



## HAITI: FLOODS

**DREF Bulletin**  
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*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 200,000 (USD 164,474 or EUR 123,457) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 12 April 2007 to respond to the needs in this operation.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months, and will be completed by 12 August 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12 November, 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

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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.

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For*

support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background and current situation

Since 17 March 2007 prolonged heavy rainfall and isolated storms over Hispaniola have caused severe flooding in Haiti. The most affected have been the provinces of Nord-Est, Ouest, Grande-Anse, Nord-Ouest and Nord. Some of these areas (Grande Anse, Nippes, Ouest and Nord-Ouest) had already been affected by the floods last December, which puts them at a higher risk during these new events.

According to the most recent report from the Civil Protection Directorate (Direction de la Protection Civile – DPC) issued on 1 April, heavy rains have left 12 casualties, two people missing, 14 wounded, 270 houses destroyed and another 1,215 houses severely damaged. It is estimated that 2,723 families have been affected, of which 261 have been displaced to temporary shelters.

Departments	Deaths	Missing	Wounded	Fam. Affected	Fam. displaced	Houses Destr. / Affected
<i>Grand'Anse</i>				480	66	28/228
<i>Nippes</i>				119		
<i>Nord</i>			3		81	0 / 334
<i>Nord-Est</i>	2		4	1393	114	184 / 530
<i>Nord-Ouest</i>	5					4 / 0
<i>Ouest</i>	4	2	7	731		54/123
<i>Sud-Est</i>	1					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>270 /1,215</b>

Source: DPC Direction de la Protection Civile (Civil Protection). Report on 1 April, 2007.

In addition some sections of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area such as Warf Jeremy (near Cité-Soleil), have also been affected. At least 100 houses have been destroyed and more than 500 families suffered damages, according to the Haitian National Red Cross Society's assessment report. These figures increased the **total number of affected families to 3,223 families (16,115 persons)**.

Road access is limited in several departments. In Abricots (Grande-Anse department), the only access available is by boat, since the road infrastructure is completely inaccessible. Road access infrastructure is also limited in the departments of Nippes and Nord-Est

The orange alert has been deactivated within the 10 departments according to the Directorate of the National Metereological Centre (Direction du Centre National de Météorologie: DCNM) – as the weather has shown improvement; no further rains are expected during the comings days (within the next 72 hours)

### **Response by humanitarian organizations and Governments:**

- The departmental committees on risk and disaster management (Comité National de Gestion des Risques et des Désastres: CDGRD), supported by DPC at central level, coordinated rapid need assessments and emergency response.
- DCNM (Direction du Centre National de Météorologie) and DPC mobilization have been activated since 17 March. Coordination is taking place on national, departmental, and community levels.
- The Ministry of Interior, the DPC, the Humanitarian and Development Coordination Section (HDCS) of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) agreed that DPC will be responsible for the preparation of a consolidated situation report on damages and needs. If necessary, DPC, on behalf of the Government, will officially appeal for additional assistance.

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- The Haitian Government allocated an emergency fund with a value of 2 million Haitian Gourde (approximately USD 54,000) in order to assist the affected communities. In Ouanaminthe the emergency funds will be used for the provision of mattresses and children clothing.
- The Ministry of Interior requested the support of MINUSTAH to perform assessment flights over Cap-Haitian (North), Ferrier and Ouanaminthe (North-East). A joint delegation of the Ministry of Interior, Civil Protection Direction, MINUSTAH and OCHA flew over Cap-Haitian and landed in Ouanaminthe.
- With respect to road infrastructure the Ministry of Public Works (MTPTC) is working on rehabilitation activities in the department of Grand 'Anse, Nord and Nord-Ouest.
- MINUSTAH, in particular the regional offices and the deployed military contingents, are supporting the Government to facilitate the road assessment and to identify the main damages.
- A Crisis Committee has been activated in Ouanaminthe.
- MINUSTAH took part in the evacuation activities and in the provision of drinking water in the Ouanaminthe (North).
- Other organizations such as Agro Action Germany, OXFAM, CRS, Caritas and Plan Haiti have also mobilized resources.
- World Food Program (WFP) has provided food assistance to approximately 500 people in temporary shelters in Nord-East area for a period of 14 days. Furthermore, 610 people will receive food support in the Nord area.
- Agro Action Germany has distributed relief items to 410 people in temporary shelter in Ferrier (Nord).
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will support the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct agricultural assessments.

## Red Cross action

From 22 March, the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) has activated its Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at National level. Six provincial branches, four National Intervention Team members (NIT), 3 Community Intervention Teams (EIC- Equipes d'Intervention Communales) and more than 100 volunteers have been mobilized to the affected areas. Evacuation, Search and Rescue, First Aid actions and Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) have been carried out.

To date, the National Society has carried out distribution of non-food items – such as blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen materials, soap, jerry cans, and buckets – for 50 families in Abricots and Bonbon.

The Federation's Country Delegation requested technical support from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), who has responded by deploying one Disaster Management delegate to Haiti with an aim to support the National Society and the Country Delegation in assessing the situation and designing a Plan of Action for humanitarian assistance.

## The proposed operation

### Emergency relief (non-food)

**Objective 1: 1,100 affected families (5,500 persons) in the departments of Grand'Anse, Nord-Est, Ouest, Nord-Ouest and Nord will benefit from the distribution of non food items which help them to recover from the effects of the floods.**

The following items will be distributed among the affected population:

- Blankets (2 per family)
- Family Kit (kitchen and hygiene items)
- Jerry can (10 ltr)
- Mosquito Nets (2 per family)
- Water purification tablets.

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The HNRCS has sufficient existing stocks in their warehouse to distribute the relief items mentioned above to the targeted families. DREF funding will therefore cover the operational cost for the distribution of the relief supplies.

The following activities will be carried out in order to achieve this objective:

1. Surveys and the identification of affected communities.
2. Warehousing, transport and identification of the distribution points
3. Distribution of non food items by HNRCS volunteers.
4. Monitoring and evaluation by the HNRCS headquarters with support of IFRC Country Office.

As mentioned above the HNRCS has already completed distributions of non food items for 50 families in Abricots and Bonbon (Grand'Anse province).

### **Objective 2: the HNRCS maintains its existing relief stock in the warehouses through the replenishment of relief supplies used in this operation.**

Haiti is very vulnerable in terms of impact and quantity of disasters to which the region is prone. Floods, landslides and hurricanes are threatening and affecting Haiti during almost the entire year. In order to provide a timely and effective emergency response, it is extremely important to maintain the current relief supplies stock level. The HNRCS owns three warehouses with an existing capacity to deliver relief goods to more than 2,000 families when the necessity would occur. In order to maintain this pre-positioned stock, humanitarian relief supply for 1,100 families needs to be replenished with the following items:

#### **Haitian RCNS Stock replenishment**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Units</b>
Blankets	1,100 families	2,200
Kitchen Sets		1,100
Hygiene Kits		1,100
Jerry Can (10 l. / collapsible)		2,200
Mosquito Nets (160x180x150)		2,200
Water purification tablets		2,200

In order to achieve this objective, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) will deploy a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in logistics for one month to support the HNRCS in the procurement, logistics and warehouse management. This deployment will be covered by PADRU funding.

### **Water and Sanitation**

#### **Objective 1: Affected communities benefit from raised awareness in environmental health and sanitation topics as a result of talks given by Red Cross volunteers during the operation.**

Volunteers from the Haitian Red Cross National Society will carry out awareness-raising talks in environmental health and sanitation for the population of the affected communities. Talks will be enhanced through the distribution of informative material such as posters and brochures to the participating families. Prior to the awareness-raising talks, the volunteers carrying out this activity will take part in a training workshop in this subject focusing on replication of knowledge in the communities.

The HNRCS will establish communitarian brigades to carry out cleaning activities mainly within the Warf-Jeremy community in order to improve the water and sanitation situation.

The following activities will be carried out in order to achieve this objective:

1. Design and purchase of training material

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2. Identification of Red Cross volunteers who will take part in the training of trainers' workshop in environmental health and sanitation.
3. Implementation of training workshops in environmental health and sanitation.
4. Design and purchase of dissemination material for the communities.
5. Carrying out of awareness-raising talks on environmental health and sanitation in affected communities.
6. Cleaning activities at community level in Warf-Jeremy community.
7. Monitoring and evaluation by National Society personnel with the support of the Federation.

### **Capacity of the National Society**

The Haiti National Red Cross Society has eight National Intervention Teams (NIT) trained in Evacuation, Search and Rescue, First Aid actions and Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA), emergency logistics, and humanitarian relief. In addition, 200 trained "Relais Communautaires" (community volunteers trained by the National Society) worked during six months on the implementation of a disaster preparedness programme, which mainly focused on raising community awareness and disaster preparedness within the vulnerable populations.

The Haitian National Red Cross Society has a Disaster Management Department and an Emergency Operations Centre, fully equipped to coordinate emergency activities and operations in the field.

### **Capacity of the Federation**

The Federation has a Country Delegation in Haiti with a Head of Delegation and a Disaster Management Delegate. This structure will be maintained until June 2007. After this date, the Federation will be present in Haiti through a Federation representative. A number of Partner National Societies are also based in Haiti and are closely working with the Federation, in order to ensure harmonization of approaches and methodologies in the different programme areas.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has a number of expert Disaster Management Delegates available to provide advice and expertise in the area of response in emergency situations. The Panama Regional Delegation is also available to provide support as required.

## **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

An initial bulletin alerting of this situation was posted on the Federation's Disaster Monitoring and Information System (DMIS) on 31 March 2007, followed by an update. In addition, an Information Bulletin was issued on 4 April and posted on the Federation website: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org).

A communications plan will be designed to support the operation. It will have five main target audiences: media, Red Cross Movement, beneficiaries, local authorities and donors. The different channels of communication can include national media, the Federation regional and global websites. The HNRCS will establish a system of reporting via mass media channels. In order to increase visibility, official Red Cross t-shirts and other items with Red Cross logo will be designed and disseminated among the Red Cross volunteers.

## **Coordination**

The HNRCS and the Federation's Country Delegation in Haiti are participating in several inter-agency meetings with the United Nations agencies, MINUSTAH, OCHA and other international organizations present in the country. To avoid the duplication of efforts, it has been decided that the organizations will cover different sectors of intervention.

The HNRCS and the Federation are maintaining close liaison with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which as the lead agency is responsible for security issues, and the Partner National Societies (PNS)

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present in the country: American Red Cross, Canadian RC, French RC, The Netherlands RC, and Spanish RC. These PNS have been working in Haiti supporting the activities of the HNRCS.

Since the onset of the disaster, the Haiti Country Delegation has been in communication with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and has received support in the definition of the intervention.

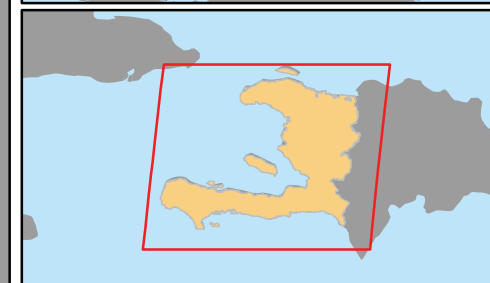
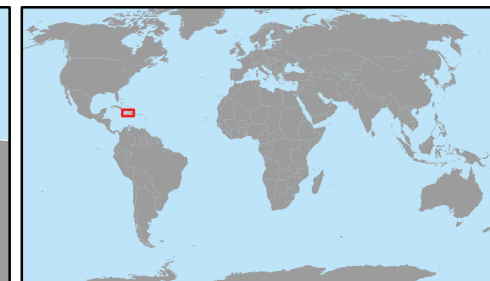
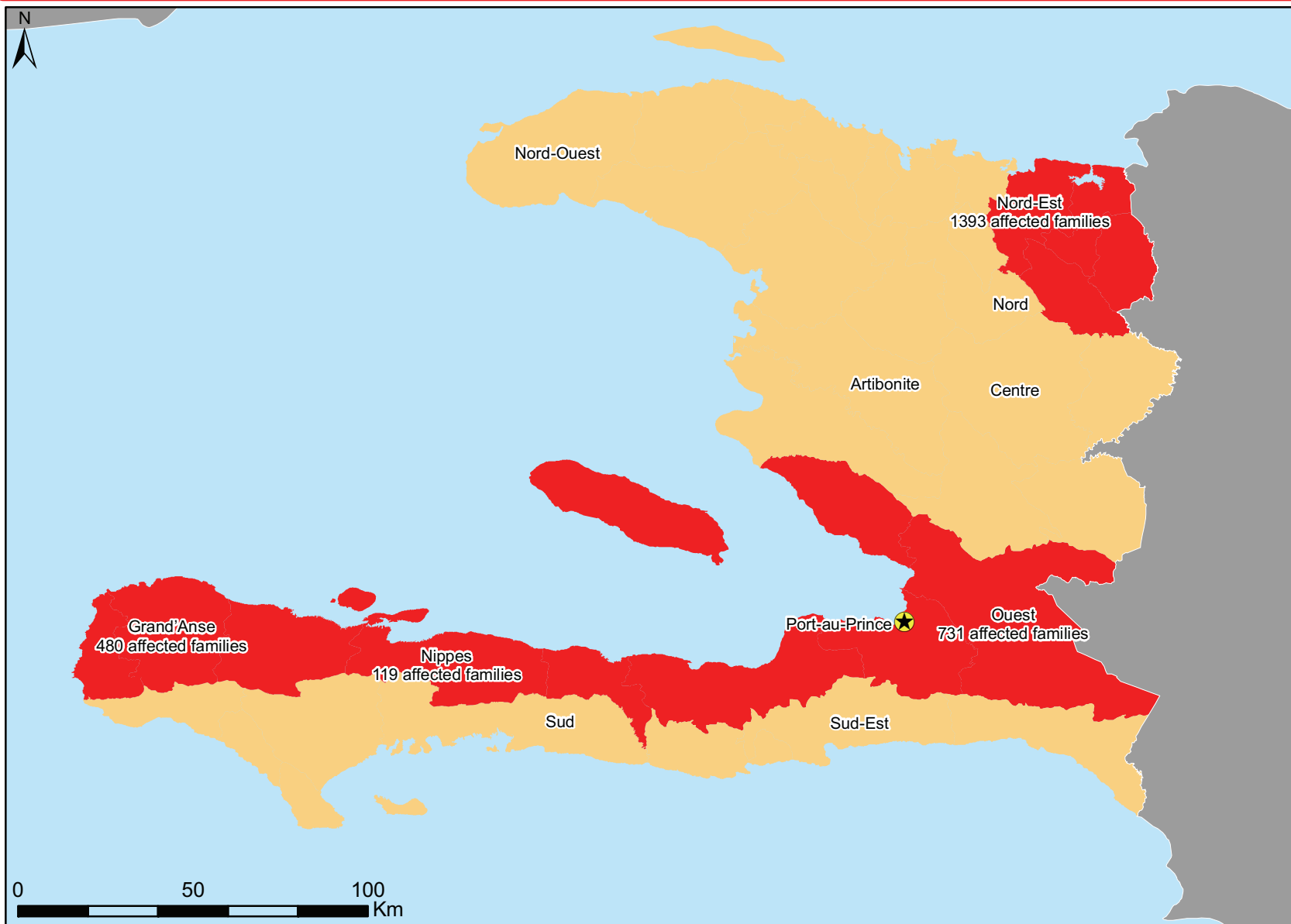
### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Headquarters' Disaster Management Department and the Haiti Federation Country Delegation will ensure monitoring of the operation on a regular basis through visits to the local and regional branches involved in the response efforts. The Haiti Delegation will also continue to ensure effective coordination of the operation with PNS and external partners. Narrative and financial reporting will be provided in line with Federation standard reporting requirements.




***[Map of the affected areas below,](#)***  
***[click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)***



## Haiti: Floods



Since mid of March 2007, heavy rains and isolated storms have affected several regions in Haiti, specially the provinces of: Nord-Est, Ovest, Grande-Anse, Nord-Ouest and Nord.

-  Capitals
-  Affected provinces
-  Other provinces