

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



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: SOCIAL UNREST

Appeal no. 07/04  
5 March 2004

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 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,388,000  
(USD 1,071,915 OR EUR 879,495)  
IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES  
TO ASSIST TARGETED BENEFICIARIES FOR 9 MONTHS**

**This Emergency Appeal replaces the Haïti and the Haïtian National Red Cross Society component of the Federation's 2004 Annual appeal (Appeal 01.52/2004) for the Caribbean and includes both emergency and longer-term objectives. These focus on organizational development, disaster management, health and promotion of humanitarian values.**

### The situation

The on-going precarious situation in Haïti degenerated significantly as of early February as rebel groups clashed with government supporters and the country suffered increasing degrees of violence and insecurity. By the end of February, rebel factions held the north and centre of the country, including the second largest town, Cap-Haïtien, and the northern/central region was inaccessible as roads were barricaded. With the town of Mirebalais some 50 km. from Port au Prince then captured by the opposition, the rebels threatened to take Port au Prince which braced to counter the forthcoming attack. Hospitals were attacked, infrastructure destroyed, and the port, homes and shops were looted. The crisis culminated on Sunday, 29 February as President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled the country. With the arrival of troops from a multinational interim force, it is hoped that security conditions will improve



rapidly, although fighting and violence currently continue.

Continual political tensions in Haiti given growing resistance to President Aristide have exacerbated the major underlying problems in the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere and has the lowest human development indicators in the Americas with 24% of births attended by skilled personnel; 46% of the population with access to clean drinking water; an infant mortality rate of 79 per 1,000 live births; 17% of children under five underweight for their age, and an adult literacy rate of 50.8% (UNDP Human Development Report 2003). The population suffers acute poverty with major inequalities, a lack of access to clean water, medical care and public services. The current crisis is paralyzing health services, transport and education and affecting the distribution of food. As a result, levels of vulnerability, already high in the country, are continuing to rise and fragile coping mechanisms are being eroded. Although little displacement has taken place to date both from rebel-held towns to rural areas and in the cities, several hundred Haitians have fled to neighbouring countries. Should tensions and fighting persist, the risk of population movements will be increased.

## **The needs**

### **Immediate needs:**

Given growing vulnerability, there are significant needs on the part of vast numbers of the Haitian population in both urban and rural areas for clean drinking water, improved sanitation, food, health care, medicines, ambulance services, first aid and education. It is also necessary to anticipate possible population flows outside the country. In Haiti, as a result of the on-going insecurity and difficult access, particularly to rural, isolated communities, there is little precise information at this stage. As soon as the security situation improves, the Federation will seek to undertake further needs assessments with the Haitian National Red Cross Society to ensure appropriate targeting of assistance and beneficiaries. This appeal may be revised once more detailed information has been obtained.

### **Medium-term needs:**

The Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) works in a challenging environment, given an on-going situation of political crisis and high levels of vulnerability in the country. In view of the current context, there is an essential need to strengthen the National Society to face, in particular, precarious health conditions and future natural disasters. The Federation will continue to work closely with the National Society, boosting the principal areas in which its activity is focused. The National Society has an essential role in the provision of safe blood in the country together with activities in health care, ambulance services, HIV/AIDS including peer education, first aid, disaster preparedness and response, Red Cross youth and organizational development.

### **Coordination**

The Federation is working closely with the ICRC, which is the lead agency in Haiti, coordinating all international Movement operational activities. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is currently being drawn up between the ICRC, the Federation and the Haitian National Red Cross Society, clearly defining roles and responsibilities. The two PNSs which are present in Haiti, the French Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross, are also working in accordance with this framework. In accordance with its mandate, the ICRC is focusing attention on the protection and well-functioning of hospitals and ambulance services, the protection of humanitarian convoys, of persons deprived of their freedom and the civilian population.

The ICRC is leading the coordination of the Movement with UN agencies and NGOs working in Haiti to ensure complementarity of initiatives being undertaken to provide assistance to the vulnerable population in Haiti. Representatives of the Federation regularly attend inter-agency meetings in Port au Prince, Santo Domingo and Geneva.

## **The proposed operation**

### **Objectives, activities planned, and expected results**

#### **Emergency relief:**

The Haitian National Red Cross Society continues to receive numerous requests for assistance particularly in the area of first aid and hygiene from authorities and vulnerable communities at central and local levels, based on

activities which have proved useful in similar emergencies in the country. While awaiting the opportunity to carry out further needs assessments in these areas, the National Society will orient its activities as below.

**Objective: To help to meet emergency needs arising from the crisis situation in Haiti.**

**Activities:**

Provision of support to the HNRCS to ensure distribution of an initial 500 first aid kits and volunteer materials (cotton vests with emblem and helmets) to National Society branches and communities.

- Identification of branches and communities most in need of first aid kits.
- Distribution of kits by HNRCS volunteers.
- Refresher training in first aid for volunteers
- Follow up and monitoring of first aid training and services.

Provision of support to the HNRCS to ensure distribution of 3,000 family hygiene kits and 3,000 kitchen kits to vulnerable communities through National Society branches.

- 1,500 family hygiene kits and 1,500 kitchen kits have been procured with funding from ECHO and will be distributed, as originally planned, to beneficiaries in Cap-Haitien affected by flooding in December 2003. Additional beneficiaries in vulnerable communities will be selected according to defined criteria to receive these relief goods.

**Disaster Management**

There is an urgent need in Haiti to establish a solid telecommunications network for the Red Cross Movement, and also for other agencies and organizations, with which the HNRCS ambulance system will be coordinated. One of the main difficulties relating to the immediate humanitarian response to the present crisis and any other potential disaster is the lack of such a network. Therefore, in the emergency phase, the Federation will focus on putting in place a VHF/HF network for the Movement partners in order to facilitate coordination of humanitarian operations.

As a result of the current situation in the country, poverty and vulnerability are increasing and large parts of the Haitian population are therefore extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. Periodic floods such as those suffered in the north western part of the country in December 2003 or disasters during the next hurricane season could be extremely damaging. It is therefore necessary to reinforce the capacity of the Haitian National Red Cross Society to respond to natural disasters

One serious effect of the situation in Haiti is the potential movement of Haitians outside the borders into the neighbouring countries. Although for the time being there are no significant movements of population, Red Cross Societies in neighbouring countries are prepared to assist potential refugees and migrants. This preparation of the Red Cross Societies is particularly important in the case of the Dominican Red Cross and its branches along the Haitian border.

**Objective 1: To implement an emergency telecommunications system with VHF and satellite phones to respond to the current crisis**

**Activities:**

- Implementation of a telecommunications system (VHF and satellite phones). This involves an IT and telecommunications support team which will work in close coordination with the ICRC.
- Training of HNRCS volunteers from 13 branches including refresher training on the use of satellite phones.
- Identification and placement of a national telecommunications coordinator to ensure the sustainability of the network.
- Facilitation of regular communication and exchange of information between the headquarters and branches.

ECHO is interested in funding a large part of this major project which will provide telecommunications facilities for all components of the Movement in Haiti.

**Objective 2: To facilitate the development of the Haitian National Red Cross Society's disaster response system in view of outbreaks of social unrest and the vulnerability of the country to natural disasters, particularly floods, drought and hurricanes.**

**Activities:**

- Strengthening of the operational capacity of the HNRCS with human resources, equipment and training activities including the recruitment of a national disaster management officer to work with the HNRCS.
- Training of disaster management staff in contingency planning and the formulation of disaster response plans in order to develop formal systems and procedures relating to disaster management.
- Creation and training of national intervention teams (NITs).
- Promotion of collaboration between the HNRCS disaster preparedness section and governmental departments, NGOs and other agencies working in disaster preparedness.

**Objective 3: To reinforce preparedness and response strategies in National Societies in potential host countries in view of possible population flows outside Haiti, in particular the Dominican Red Cross, and should the need arise, the Cuban Red Cross, the Jamaican Red Cross and the Bahamas Red Cross Society.**

**Activities:**

- Identification of key branches which may be affected by population flows from Haiti.
- Pre-positioning of shelter materials, food and first aid equipment in targeted branches.
- Holding of training sessions in contingency planning
- Provision of training in shelter management.
- Training in disaster response, also bearing in mind the approach of the forthcoming hurricane season.

**Health**

Findings of a joint ICRC/Federation assessment which took place in late February in Gonaïves, the first town to fall to the rebels in December 2003, confirm that the current health situation is highly precarious, with emergency needs in sanitation and clean drinking water, as observed by agencies working on initial assessments in other parts of the country. As soon as feasible, the Federation will undertake more detailed needs assessments and review the possibility of the expansion of community-oriented activities in the area of health.

The HNRCS health programmes are focused in particular on voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, together with preventive health, HIV/AIDS including peer education, ambulance services and first aid. The current appeal aims to strengthen the health department of the National Society and its services in order to work towards meeting widespread needs amongst the vulnerable population.

**Objective 1: To reduce and prevent the spread of diseases and boost improved sanitation by promoting public information and health education through awareness campaigns with a main focus on the importance of clean drinking water, good hygiene and sanitation practices.**

**Activities:**

- Provision of support to the HNRCS to ensure the distribution of chlorine products, including aquatabs, to communities with limited access to clean drinking water.
- Staging of awareness campaigns in vulnerable communities through targeted National Society branches.
- Work with the HNRCS to carry out clean-up campaigns including garbage disposal and vector control in targeted communities with severe sanitation problems.

**Objective 2: To boost the availability of safe blood in response to the current crisis through reinforcement of the voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation programme carried out by the HNRCS.**

**Activities:**

- Revival and expansion of campaigns focusing on blood donation.
- Awareness-raising amongst potential blood donors.

- The placement of a consultant, expert in haematology, to work with the HNRCS.
- Promotion of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS transmission.

**Objective 3: To strengthen the Haitian National Red Cross Society's medico-social section through the provision of technical support, equipment and training thereby enhancing assistance to vulnerable groups, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS and first aid.**

**Activities:**

- Training of youth volunteers in HIV/AIDS, using available manuals in Creole, "Together We Can".
- Recruitment and training of a national health officer.
- Strengthening of work in first aid in targeted, vulnerable communities.

**Promotion of Humanitarian Values**

The current crisis has resulted in a change in the perception of values which are essential for normal social life amongst large groups of the affected population. As a result, a special effort is necessary to assist the Haitian National Red Cross Society to fulfil its mandate in the promotion of Humanitarian Values and the Fundamental Principles and to enhance cooperation in this respect with the lead agency, the ICRC. Advocacy in favour of these values and appropriate communication concerning the HNRCS's humanitarian role will also be prioritized. The Federation, in collaboration with the ICRC, will focus special attention on the reinforcement of the capacity of the Communications Department of the Haitian National Red Cross Society, not only in Port-au-Prince, but also in each of the branches.

**Objective 1: In cooperation with the ICRC, to conduct awareness campaigns to enhance knowledge of Humanitarian Values and the Fundamental Principles and to promote the image of the Haitian National Red Cross Society.**

**Activities:**

- Creation and printing of basic dissemination materials aimed at improving the understanding of the Red Cross within the organization, and, improving the knowledge of its activities and services both internally and externally.
- Training of National Society staff and volunteers at headquarters and branch levels in Red Cross history, Humanitarian Principles and Values.
- Provision of support to the Communications Department in the conceptualization and development of a nationwide media campaign of up to three months' duration including radio/TV spots, newspaper articles and banners disseminating key information regarding the National Society, Red Cross Principles and Values, volunteerism and HNRCS activities.

**Organizational Development**

If the Haitian National Red Cross Society is to seize the opportunity of playing a key role in the reinforcement of civil society which is critical for the future of the country, there is a need for strengthening of the National Society. The HNRCS recently approved a national development plan establishing the main priorities in order to be better organized and in a position to improve response to the social needs of the country. The reinforcement of the governance of the National Society, the modernization of its management, the recruitment of new volunteers, particularly through Red Cross Youth, and branch strengthening including the reinforcement of branches on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, are components of the national development plan. Furthermore, the HNRCS adopted new Statutes in 2003 which modernize its structure. The registration of these Statutes by the Haitian government will enable the National Society to respond successfully to the challenges of the new century, particularly in crisis situations, such as that currently experienced.

**Objective 1: To support the HNRCS in the modernization of its institution in line with the criteria for a well functioning National Society, improving its service delivery to vulnerable people.**

**Activities:**

- Improvement of administrative and financial systems and procedures.
- Training of governance and management in the specific roles and responsibilities of the components of the Movement in relation to the HNRCS to facilitate the effective coordination of partnerships.
- Identification of key branches to carry out activities aimed at strengthening capacity.
- Placement of paid staff in targeted branches.
- Training in volunteer management and creation of a data base.

**Objective 2: To reinforce the capacity of Red Cross branches on either side of the Haitian/Dominican Republic border.**

**Activities:**

- Work with pairs of branches cross-border, and encourage and support collaboration between them in identifying vulnerable groups, evaluating their needs and providing basic services and assistance to them.
- Provision of material to repair branch buildings/structures.
- Translation, adaptation and use of branch development manuals.
- Training of volunteers in Red Cross principles, first aid and vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA).
- Equipping of branches with basic emergency response material.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and priorities**

- The Federation is working with HNRCS, in close cooperation with the ICRC, to ensure an impartial response to the current crisis and to assist the most vulnerable.
- The HNRCS is carrying out an essential role in the provision of safe blood in Haiti through its voluntary non remunerated blood donation programme.
- The current crisis is heightening fears of increased HIV/AIDS infection rates; the HNRCS is active in HIV/AIDS prevention activities which will be stepped up.
- It is anticipated that the coordination efforts on the part of each of the components of the Movement during the current crisis in Haiti will be consolidated in the launch of a process leading to the formulation of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) to ensure sustainable support, in line with Federation policies and the Strategy for the Movement.

**Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

The provision of information influencing public opinion regarding the Red Cross is a key activity under the current circumstances. From this point of view, relations with the media are particularly important in order to convey the message of the Red Cross Movement. The ICRC, in its capacity of lead agency, is assigned the role of ensuring communication with the media with regard to the operation in Haiti.

The Movement will strongly advocate in favour of the respect of human dignity, International Humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles.

**Capacity of the National Society**

The Haitian National Red Cross Society was founded in 1932. It covers the entire national territory with 13 regional branches including the Port-au-Prince branch. The main governing bodies are the General Assembly, the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. The National Society benefits from some 3,500 volunteers. The National Society is running a major blood transfusion bank in Port-au-Prince and a number of smaller banks throughout the country. It also runs an ambulance service and has a training centre in Port-au-Prince.

**Capacity of the Federation**

The Federation team in Haiti is composed of a Federation representative, an organizational development delegate and a telecommunications delegate, together with local staff members. A disaster management delegate will also be assigned to Haiti. To date, Federation assistance in Haiti has been largely supported by funding from the Norwegian

Red Cross. The French Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross have also deployed delegates working on first aid and disaster preparedness and disaster preparedness and HIV/AIDS respectively.

The Haiti office has benefited from technical support provided by the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama as delegates were mobilized for short term missions to Haiti. PADRU will continue to provide logistical and technical support to the Federation team, as appropriate. The Panama Regional Delegation, together with the regional finance unit and the regional reporting unit are also providing support, as required, to the operation.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring will be carried out through the daily work of the delegates and their counterparts. Standard Federation narrative and financial reporting will be ensured. In addition, both PADRU and the Panama Regional Delegation are in a position to provide support in the area of monitoring and evaluation, as required.

### **Budget summary**

See Annex 1 for details.

### ***For further information please contact:***

- *The Haitian National Red Cross Society in Port-au-Prince; Phone (509) 510 9813; Fax number (509) 223 1054; email [croroha@haitiworld.com](mailto:croroha@haitiworld.com)*
- *Niels Scott, Federation Representative in Haiti, Phone (509) 513 5067; Fax number (509) 221 8633; email; [ifrcht01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcht01@ifrc.org)*
- *Luis Luna, Regional Officer, Phone 41 22 730 4274; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email: [luis.luna@ifrc.org](mailto:luis.luna@ifrc.org)*

*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 Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL No. 07/2004

**Haiti**

TYPE	VALUE
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>IN CHF</b>
Water and sanitation	134,000
Medical & first aid	100,000
Utensils & tools	100,000
Other relief supplies	200,000
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>534,000</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>	
Computers & telecom. equipment	198,000
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	90,000
<b><u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u></b>	
Transport and storage	75,000
Vehicle costs	20,000
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
Expatriate staff	216,000
National staff	50,000
Training	18,000
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>	
Travel & related expenses	15,000
Information expenses	10,000
Sat phone calls	137,000
Administrative & general expenses	25,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>854,000</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>1,388,000</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET REQUEST</b>	<b>1,388,000</b>