

# 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: SPECIAL FOCUS ON HAITI**

1 September 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.*

### **I B**

**Appeal No. 13/04; Operations Update no. 10; Period covered: 29 July – 28 August 2004; Appeal coverage: 123.1%;** ([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 : None**

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

**Operational Summary:** The situation in the Mapou area continues to improve; however food security may be an issue facing the local population in the coming months as most crops and seed stocks have been destroyed. Although it is still the rainy season and the risk of further flooding exists, there has been a lack of rainfall and there is a general water shortage. Nevertheless, this could be resolved with renewed rainfall during the coming days which would refill cisterns. Most people living in high risk areas have built temporary shelters and have now moved.

In August, major distributions of food and non-food relief items took place in the Mapou area, assisting over 2,000 vulnerable families in the communities of Barois (Bawa), Pichon, Ka Konte, Didie r, Citadel, Bois Tombé, Nan Galette, St. Michel, Haut Fort, Na Roche, Ti Place, Marchasse, Zamor and Cibao. Distributions of tarpaulins and the construction of temporary shelters were completed during the reporting period in the communities of Cibao, Citadel, Bois Tombé, Zamor, Nan Galette and Morne Guimby. In the area of hygiene and sanitation, 57 cisterns and 34 latrines in 13 localities are under renovation and will benefit a total of 285 families, once in place. To date, three quarters of the beneficiaries have begun on the rehabilitation work, and one quarter are awaiting masons; 43% of the cisterns and 15% of the latrines have been completed. Plans are being developed to create new Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCs) branches in Belle-Anse, Thiotte and Grand Gosier, and to reinforce the existing branch in Anse-à-Pitre. The hygiene education project has, to date, covered 14 schools in the Mapou area focusing on 1,000 children of between 8 and 12 years of age. Awareness is raised amongst the children of the risks of water borne diseases, and sanitation and hygiene are

**promoted. To date, there have been no reported outbreaks of disease; the continued awareness provided to beneficiaries, together with the distribution of hygiene parcels will continue to contribute to improved hygiene and sanitation.**

## **Background**

Several days of heavy rains in late May brought devastating floods to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, 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 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 were destroyed and the local water source was contaminated by thousands of human and animal corpses. 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 slowed as, until recently, many of the affected areas were only accessible 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). 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, August was one of the busiest months in terms distributions of food and non-food items. During the previous month, items were pre-positioned in Port-au-Prince allowing for relatively quick delivery to the field and to the beneficiaries. Water and sanitation activities: the rehabilitation of latrines and cisterns as well as hygiene education sessions, are now well underway.

During the reporting period, local staff employed by the Federation recovered 49 bodies from the lake in Mapou using the inflatable zodiac boat provided by Médecins Sans Frontières. Most remain unidentified. To date, 371 bodies have been recovered by the Red Cross in Mapou. According to the local Justice of the Peace, the current total of confirmed deaths in the Mapou area stands at 412.

In bilateral initiatives outside the framework of the Appeal, two delegates from the French and Netherlands Red Cross Societies are in Mapou proceeding with the reconstruction of 400 homes for the most affected beneficiaries. Suppliers of construction materials have been identified and a construction supervisor, together with logisticians, have been recruited. Construction materials are currently being ordered and delivered.

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

### **Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)**

**Objective: 2,000 beneficiary families in 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 an effort to ensure that the most vulnerable flood victims are reached, between 13 and 17 August, a further beneficiary survey was carried out by Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers. Results showed that there were previously 297 duplicate distribution cards. The current total number of beneficiary families in Haiti now stands at 2,056.

In August, the following Federation relief items were delivered to Mapou from Port-au-Prince:

- 5,000 bed sheets
- 3,404 hygiene kits
- 3,628 mosquito nets
- 3,414 sheets of tarpaulin
- 2,000 gallons of cooking oil
- 2,000 gallons of water
- 2,000 food parcels
- 1,600 jerry cans
- 1,000 school kits
- 559 kitchen sets
- 360 vests
- 100 t-shirts
- 50 tents
- 1 rubhall

Distributions of the majority of the above relief items took place between 21-22 and 26-27 August for the following localities; Barois, Pichon, Ka Konte, Didier, Citadel, Bois Tombé, Nan Galette, St. Michel, Haut Fort, Na Roche, Ti Place, Marchasse, Zamor and Cibao.

A Spanish Red Cross rubhall was delivered to Mapou during the reporting period and is now being used to store food, thus resolving the previous warehousing problem. A total of 1,906 Federation food parcels consisting of rice, beans, pasta, sugar, salt, chocolate and matches were distributed between 26 and 27 August in Mapou to all the localities mentioned above.



**Food parcels are distributed to beneficiaries in Mapou**

The following table shows the distribution status of Federation relief items:

FEDERATION RELIEF ITEMS	TO DISTRIBUTE	STORED IN PORT-AU-PRINCE	SENDING FROM SANTO DOMINGO	STORED IN MAPOU	REQUESTED FROM SANTO DOMINGO	DISTRIBUTED IN MAPOU
Bed sheets	5,000			55		4,927
Pail with lids	2,000			28		1,936
Tarpaulin sheets	5,182	455		140		4,587
Tents	50	35		15		See*
Red Cross Vests	360					As required
Mosquito nets	6,000			26		3,403
Kitchen sets	2,000			11		1,539
Watermakers	280,000	280,000				See **
Hygiene kits	4,000					3,361***
Water 1 gl	1,996					1,702
Food parcels	4,000				2,372	1,906
Cooking oil 1gl	4,000				2,372	1,903
T-shirts****	100					100
School kits American Red Cross	1,000			960		
Hygiene Kits American Red Cross	2,372		2,372			
Mattresses American Red Cross	400*****					
Cleanup kits American Red Cross	2,372		2,372			

\* 35 tents stored in Port-au-Prince as contingency stock, 15 pitched in Mapou to store supplies and provide shelter to volunteers.

\*\* watermakers stored in Port-au-Prince as contingency stock

\*\*\* 673 kits have been returned to Port au Prince to replace the previously borrowed Social Unrest Appeal stock.

\*\*\*\* t-shirts bear Federation and Haitian Red Cross emblem to be used for visibility for delegates, volunteers and locally employed staff.

\*\*\*\*\* To be bought locally



Beneficiaries wait in line for their turn to receive Federation relief goods distributed in Mapou

An additional 2,372 clean up kits consisting of a broom, dust pan, bleach, laundry soap, a 5 gallon bucket with lid and a shovel, together with 2,372 hygiene kits composed of 4 rolls of toilet paper, 5 tooth brushes, 2 tubes of toothpaste, 5 bars of soap, a 350 ml bottle of shampoo, 40 sanitary napkins and 4 disposable razors are being stored in Port au Prince and will be shipped to Mapou in August/September.

The following localities benefited from the distributions of tarpaulin: Cibao, Citadel, Bois Tombé, Zamor, Nan Galette, Morne Guimby and Grand Fonds. Initially, it was estimated that three sheets of tarpaulin were required per household to construct temporary shelter. Following distributions, it was noted that some temporary shelters were made with only two sheets while others were composed of up to five sheets. This discrepancy is being investigated; it seems that beneficiaries are trading amongst themselves to build shelters to accommodate different sized families. It has also been noted that some temporary shelters remain uninhabited and some tarpaulin is being sold in the local market. For these reasons, it is presumed that beneficiaries in need of temporary shelters have by now received tarpaulin and that the distribution of tarpaulin has been finalized.

The following Federation tools were distributed for the construction of temporary shelters and were also used for road construction in the area leading to Mapou.

Saws	63
Hammers	159
Shovels	85
Picks	315
Wheelbarrows	8
Rope rolls	8
Machetes	3
Sledgehammers	2
Meters	1

The following table shows the distribution status of non-Federation relief items:

RELIEF ITEMS	TO DISTRIBUTE	DISTRIBUTED IN MAPOU
Cleanup kits Netherlands Red Cross		966
Collapsible water pouch OCHA		4,000
Hygiene kits French Red Cross		54
WFP Food parcels		5.8 MT rice 7.3 MT wheat soy blend 2,920 litres vegetable oil
Food parcels WFP & Puerto Rico Red Cross		150

The HNRCS distributed food provided by the WFP to a total of 2,920 families in the Mapou area as of the month of June.

In addition to Federation relief items, the American Red Cross donated 1,000 school kits (a back pack filled with school supplies) to be distributed to children between the ages of 5 and 10. At the request of the American Red Cross, ten HNRCS volunteers from the regional branch in Jacmel conducted a survey, the results of which demonstrate that there are approximately 5,000 children in this age category within the flood-stricken area. The backpacks will be distributed to children whose families have been most affected by the disaster.

#### Constraints:

As the food items were packed in bags, some spillage within the parcel bag occurred during transport. In addition, a degree of minor infestation by insects has been noted. This is probably due to the long delays in terms of

delivery resulting from logistical constraints and lengthy customs procedures needed to clear the items into Haiti from the Dominican Republic. However, the food is by no means spoiled, but more care must be taken with future deliveries. As a result, the possibility of fumigation of future food deliveries will be explored. In order to determine the effectiveness of the distributions, relief items were tracked to see if they were finding their way to the local market. It was noted that some tarpaulin was being sold; however, the distribution of tarpaulin is now considered to have been completed.

Mapou remains an isolated area with a general lack of infrastructure, absence of public services or local authorities, resulting in difficult working conditions. There is a lack of qualified human resources at the local level, and the participation of the Haitian National Red Cross Society remains limited, especially in terms of coordinators in the field.

Furthermore, road travel is difficult and dangerous, and the Food for Work Programme initiated has been met with limited enthusiasm by the local population.



Beneficiaries leave the distribution site carrying Federation food parcels, drinking water and cooking oil

## Health

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

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

A total of 3,361 hygiene kits were distributed in August, together with 3,628 mosquito nets in the localities of Barois (Bawa), Pichon, Ka Konte, Didier, Citadel, Bois Tombé, Nan Gaëtte, St. Michel, Haut Fort, Na Roche, Ti Place, Marchasse, Zamor and Cibao.

**Constraints:**

Mapou remains an isolated area with a general lack of infrastructure, absence of public services or local authorities, resulting in difficult working conditions. There is a lack of qualified human resources at the local level and the participation of the Haitian National Red Cross Society remains limited, especially in terms of coordinators in the field.

**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)**

During the reporting period, the rehabilitation of cisterns and latrines commenced, as well as the hygiene education project. The water and sanitation team has been expanded to include a locally hired coordinator from Jacmel to oversee the rehabilitation of cisterns and latrines, together with a hygienist nurse who is ensuring dissemination of hygiene materials and messages to children.

Between 26 July and 5 August, a beneficiary selection took place based on a questionnaire prepared by the water and sanitation team, the aim of which was to identify families at risk. As a result, a total of 71 beneficiary families were identified for the rehabilitation of 57 cisterns and 34 latrines in 13 localities. Before commencing work, the beneficiaries from each locality were assembled in order to explain the nature of the project and ensure community participation. The Federation distributed the material and provided technical advice on construction. Each beneficiary was asked to sign a contract whereby the role of the Federation and the beneficiary was clarified. For every beneficiary family, five other families were associated with the project. In exchange for their assistance, these families will be able to make use of the rehabilitated cisterns. As a result, a total of 285 families will benefit from the project once the cisterns are in use. To date, three quarters of the beneficiaries have begun on the rehabilitation work, and one quarter is awaiting masons; 43% of the cisterns and 15% of the latrines have been completed.

The following items were distributed since the outset of the health and sanitation project.

<b>Cement bags</b>	<b>556</b>
<b>Metal sheeting</b>	<b>558</b>
<b>Construction kits*</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Nails (kg)</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>PVC piping &amp; accessories</b>	<b>589</b>
<b>Metal wire (kg)</b>	<b>35</b>

\*kit includes one shovel, pick, hammer, measuring tape, level, 20 litre plastic pail and spatula

The hygiene education project consists of the coverage of 20 schools in the Mapou area focusing on 1,000 children of between 8 and 12 years of age. At each school a one-hour interactive information session is held including games, singing and educational materials adapted for the area. In addition, one box of aquatabs (50 tablets) and a tube of toothpaste are distributed to the children and their families.

During the one hour teaching sessions three themes are covered:

- 1) Water: waterborne diseases, disease prevention and treatment of water, information on dengue and malaria.
- 2) Sanitation: use of latrines, protection of water source, and waste management
- 3) Hygiene: personal hygiene, and environmental hygiene.

Thus far, 14 schools have been covered and 699 boxes of aquatabs and 699 tubes of toothpaste have been distributed to 940 beneficiaries.

**Constraints:**

Materials distributed for rehabilitation of cisterns and latrines are sometimes used by beneficiaries for other purposes. There is a general lack of technical knowledge of construction on the part of beneficiaries and they show little autonomy in their work. A solution is being explored whereby presence in the field will be augmented through more supervision and technical advice. In addition, five additional training sessions are being organized for beneficiaries.

**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)**

No further work was carried out in this area during the reporting period.

**Strengthening of response capacity**

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

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The water and sanitation project is facilitating the strengthening of communities, particularly through its component of community participation.

**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)**

There is currently no local branch in Belle Anse. However, the Red Cross operation in Mapou has resulted in the identification of volunteers from Mapou and there is the possibility of opening a local branch in Belle Anse. In addition, there is already a structure in place where a branch could be built. A local disaster committee exists in Belle Anse, created as a result of an earlier disaster preparedness project funded by the Netherlands Red Cross. Discussions are underway with the regional Red Cross branch in Jacmel regarding the establishment of a new local branch in Belle Anse.

A further plan is being defined on to create additional branches in Thiotte and Grand Gosier, and to reinforce the existing branch in Anse-à-Pitre which is on the border with the Dominican Republic.

Red Cross volunteers continue to participate in field activities, mainly carrying out the distribution of relief items. Moreover, during the reporting period, ten volunteers from Jacmel were involved in a further survey in order to refine distribution lists and identify the most vulnerable.

**Federation Coordination**

Weekly meetings continue with local representatives: the Solidarité Mapou Committee (formerly the Committee Ad Hoc) as well as with OXFAM and MSF.

MSF completed its operation on 27 August. On behalf of MSF, the Federation has agreed to store food for malnourished children consisting of 825 kg unimix flour and 2,856 packets of BP5 hi nutrition biscuits. This will be distributed monthly to 28 children by departmental health authorities.

Coordination continues with OXFAM in the field, specifically in terms of water and sanitation. OXFAM will build 500 latrines and 500 cisterns in the Mapou area over the coming months.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

The Federation is working with the HNRCS to assist the most vulnerable. The operation is based on the principle of humanity; beneficiary selection criteria focus on the level of vulnerability of those affected, respect of the culture of the beneficiary population, and ensure gender sensitivity.

Activities under this Appeal are based on the SPHERE humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

With the support of the Federation, work is on-going to ensure the visibility of the operation which is being led by the National Society. Ten banners and a hundred t-shirts were printed with the Federation and the Haitian National Red Cross Society emblems and the text “Ed Imanite” (humanitarian aid) printed. The banners were hung in various locations around the distribution site and the t-shirts were distributed to Red Cross volunteers, locally-hired staff and delegates in Mapou who wore them during the distributions. The t-shirts were printed with the wording “Inondasyon Me 2004” (Floods May 2004).

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

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI: FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/09/2004

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

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,433,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 123.1%	
AMERICAN - RC		18,000	USD	22,761	07.07.04	RENTAL OF 2 VEHICLES
AMERICAN - RC		43,665	USD	55,214	16.08.04	PURCHASE & DISTRIBUTION 400 MATTRESSES
AMERICAN - GOVT/OFDA/USAID		350,000	USD	442,575	10.08.04	
ANDORRA - GOVT		30,000	EUR	45,870	20.07.04	
AUSTRIAN - RC		40,000	EUR	61,440	03.06.04	
BERMUDA GOVT/RC BRANCH OF BRCS		25,000	USD	31,612	27.07.04	
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	16.07.04	
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	
LUXEMBOURG - GOVT		50,000	EUR	76,450	21.07.04	
MONACO - RC		12,000	EUR	18,348	18.06.04	
PRIVATE DONORS				2,870	01.07.04	
SPANISH - RC		32,057	EUR	49,239	23.06.04	
SURINAME, CATHOLIC CHURCH, AFRO-SURINAME FED. & REPS, HAITIAN & DOMINICAN PEOPLE		10,000	USD	12,645	27.07.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	84,500	07.06.04	REPORTING DELEGATE
SWISS - RC				190,000	02.06.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				1,875	08.06.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				10,000	03.08.04	
TURKISH - RC		10,000	USD	12,640	09.06.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,629,248	CHF	108.1%

### 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

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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 13/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC	DELEGATES			27,600		
CANADIAN - RC	DELEGATES			1,600	01.06.04	
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	DELEGATES			3,000	08.06.04	REPORTING DELEGATE
SWISS - RC	DELEGATES			13,000	02.06.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				366,248	CHF	15.1%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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