG. SUPPORT
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	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	84,500	07.06.04	REPORTING DELEGATE
SWISS - RC				190,000	02.06.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				125	08.06.04	
TURKISH - RC		10,000	USD	12,640	09.06.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,706,978	CHF	70.2%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - RC		79,810	USD	100,880	08.06.04	170 TENTS, 5000 BEDSHEETS, 2000 JERRYCANS 10000 PLASTIC TARPULINS
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
SWISS - RC				23,375	08.06.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
NETHERLANDS -RC		80,000	EUR	122,000	17.06.04	BILATERAL
FRENCH - RC				2,000	17.06.04	PSYCHO-SOCIALSUPPORT DEL.
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				361,743	CHF	14.9%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

18/06/2004

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