

# 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: UNREST

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**Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 60,000**

*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 document is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. As information from further updates and details from assessment reports become available, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal. A DREF allocation of CHF 60,000 has been released and unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed.*

### The Situation

In Haïti, the situation is becoming more volatile and insecurity is increasing as clashes between government supporters and opposition groups escalate. The northern districts are cut off from the remainder of the country as the two main access roads are blocked; the cities of Gonaïves in the west and Hinche in the centre are now under the control of rebel groups. After more intense fighting in Saint-Marc, it appears that the city is, once again, under government control. Fuel shortages are becoming a major problem and there are fears that this will lead to the shutting down of the electrical plant and the water treatment station in the capital. In addition, rural areas are often supplied with potable water by trucking in water tankers which will be halted if the scarcity of fuel continues. The sale of mangoes grown in the central regions is also affected by rising fuel prices, making the journey to the border areas impossible, threatening livelihoods and increasing hunger. In Port-au-Prince garbage is not being collected and there are mounds of refuse in the streets, creating health hazards. Prices of food are rising steeply and stand at 200% to 250% of usual levels; medicine is also increasingly scarce. It is difficult, given the lack of access, to obtain information on the situation in rural areas; however, populations are increasingly vulnerable as conditions worsen. Information regarding population movements and displacement is unreliable at present, although there are reports of significant numbers of people leaving cities under attack for rural areas, and also movements from rural areas into the towns.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Federation and the ICRC have held meetings at field and headquarters level to discuss the response by the Movement to the situation in Haïti and support to the Haïtian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS). An agreement has been reached according to which the ICRC, as lead agency, will provide general coordination of Movement international operation activities in the country. Moreover, the ICRC will focus, in particular, on medical assistance and detention. The Federation will concentrate on support to the HNRCS with a view to strengthening capacity, and on coordination of support in this respect by PNS in the country.

## Haiti ; Unrest Information Bulletin no. 2

A joint mission by the Federation including representatives of the Panama Regional Delegation and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), and the ICRC has taken place in the Dominican Republic. A visit by the Regional Delegation was also made to the border region with Haiti. Work is being carried out on contingency planning in the event of a major population influx/continued escalation of the crisis in Haiti. The Dominican Red Cross, the Federation and the ICRC have agreed, in addition to the holding of a national intervention team (NIT)/contingency planning course with 20 new volunteers scheduled previously, to several initiatives. These include improvement of the telecommunications network in the border area; equipping of five strategic depots and dispatch centres with medical supplies and volunteer equipment and the use of five ambulances to be stationed and deployed from these centres.

A container with first aid kits and volunteer equipment, shipped by PADRU and funded by the Norwegian Red Cross, reached Port-au-Prince and material is being used by the National Society. The French Red Cross is providing seven ambulances to the HNRCS and a team will travel to Haiti to assist with training in the operation of such vehicles. The Federation's telecommunications delegate, working in coordination with the ICRC, has developed a proposal for a project aimed to provide the HNRCS with radio (both VHF and HF) capacity covering the 13 National Society branches throughout the country, together with the training of 130 volunteers in the use of the equipment.

The water and sanitation/relief and telecommunications delegates, deployed by PADRU, are assessing the situation in Haiti and are working with NGOs, international organizations and UN agencies represented in Haiti, to ensure efficient information flow and to coordinate plans of action. OCHA has informed that a rapid assessment of the urban areas of Port-au-Paix and Cap Haïtien is being conducted and further details should be available shortly. Discussions with OXFAM indicate that the organization intends to extend its activities in water and sanitation, but may also include food distribution and non-food activities. WFP continues to distribute food in Port-au-Prince and in the north west.

A senior representative of the Federation will travel to Haiti at the end of the current week. In cooperation with the Haitian National Red Cross Society, the ICRC and other components of the Movement, the representative will work with the Federation delegates to identify areas of support to the National Society in order to ensure effective assistance to the most vulnerable affected by the crisis.

Further information will be provided as soon as this is available.

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

*For further details 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)*
- *Hanna Mollan, Organizational Development Delegate, Phone (509) 513 5067; Fax number (509) 221 8633; email: [ifrc01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrc01@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 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.