

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: FLOODS

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 95,000

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 95,000 has been released. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed and there are additional needs which, to date, remain uncovered. This operation will be reported on through continued information bulletins and the DREF update.

The Situation

Following on-going rain in previous weeks, between Saturday, 20 and Monday, 22 December, severe flooding occurred in northern Haiti, affecting a total of 150,000 people. The regions in which flooding has taken place are Cap-Haitien and Port-de-Paix which are vulnerable, disaster-prone areas. In Cap-Haitien the level of the river increased considerably and landslides took place in mountainous terrain. A total of 28 people are confirmed dead in Cap-Haitien and 10,000 people (2,000 families) were evacuated and remain in shelters. Figures vary between different organizations working in the area as to the numbers of families in need following the floods; this is explained by the high levels of vulnerability in the area and the degree of poverty prior to the floods. However, between 5,000 and 6,000 displaced families are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. In Port-de-Paix, some ten people were confirmed dead as seven houses collapsed into the river. Rains have now ceased in both areas; however, the receding waters are giving way to large quantities of mud.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A disaster management delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) reached Port-au-Prince on 25 December, and together with the Head of the Disaster Preparedness section of the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) and the President of the HNRCS branch in Cap-Haitien, conducted a field mission in Cap-Haitien the following day.

The Haitian National Red Cross Society has drawn up a plan of action to assist 1,500 of the most vulnerable families who were displaced by the floods in Cap-Haitien and are living in shelters. This plan was compiled on the basis of the needs of the flood victims and taking into consideration the assistance being provided by other agencies. The National Society envisages the distribution of 1,500 kitchen sets, 1,500 hygiene kits, 1,000 jerry cans (20 litres) and 1,000 sleeping mats. In addition, the HNRCS plans to distribute 200 rubber boots and raincoats to those who will be working to remove the layers of mud. The PADRU disaster management delegate is providing direct support to the National Society with regard to the logistics and response elements of the plan of action. Both the Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the Regional Delegation are in constant communication with the Haitian National Red Cross Society in order to meet the needs of those affected by the

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disaster. As regards longer-term assistance, the placement of emergency preparedness stocks, water and sanitation projects and assistance to the Red Cross branch in Cap-Haitien are under consideration.

Coordination is being ensured with international organizations working in the region including the WFP, USAID, UNDP, OXFAM, Caritas, MSF, UNICEF and World Vision. The WFP is distributing food: 100 MT of rice and 9 MT of oil to 2,000 families, and OXFAM and Caritas will address the poor water and sanitation situation since open wells and latrines have been flooded and outbreaks of disease are feared. In Port-de-Paix, the WFP is also considering the necessity of food distributions.

Donors are encouraged to provide funding to replace the DREF allocation of CHF 95,000. Further information will be provided in due course with regard to potential additional funding needs.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see 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.