

# 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, JAMAICA - FLOODS***

31 May 2002

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*This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.*

### ***The Situation***

A tropical depression between Honduras and the Cayman Islands heading towards Florida and the Bahamas has resulted in severe damage in Haiti and Jamaica.

In Haiti, torrential rains have produced flash floods over the southern part of the country: Anse a Veau, Les Cayes, Port Salut and the area of Chantal and Cap Tiburon have been severely affected. To date, an estimated 12 people have died and 20 are reported missing. A state of emergency may be declared in the south of the country.

In Jamaica, at least seven people have died and hundreds were evacuated after seven days of heavy rain which caused flooding and landslides. The most affected areas are the parishes of Clarendon, St. Catherine, Manchester, St Thomas and Saint Elizabeth, in the south and east of the country. It continues to rain in these areas.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

- ***Haiti***

On Saturday, 25 May, a rapid assessment team of 11 people from the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) surveyed Les Cayes. Areas which are inaccessible over land - Port Piment L'Acul, Arniquet and Camp Perrin - were contacted by 'phone or radio. A small amount of kitchen utensils and clothing were distributed by the Haitian National Red Cross Society.

In the south, it is estimated that, in total, approximately 300 families are affected and some 250 people are homeless or were stranded on their way to a shelter. Ten people have been confirmed dead, four have been injured and 18 are missing.

There have been losses of cattle and crops have been destroyed, particularly in Miragoane, Fonds des Negres, Aquin, Cavaillon and Les Cayes. Furthermore, housing and infrastructure have been severely damaged. The road between Les Cayes Laporte and Bas Camp is flooded and roads are cut off between La Saline and Bas Auberge, and Ravine du Sud to the coast.

In Anse a veau, Petit Trou de Nippes, Asile and Baraderes, some 120 families have been affected, 2 people have died, 57 houses have been damaged and 3 were totally destroyed. In addition, water systems have been severely damaged in Petit Trou de Nippes.

It is currently difficult to provide a precise assessment of the damage caused by the floods following the heavy rain since there are still areas that are inaccessible including Port Salut, Chantal and Cap Tiburon. Further reports both from the Haitian National Red Cross Society branches and the Civil Defence damage assessment team will be issued soon.

Following a coordination meeting between non governmental partners, it was decided to provide relief to 20 communities, to be determined by the Civil Defence. Catholic Relief Services will provide water and transport; WHO and UNDP will focus on sanitation issues and vector control; and WFP and Concern Worldwide will provide tools: 200 wheelbarrows, 800 shovels and 400 pickaxes.

An emergency fund of USD 200,000 is being used by the Civil Defence to respond to the emergency. The Netherlands RC is considering to implement a relief programme - distributing food, hygiene kits and kitchen sets - in the departments of Nippes and Sud, with the support of ECHO

- ***Jamaica***

In Jamaica, seven shelters have been set up. The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) has provided food for an initial 240 persons, many of whom have returned home, but there are 145 people who currently remain in the shelters. It is anticipated that these persons will need to stay in emergency shelters for at least three months, since they have lost their entire livelihood as the agricultural and the poultry sector have been severely damaged. The JRC has distributed blankets, bedding and mattresses to affected families.

In Portland, nearly 300 persons remain in shelters after hurricane Michelle battered the island in November 2001.

## ***Needs***

In Haiti, needs continue to be evaluated.

In Jamaica, the National Society has used all its relief supplies in stock and will need to replace them, particularly in view of the forthcoming hurricane season. The JRC will also need provisions of food to assist those still in shelters.

A Federation delegate, based in Haiti, and the Caribbean regional delegation are in close contact with the National Societies. They continue to monitor the situation and are ready to provide assistance, if required.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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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.*

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