

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

Information Bulletin
no. 01/2007
GLIDE no.
FL-2007-000040-HTI
4 April 2007

HAITI: FLOODS

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 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Haiti: Dr. Michaele Amedée Gédéon, President, Haitian National Red Cross Society e-mail: drgedeonm@yahoo.com phone (509) 222 55 54; Dr. Jean-Pierre Guiteau, Executive Officer, Haitian National Red Cross Society, email. guiteau2001@yahoo.com*
- *In Haiti, Jean-Pierre Givel, Head of Delegation, e-mail JP.Givel@ifrc.org; phone (509) 510 26 28; Fax (509) 221 8633*
- *In Panama, Stephen McAndrew, Head of PADRU, e-mail Stephen.Mcandrew@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; Fax (507) 316 1082*
- *In Geneva, Luis Luna, Regional Officer, Americas Department, e-mail Luis.Luna@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730 42 74; Fax (41 22) 733 03 95*

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 \(NGO's\) 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>

The Situation

Since 17 March 2007 prolonged heavy rainfall and isolated storms over Hispaniola have caused severe flooding Haiti. The most affected have been the provinces of Nord-Est, Ouest, Grande-Anse, Nord-Ouest and Nord. Some of these areas (Grande Anse, Nippes, Ouest and Nord-Ouest) had already been affected by the floods last December, which puts them at a higher risk during these new floods.

Access http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRHT00202.pdf to see the most recent Operations Update for the above-mentioned Federation Appeal.

According to the most recent report from the Civil Protection Directorate (Direction de la Protection Civile – DPC) issued on 1 April, heavy rains have left 12 casualties, two people missing, 14 wounded, 270 houses destroyed and another 1,215 houses severely damaged. It is estimated that 2,723 families have been affected, of which 261 have been displaced to temporary shelters.

Departments	Deaths	Missing	Wounded	Families Affected	Families displaced	Houses Destroyed / Affected
<i>Grand'Anse</i>				480	66	28/228
<i>Nippes</i>				119		
<i>Nord</i>			3		81	0 / 334
<i>Nord-Est</i>	2		4	1393	114	184 / 530
<i>Nord-Ouest</i>	5					4 / 0
<i>Ouest</i>	4	2	7	731		54/123
<i>Sud-Est</i>	1					
Total	12	2	14	2,723	261	270 / 1,215

Source: DPC Direction de la Protection Civile (Civil Protection). Report on 1 April, 2007.

In addition some sections of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area such as Warf Jeremy (near Cité-Soleil), have also been affected. At least 100 houses have been destroyed and more than 500 families suffered damages, according to the Haitian National Red Cross Society's assessment report. These figures increased the **total number of affected families to 3,223 families (16,115 persons)**.

Road access is limited in several departments. In Abricots (Grande-Anse department), the only access available is by boat, since the road infrastructure is completely inaccessible. Road access infrastructure is also limited in the departments of Nippes and Nord-Est.

The orange alert has been deactivated within the 10 departments according to the Directorate of the National Meteorological Centre (Direction du Centre National de Météorologie) – as the weather has shown improvement; nevertheless, moderate to severe rains are a possibility as of Wednesday of next week.

Communication constraints and lack of access to some locations make it difficult to receive accurate information and to carry out proper assessments. For instance, according to information dated 30 March originating from MINUSTAH, Fort-Liberté and DPC information, the new balance of affected families is 1,097 in Nord-Est instead of the 187 affected people that were reported on 29 March. As a consequence, population affected by floods could increase in number in the coming days, which could require a greater response operation.

Red Cross action

From 22 March, the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) has activated its Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at National level. Six provincial branches, four National Intervention Team members (NIT), 3 Community Intervention Teams (EIC- Equipes d'Intervention Communales) and more than 100 volunteers have been mobilized to the affected areas. Evacuation, Search and Rescue, First Aid actions and Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) have been carried out.

To date, the National Society has carried out distribution of non-food items – such as blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen materials, soap, jerry cans, and buckets – for 50 families in Abricots and Bonbon. In addition, during coming days it is planned to distribute similar relief items for 1,000 families in Warf Jeremy and Ville Cabaret using existing stocks from its warehouse.

The Federation's Country Delegation requested technical support from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), who have responded by deploying one Disaster Management delegate to Haiti with an aim to support the National Society and the Country Delegation in assessing the situation and designing a Plan of Action for humanitarian assistance, if necessary. Based on assessment information that continues to come in, it is likely that the HNRCS will submit a request for a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation to be able to respond to the emergency situation early next week.

Response by other humanitarian actors

The National Meteorological Centre and the Civil Protection Directorate have begun mobilization since 17 March. Permanent communication and coordination are taking place between departmental and community committees and headquarters.

Other organizations such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), World Food Programme (WFP), Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), Agro Action Germany, OXFAM, Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Caritas and Plan Haiti have also mobilized resources and carried out evacuation and assessment actions.

With respect to road infrastructure the Ministry of Public Works (MTPTC) is working on rehabilitation activities in the departments of Grand'Anse, Nord and Nord-Ouest.

[*Click here to return to the title page or contact information.*](#)