

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

16 July 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.

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Appeal No. 13/04; Operations Update no. 8; Period covered: 1 - 14 July 2004; Appeal coverage: 95.1%;
(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 119,915

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal 01.51/2004; Haiti Social Unrest Appeal 07/2004

Operational Summary: The second phase of the operation with components of relief and rehabilitation, is continuing to progress. In the Dominican Republic the second phase of relief distributions is beginning, based on the continuing needs in the affected areas of the country. During this phase, distributions will also be carried out in the Provinces of Valverde and San Juan, both in the northeast region of the Dominican Republic.

In Haiti, the distribution of relief goods is ongoing, despite the logistical challenges caused by the difficulty in accessing the affected communities and the security situation in the country. To date, 937 families have been registered for the construction of temporary shelters with 377 shelters built, 377 that need to be completed with plastic sheeting and 183 that remain to be constructed. An additional 355 packs of plastic sheeting received from the Federation between 9 and 10 July will be used to complete these shelters and another 2,400 sheets to be provided by the Federation will ensure material to build an additional 700 shelters.

The process of clearing relief items and supplies through customs is improving. In the next few days the rest of the hygiene kits and mosquito nets that remain in customs in Santo Domingo will be released and distributed according to the Dominican Red Cross's distribution schedule.

The updated contributions list attached shows the full list of donors which are providing contributions towards the 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 1-809-238-5312, 1-809-238-5252, fax 1-809-221-6716

- *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: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department; email 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

Several days of heavy rains in late May brought devastating floods to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, causing several rivers to overflow. The majority of the damage was concentrated around the southern border region between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The latest available figures indicate that there are around 2,000 dead. Hundreds of people are still missing and are presumed dead. In addition, thousands more have been displaced by the flooding, which destroyed homes and crops throughout the affected areas.

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). 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.

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 villages of Barois (Bawa), Nan Galette, Na Roche and Saint Michel are in particular danger of further flooding should heavy rainfall in the region continue. In the West Department, at least 237 people died in the border town of Fonds Verrettes when a flash flood swept through the area. Relief operations in Haiti have been hampered as, until recently, many of the affected areas were only accessible by helicopter.

Operational developments

In the Dominican Republic, much work has focused on restoring the damaged drinking water systems and providing safe water to beneficiaries in the affected areas of the country. In Elias Piña in particular, the floods caused serious damage to the water distribution system. Now that two water tankers have been released from customs, the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) has four water tankers in the area helping to distribute water to beneficiaries. In addition, 42 water tanks have been installed in various communities in Elias Piña.

In Haiti, the Federation, the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS), and the French and Netherlands Red Cross Societies have continued strengthening their operational capacities in order to have a solid foundation for future relief, water and sanitation, and rehabilitation programmes. Although the communication and transportation facilities for the Red Cross team in Mapou have improved considerably, enormous logistical constraints remain as a result of the extremely bad road conditions.

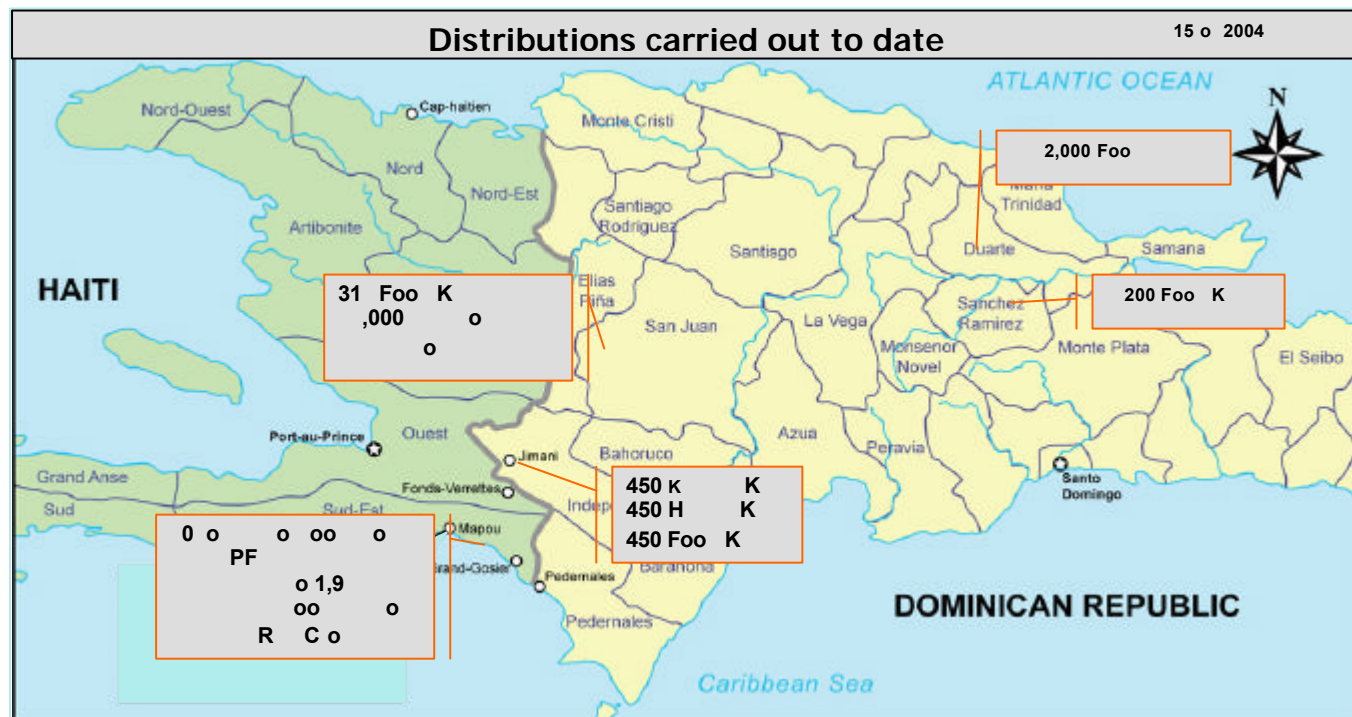
Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

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)

The following map illustrates the food and non-food distributions carried out to date:



The DRC has begun coordination efforts relating to the second phase of food and non-food distributions, in conjunction with the Federation. Together with the World Food Programme (WFP), the DRC is defining the nutritional content of food supplements for the children of the families that are benefiting from Red Cross assistance. According to the surveys carried out, some 1,600 affected families include children; as a result, some 3,000 children in the Dominican Republic will receive a complementary ration in addition to the food kits being distributed. Furthermore, in the Province of Duarte, in the communities of Acicate and Babary, 121 bags of clothing have been distributed.

In the Dominican Republic, the conditions in the field have improved. The logistics centre in Pimentel, Duarte, now has an electric generator that has facilitated the work in that area during the ongoing energy shortage that has affected the country for some time.

In Haiti, a distribution of WFP biscuits to schoolchildren in Grand Fonds was carried out by the Red Cross and the Haitian Civil Defence during the reporting period. Distribution lists are currently under revision and further distributions will continue once they have been completed.

Trucks carrying humanitarian aid from Santo Domingo to Port-au-Prince have arrived and logistics coordination has begun in order to carry out distributions of the relief goods. The first truckload of goods from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) arrived in Port-au-Prince on 2 July containing:

ITEM	AMOUNT
Plastic sheeting	1,775 units
Kitchen sets	1,000 units
Watermakers	280,000 units

These goods are now being transported to Mapou. Two more trucks were also sent on 6 and 7 July containing 355 plastic sheets and 300 kitchen sets. Some 2,700 hygiene kits have also arrived in Port-au-Prince as part of the response to the Social Unrest appeal. It is envisioned that 2,000 of these will be used for the floods operation and later replaced. In addition, the following items are expected to arrive in Port-au-Prince this week from Santo Domingo:

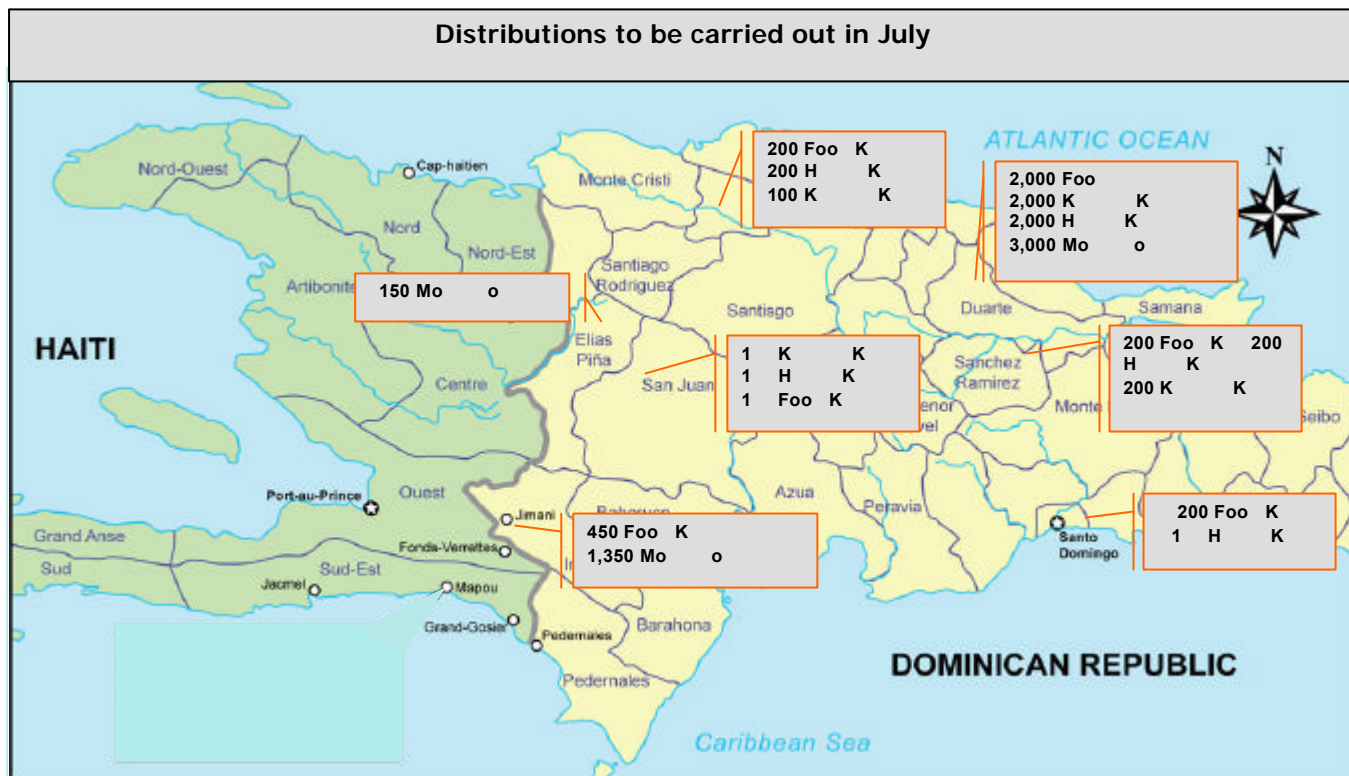
ITEM	AMOUNT
Bed sheets	5,000 units
Jerry cans	1,000 units
Mosquito nets	2,000 units
Tarpaulins	2,225 units
Tents	50 units
Red Cross aprons	200 units

To date, 937 families have been registered for the construction of temporary shelters with 377 completed, 377 that need to be completed with plastic sheeting, and 183 that remain to be constructed. A Federation consignment of 355 packs of plastic sheeting received between 9 and 10 July will be used to complete the shelters currently under construction and an additional 2,400 sheets from the Federation will then be dispatched for the construction of 700 more shelters.

The Federation, together with the local authorities, are now revising and adapting the list of potential beneficiaries as it became apparent that a significant number of families appeared more than once on the current distribution list. A supervisor has been hired to monitor this work. An inventory of materials in the warehouse and those distributed was completed.

Registration lists for relocation have been suspended based on the premise that the most vulnerable have had sufficient time since the floods to register. Any further requests will be studied on a case by case basis. In the meantime, other villages affected by the floods have made requests for relocation. Depending on the results of a scheduled needs assessment of these communities, it may be necessary to open new relocation sites.

The following map illustrates the distributions that are planned for the month of July:



Constraints:

There continue to be significant delays in moving relief supplies through customs, both in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti. These difficulties are being overcome with the support of the Dominican Republic’s Foreign Affairs Office, through the work of the National Society and in accordance with an existing agreement between the Federation and the government of the Dominican Republic. It is expected that the three cars and one container that have been held up in customs for some time now will soon be released.

In Haiti, there are poor warehousing facilities in Mapou, which is making distributions of relief goods more complicated. In addition, the road conditions in the region surrounding Mapou continue to be poor and there is therefore a weak supply chain of relief goods to Mapou.

Health

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

On 8 July, two water tankers sent by PADRU were released from customs and have been sent to Elias Piña. There are now a total of four water tankers in Elias Piña supplying safe drinking water to the surrounding communities. In addition, two more water tanks have been sent to the area as part of the Red Cross relief operation.

On 9 July, three water tanks were placed in the community of Guayabo. In total, these three tanks are supplying water to 190 families. The Red Cross is also currently looking at the possibility of installing more tanks in Pinzon and El Pino in the future, two communities that have yet to receive water distributions.

There are now a total of 42 water tanks in Elias Piña, and about 66,000 litres of water are being supplied every day. Once conditions for a water supply network are established, the provision of drinking water will be increased to include more families, with the eventual goal of supplying drinking water to 3,600 homes. The Red Cross is steadily working towards this goal, increasing the output of water. In the first 15 days of this month, 29 percent more water has been produced in Elias Piña than in the previous month. In addition, 400 gallons of water have been distributed in the Province of Duarte, in the communities of Majagual and Polvorín de la Verde.

In Haiti four local residents have been employed to chlorinate cisterns contaminated by the floods. During the reporting period, 114 cisterns were chlorinated in 9 locations. Chlorine has been used for this work as the watermakers arrived late. However, this product can be stored and used immediately should another disaster occur.

Nine temporary latrines made of plastic sheeting and wooden slabs have been built in Grand Fonds. Ten people from the community participated in the construction and were remunerated with food rations. This proved very popular and the construction of more such latrines is envisioned in both Grands Fonds and Morne Guimby. A technical advisor will be employed to oversee the work.



There are now a total of 42 water tanks in Elias Piña, supplying about 66,000 litres of water every day.

In Haiti, 37 bags of cement and 7 zinc sheets were distributed to 8 families to help them to rehabilitate their cisterns in Bicentenaire and Na Roche. A monitoring visit was undertaken between 6 and 7 July to determine whether the local population is able to rehabilitate their cisterns themselves. The visit demonstrated that they are not and that three quarters of the families who need to rehabilitate their cisterns have not yet done so. Attempts were made to recruit a construction specialist to advise the targeted population and supervise the rehabilitation work. However, local resources proved too weak, and this activity is on standby pending the recruitment of a construction specialist. The construction of a communal cistern measuring 75 cubic meters has been initiated with the community of Morne Guimby, however, progress is slow.

The number of families in need of having their cisterns rehabilitated has not yet been defined. Preliminary selection criteria are as follows: families whose cistern has been damaged by floods, who will continue to reside at the same place, and whose house, roof and pipeline to retain water are in good condition. However, a more detailed and extensive survey needs to be carried out. This activity will require the recruitment of qualified personnel.

The Red Cross team in Haiti has recovered and buried a total of 130 bodies. Following the advice of the MSF and HNRCS psychologists, a new body recovery team is working with the old team to acquire on the spot training. The recovery work has become more difficult with each day as a result of the increasing decomposition and odour of the bodies. The Federation has been covering the costs of the body recovery thus far will continue for the next few months. However, a budget has been submitted to OCHA which would decrease the financial burden on the Federation with respect to this activity.

Constraints:

The largest constraint in recent weeks has been finding personnel in the field who are qualified in construction and monitoring. One solution to be explored is to identify and recruit the necessary personnel in Port-au-Prince.

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 the Dominican Republic, work is ongoing in Elias Piña to promote awareness of the importance of caring for and protecting clean water sources. With this in mind, latrines were constructed for the volunteers that are working to help produce water in the water treatment plants, and a water tank has been placed in the area.

A detailed plan of action to increase awareness of health, hygiene and sanitation issues is envisioned in consultation with a health educator from the Haitian National Red Cross Society. Unfortunately, the Red Cross has no technical staff as yet available to follow up on this work. However, coordination meetings with OXFAM have

taken place in order to work jointly on this matter and OXFAM is prepared to begin health and hygiene awareness activities. It is hoped that the HNRCS will participate in this initiative with OXFAM. Joint health posters with both the OXFAM and HNRCS logos are foreseen.

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)

A psychosocial delegate conducted a mission in Haiti between 13 and 28 June. The objective of the mission was to psychologically debrief local staff and volunteers, Federation partners, Federation delegates, and French and Netherlands Red Cross delegates directly involved in the operation in Mapou. Psychosocial support is also being provided to volunteers and staff from other institutions working in Mapou. The second objective was to assess needs and provide recommendations on how similar operations can set up support structures for staff and volunteers in the future.

Contact has been established with other institutions working in Haiti who are addressing psychosocial needs, such as MSF, MDM and UNICEF. The Red Cross is also trying to identify local capacities in the area of psychosocial care so that these resources can be included in a future response plan.

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 Mapou, thus far, the identification of high risk areas, relocation of families and the distribution of plastic sheeting have improved the response capacity of the population. However, long term preparedness projects are still needed to reinforce the population's capacity to respond to future disasters.

The Dominican and Haitian Red Cross Societies, as well as the Federation and PNSs working in the area, have involved communities in all of the relief activities carried out to date. In addition, local leaders have been actively involved in the relief efforts by helping to organize communities.

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)



The Dominican Red Cross has begun a series of workshops in the DRC branches participating in the relief effort to train participants in disaster preparedness and prevention. With these workshops, the DRC is working to strengthen the capacities of the branches on the Haitian/Dominican Republic border, as well as in other regions affected by the flooding. On 9 to 11 July the DRC carried out a workshop to evaluate the work plans of the Red Cross branches on the border that are being supported by the ICRC. This provided an opportunity to work with branch Presidents to increase their awareness regarding the need to strengthen cooperation with their counterparts on the Haitian side of the border. This workshop was also attended by the President of the National Society and members of the National Board.

A workshop help by the DRC in July provided an opportunity to work with branch Presidents in the border region to increase their awareness of the need to strengthen cooperation with Red Cross branches on the Haitian side of the border.

In Haiti, as a result of coordination with the World Food Programme, a half-day training seminar was held on 10

July with the Haitian National Red Cross Society disaster management coordinator and the President of the Red Cross regional branch in Jacmel. Methods for generating information through surveys to be used in creating new distribution lists were reviewed. In turn, 15 Red Cross volunteers from Jacmel will be trained in survey techniques and will then be mobilized to Mapou for five days to gather necessary data in order to review existing distribution lists. Another 13 Red Cross volunteers in Mapou have been assisting in the construction of temporary shelters

Federation Coordination

In Haiti, regular coordination meetings in the field have facilitated information sharing and in solving various problems. They have also been useful in clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various organizations working in and around Mapou. Coordination continues with the World Food Programme and the Red Cross continues to support WFP food distributions in Mapou.

A coordination meeting with OXFAM took place which has ensured clarification regarding OXFAM's planned activities. The Federation is now in a position to design an action plan for the next few months, ensuring a coordinated effort. The coordination meeting also explored what kinds of partnerships can be developed, including a possible memorandum of understanding regarding hygiene education, and training of HNRCS volunteers by OXFAM personnel on specific topics.

In the Dominican Republic, information is being shared between the organizations and institutions participating in the relief effort, including UNICEF, CARE Dominicana and Movimundo. The Red Cross has also been working with UNICEF to develop a disaster preparedness programme in the Bajo Yuna region.

The memorandum of understanding between the DRC and the Federation is being finalized. This document defines clearly the procedures and responsibilities of each within the framework of this operation.

In the Dominican Republic, it is important to note that the operation is being carried out with the support of the Federation's regional human resource network; several members of the relief effort are from National Societies in the region who form part of regional intervention team (RIT) trained personnel.

The Federation has also been working closely with delegates from the American and German Red Cross Societies, through the provision of operational and communications support. The German Red Cross will support the rehabilitation of roofs in Pedernales, in the southern region of the Dominican Republic, and is continuing to gather information in order to complete a plan of action.

The American Red Cross is analyzing the possibility of distributing cleaning and hygiene kits to all 3,000 beneficiaries who are currently receiving food and non food items in the affected areas of the Dominican Republic. In all of the areas of the relief effort, including the distribution of relief goods, the DRC and the HNRCS are working closely with the French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Federation is working with the HNRCS and the 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 focus 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.

The community volunteers participating in the relief effort are becoming familiar with the Red Cross principles and Humanitarian Values. On 9 to 11 July the DRC carried out a workshop to evaluate the work plans of the Red Cross branches on the border that are being supported by the ICRC. This provided an opportunity to work with

branch Presidents to increase their awareness regarding the need to strengthen cooperation with their counterparts on the Haitian side of the border.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

In order to document and give visibility to the operation in both countries, the Reporting and Information Delegate based in Haiti will tour the affected areas in the Dominican Republic from 19 to 23 July to take photographs. These photographs will be made available to the National Societies.

This operation has allowed the Federation to put into practice a system of reporting that facilitates the collection of information from the field as well as the exchange of information among Movement members participating in this operation.

With the support of the Federation, work is being carried out to ensure improved visibility of the operation. In the Dominican Republic, efforts are being undertaken to provide greater visibility in the forthcoming distributions through the local media. However, this operation has made clear that there is a need to strengthen communications capacities within the National Societies.

Outstanding Needs

The Appeal coverage currently stands at 95.1 per cent. The Federation is negotiating the conditions regarding compliance for a potential grant from USAID/OFDA of USD 350,000. In the event that this donation is made towards the Appeal, the plan of action for the operation will be revised and expanded, enhancing work carried out to assist beneficiaries.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/07/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,433,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 95.1%	
AMERICAN - RC		18,000	USD	22,761	07.07.04	RENTAL OF 2 VEHICLES
AUSTRIAN - RC		40,000	EUR	61,440	03.06.04	
BRITISH - RC		17,459	GBP	40,295	10.06.04	
BRITISH - RC		1,700	GBP	3,886	08.07.04	SATPHONE
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		600,000	EUR	917,400	03.06.04	
FINNISH - GOVT		50,000	EUR	76,450	18.06.04	
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	
MONACO - RC		12,000	EUR	18,348	18.06.04	
SPANISH - RC		32,057	EUR	49,239	23.06.04	
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				1,950,262	CHF	80.2%

USAID/OFDA contribution of USD 350,000 currently under negotiation regarding conditions.

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 TARPAULINS
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
FRENCH - RC				2,200	23.06.04	PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPROT DELEGATE
NETHERLANDS - RC		80,000	EUR	122,880	22.06.04	BILATERAL:TENTS, TEMPORARY SHELTERS, WATER & SANITATION & HEALTH, DISTRIBUTIONS
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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/07/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				362,823	CHF	14.9%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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