

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## ***HAITI; JAMAICA - FLOODS***

6 June 2002

*Information Bulletin N° 02/02*

*This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.*

### ***The Situation***

Last week's tropical depression, which affected the Greater Antilles and Honduras, has resulted in severe damage in Haiti and Jamaica.

In Haiti, torrential rains produced flash floods over the southern part of the country, severely affecting the departments of Grande Anse and Sud. To date, an estimated 30 persons have died and at least 2,684 families have been affected.

In Jamaica, at least seven persons have died and hundreds were evacuated after more than a week of heavy rain caused flooding and landslides in the south and east of the country. The most affected areas are the parishes of Clarendon, Manchester, St. Catherine, St Thomas and Saint Elizabeth. Furthermore, Kingston and St Andrew, Portland and St Mary remain areas of high risk.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

- ***Haiti***

On Saturday, 30 May 2002, an assessment team from the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) and the Federation surveyed the departments of Sud and Grande Anse.

In the department of Sud, it is estimated that approximately 1,772 families are affected and some 480 houses have been damaged, 71 of which are completely destroyed. Eleven people have been confirmed dead and 18 are still missing. The most affected areas are in Breffete, a poor urban area of the city of Les Cayes, and in the town of Camp Perrin, the area located close to the river Ravine du Sud.

Crops have been destroyed and infrastructure has been severely hit, particularly in the communities of Cavaillon and St Louis du Sud. Although the coastal area between Port-Salut and Port a Piment is inaccessible due to flooding and damage to the bridge, reports provided through radio and telephone contact indicate no further extensive damage.

Coordination between the HNRCS regional committee, the Civil Defence, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and World Vision International (WVI) has resulted in an initial response for an estimated 400 families in Camp Perrin, through funds from the Civil Defence, food and non-food items from CRS and WVI, all distributed by the HNRCS. The area of Brefette in the town of Les Cayes should receive assistance shortly.

In the department of Grande Anse, damage has been extensive to infrastructure, houses, commerce and crops. It is estimated that nearly 1,000 families have been badly affected in the whole area: 387 houses have been damaged, 373 of which have been totally destroyed. In addition, water systems, schools and government buildings, food stocks and herds have been badly affected in Anse-a-Veau, with major destruction in the community of Nippes. As yet, there have been no reports from the area of Plaisance and Asile is still inaccessible. The government has declared a state of emergency in this area.

An emergency fund of USD 200,000 is being used by the Civil Defence to respond to the emergency. The Netherlands Red Cross is considering the implementation of a relief programme - distributing food, hygiene kits and kitchen sets - in the departments of Nippes and Sud, with the support of ECHO. The US Embassy has released a further USD 50,000 and the Organization of American States (OAS) USD 20,000.

- ***Jamaica***

In Jamaica, 524 persons have been evacuated to eight shelters, six of which are in Clarendon, one in Manchester and one in St Catherine. The Prime Minister has allocated a soup kitchen to the Jamaican Red Cross (JRC), producing meals for the six shelters in Clarendon. It is anticipated that these persons will need to stay in emergency shelters for at least three months, since they have lost their entire livelihood as the agricultural and the poultry sector have been severely affected. The JRC has distributed blankets, bedding, mattresses and 375 pieces of plastic sheeting to affected families.

In addition to assisting in shelters, the JRC is preparing over 1,000 food packages for those who have been affected by the floods but have remained at home.

The private sector and various charities have donated a four wheel drive vehicle and J\$ 70,000 (CHF 2,353) worth of food to the JRC.

A meeting of government and Red Cross representatives has been scheduled to plan a strategy for conducting damage and needs assessments. Further information on the results of this meeting should be released soon.

In Portland, nearly 300 persons remain in shelters after hurricane Michelle battered the island in November 2001.

## ***Needs***

In Haiti, needs continue to be evaluated.

In Jamaica, the National Society has used most of the plastic sheeting in stock and may need to replace this, particularly in view of the forthcoming hurricane season.

A Federation delegate, based in Haiti, and the Caribbean regional delegation are in close contact with the National Societies. They continue to monitor the situation and are ready to provide assistance, if required.

For a full description of the National Society profiles, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

*For further details please contact :*

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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