

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Haiti

Appeal No. MAAHT001

Launch Date: 03/04/2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Children in Grande Anse.
Source: International Federation.

In brief

Goal: The overall goal of the Federation in Haiti is to strengthen the capacities of the Haitian National Red Cross Society to more effectively meet the needs of vulnerable people and become an increasingly relevant partner for civil society.

Programme summary:

In general, the 2006-2007 Haiti Appeal was characterized by serious funding constraints that have affected the Federation's supporting role to the Haitian Red Cross and led to the phasing out of a country representation in Haiti. In addition, the financial constraints meant that, for instance, the objectives for the Humanitarian Principles and Values and Organizational Development Programmes, as set out in the Appeal, could not or only partially be achieved.

In spite of the above, in 2006, with reduced human and financial resources, the HNRCS accomplished significant achievements in the fields of Disaster Management and Health with the support of the Federation. In 2007, the HNRCS continued to implement its core programmes, with support from a range of donors, from both within and outside the Movement. Through the Caribbean regional programme, the HNRCS continued to receive support in specific areas, such as Club 25, a regional initiative to expand voluntary non-remunerated blood donations and encourage healthy lifestyles in young people. The Federation also supported the HNRCS to respond to localized but extensive floods, caused by tropical storms and hurricanes which affected large numbers of people, by releasing DREF allocations or launching an emergency appeal and providing technical support to respond to the immediate and follow-up needs of those affected (see details in separate emergency reports posted at: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=80>).

Despite the progress made in some of the programmes, 2007 also marked the end of the Federation's presence in Haiti. At the end of June 2007, the office of the Haiti Delegation came to a close. It had been decided to have a single liaison Federation person with a relevant background in

Organizational Development, based in the Headquarters of the Haitian National Society, but this was not possible, due to a serious lack of funding. Instead, a Representative is located in Santo Domingo in the Federation Representation Office that covers Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, since November 2007. Funding here will also be decisive for the continuity of this Office.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 4,527,058 (USD 4,049,247 or EUR 2,743,672) (out of which 48 per cent covered). **Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports:**
[report 2006](#) [report 2007](#) [report 2006/2007](#)

If applicable, include needs for related Emergency, Special or Bi-annual Appeals.

No. of people we help:

The Haiti Delegation focused on building the capacities of the Haitian National Red Cross Society. Therefore the direct beneficiary of the delegation's programme is the National Society – its staff at headquarters and branch level, governance bodies and volunteers. In addition, various projects and programmes carried out by the HNRCS with support of this Representation, have reached the following number of population beneficiaries:

| Programme/project | Number of people assisted | |
|--|--|---|
| Health | Club 25 | 1647 Youth recruited 950 trained members |
| | "Noboday has the truth written on their face"/ Barbershop campaign | 67,500 people reached through barbershops 600,000 reached via the billboards |
| | Together We Can | 119,541 youth reached through community based outreach programmes |
| Disaster Response (through PADRU) | Tropical Storm Ernesto | 3,325 person (665 families) |
| | Floods MDRHT002 (Emergency Appeal) | 11,845 persons (2,369 families) |
| | Floods MDRHT003 (DREF) | 4,850 persons (970 families) |
| | Hurricane Dean (Emergency Appeal) | 4,750 persons (950 families) |
| | Hurricane Noel (Emergency Appeal) | 12,500 persons (2,500 families) |
| Risk Reduction | Kouri di Vwazin 'W | 112 volunteers and 150 'relais communautaires' trained |

Our partners:

Movement partners have several years experience of working in Haiti. Currently there are seven PNSs working in Haiti: American, Canadian, French, German, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. ICRC has a strong presence in Haiti, given the country's history of civil unrest in recent years and PADRU continues to work with HNRCS to ensure preparation for effective coordination in disaster response. The Representation continued to build on its relationships with other organizations external partners are International Office for Migration (IOM), the World Health organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), United Nations Development Plan (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), MINUSTAH as well as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Catholic Relief services.

Current context

While the Presidential and Parliamentary elections at the beginning of 2006 brought about uncertainty and unrest prior to the elections, the situation has been relatively calm after the elections were held in February and the newly elected President took office in May of that year. In general though, security continued to be an ongoing concern and gang violence and kidnappings, especially in Port-au-Prince continue to pose a threat and impact upon the work carried out in Haiti by development and humanitarian agencies. However, indications are that the security situation is slowly improving and the

government, with the support of MINUSTAH, has made progress in dismantling some of the more violent gangs in Port-au-Prince. But while the economy is growing, state financial reserves are rising, and inflation and exchange rates are under control, the average citizen has not felt an improvement in living conditions.

The biggest threats faced by Haiti are the natural and environmental events that continue to affect many residents. Tropical storms, hurricanes, heavy rainfall: these have been affecting Haiti in the last two years, leading to floods, landslides, and consequent loss of goods, property, and life. In 2006, Tropical Storms (TS) Chris and Ernesto, as well as extreme weather in November affected many people and their belongings, mostly in the provinces of Grande Anse, Sud, Sud-Est, Ouest, Nippes (southern half of the country) and Artibonite (central region of the country). 2007 did not start well, with more floods in the above mentioned areas, due to heavy rainfall in March, and the 2007 hurricane season did not spare Haiti in the least. First, in August, Hurricane Dean made landfall in the country, followed by Hurricane Noel (which was a tropical storm when it passed Haiti) and TS Olga.

In response to these disasters, the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) proved to be of inestimable value during the initial response, supporting the evacuation of the affected people. In addition, the NS provided assistance in cooperation with other agencies and distributed relief goods to the worst affected families. In addition, material for sanitation and hygiene activities were supplied to help the affected families return to their normal lives.



Cleaning activities (of drainage systems) in Jeremie, Grande Anse, after the floods of March and April, 2007. Source: International Federation.

During the transition period of closing the Federation Country office in Haiti and creating the Federation Representation for Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti, the Federation decided to focus its efforts on the remaining activities related to previous disasters, through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), by sending Disaster Management delegates, and Regional Disaster Response teams. In conjunction with the Office for the Americas Zones, special attention was given to the creation of a response and contingency plan which stimulated the dialogue with key stakeholders of the National Society.

The disasters had a great impact on the work of the NS and of the Federation, in that it shifted attention away from the programmes to the disaster operations; and with that also the human and financial resources that were already scarce. Both areas needed more human and financial resources, and the constraints in these explain only too well the consequences for the 2006-2007 Appeal.

Progress towards objectives

Health and Care

Objectives: The Haitian National Red Cross Society is implementing an efficient, well adapted programme aiming to reduce vulnerability and to improve the health of vulnerable individuals and groups.

Achievements:

Despite the ongoing financial constraints, the HNRCS worked hard to achieve good and positive

results by the projects that were being developed and implemented. One of those success-stories is the implementation of the “Club 25” project, which started in 2006. This project promotes voluntary non-remunerated blood donations among youth (within schools and youth organizations). It aims to recruit youth in the ages 17-25 to be members of Club 25. Several methods to recruit the members are used:



A group of youth volunteers and donors, during activities to get the youth involved with the Club 25 project. Source: HNRCS

- organization of information sessions for the targeted group
- utilization of registration members forms
- utilization of engagement forms
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The promotion material as developed with McCann-Erickson is now also translated to French.

The project is now implemented in seven regions of the country: Cayes, Jérémie, Jacmel, St-marc, Gonaïves, Hinche, Fort-Liberté. And the results between June 2006 and June 2007 are the following: Some 1,647 members have been recruited, pledging to donate their blood 25 times before their 25th birthday and the blood donation as collected through the Club 25 project accounts currently for 13 percent of the total blood donation in the country. The overall results are so positive that Haiti was one of the few

countries to be invited to the 11th Colloquium on the Recruitment of Voluntary, non-remunerated Blood Donor, to be held in Cairo, January 2008 and present their results.

Another field in which the HNRCD with support of the Federation achieved great progress is in HIV and AIDS. The manual of the ‘Together We Can’ project has been revised, in cooperation with the American and the Netherlands Red Cross, who provided both technical and financial support. It is now adapted to the Haitian context, taking into consideration their culture and language; this will ensure even better results in the next period, when the project will scale up its activities.

The Faces-campaign was implemented by November 2007, after a preparation period of over a year. The campaign’s main message is: “Nobody has the thruth written on their face” and with the support of the International Federation, the HNRCS has reached 67,500 people through hairdressers who have been educated on the subject of HIV: they were trained on how to deliver key messages to prevent the spread of the virus. Another estimated 600,000 people were reached through billboards on the two most frequently used highways in Port-au-Prince. Given that the campaign was only implemented in November 2007, the response has been very positive. In addition, funds have been made available by the Norwegian Red Cross ‘donation to the Health programme, to implement and scale up the activities of the ‘Faces-campaign’.

One of the biggest achievements of the HNRCS however, is the membership of the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS (implemented in July 2007). Haiti is one of the ten priority countries, and did an excellent job on the elaboration of a three year strategic plan, with a detailed plan of action, logframe and budget. This is expected to be implemented over the next three years.

Disaster Management

Objectives: The Haitian National Red Cross Society has a well-functioning disaster management department which is in a position to provide appropriate services to target populations

Achievements:

Haiti experienced two turbulent years, especially as far as natural events and consequent emergencies were concerned: floods, Tropical Storms (Chris, Debby and Ernesto in 2006, and Olga in 2007) and Hurricanes (Dean and Noel in 2007) hit the country hard and had devastating affects on the population and their livelihoods. This led the HNRCS to concentrate on responding to the floods and other emergencies, and saw their efforts supported by the International Federation, financial-wise, human resources-wise (deployment of Disaster Management delegates and Regional Intervention Team members) and material-wise (facilitation of pre-positioned stock).



**Distribution of non-food relief items, Jeremie.
Source: International Federation.**

Despite these time- and money consuming efforts, the Disaster Management (DM) department of the HNRCS did achieve some great accomplishments and developments over the course of the two years, amongst which can be found:

- establishment of the operations centre, to facilitate the coordination of all actors working in disaster response;
- development of contingency plans in both 2006 and 2007;
- trainer of trainers-course on Disaster Management for 21 HNRCS volunteers;
- the trainer of trainers trained 112 volunteers and 150 'relais communautaires' (community volunteers), involved in the Kouri di Vwazin 'W project (more info below);
- Training of National Intervention Teams (NIT) at regional branch level;
- Equipment of NIT with basic response material: boots, aprons, gloves, shovels, picks and saws.
- Inventory and installation of telecommunications equipment and 46 recruited volunteers were trained as radio operators;
- Installation of High Frequency (HF) mobile radios.

Kouri di Vwazin 'W

"Run and tell your neighbour" was the literal meaning of the project called Kouri di Vwazin 'W; the project sought to raise awareness of the dangers of hurricanes amongst isolated communities in high-risk areas, ensuring that actions are taken by the communities to protect lives and livelihoods. The first phase was implemented in 2006, consisting of training and equipping the 'relais communautaires' (community volunteers), with important financial support from the Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross. Six regions were selected (South, South East, Nippes, Grande Anse, Artibonite and North-West) and 25 volunteers per region were trained. 2007 proved more of a challenge to the continuance of the project: money fell short which led to the close of the project in the second half of the year. The project demonstrated good results and much potential for helping vulnerable communities become better prepared for the impact of the hurricane season.

In addition, an assessment of the Haitian National Red Cross Society disaster management capacities was carried out as well as the identification of key areas and sectors requiring special attention to increase the NS capacities. The Well Prepared National Society (PWNS) assessment formed the base of this assessment. All branches actively participated in the assessment and the formulation of recommendations for the medium - long term processes, with the participation of the higher authorities of the NS as well. This assessment has proved vital for the HNRCS, as its outcome highlighted the weaknesses, strengths and problem areas, causing the NS to better understand which DM areas need to be strengthened.

Challenges or Constraints: Financial issues were the most important constraints holding back the activities and the continuance of several projects and the programme itself.

Organizational Development

Objectives: The governance of the Haitian National Red Cross Society responsibly exercises its distinct and separate role and ensures accountability to members, beneficiaries, donors, authorities and the public.

Achievements:

Some important developments have been achieved in the Organization Development (OD) programme, but most of these took place in 2006. As the Haiti Appeal received no contributions in 2007, no specific activities were pursued. However, the Federation continued its commitment to support the position of the Executive Officer (i.e. Secretary General) of the HNRCS through covering some salary costs during the period.

In 2006, after having achieved considerable progress in statute revision, programme coordination and strategic planning, the HNRCS concentrated on reinforcing steps already taken concerning the new statutes, separation of governance and management and the strengthening of the branches.

Among the activities and achievements can be found:

- Technical and financial support for the General Assembly of the Hinche regional branch; subsequently, regional General Assemblies took place in all 13 regional branches.
- Election of new members in branches that were not operational or whose board members' mandates had expired, for the reactivation of branch activity and the revitalizing of commitment.
- The carrying out of a workshop (together with the ICRC) to train new leaders of the branches.

In 2007, the Federation supported the extraordinary assembly of the HNRCS that provided the management of the NS the opportunity to address several institutional matters that were of interest to the Society. All 13 regional branches participated in the event. This event also allowed for the training of Branch leaders on recent development related to the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Federation mainly focused on three topics: 1) Operational Alliances in Haiti; 2) Validation of the Response and Contingency plan; and 3) Well Prepared National Societies.

Working in partnership

Over the course of the two years, and given the challenge and constraints that the HNRCS encountered, the cooperation with other organizations, agencies and institutions to maximize the reach of Red Cross actions, became more and more fundamental, and will continue to be so in the future.

Working with the HNRCS to leverage the efforts of the Red Cross efforts in Haiti was identified as the main focus of the Federation. During 2007, Movement partners worked together to develop the outline of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS). The purpose of this CAS is to set out a common and agreed set of norms for partners working with the HNRCS and defines the roles and responsibilities of partners and HNRCS. Initial progress was made on this work; however, the CAS remains a draft.

Operational Alliance

HNRCS is one of the NS that is participating in the piloting of a new operating model for the International Federation, the Operational Alliance (OA) initiative. The purpose of an OA is to most effectively utilize the collective resources of the Federation members and where appropriate other partners, to enhance the capacity of the operational national society to achieve greater programmatic

impact for vulnerable communities. 2007 represented the start of the discussion, meetings and negotiations on the alliance; and an initial visit to Haiti was made in June (by advisors to the global alliance initiative, with a community health specialist, hired to accompany the process in Haiti) to start the process of mapping out the OA in Haiti, building on some valuable initial work carried out by the National Society Health Department, supported by an American Red Cross Health Delegate. Extensive discussions were held with HNRCS and its partners, as well as with the Ministry of Health, PAHO/WHO, ICRC, Catholic Relief Services, Foundation for Reproductive Health and Family Education (FOSREF) and others. Field visits were also undertaken to enable in-depth discussions with a selection of branches.

The assessment showed that there is an interest on the part of Red Cross partners in Haiti in participating in the OA process within the framework provided by the concept paper developed by the HNRCS and external organizations confirmed there is a clear gap in the health service delivery system at the community, a gap that the HNRCS volunteers could fill; that the entry point of malaria was appropriate and that there was an opportunity to link with the community health worker network which is part of the national health system but funded generally by INGOs.

However, after these initial steps and the identification of some challenges, the process has come to a halt, mainly caused by the end of the mission of the Head of Delegation in June and the consequent closing of the Federation office in Port-au-Prince due to the lack of financing. Ownership of the project and cooperation between the various Movement and external partners lacked; the weak financial situation and the various emergencies that hit the country exacerbated this halt. However, in January 2008, the partners were to meet up and take up the Alliance in a meeting.

Contributing to longer-term impact

During its presence in Haiti, the Representation worked with the HNRCS on building the capacity of the NS to respond to disasters by appointing focal managers, establishing the operations centre and implementing the Kouri di Vwazin 'W project, carrying out the disaster management participatory assessment, guiding future developments in Disaster management and validation of the disaster response and contingency plan. The Federation supported and facilitated this through information sharing and knowledge management by providing the management and authorities with relevant information at the general assembly of the national society.

Respect for diversity and human dignity was promoted by focusing on and implementing HIV and AIDS projects, thereby advocating tolerance, respect and non-discrimination. Gender and diversity is a cross-cutting theme in all programmes within the Haiti Representation, in search of parity and non-discrimination, while it also contributes to the Global Agenda Goals.

The Code of Conduct and Sphere standards are applied and adhered to at all levels. During training workshops there are modules which include training in these areas and the Federation uses a standard catalogue for the procurement of relief items which conforms to Sphere standards.

Furthermore, contributions were made to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) directly. For instance, the HNRCS together with the Haiti Delegation scaled up its interventions concerning disaster response and health programming, thereby contributing to the reduction of vulnerability of the beneficiary population. The HIV and AIDS awareness-raising through the barber shops campaign being implemented in Port-au-Prince contributes to the country's economic and demographic indicators. This is reaching many beneficiaries, which could possibly reduce the number of people that will be affected by HIV and/or AIDS.

Looking ahead

After the Haiti Representation's mission came to an end in June 2007, the Federation is currently representing Haiti through its Representation Office for Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti. The focus will be on scaling up the activities regarding the Operational Alliance. In a meeting to be held in January 2008 on the HNRCS Operational Alliance, the future and further activities concerning the OA will be determined by the HNRCS and its partners. A working group among interested NS is established to facilitate this process.

Concerning Disaster Management, a multi-year DFID grant through the International Federation will allow the HNRCS to have adequate resources to hire a national coordinator to coordinate all the different Disaster Management investments and efforts of PNS in Haiti. This national resource will also allow the HNRCS to be better represented among its Movement partners on DM-related matters, and is a key element in securing the HNRCS a role with Government and relevant UN agencies in disaster preparedness and response. PADRU continues to work with HNRCS to ensure preparation for effective coordination in disaster response. Efforts are made to ensure that lessons learned in programmatic areas are shared and built upon by the different RC/RC partners.

As for the Health and Care programme, activities will be scaled up for the Global Alliance; the elaborated plan will be implemented over the next three years. In addition, activities for the Together We Can campaign will be scaled up, especially since the manual is now adapted to Haitian context and language, ready to be used.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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

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To support or find out more about the Federation's programmes or operations, click on www.ifrc.org