

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Caribbean: Tropical Storm Noel

Emergency appeal n° MDR49002
GLIDE no. TC-000198-
BHS/CUB/DOM/HTI;
Operations update n° 1
14 December 2007

Period covered by this Operations Update:

Period covered: 8 November to 10 December 2007

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,462,103
(USD 1,261,521 OR EUR 873,941)

Appeal coverage: 81%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 1 November 2007 for CHF 785,000 (USD 677,308 or EUR 469,217) for 6 months to assist 15,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): A total of CHF 480,000 (USD 414,150 or EUR 286,909) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation (CHF 230,000 for the Dominican Republic, CHF 150,000 for Haiti and CHF 100,000 for the Bahamas).
- Appeal revised on 7 November to CHF 1,462,103 (USD 1,261,521 or EUR 873,941) for 6 months to assist 40,700 beneficiaries (8,225 families).
- This Operations Update features an increase in beneficiary numbers by 2,000 families with an aim to provide emergency relief to those affected by tropical storm Olga in the Dominican Republic. This expansion of the relief objective is possible thanks to generous donor support through this Appeal in the form of bilateral contributions directly to the Dominican Red Cross from the American and Spanish Red Cross Societies, which leaves sufficient funds to cover the additional 2,000 families. The total number of beneficiaries stands at 50,700 (10,225 families).



A volunteer from the Haitian National Red Cross Society assessing damages in a community. Source: International Federation.

Summary:

Since the onset of the emergency the National Societies of the countries affected by tropical storm Noel - the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Bahamas and Cuba - with support from the International Federation, have assessed the needs and distributed relief items to the affected people.

During this reporting period, the Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) based in Panama in coordination with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), dispatched three airplanes with non-food relief items to the Dominican Republic. In addition, five containers with relief items were sent to Haiti. In addition, High Frequency (HF) radio equipment was installed in the National Societies to facilitate direct contact. Two Disaster Management (DM) delegates as well as one Regional Intervention Team member (RIT) were sent to the Dominican Republic. Two RITs were already deployed in Haiti prior to the emergency and provided support to the activities. After their departure, two DM delegates arrived from PADRU and took over their activities on 4

December.

The situation

The 14th named storm of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season, tropical storm Noel caused severe damages with its passage along the countries of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Bahamas and the northern coast of Cuba. Heavy floods and mudslides damaged infrastructure, agricultural crops and houses in all countries deeply affecting its population.



Bladder tanks installed in the Dominican Republic. Source: International Federation

At the onset of the emergency, the National Meteorology Centre (Oficina Nacional de Meteorología - ONAMET) alerted the residents in **Dominican Republic** living in high risk provinces located in low zones along rivers and creeks. It issued flood and landslide warnings for the southern provinces of Azua, San Cristobal, Peravia, Independencia, Barahona, Pedernales and the northern provinces of Espaillat, Salcedo, Duarte and Maria Trinidad Sanchez.

On October 28, Noel transformed from a Tropical Depression into a tropical storm. It made landfall on the island of Hispaniola

on 29 October, but intense rains had been falling since 27 October. The Dominican Republic, being prone to both man-made

and natural disasters due to its location and social and economic characteristics, was badly affected by the heavy rainfall and flooding which affected the entire country. An estimated 40 percent of the country's territory was impacted by the storm and ensuing floods causing loss of life, damages to homes, infrastructure and agricultural crops. The most affected regions were San Cristobal, Bani, San Jose de Ocoa, Barahona, Azua, Bahoruco and Duberge in the Southern region; Villa Altigracia, Bonao, Duarte, Arenoso, la Vega, Sanchez Ramirez, Montecristi, Santiago and Puerto Plata in the Northern region. The Eastern regions as well as the province of Santo Domingo were also affected by the storm; approximately 78,752 people were affected and 3,470 people still remain in 26 shelters. There were 14,997 damaged houses, 1,506 houses severely damaged, 3,185 destroyed houses and 46 bridges and highways affected. The road infrastructure was damaged almost 40 percent. 87 people died and 42 people remain missing. Leptospirosis, a disease transmitted by rats, has provoked the deaths of 25 people and another 210 people have been infected. Dengue has also provoked the death of 40 people and another 8,350 people have been infected, mainly in the Central District.

The most affected crops were rice, plantain and yucca (cassava). The government estimates that USD 77.7 million (Source: Food and Agricultural Organization) was lost in the agricultural sector, with the small agricultural producers most affected. Electricity has been restored in all areas except for the region of San Jose de Ocoa in the Rancho Arriba municipality. There is still a shortage of potable water; and there are still some isolated communities although roads have been rehabilitated. The Office of Public Works has elaborated an emergency plan where all roads, bridges and community trails that were damaged by Noel, are now being repaired.

On 29 October, the centre of tropical storm Noel was estimated west of Port-Au-Prince, the capital of **Haiti**. A red alert was issued as the storm moved over the island, in the provinces of Sud-Est, Sud, Grand Anse, Nippes, Ouest, Centre and Artibonite. An orange alert was declared for Nord-Est, Nord and Nord-Ouest departments. The most affected provinces are Ouest, Artibonite, Sud, Sud Est, Grande Anse and Nippes. Latest reports obtained by the Direction of the Civil Protection (Direction de la Protection Civile – DPC) indicate 73 people are dead, 17 are missing, 133 are wounded and 21,726 families were affected. There were 3,852 houses destroyed and another 17,865 houses damaged. Many of the most affected provinces were affected by floods caused by heavy rainfall earlier in October.

Floods damaged both revenue generating crops and subsistence crops. Cattle and other farm animals were lost and drinking water has become contaminated; access to potable water is difficult. The United Nations offices in Haiti (Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation den Haiti – MINUSTAH), the Civil Protection and the HNRCS performed early evacuation activities in the affected areas. As of 10.12, the flood waters had receded and circulation resumed, with the communities slowly going back to their regular activities.

The eastern provinces of **Cuba** were deeply hit by high levels of precipitation ever since 27 September. On 29 October, Tropical storm Noel caused the accumulated rain to surpass historic records of precipitation received in the country. The provinces of Guantanamo, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Holguin, Las Tunas and Camaguey were deeply affected by the intense rain and floods.



Flooded roads in Haiti. Source: International Federation

According to preliminary reports, 79,452 people were evacuated of which 27,493 people stayed in 203 shelters and 51,959 people with friends and family. Based on information provided by the Cuban Red Cross, preliminary damages are estimated in USD 500 million; of which USD 305 million mainly in the agricultural sector. Thousands hectares of sugar cane were destroyed in eastern and central Cuba and seriously damaged infrastructure. Extensive cane areas were also flooded in eastern Santiago de Cuba and Granma provinces, as well as the central provinces of Camaguey and Ciego de Avila.

Some 13,169 km of roads and highways were damaged as well as train rails, sewage systems, electrical systems and telephone lines. At the beginning of the emergency, bridges as well as the main roads in the province of Guantanamo were blocked. Therefore, given the magnitude of the damages and losses, the recovery process still requires significant resources and major efforts.

The housing sector sustained USD 128 million in damages. Current figures indicate 21,987 houses were damaged from which 1,137 were totally destroyed, which significantly affected approximately 192,488 people. Many people lost their basic domestic items such as mattresses, clothes and electric appliances due to severe floods, overflowing rivers and reservoirs and landslides. Unlike Dominican Republic and Haiti, no deaths were reported.

On 30 October, tropical storm Noel dropped approximately ten inches of rain on several of the islands in the **Bahamas**, causing massive flooding. On 2 November, tropical storm Noel transformed into a category 1 hurricane while over the Northwest of the Bahamas. 15 inches of rain flooded several islands in the Bahamas with Exuma, Cat Island, Long Island and Eleuthera among the islands most affected. Long Island, which had experienced extensive rain two weeks prior to Noel, is the most affected and reported having flood water up to 5 feet deep affecting up to 3,500 people. In Cat Island, residents in low-lying areas were evacuated and at least 2,000 people were affected as well as 1,500 in Exuma Island. Ten shelters were opened in New Providence due to floods reported in several areas of the island in the first days after the passage of Noel, but families returned to their homes shortly after the storms passage. The international airport in New Providence was closed on 1 November, but reopened mid-day on 2 November. Airports on Family Island could not be opened for 10 days due to the extensive flooding. Flood waters remain in some of the islands, but communities have been able to gain access to meet basic needs via small boats and jet skis. Most island docks were opened by 12 November. The National Emergency Management Agency deployed teams over the weekend of 2 November and throughout the course of the following week that focused on evaluating structural damage. There has been significant damage to the road network on some of the islands due to the flooding and on some islands some areas remain underwater. Electricity is nearly restored to all areas. Homes that were completely submerged will be assessed after they have been dried out. Telecommunications, although at times sporadic, is available to all islands at this time, but not to all communities. There is one confirmed death on the Island of Exuma.

Before it was possible for the population to recover from the effects of Noel, moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti on the night of 12 December and early morning 13 December due to the passing of tropical storm Olga. These heavy rains caused floods and landslides in the Dominican Republic, mostly in the provinces of Hato Mayor, el Seibo, Samaná, Maria Trinidad Sánchez, Espaillat, Duarte, Salcedo, Puerto Plata, Santiago, Azua and Peruvia. Losses and damages sustained were significant: 22 people died and one person was injured. In addition, some 7,594 houses were affected: 7,352 houses were slightly

damaged, 200 severely damaged and 36 houses were destroyed. 3,727 people are currently staying in shelters, while some 30,753 people are staying with friends and family. Four roads and bridges are damaged in addition to other infrastructural damages.

This Operations Update features an increase in beneficiary numbers by 2,000 families with an aim to provide emergency relief to those affected by tropical storm Olga in the Dominican Republic. This expansion of the relief objective is possible thanks to generous donor support to this Appeal in the form of bilateral contributions from the American and Spanish Red Cross Societies, which leaves sufficient funds to cover the additional 2,000 families.

The situation caused by Olga is still being assessed. Based on the results and on the needs of the DRC, it will be determined whether this Appeal should be revised.

Coordination and partnerships

PADRU has been in close contact with the National Societies in the affected countries of the Bahamas, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Since the onset of the emergency, the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has been in close contact with the Federation's Caribbean Regional Representation in Port of Spain, the Federation's Representation in Santo Domingo and Partner National Societies (PNS) from France, Norway, Spain and the United States.

Coordination meetings took place amongst the Federation, OCHA, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and several PNS present in Dominican Republic and Haiti. The Risk Emergency and Disaster for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) group and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have held coordination meetings in order to coordinate the regional efforts and the information shearing. USAID supported relief activities by providing USD 600,000 in order to locally purchase and transport of potable water, shelter materials, and other emergency relief supplies.

On 4 November, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) five- person team continued in the Dominican Republic supporting the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office as well as the Emergency Operations Center (COE). The UNDAC team also counted with the support of teams of Telecoms without Borders (Telecoms Sans Frontières) and the MapAction. The UNDAC team has left the Dominican Republic. Other agencies in Dominican Republic such as World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF are present coordinating actions with the DRC.

The PNS from Holland, Spain, and Switzerland remain in the Dominican Republic coordinating activities with the DRC. The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) formulated a complimentary Humanitarian Aid Project in coordination with the Dominican Red Cross (DRC), the International Federation and other PNS present in the country, based on the Plan of Action already made. This project is financed by the SRC and will provide a delegate in order to carry out the project.

The German Red Cross (GRC) has provided in-kind donations (including food parcels, buckets, water and blankets) for a value of EUR 80,000 from the German government to the Dominican red Cross who distributed this. The GRC also contributed to the operation in Haiti with EUR 110,000 to support relief aid to 1,500 families in the Southern region and south-eastern region. This was also provided by the German government, with items such as food parcels, buckets, blankets and water filters. A GRC delegate was in site supporting these activities.

In addition, the Spanish Red Cross applied for funding from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid to contribute to the DRC Plan of Action for an amount of EUR 900,000 to cover two areas: water and sanitation and distribution of non food items for 4,000 families. This effort has been accomplished with support from the Federation's Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in Panama and PADRU.

National Society Capacity Building

During the pre-hurricane meeting that took place in Panama from 14 to 17 May 2007, National Societies from countries prone to hurricanes in the Americas, including the four countries of this Appeal, participated actively in the development of a contingency plan for the region. The development of the regional contingency plan helped explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice.

The Red Cross Societies of the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti and their volunteers' capacities have been strengthened through their participation in providing humanitarian assistance during these relief

operations. This experience has had a positive impact on the participating branches in all four countries and their volunteers.

In general, the National Societies affected by tropical storm Noel have broad experience in disaster response, particularly as a result of the lessons learnt from past operations. They were well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks, trained personnel and pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All the involved National Societies sit in the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

Red Cross action

Overview

Since the onset of the emergency, the **Dominican Red Cross (DRC)** activated their search and rescue teams and their National Intervention Teams (NIT) to perform rescue activities and assess the needs and damages. Currently, 2,000 volunteers are assisting with relief activities. The DRC initially focused on the distribution of relief items to the affected population, specifically in shelters.

DRC has a Plan of Action for 10,000 families, of which this appeal will cover 2,000 families. To date, the DRC has distributed relief items to 9,568 families. 5,728 families have received non food items consisting of one hygiene kit, one kitchen kit, two mosquito nets and 7,508 jerry cans in shelters and affected communities. Special identified families were given 2,890 tarpaulins, 656 children kits for children up to two years old and 1,029 children kits from children in the ages of 3 to 5 years. In addition, 5,049 food parcels, 11,637 fortified biscuits and 5,190 liters of milk were distributed as well. Additionally, the World Food Programme (WFP) donated food parcels and UNICEF provided food parcels for children under five years of age, drinking water and other basic relief items.

The assessment teams have been working arduously since the beginning of the emergency, distributing and performing water treatment activities. This activity was done in collaboration with Water and Sanitation experts from the Spanish Red Cross. A total of 3,808,386 litres of water have been distributed in the affected regions.

PADRU sent a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member which has been supporting the DRC in distribution coordination. Initially two PADRU Disaster Management delegates were coordinating early response and relief activities. In addition, an IT & Telecom delegate present in Haiti contributed to relief activities. The DRC Plan of Action aims to assist 2,000 families with emergency relief items. However, as new data has become available the DRC plan of action will increase the number of beneficiaries. Also, the Federation's focal point for Shelter in the Americas was deployed for the possible activation of clusters in emergency shelters. After several meetings with the DRC, the Inter Agency Standing Committee country team and UNDAC, the IFRC decided it was not in a position to undertake the role as coordinator for an emergency shelter program based on the reality of the situation at that time.

The **Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS)** participated in pre-alert activities together with the Civil Protection Agency carrying out evacuation activities and distributing food items to temporary shelters. Damage and needs assessments were carried out and identified the immediate needs for relief operations. Over 150 volunteers were working early on in the emergency, especially in shelters. Initially, the HNRCS supplied the shelters with 492 blankets, 200 sheets, 400 units of soap and laundry soap as well as with cleaning kits. To date, the HNRCS has distributed relief items to 911 families in the Ouest and Sud provinces. Partner National Societies (PNS), the ICRC and the International Federation supplied technical expertise such as Water and Sanitation and Logistics personnel, vehicles and fuel.

The HNRCS had developed a Plan of Action that initially aimed to provide 1,000 families with basic non-food items in the most affected areas. As later information from the government regarding the number of affected families revealed higher figures than the ones used for the initial plan, the HNRCS is planning to reach an additional 1,500 families, for a total of 2,500 families. It is currently revising its plan of action to reach this objective, in collaboration with a PADRU DM delegate. Along with the IFRC's standard kit, these additional 1,500 families will benefit from assistance provided by the German Red Cross, which will include water filters, buckets, blankets and supplemental food assistance.

On 27 October, HNRCS local branches in the southern peninsula mobilized their volunteers and activated their high frequency radio network. Assessment reports are being communicated to the HNRCS headquarters through this system. The HNRCS is currently responding to the Hurricane Dean operation with support from the Federation through the same appeal.

Ever since it became clear that Noel was headed for **Cuba**, the National Coordinating Committee for Disasters and their province and municipal branches were activated, especially in the eastern regions, where Noel first hit. Volunteers were dispatched to various Civil Defense branches and fire stations mobilizing a total of 2,949 volunteers participating in evacuation of people in high risk areas to safer areas prioritizing families who live in low lying lands. The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) was in charge of all the temporary shelters opened in the different areas distributing food items, providing first aid care, psychological support and special care for pregnant women, children, elderly and disabled people. The CRC also enabled the family link system in the most affected area of Granma; there were more than 50 messages received by the CRC supporting these services.

The CRC has commenced early recovery activities ever since the beginning of the emergency. They have done environmental sanitation such as clearing up debris and human waste from the roads and sewers. They have also supported and performed educational workshops in temporary shelters for the prevention of water borne diseases among others. There were 1,582 volunteers supporting these activities. The CRC has developed a plan of action that will benefit 2,000 families affected by Noel.



Distribution activities taking place in Exuma island. Source: International Federation

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)** actively responded to the crisis caused by the tropical storm/hurricane. Volunteers supported relief activities in shelters, evacuated people in the affected regions and performed initial assessments. Volunteers and members of the Disaster Preparedness Committee assisted in the ten shelters in New Providence with first aid stations and other requested support. Ground officers and assessment teams were deployed to conduct preliminary assessments in New Providence as well. Radio contact was established with Long Island, Eleuthera and San Salvador. In the first days after the passage of the storm, the BRCS dispatched relief items from their warehouse to Long Island including 100 blankets, 192 hygiene kits and supplementary one-week food kits for approximately 50 families. Based upon assessments, the BRCS developed a plan of action to provide immediate support to 425 families with food parcels, water and hygiene kits. As a result of the needs

assessments it was determined that affected families could benefit from a cash distribution program to support in a rapid rehabilitation.

The Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in coordination with PADRU has dispatched three airplanes with relief items to the Dominican Republic with non food items such as jerry cans, blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. It also shipped sea two containers with relief items to Haiti for immediate distribution to 1,000 families. Three more containers were subsequently sent to benefit another 1,500 families, based on the Haitian Red Cross' updated plan of action to reach a total of 2,500 families. PADRU has established High Frequency (HF) radio contact with the involved National Societies in order to ensure frequent and accurate communications, information sharing, and to monitor the situation. PADRU deployed two Disaster Management (DM) delegates to the Dominican Republic and one Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member. PADRU is in close coordination with the representative for Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic with base in Santo Domingo. Two Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members were already positioned in Haiti providing immediate support; they have since left and were replaced on 4 December by two DM delegates. One DM delegate will accompany the HNRCS until 22 December in the update of its plan of action and repositioning of relief supplies for future emergencies.

Progress towards objectives

This Operations Update seeks to support response activities in the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti. The operation will focus on providing food and non food items, shelter, emergency health, water and sanitation and logistics.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: The affected population will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of recent floods and effects from tropical storm Noel	
Expected results	Activities planned

<p>10,225 families (some 40,700 beneficiaries) (425 families in the Bahamas, 4,800 families in Cuba, 4,000 families in Dominican Republic and 1,000 in Haiti) receive relief items and recover from the effects of the floods.</p>	<p>Activities planned to reach this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and registration of the most vulnerable families with special emphasis on gender inequities and disability conditions. • Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities. • Warehousing, procurement, dispatch and transportation of relief items from local headquarters to the final destinations. • Regular detailed reporting on the distribution. • Monitoring and evaluation.
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Bahamas: The 425 families on New Providence, Cat Island, Exuma, and Long Island benefit from the provision of non-food and food relief items to recover from the effects of the floods.

Progress: The BRCS has completed distributions of the following items to the most vulnerable populations on the islands:

- 425 food parcels
- 425 hygiene kits

The food parcels contained the following items:

Item	Quantities
Enriched White Rice	1- 5lb Bag
Granulated Sugar	1- 4lbs
Quick Grits, enriched white hominy	1- 5lb Bag
Enriched White flour	1- 5lb Bag
Salt	1- 1lb container
Quick oats	1- 2lb container
Vegetable Oil	64oz
Evaporated Milk	4- 14 ½ oz. cans
Mixed Vegetable soup	4- 10 ½ oz. cans
Sardines in oil	4- 106 g. tins
Chunk Light Tuna in oil	4 - 6 oz. can
Canned corn beef	4 - 12 oz. tins

The hygiene kits contained the following items:

Item	Quantities
Toothbrush	4 units
Toothpaste	1 tube
Comb	1 unit
Shampoo	1 bottle
Body soap	1 unit
Deodorant	1 unit
Wash towels	2 units

All items were locally procured and purchased according to the International Federation's procurement standards and distributions were completed by 23 November.

Challenges: In the beginning, the distributions were difficult to accomplish: the islands are only accessible by boat which only passes once a week and with the docks closed there was no access. Helicopters could not land either because all the islands were completely flooded.

Cuba: 2,000 families will receive zinc roofing to rebuild their roof tops for their houses. 2,800 families who lost their basic items will benefit from the following relief items:

- Sheets
- Towels
- Mosquito nets
- Hygiene kits
- Jerry cans

- Bladder tanks (20 gallon)
- Kitchen sets
- Mattresses

The following Cuban provinces are identified to receive relief support:

Provinces
1. Ciego de Avila
2. Camaguey
3. Las Tunas
4. Holguin
5. Granma
6. Santiago de Cuba
7. Guantanamo

Progress: To date, procurement is taking place for the following materials in order to rehabilitate the affected family's homes:

Items	# of Families
Zinc sheeting	500
Nails for sheeting	
Nails for wood	
Sinks and toilettes	100

Procurement is taking place for the following non-food items:

Items	# of families
Mattresses	1,500
Bed sheets	1,500
Towels	3,000
Mosquito nets	3,000

These have been identified to be the most immediate items needed. After a thorough evaluation, the rest of the relief items mentioned above will not still be considered in the plan of action.

Challenges: The distributions have not yet taken place since Cuba does not have all the items needed to be procured for this operation. Some items like sinks and toilettes will be purchased locally, but for the rest, procurements need to be done elsewhere therefore delaying the distribution process. Also, the number of families indicated above is less than the original objective. The remaining families will eventually receive their relief items once the procurement process moves along.

Dominican Republic: The DRC plan of action will provide 10,000 affected families with relief items. Some 2,000 families will be covered by this appeal. An additional 2,000 families affected by tropical storm Olga, will also be covered by this appeal, and will be receiving hygiene and kitchen kits.

The distributions of the relief items to the families affected by tropical storm Olga will start after assessments are finalized.

Progress: PADRU in coordination with the RLU supplied the relief items that consisted of food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen kits (one per family), jerry cans, mosquito nets and Tarpaulins (two per family) and the DRC

immediately distributed the items to 2,000 families as planned as part of the complete plan of action of DRC to aid 10,000 families.

Because of an agreement between the World Food Programme (WFP), PNS and the DRC on support in food parcels, these will no longer be part of this appeal.

Challenges: There were some minor challenges encountered during the distributions since many of the communities were isolated and the roads were obstructed.

In **Haiti**, of the 1,000 families planned to receive relief items, the following families in the provinces mentioned below have already received emergency assistance:

Province	# of Families
Cité Soleil	221
Croix des Bouquets	138
Tabarre	120
Carrefour	28
Ganthier	15
Arcahaie	50
Cabaret	101
Cayes	100
Les Orangers	138
TOTAL	911

The received relief items were:

- Buckets
- Jerry cans
- Blankets
- Mosquito nets
- Kitchen kits
- Hygiene kits

Progress: The relief items that were initially sent by the Regional Logistic Unit in Panama to replenish HNRCS stocks for 1,000 families will now be distributed by the HNRCS, along with items for another 550 families. All these items are in the process of clearing customs. The HNRCS is now trying to reach a new target of 2,500 families and is therefore planning to change its Plan of Action accordingly.

Challenges: There are some delays in distributing the relief items due to slow customs procedures.

Emergency health

Objective: The affected communities will benefit from basic medical care provided by Dominican Red Cross medical brigades.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The affected people receive proper medical care in order to relieve their suffering caused by the floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of activities with the National Secretary of Public Health (Secretaria de Estado de Salud Publica y Asistencia Social, SESPAS). • Identification of shelters on where to perform medical assistance. • Prioritization and identification of beneficiaries (children, women, elderly). • Organization and support to SESPAS medical brigades.

Progress: The Health department from the DRC has been attending approximately 450 people in shelters affected by diseases such as anemia, dermatitis, gastrointestinal problems and respiratory problems among others.

Challenges: There is a lack of medical personnel since the DRC health department only has two doctors.

Emergency Health

Objective: The affected communities will benefit from psychosocial support (PSP) to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

Expected results	Activities planned
The DRC provides psychosocial support to the affected communities due to the floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams will perform evaluations • Identification of the most affected areas • Assistance in shelters

Progress: The DRC has mobilized their psychosocial support team to the most affected areas in order to provide assistance to the people, especially children and women, who have been affected by the floods. The teams have evaluated the needs of the affected population in order to identify the exact requirements of the operation.

Currently, a team of psychologists is providing assistance in the shelters, through psychosocial activities.

Challenges: There are no challenges identified within this objective.

Emergency health

Objective: The affected communities and people in shelters in the Dominican Republic will have access to potable water for consumption and will be sensitized on key health messages through a health awareness campaign related to vector control and water borne diseases.

Expected results	Activities planned
All the affected population receive and have access to potable water and also receive key health messages in order to control water borne diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need and damage assessments including basic sanitation activities. • Mobilization of six water and sanitation teams. • Identification of communities most affected and shelters available. • Identification of beneficiaries in coordination with SESPAS and the National Institute of Potable Water (Instituto Nacional de Agua Potable – INAPA). • Agreements with local authorities for water supply. • Water and sanitation activities. • Training workshops in water sanitation for all DRC volunteers. • Storing and distribution of drinking water to shelters and affected communities. • Health awareness campaigns

Progress: Members of the Distribution Team for Water and Sanitation (Equipos de Distribucion de Agua y Saneamiento – EDAS) and two delegates from the Spanish Red Cross installed one water treatment plant benefiting 4,000 people in the province of San Juan de la Maguana. To date, some 3,808,386 litres of water has been supplied to various communities. ECHO together with the Spanish Red Cross is funding a water and sanitation project which will assist 25,000 beneficiaries. This objective will also no longer be part of this appeal because there is enough support in this area.

Challenges: There are no challenges identified within this objective.

Emergency shelter

Objective: The Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) will provide support for the displaced people housed in shelters.

Expected results	Activities planned
Affected people receive proper care in shelters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide non food items to people in shelters • Provide health support

Progress: The HNRCS in coordination with the Direction of Civil Protection is providing the population in shelters with non food items. It has distributed 492 blankets, 200 sheets, 400 units of soap and laundry soap as well as cleaning kits.

Challenges: Due to lack of (experienced) personnel, the HNRCS has not been able to manage the shelters as initially expected.

Strengthening of Capacities

Objective: The capacity of the Cuban Red Cross and their local branches will be strengthened.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The Cuban Red Cross and local branches are better prepared for future disaster response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers will receive visibility equipment according to established standards (shirts, caps, flags, id's) • Procurement of office equipment for the disaster response office • Workshops to support the development of a disaster preparedness in all local branches in the affected provinces

The Bahamas, Dominican and Haitian National Societies will look into appropriate capacity building activities, and will consider how to strengthen volunteer capacity and preparedness for future response based on the experience of this operation.

Progress: In Cuba, the CRC will procure the following equipment:

Items	Units
Computer and paper	1
Caps, shirts, flags, Id's for volunteers	1
Rubber boots for volunteers	300
Rescue overalls	300
Guides for disaster response	1,000

Challenges: The majority of the items will be procured locally except for the rubber boots and overalls which will be purchased elsewhere. Receiving this equipment will cause some delays for the CRC.

Early Recovery

Objective: Early recovery activities are assessed, planned and implemented together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The affected communities benefit from early recovery activities implemented by the National Societies with an aim to re-establish livelihoods on the short to long term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform relief assessments to identify recovery needs • Obtain feedback from affected communities

Progress: In the coming weeks, the Dominican Red Cross will be elaborating a recovery plan in order to rehabilitate the affected areas due to tropical storm Noel. A mission is planned to assess the early recovery activities in January, 2008.

Challenges: There are no major challenges identified in this objective.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promoting greater quality, accountability, and transparency. There has been close coordination and support to the NS to increase the

visibility of their actions in regards to the communication through PADRU, the Caribbean Regional Representation Office in Trinidad and the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

Regular situation reports have been issued by Red Cross National Societies through the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global International Federation website: https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/prepare/view_report.asp?ReportID=3375, and media pieces are also available on the Federation's public website. Several short articles have been issued in order to develop a better understanding of the mission of International Federation of the Red Cross and the activities the organization undertakes in serving affected communities. In the same line, local and international media were provided with interviews directly from the involved National Societies. For more information on this emergency please visit: <http://www.cruzroja.org/> or www.ifrc.org.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Panama: Dario Alvarez, Acting Head of PADRU; e-mail Dario.Alvarez@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; Fax (507) 316 1082.
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Tanya Wood, Head of Caribbean Regional Representation; email Tanya.wood@ifrc.org; phone (868)624 1557; fax (868)627 9627
- In Dominican Republic: Rafael Olaya, Federation Representative for Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti, e-mail: Rafael.olaya@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar; Zone Relationship Management Coordinator; email Maria.Alcazar@ifrc.org; phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507)317 1304.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator Americas Zone; email pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730 42 74; Fax (41 22) 733 03 95

[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Donor response to MDR49002 - Carribean - Tropical Storm Noel

TIMEFRAME: 29 Oct 07 to 30 Apr 08

LOCATION: Carribean

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	1,462,103
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	1,917,343
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	131%

Updated on: 14 Dec 2007

	Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BUDGET				1,462,103				1,462,103
FUNDING								
<u>Opening Balance</u>								
Income								
Cash contributions (received and pledged)								
American Red Cross	USD	118,790		132,962				132,962
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	CAD	100,000		121,500				121,500
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	50,000		83,650				83,650
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund	EUR	250,000		415,950				415,950
Japanese Red Cross	USD	39,600		44,273				44,273
Netherlands Red Cross	EUR	40,000		66,000				66,000
Norwegian Red Cross	NOK	1,200,000		243,960				243,960
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	800,000		140,560				140,560
Swiss Red Cross (from Swiss Government)	CHF	118,713		118,713				118,713
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	CHF	1,500		1,500				1,500
Total Cash contributions				1,369,068				1,369,068
Inkind Goods & Transport (pledged)								
American Red Cross	USD	58,305		68,275				68,275
Total Inkind Goods & Transport				68,275				68,275
Other Income								
DREF Allocations	CHF	480,000		480,000				480,000
Total Other Income				480,000				480,000
Total Income				1,917,343				1,917,343
TOTAL FUNDING			0	1,917,343	0	0	0	1,917,343
COVERAGE				131%				131%

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OPERATION (based on information received from partners)

	Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF

Bilateral Contributions

	Currency	Amount	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Bilateral Contributions								
Spanish Red Cross	USD	380,337		445,374				445,374
Total Bilateral Contributions				445,374				445,374