

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Haiti: Hurricane Season 2008

Emergency appeal n° MDRHT005
GLIDE TC-2008-000147
Operations update no. 1
12 September, 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 5 September to 11 September, 2008

Appeal target (current): This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 3,812,770 (USD 3,466,154 or EUR 2,360,848) in cash, kind, or services to support the Haitian National Red Cross Society to assist 10,000 families (50,000 beneficiaries) for six months.

Appeal coverage: 9%; [<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 5 September 2008 for CHF 3,812,770 (USD 3,466,154 or EUR 2,360,848) for six months to assist 50,000 beneficiaries.
- CHF 300,000 (USD 272,727 or EUR 186,335) was allocated on 3 September 2008 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation.



Flooded house in Gonaives.
Source: International Federation.

Summary: Hurricane Gustav brought strong winds and heavy flooding to Haiti on 26 August, affecting thousands of people. On 1 September, only days after Gustav hit Haiti, tropical storm Hanna surprised the country, worsening the effects of Gustav and leaving more people affected, especially in the city of Gonaives. The country was still reeling from the passage of Hanna when hurricane Ike left even more people affected as it passed north of the island. The objectives in this appeal have been established based on identified needs: relief items, provision of health care, shelter, water and sanitation, logistics and early recovery programming. This Operations Update will report on the progress of activities towards meeting the objectives established in the appeal. Currently, damage and need assessments are the main activity being accomplished in addition to coordinating activities with partners. A Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) is currently in Haiti and Relief, Logistics and IT/Telecommunications Emergency Response Units (ERU) are also in the field to respond to the emergency. Two more Basic Health Care ERUs are on their way. Once damage and need assessments are completed a more precise plan will be included through a revised appeal in the near future.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 6 months, and will therefore be completed by 5 March, 2008; a Final Report will be made available by 5 June 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

The situation

Heavy rains and floods caused by hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike continue to impede access to the northern part of the city of Gonaives, located on Haiti's northern coast. This has created logistical problems in completing assessments of the situation and distributing relief items. The Haitian Civil Defence has been performing

assessments in the affected areas, but it has been difficult since roads have been heavily damaged and remain underwater. A team consisting of a Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Disaster Management delegate, American Red Cross, a Water and Sanitation officer from the International Federation and a representative of the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) conducted an aerial survey of the heavily affected Gonaives area.

Communities north of Gonaives are reported to be heavily affected by floods with water reaching up to two meters high in some areas. Both humanitarian aid workers and beneficiaries have to navigate through water and mud to move around, thus, making distributions complicated. The affected population is in dire need of drinking water and food. According to Medecines Sans Frontiers (MSF) a critical concern is the lack of clean water since all local sources were contaminated with the floods.



Flooded streets in Gonaives.
Source: International Federation.

Many people are attempting to head towards the city of St-Marc to seek assistance and shelter or to move in with relatives; however, there is serious concern about the city's capacity to absorb such a surge of people in great need.

The damage caused by the storms is extensive and widespread. It reaches beyond the city with large areas of farmland having been heavily flooded. This will rapidly lead to food security issues. Many have lost their livelihoods. The affected population is getting more aggressive toward the government and aid agencies, which is an echo of the problems faced in 2004 after hurricane Jeanne.

Strong winds in Port au Prince damaged houses and buildings, including the Haitian National Red Cross Society buildings, cutting off its water supply and telecommunications. Both will be repaired in the next few days.

Access to Gonaives was briefly possible on 6 September, but the rains brought by hurricane Ike on the same day closed the roads again. Hurricane Ike did not make landfall on Haiti, but did bring continuous rain, aggravating the already dire situation. The bridge located on the one remaining road between St-Marc and Mirebalais was washed away. The city of Port de Paix, on the northern coast has also been cut off by the rain.

On 8 September, the government indicated that at least 700 people have died, 25,000 to 30,000 houses have been destroyed and staple crops have suffered major damage.

Assessment teams from different organizations in the field have not been able to reach the affected communities due to difficulties of access to the areas. One assessment team was able to reach Artibonite by crossing the Lacouline River by foot. The situation in Artibonite is critical as the population has continuously been in flood zones for a few weeks. Several humanitarian organizations are providing water and food.

According to the Civil Defense Protection (DPC) approximately 170,000 families have been affected. This number will be reviewed once the assessments have been completed. Damage and need assessments are still on-going. It has been an extremely difficult process due to the lack of roads and destroyed bridges to reach the affected communities. Consequently, there is a possibility that non-civilian means of transportation must be considered by the humanitarian agencies including helicopters and boats to reach isolated places.

The health system is not completely disrupted yet but it is unresponsive due to the lack of access to medication. The government has set up a night curfew due to security concerns.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation continues to participate in inter-agency meetings in-country and at the regional level, hosted by OCHA, to share information. Local authorities are coordinating activities with the HNRCS local branches and have activated coordinating committees. The cluster system and the Joint Operations Centre have been activated and Movement partners are fully participating in the meetings. There is also a daily movement coordination meeting.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the nearby hospital of St-Marc is being prepared for a surge of patients, while Medecins San Frontieres (MSF) from Belgium is flying in by helicopter (the only way to reach the area) to set up a field hospital to provide health care to 5,000 people for one month. Spanish Red Cross has established contact with MSF Belgium and offered to mobilize a water treatment plant to supply it. WHO, UNICEF and other actors have been supplying water and food (High Energy Biscuits - HEB) to the affected people in Artibonite. World Food Programme (WFP) is planning to provide food items such as rice, corn and cooking oil to be distributed by the Haitian National Red Cross Society. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been monitoring the situation involving the destroyed agricultural crops in order to provide farmers with seeds.



Flooded houses in Gonaives.
Source: International Federation.

The first representative of UNDAC team has arrived in country with five more coming. The UNDAC team will split between Port au Prince, Sud and Gonaives. The UN will launch a flash appeal to assist up to one million people affected by the floods and hurricanes and in preparation for and future hurricanes.

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Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Haitian National Red Cross Society staff and volunteers, International Federation and Partner National Societies continue to work proactively and collaboratively in managing and planning this large-scale operation.

With access to Gonaives blocked and impassable due to the large-scale of the flooding, aerial assessments were carried out on 3 and 4 September in order to gain insight into the extent of damage and potential needs of the population.

Team composition	Area covered in aerial assessment	Findings
PADRU DM delegate, Haitian National Red Cross Society representative, American Red Cross, International Federation Water and Sanitation,	Gonaives	Showed over 20,000 houses affected by heavy flooding in most areas of the city.

A Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) consisting of ten members – a team leader and specialists in relief, health, recovery, water and sanitation, shelter, reporting, telecommunications and logistics – began arriving in country on 3 September and has been assisting the Haitian National Red Cross Society with rapid assessments as well as establishing the operational structure that will be required in carrying out this large-scale operation.

The team consists of members from the American (1), Danish (1), Finnish (1), French (1), Norwegian (1), Rwandan (1) and Swiss (1) Red Cross, as well as members from the International Federation (3).

Emergency Response Units (ERU) have also been mobilized, consisting of a ERU specialized in Logistics (Swiss), a joint deployment of a ERU – Relief (American and Benelux Red Cross) and a joint deployment of IT/Telecoms (Austrian, New Zealand and Danish Red Cross). Both the Logistics and Relief ERUs arrived in country on 6 September, while the IT/Telecoms arrived in Haiti on 9 September. Two Basic Health Care ERUs (joint deployments Spanish/French Red Cross, and German/Finnish Red Cross).

The FACT team has split into three different teams and was joined by technical specialists from PNS, ERU team members, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegates and HNRCS personnel to carry out multi-sectoral assessments in three departments. Access was initially impossible in the Sud-Est and Gonaives but the team was finally able to cross rivers by using small boats. The results of the assessments were compiled upon the teams' return from the field on the evening of 11 September and will form the basis for the revised appeal and plan of action.

The Haitian National Red Cross Society with the assistance of the Spanish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross performed joint assessments in the department of Sud-Est including the cities of Jacmel, Cayes Jacmel and Marigot. They assisted with evaluating the water and sanitation situation in collaboration with the Sud-department. Assessments are planned in Sud-Est in the coming days.

Dominican Red Cross offered support in the form of helicopters and is sending water and sanitation material to HNRCS in support of the operation.

ICRC has released relief goods from its warehouse to cover the needs of up to 3,000 families. It distributed 300 family kits in Cité Soleil and Martissant (Ouest). The ICRC and the HNRCS have proceeded with the evacuation of injured people. ICRC also briefed all delegates to support the International Federation security plans.

To date, the HNRCS has distributed blankets, water, juice, hot meals in the Sud to support the operation of the DPC. HNRCS also distributed 5,000 hot meals provided by the government to the people in the outer areas of Gonaives. It has at its disposal six rafts and two dinghies to try and reach people beyond the water line.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)	
Objective: 10,000 families (50,000 people) affected by the floods will have benefited from the distribution of food and non-food items in order to help them recover from the floods.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Approximately 50,000 will receive essential non-food items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERU Relief deployment. • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Develop an exit strategy.

10,000 families will receive the following relief items:

- Hygiene kits (1 per family)
- Kitchen kits (1 per family)
- Mosquito nets (2 per family)
- Blankets (5 per family)
- Jerry cans (2 per family)
- Buckets (2 per family)
- Cleaning kits (1 per family for 5,000 families)
- Tarpaulins (1 per family for 5,000 families)

Progress:

Two cargo planes and one sea shipment of items have arrived in Haiti. The two airplanes have been cleared by customs. Distribution of the items will resume once all evaluations are completed. The relief ERU will elaborate a plan of action for distribution plans. It is possible that relief operations will be focused on provinces of Bas-Artobonite, Sud-Est, Nippes, Sud and Grand-east. This will be confirmed after the assessments and analysis reports come in from other agencies.

Challenges:

Limited accessibility to affected areas will continue to be a major constraint to operational efforts in providing the much needed assistance to the population.

Shelter	
Objective: To provide adequate housing for 3,000 families by repairing partially damaged roof tops or providing temporary shelter.	
Expected results	Activities planned
3,000 families will have adequate housing assisting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to

them to return to their daily lives.	<p>deliver intended assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Develop an exit strategy.
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3,000 shelter kits will be distributed to 3,000 families. The shelter kit contains the following items:

Specifications	Quantity per kit	Units
Tarpaulins	2	Pc
Rope	1	Roll
Hand saw	1	Pc
Roofing nails	0.5	Kg
Shovel	1	Pc
Hoe	1	Pc
Machete	1	Pc
Tin Snips	1	Pc
Nails	0.5	Kg
Tie wire	1	Roll
Claw hammer	1	Pc
Woven sack	1	Pc

Progress:

Two FACT shelter delegates arrived in country on 6 September. Focus is on conducting rapid assessments in collaboration with the Haitian National Red Cross Society, to determine the extent of the damage caused by the disaster in relation to shelter needs and on identifying essential activities required to meet the immediate and longer term shelter needs of the population.

Challenges:

There are no challenges identified at this moment.

Emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Because of the nature of these emergencies and the characteristics of the country, Public Health in Emergencies and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion issues will be addressed through this appeal. There is insufficient information at this time to formulate adequate and clear actions, but as assessment information becomes available from the affected areas, needs in these sectors will be adequately identified and addressed.

Progress:

With both the FACT Health and Water and Sanitation delegates in country, rapid needs assessments are planned over the coming days in order to identify the extent of assistance required in meeting the needs of the affected population (see above).

Logistics

Coordinators from the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) and the ERU logistics (four team members) have the primary tasks of providing additional logistics capacity on the ground with an aim to:

- Assess logistics infrastructure, set-up efficient logistics unit and identify best supply chain to support the operation.
- Carry out reception of air and sea relief goods and arrange transportation to distributions points.
- Liaise and coordinate with other key actors to ensure best uses of all information.

Progress:

A B 727-200 flight with cargo capacity of 21 metric tonnes arrived in Port au Prince on 5 September from Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in Panama comprising non food items for 1,000 families:

4,000 Blankets (mid thermal)

1,000 Hygiene Kits

2,100 Jerry Cans 10lts

1,000 Kitchen Sets

2,000 Mosquito Nets

In order to facilitate assessments and distributions a shipment of six 4 x 4 vehicles will be sent by the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU).

A mobilization table currently exists for the 2008 Caribbean Hurricane Season on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS):

<https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/admin/logistics/docs/MobTableReport%2005%20Sept%20V01.pdf>; however, a specific mobilization for the Haiti operation is planned and will be established early next week. Donors are encouraged to coordinate with the Panama Regional Logistics Unit in supporting outstanding needs.

A shipment of two 40' containers sent from Panama with 2,000 family kits arrived on 9 September. In addition, a plane chartered by the Canadian government arrived from Canada on 10 September with 1,300 family kits. A plane chartered by the Spanish Cooperation and Development Agency (Agencia Espanola de Cooperación Internacional y Desarrollo – AECID) containing 3,000 family kits that were positioned in PADRU also arrived on 10 September.

With the presence of the ERU logistics now in the country, attention will be focused on providing additional logistics capacity and supply chain management in order to support the implementation and expansion of the operation over the coming weeks.

A Movement coordination meeting prior to the hurricane has allowed for pre-positioning of essential non-food items in several districts. These resources will be mobilized and distributed as soon as the situation allows:

District	NFI	Note
Sud	300 PADRU family kits	pre-positioned
	100 shelter kits	in transit from PADRU
Sud-Est	500 PADRU family kits	pre-positioned
	100 shelter kits	in transit from PADRU
Grande-Anse	500 PADRU family kits	pre-positioned
	100 shelter kits	in transit from PADRU
Les Nippes	500 PADRU family kits	pre-positioned
	100 shelter kits	in transit from PADRU
Ouest (inc. Cite Soleil)	1000 ICRC family kits	pre-positioned
	150 shelter kits	in transit from PADRU

Challenges:

Major roads blocked and cut off continue to be a major constraint logistically in terms of being able to provide the much needed assistance to the affected population. Access to beneficiaries remains the highest priority for the operation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The PADRU DM delegate and the information officer have been active in focusing on major international media relations over the last week, in providing timely information through TV, radio and newspapers on the severity of the disaster, current issues, and needs of those impacted by the hurricane Gustav in Haiti as well key activities being carried out by the Haitian Red Cross and Red Cross and Red Crescent. A communications strategy is being planned and aims to engage local media over the coming weeks in supporting the Haitian National Red Cross Society in improving its profile and coverage nationally of activities carried out throughout its operation.

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 Haiti: Brigitte Gaillis, Field Assessment and Coordination Team leader; phone: (1 202) 374 09 74; email: padru.rit04@ifrc.org.
- In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org
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- In Panama: Mauricio Bustamante, Head Regional Logistic Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org
- In Dominican Republic: Rafael Olaya, Regional Representative for Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti; e-mail: rafael.olaya@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org
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[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Donor response to MDRHT005 - Haiti - Hurricane Season 2008

TIMEFRAME: 26 Aug 08 to 06 Mar 09

LOCATION: Haiti

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	3,812,770
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	354,900
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	9%

Updated on: 12 Sep 2008

Currency	Amount	Goal 1: Disaster Management CHF	Goal 2: Health and Care CHF	Goal 3: Capacity Building CHF	Goal 4: Principles and Values CHF	Coordination CHF	Total CHF	
BUDGET		3,812,770					3,812,770	
FUNDING								
<u>Opening Balance</u>								
Income								
Cash contributions (received and pledged)								
New Zealand Red Cross	CHF	20,000	20,000				20,000	
Total Cash contributions		20,000					20,000	
Inkind Goods & Transport (pledged)								
Luxembourg Red Cross	USD	88,000	96,800				96,800	
Spanish Red Cross	EUR	147,431	238,100				238,100	
Total Inkind Goods & Transport		334,900					334,900	
Total Income		354,900					354,900	
TOTAL FUNDING		354,900		0	0	0	354,900	
COVERAGE		9%					9%	