

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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: FLOODS

25 October 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 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 22/04; Ops. Update no. 4; Period covered: 18-24 October, 2004; Appeal coverage: 32.2 %; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 22 September 2004 for CHF 4,246,000 for 6 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- Budget revised and increased to CHF 11,673,000 (USD 9,246,529 or EUR 7,515,212) to assist 50,000 beneficiaries for 6 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 150,000

Outstanding needs: CHF 7,913,465 (USD 6,618,423 or EUR 5,163,772)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal 01.51/2004; Haiti Social Unrest Emergency Appeal 07/2004 and Dominican Republic & Haiti Floods Appeal 13/2004.

Operational Summary: During the reporting period, the security conditions in Haiti remained precarious. The UN declared Haiti a security phase III and evacuated all non-essential staff and families from the country. However, additional relief supplies have reached the hands of beneficiaries. The fully-equipped 100-bed field hospital has treated more than 1,500 patients and the hospital administrators have initiated discussions with local health authorities in preparation for the handover of field hospital activities. The Spanish Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is not only providing the field hospital with high quality water, but also people living in the neighbourhood near the Red Cross compound. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross ERU has trained HNRCS volunteers in vector control, disinfection and waste disposal. The French Red Cross ERU continues to distribute between 125,000-150,000 litres of potable water per day to between 7,000 and 10,000 people in Gonaïves, while surplus production is offered to other humanitarian actors who at times have additional distribution capacity. The lack of secure warehousing continues to delay the transportation of relief supplies from the Federation's warehouse in Port-au-Prince to Gonaïves.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- *In Haiti: Hans Havik, Federation Representative, Haiti Country Office, Port-au-Prince; email ifrcht03@ifrc.org, phone (509) 513-5067, fax (509) 221-8633*
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- *In Panama: Nelson Castaño, Head of the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; email ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082*
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Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering 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>

Background

A month after heavy rains, brought by the passage of Tropical Storm Jeanne, caused violent flash floods in the Artibonite and North West departments of Haiti, the official death toll stands at 1,810 people, while more than 800 remain missing. Deforestation and poverty were major contributors to the high loss of life as landslides buried poorly constructed homes and people living in high-risk areas. It is estimated that 300,000 people in at least 8 communes in the region have been affected as a result of the devastating floods. The town of Gonaïves in l'Artibonite, with a population of around 200,000 people, has been hardest hit in terms of the number of affected inhabitants. Homes and possessions were swept away, sewers and latrines overflowed, and agricultural land was destroyed. It is estimated that at least half the population in Gonaïves is in need of food, water and shelter. While many families are gradually returning to their homes, women and children in particular are reported to remain living in shelters set up by the Haitian authorities (la protection civile) in schools and churches. The main hospital in the town of Gonaïves and over 90% of the private clinics were damaged by the disaster. Stagnant flood waters remain in the streets, which are still covered in mud and debris. Heavy machinery is being brought in to start cleaning up access roads, public spaces and private homes. It is expected that a full clean up will last between 8 and 10 months, using a workforce of 300 teams of 6-7 persons each.

The revised Emergency Appeal, launched on 5 October by the Federation, is based on the plan of action designed jointly by the Federation's Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS), which conducted a four-day assessment of the affected regions. This assessment focused mostly on remote areas outside Gonaïves. The FACT team identified pockets of destruction, with a total of 3,000 affected families (15,000 people) in the communes of Pilate, Gros Morne, Bassin Bleu, Anse Rouge, Port de Paix and Ennery in need of assistance. These people had not been either identified or targeted during preliminary assessments. The plan of action prioritizes emergency relief distributions, shelter, health and water and sanitation interventions. The plan also includes activities to strengthen the disaster capacity of the HNRCS. The National Society is now facing the third consecutive disaster in Haiti in only one year and, therefore, its ability to respond to future disasters must be further enhanced.

Security remains precarious, making the transportation and distribution of aid difficult. Maintenance of public order is the responsibility of the Haitian authorities. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has been mandated by the UN Security Council, in agreement with the present government, to help the Haitian authorities in this task. This means that the MINUSTAH is directly involved in helping to provide a minimum of security for the public, which includes being present during distributions of relief goods so as to ensure that distributions take place in the best possible conditions for everyone involved.

The international community has responded with distributions of food and water and the provision of immediate medical attention, in spite of a complex security situation. These efforts to date, however, have been insufficient to meet the needs of the population. There will also be significant needs for international support in the rehabilitation phase after the emergency period.

Operational developments

In order to respond more efficiently to the disaster, the Federation established a flood response office in Gonaïves in an old family home which is going to be supplied with electricity, water and internet connection. The office is situated in the same compound as the field hospital, which is jointly sponsored by the Canadian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, and the Spanish Red Cross specialized water ERU. The electricity supply system in Gonaïves is still not working. The electricity company reports that it has no transportation to allow it to reach transformers and stations, and it has limited means to repair damaged infrastructure. Diesel fuel is again available in Gonaïves.

During the reporting period, the UN declared Port-au-Prince – and consequently the whole country – security phase III. Non-essential staff and family members have been evacuated to the Dominican Republic. In Gonaïves, the situation remains volatile. The security situation has not improved, and a number of incidents have been

reported, such as the looting of trucks carrying relief items. Reports also indicate that food rations are being stolen from beneficiaries leaving distribution points. As a result, most humanitarian organizations continue to interrupt or cancel distributions. In addition, difficulties in finding secure warehousing facilities in Gonaïves are adding to the operation's logistical constraints.

Since the onset of the floods, two cases of diphtheria have been reported in Ennery. No outbreaks of diseases have been reported so far in Gonaïves. This positive situation is partly attributed to the efforts of a group of Mexican doctors who have fumigated 1,240 hectares with insecticides. PAHO and WHO are continuing with the epidemiological surveillance system established during the immediate aftermath of the disaster.



The Federation has established an office in Gonaïves to coordinate the flood response efforts, which is facilitating the implementation of relief activities and coordination with other humanitarian actors in the field.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 50,000 beneficiaries (10,000 families) will have benefited from the provision of non-food items delivered through secure distribution centres.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A total of 7,000 families in Gonaïves and 3,000 families in the outlying 7 communes have been identified by the Federation assessment as being in need of non-food assistance.

Delegates and HNRCS volunteers continue to conduct a census, physically verifying the status of each family in the most affected areas, registering beneficiaries and cross-checking lists. The selection criteria used are:

- Families whose houses were completely destroyed
- Families whose houses were severely damaged

During the reporting period, a census was conducted in the centre of Gonaïves by the Federation and a team of HNRCS volunteers, covering two more areas of the city, Bigot and Ca Soleil, where some 2,000 beneficiary families were registered and have received ration cards. If the security situation improves, the awareness raising campaign on Red Cross principles and values will take place in these areas in coming week, prior to distributions.

In collaboration with the field hospital administration, the Federation identified 95 Haitian employees affected by the floods, who had not been targeted by humanitarian organizations during previous assessments or distributions. Each person has now received a kitchen set. In addition, the field hospital has received 250 personal hygiene kits to be distributed to flood affected patients admitted for care.

Summary of non-food assistance distributed to beneficiaries:

| Place | No of hygiene kits (family) | No of hygiene kits (individual) | No of jerry cans (10 litres) | No of jerry cans (20 litres) | No of kitchen sets (family) |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gonaïves | 202 | 250 | -- | 202 | 95 |
| Ennery | 668 | -- | 1,336 | -- | -- |

Impact

Families who have lost most of their belongings have received much needed non-food relief items, according to their needs. These first distributions, however modest, represented a first step towards providing families with supplies that will help them to cope better and recover from the material losses they suffered as a result of the floods.

Constraints

The lack of security is hindering the Red Cross' ability to transport relief supplies to the affected areas and distributed goods to beneficiaries. A number of planned Red Cross activities have been cancelled or interrupted as a result of the security situation. More distributions will take place as soon as the overall security improves. In addition, a large number of HNRCS volunteers were directly affected by the flooding and are, therefore, only available to assist in the operation on a part-time basis.

Objective 2: 1,400 families (7,000 people) will have benefited from the provision of food items delivered through secure distribution centres.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

In the communes of Ennery and Chansolme, the joint Federation/HNRCS assessment team identified some 1,400 families (within the same above mentioned 3,000 families) whose subsistence and cash crops were destroyed, and who are therefore in need of food assistance. Beneficiary families for the food distributions have already been selected in the commune of Ennery, while in the commune of Chansolme the selection is still pending.

Constraints

So far no food items have been distributed by the Federation/HNRCS team, because of the security situation in the country. The WFP has distributed a two-week food supply to a total of 9,500 people in the commune of Ennery and a month's food rations to 3,000 people in Chansolme. The Federation's coordinator in Gonaïves has established contacts with the WFP coordinator based in Cap-Haitien with a view to coordinating activities in these two communes and avoiding duplication of efforts. As a result, the Federation has put food distributions in the township of Chansolme on hold.

Shelter

Objective: 15,000 beneficiaries (3,000) families) will have benefited from the provision of shelter materials delivered through secure distribution centres.

No distributions have taken place due to the prevailing security situation.

Health

Objective 1: To rehabilitate Gonaïves' only referral hospital, La Providence, serving the primary and secondary health care needs of the population.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A fully-equipped 100-bed field hospital, jointly sponsored by the Canadian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, is in place in Gonaïves. A team of Cuban and Haitian medical staff, employees of La Providence Hospital, are working at the field hospital until La Providence is rehabilitated. The field hospital will then be dismantled and all medical equipment and activities transferred to La Providence Hospital. The Norwegian Red Cross Society is reducing its medical personnel deployed to the hospital. Doctors and nurses from the Canadian Red Cross Society will remain until mid-November, at which time the hospital will be run entirely by staff from La Providence,

supported by a limited number of administrative and technical personnel from Norway and Canada. In order to ensure a smooth handover, the ERU hospital administration has initiated discussions with the local health authorities and administrative staff from La Providence.

Impact

The population of Gonaïves and the surrounding areas now have access to primary and secondary health care services. During its first ten days in operation (14-23 October) the field hospital received a total of 1,577 out-patients, attended 69 deliveries, and 29 persons were admitted for care.

Constraints

The shortage of local nurses at the field hospital was addressed at a meeting with the administrative directors of La Providence Hospital. It was then confirmed that this situation was due to the fact that most nurses had not been paid for the last several months. With the salary issue now being resolved, it is expected that more nurses will report to duty.

Objective 2: To reduce the impact of water/vector born diseases (typhoid, malaria and diarrhoeal diseases) in the affected areas.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Federation and the president of the HNRCS Gonaïves branch have elaborated job descriptions for a programme officer and an assistant to coordinate the rapid-impact health promotion campaign related to water and sanitation, hygiene, basic nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

Impact

HNRCS volunteers will not only deliver basic health promotion messages to beneficiaries during distributions, but will also train other volunteers. This will contribute to building capacities within the National Society.

Constraints

The training of volunteers from the Gonaïves branch and other health-related activities are dependent upon the arrival of a health delegate.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: To provide 450,000 litres of water in accordance with WHO water quality standards, affording 30,000 people (6,000 families) in Gonaïves with 15 litres per day.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The French Red Cross ERU team, specialized in mass water and sanitation, continues to produce between 125,000 and 300,000 litres of potable water per day, and is distributing 100,000 to 150,000 litres at 12 distribution points each day. Surplus water is offered to other humanitarian organizations supplying water, such as OXFAM, Action against Hunger (ACF) and CARE, who at times have additional distribution capacity.



The focus is now on setting up community water committees, who will be responsible for keeping the area around the water distribution points clean and ensuring distribution of water in an orderly and equitable manner. A team of three community leaders will be responsible for each distribution point.

The French Red Cross ERU team is producing between 125,000 and 300,000 litres of water per day, providing much needed drinking water for affected families in Haiti.

Impact

The present amount of potable water being distributed to the affected population in Gonaïves is sufficient to provide 7,000 to 10,000 people with 15 litres of clean water per day. In addition, the communities themselves will be empowered to take responsibility for distributions in their area.

Constraints

Although production capacity is up to 300,000 litres per day, more water tankers are needed to distribute more water to a greater number of people. The HNRCS volunteers, who are being trained by the ERU team and the Federation water and sanitation delegate, are not yet ready to manage the plant alone without further training.

Objective 2: To improve the transport and storage capacity at household level of clean water for 50,000 people (10,000 families)**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

In the commune of Ennery, 668 families have each received two collapsible 10-litre jerry cans. In Gonaïves, 202 families have each received one collapsible 20-litre jerry can.

Objective 3: To supply the Gonaïves field hospital and living compound with sufficient water that is in accordance with the WHO standards for quality water.**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The Federation-deployed Spanish Red Cross specialized water and sanitation ERU continues to supply the hospital with approximately 40,000 litres of high quality water per day. The hospital area is fumigated each morning and showers and latrines disinfected. Waste is collected and burned in the incinerator at the former referral hospital, La Providence. A team of four HNRCS volunteers has been trained in vector control, disinfection and waste disposal and are now carrying out this job without supervision. In addition, the same four volunteers are being trained in the daily running and maintenance of the complete unit with a view to taking over most responsibilities when the remaining two ERU team members will leave on 7 November.

Additional tap stands and latrines have been established on the hospital's grounds, close to the reception area. Two tap stands have been set up in the streets outside the Federation office building and the hospital compound to serve the needs of its neighbours.

Impact

High quality water, as well as healthy surroundings, has been ensured for the hospital and for staff living quarters. Neighbours living near the Red Cross compound are benefiting from access to clean drinking water. HNRCS volunteers have acquired new skills enabling them to operate the ERU unit, with the support of a Federation water and sanitation delegate.

Constraints

In addition to supervision and further training, activities such as administration, logistics and coordination with other agencies will become the responsibility of the only Federation water and sanitation delegate deployed to Gonaïves. Additional resources are needed in the field to ensure that all objectives of the emergency appeal are adequately addressed.

Objective 4: To provide materials and technical assistance in latrine reconstruction for 1,000 families living in areas where the risk of uncontrolled disease is high.**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The Federation assessment identified the need to reconstruct latrines in order to avoid additional water contamination. There are, however, two major obstacles which have postponed the construction of latrines

- The water table is still very high. Digging the usual type of latrines is hence not an option for the time being and would only contribute to further contamination. Elevated latrines are very expensive and it has therefore been recommended that this component of the appeal be put on hold until soil saturation decreases.

- The rehabilitation of latrines is perceived by the affected population as a secondary priority when compared with the urgent need to rebuild destroyed or damaged homes.

The health and hygiene informational campaign scheduled to accompany these activities has also been postponed until more urgent needs have been adequately addressed.

Strengthening of Response Capacity

Objective: To reinforce the HNRCS with its mandate to respond to catastrophes within a country with a fragile political context and during the hurricane season.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During this phase, the focus of the relief operation is on the immediate needs. Activities to strengthen the capacity of the HNRCS will be undertaken once the emergency relief phase of the operation has been completed and resources can be dedicated towards rehabilitation. However, the capacities of the National Society are being strengthened through participation in the relief effort.

Federation Coordination

From the onset of the disaster, the Federation, the ICRC and Partner National Societies in Haiti have coordinated their support to the Haitian National Red Cross Society in order to avoid duplication of efforts. In Port-au-Prince, the ICRC is also being consulted daily in connection with the security situation. At field level, a close working relationship with ICRC has been established. The ICRC escorts Federation vehicles in and out of Gonaïves and is supporting the Federation in the elaboration of evacuation plans. In addition, the Federation is ensuring close cooperation with UN agencies and other external partners in its effort to make the best use of available resources. In Port-au-Prince as well as in Gonaïves, the Federation is participating in the OCHA/UNDP coordination meetings, which take place every two days. A summary of the revised appeal was prepared for the UN agencies, giving short and concise information, with a clear distinction between intended activities in Gonaïves itself and the seven outlying communes.

In the field, the Federation-deployed Spanish Red Cross specialized water and sanitation ERU is participating in coordination meetings with other organizations working with water and sanitation, such as the French Red Cross, OXFAM, Action against Hunger (ACF), CARE and the local water agency (SNEP). In addition, the fact that the Federation has established a flood response office in Gonaïves, further facilitates coordination with other humanitarian actors in the field.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

- Relief activities being carried out are based on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Beneficiary selection criteria focus on the vulnerability of those affected
- Relief operations are being conducted with respect for the culture of beneficiaries, ensuring gender sensitivity and prioritizing assistance to children and the elderly.
- Activities are based on the SPHERE Project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.
- Transparency is being ensured through the production of regular reports and news bulletins.
- All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

National Society Capacity Building

The International Federation expects to leave the affected communities and the National Society better organized and prepared for disasters. As a first step, the participation of branch volunteers in activities such as conducting census, distributing relief supplies, installing and maintaining water supplies and the training of trainers in health related issues has provided volunteers with additional skills and capacities to respond to disasters.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The provision of information influencing public opinion regarding the Red Cross is a key activity. A reporting and information delegate is currently in Haiti, and a number of media interviews have been given by the Federation team. News articles concerning the disaster have been posted on the Federation's website and a press release was issued on 5 October regarding the launch of the Federation's revised Emergency Appeal. In addition, the Federation has facilitated contacts between the field hospital administrators and the local media.

[*Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.*](#)

Haiti - Floods (hurricane Jeanne)

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 22/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

22/10/2004

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | 11,673,000 | | | | | TOTAL COVERAGE 32.2% |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----|-----------|----------|--|-------------------------|
| AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR | 15,000 | USD | 18,967 | 28.09.04 | | |
| AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONORS | | | 126 | 07.10.04 | | |
| BELGIAN - GOVT/RC | 8,409 | EUR | 12,959 | 22.09.04 | | PROGRAMME SUPPORT |
| BERMUDA - RC | 20,000 | USD | 25,290 | 12.10.04 | | |
| BRITISH - RC | 40,000 | GBP | 91,440 | 28.09.04 | | |
| CANADIAN - RC | 50,000 | CAD | 46,900 | 20.09.04 | | ASSESSMENT MISSION |
| CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS | 200,000 | CAD | 187,600 | 24.09.04 | | |
| IRISH - GOVT | 150,000 | EUR | 232,875 | 06.10.04 | | |
| JAPANESE - RC | 111,400 | USD | 140,865 | 01.10.04 | | |
| MONACO - RC | 8,000 | EUR | 12,420 | 11.10.04 | | |
| OFDA/USAID | 990,000 | USD | 1,200,000 | 23.09.04 | | |
| SWEDISH - GOVT | 1,000,000 | SEK | 167,500 | 27.09.04 | | |
| SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS | | | 11,541 | 29.09.04 | | |
| ANMWE POU AYITI | | | 5,000 | 11.10.04 | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | 2,153,483 | CHF | | 18.4% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|----------|--|
| BELGIAN - GOVT | | 257,214 | EUR | 396,367 | 22.09.04 | PURIFICATION TABLETS, JERRYCANS, BLANKETS, PLASTIC SHEETING, FAMILY TENTS |
| FRENCH - RC/GOVT/ECHO/VEOLIA | | 785,000 | EUR | 1,209,685 | 24.09.04 | DIRECT ASSISTANCE: MEDICAL KITS, BLANKETS, JERRYCANS, KITCHEN SETS, LAMPS, TARPULINS, HYGIENE KITS, STOVES, 5 DELEGATES, ERU LOGISTICS AND WATER DISTRIBUTION & TRUCKING |

Haiti - Floods (hurricane Jeanne)

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 22/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

22/10/2004

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 1,606,052 | CHF | 13.8% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |