



HAITI: FLOODS FROM TROPICAL STORM ERNESTO

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 90,000 (USD 72,137.23 or EUR 56,817.08) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 10 December, 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 March 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian](#)

[Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

Tropical Storm Ernesto passed over Haiti's Southern coast on the night of Saturday, 26 August 2006. On the morning of Sunday, 27 August Ernesto became a category 1 hurricane as it started to leave Haitian territory. The very powerful rains that accompanied this system considerably affected the coastal areas of the regions of Sud and Grande Anse, and caused lesser damage in l'Ouest, Les Nippes and l'Artibonite.

Gusty winds and heavy rains reaching 150 to 300 mm – hammered the peninsula and the department of l'Ouest, causing flooding in certain coastal villages of the south-west, the south, Nippes, Grande Anse and the west.

The flooding of the Quinte River in Haut-Artibonite, obliged authorities to evacuate communities in Nan Manmye, near Passereine, some 15 kilometres from the city of Gonaives. Lesser rains and winds were observed in Aquin, Cavaillon, Chantal, Arniquet, Saint-Jean du Sud, Ile à Vache and Port Salut.

According to the Haitian National Red Cross Society's (HNRCS) Disaster Management Department, there were five deaths as a result of the storm, six homes have been destroyed and 53 have suffered damages. Trees have been uprooted, a bridge has been destroyed by the flood waters and cattle have been lost. The majority of the rivers located in the southern peninsula had seen a rise in their water level. Whilst damages were observed throughout most of the departments affected, certain areas have suffered much more than others as a result of this storm, as is the case of Grande Anse and Sud. Because of Haiti's vulnerability to natural disasters of this type and the precarious situation in which 90 percent of Haitians live – a storm such as Ernesto is bound to leave behind many affected families.



A container lies in the path of a river that burst its banks during the torrential rains

As of 12 September, most of the families evacuated have now returned to their homes, as roads have been cleared, except for four families who remain in temporary shelters.

To date, no information has been received regarding assistance to families affected by Ernesto.

Red Cross action

The Haitian National Red Cross Society seeks to target 3,000 families who were directly or indirectly affected by the passage of Tropical Storm Ernesto on 26 and 27 August. Of these 3,000 families, 600 will be provided with assistance in the form of non-food items, either in view of the damage they suffered or as a result of their limited resources for recovery.

Red Cross action will focus on three main activities:

- 1) Distribution of non-food items for the 600 more severely affected families: a family kit, blankets, water purification tablets and mosquito nets. Articles will be procured locally in order to put together the family kits which are made up of a combination of items contained in kitchen sets and hygiene kits.
- 2) Water and sanitation activities for 3,000 families directly or indirectly affected by the floods.
- 3) Provision of support to regional HNRCS branches through an emergency and vehicle repair fund.

Objective 1: 600 of the most affected families (around 3,000 persons) benefit from the distribution of non food items to boost recovery from the effects of the floods.

The 600 families are located as follows:

Department	Families affected
Sud	250
Grande Anse	150
Nippes	100
Sud-Est	50
Ouest	50
Total	600

Distribution centres will be set up in five locations (one in every affected area), where tasks will be assigned to the 49 volunteers who will be mobilized for this purpose.

Each of the 600 families (an average of 5 persons per family) will receive one family kit, 2 mosquito nets, 2 blankets, and 30 water purification tablets. The family kits are composed of:

Item	Amount
Laundry soap	3 units of 100 grams each
Powder soap	3 bags of 1 kilogram each
Toilet paper	6 rolls
Toilet soap	3 units of 100 grams each
Toothpaste	3 units of 100 grams each
15-litre container	1 unit
Plastic jerry cans	5 units
Soup spoons	5 units
Aluminium saucers	5 units
Drinking cups	5 units
Aluminium pots	2 units
Kitchen knife	1 unit
Kitchen spoon	1 unit

Objective 2: 3,000 families (around 15,000 persons) directly or indirectly affected by Tropical Storm Ernesto benefit from water and sanitation activities that will enable them to quickly recover from the damages suffered.

Regional Branches will be provided with necessary material in order to carry out water and sanitation activities in the beneficiary communities, which were selected based on the degree of damage suffered. The Haitian National Red Cross Society will identify potential partners such as local associations and organizations that could contribute to water and sanitation activities and that will enhance capacity to reach affected communities as soon as possible. Activities such as the draining of stagnant water, cleaning of gutters, the removal of sand from houses and roads and the disposal of garbage will be carried out.

Volunteers carrying out these activities will need materials and equipment such as wheelbarrows, shovels, picks, masks, gloves and boots.



Volunteer assesses
damage following
Tropical Storm Ernesto

Objective 3: The Disaster Management Department at Headquarters and the Regional HNRCS branches receive a fund for the implementation of emergency activities and vehicle repair in order to speed up the response and intervention timeframe.

Given that the lack of functioning vehicles at branch level hindered the branches' capacity to carry out immediate damage and needs assessments, an estimate will be requested for the repair of one vehicle per priority Regional Branch: Ouest, Sud, Grande Anse, Artibonite, and funds will be allocated to ensure that at least one vehicle is running for emergency purposes.

Following the DREF allocation, the Haitian National Red Cross Society, supported by the International Federation, will assemble the family kits, ensure beneficiary selection and distribution of the non-food items listed above to the families targeted for assistance. Simultaneously, water and sanitation activities will be initiated by the Regional Branches in target communities affected by Tropical Storm Ernesto.

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