

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Haiti: Heavy rain and wind

Information bulletin n° 1  
25 September 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Haitian Red Cross Society (HRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<Click here for detailed contact information>](#)

A heavy storm with rains hit Port-au-Prince in the afternoon of 24 September 2010. The Civil Protection Department (Département de la Protection Civile - DPC) reports that the death toll for the moment is 5.

Early coordination response between Red Cross partners resulted in rapid alert of the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) the same evening. Four Emergency Response Teams were deployed this morning, 25 September to seven camps in Port-au-Prince by the Haitian Red Cross Society and the IFRC. After the completion of needs assessments, relief items have been sent to the affected camps for distribution.



Damage in the camp of Caradeux. Source: Matthew Cochrane, IFRC Communication Coordinator

### The Situation

On Friday, 24 September at around 15:00 hours a storm with strong winds and rain struck the capital city of Port-au-Prince metropolitan area for approximately 30 minutes. The storm was not predicted and as such no warnings were raised. According to the United States National Hurricane Center, the storm was not part of any tropical system, but was a standard early autumn storm caused by cold and dry conditions in the upper atmosphere.

The Red Cross base camp in Port-au-Prince was moderately affected with some power outages, and the loss of some tents and equipment.

Preliminary reports show that multiple IDP camps have been affected. On 24 September, the Shelter Cluster reported that 2,000 tents have been damaged or lost in Port-au-Prince. Currently, the Civil Protection Department estimates that **7,878** tents are no longer usable in the entire affected area.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the rains, the Haitian Red Cross Society is in regular contact with the DPC in order to obtain up-to-date information. In addition, intensive planning was undertaken to carry out damage and needs

assessments. The Haitian Red Cross Society and the IFRC worked together with the Shelter Cluster to ensure coordinated assessment and response with the humanitarian community.

The HRCS and the IFRC dispatched three ambulances on the evening of 24 September. Two ambulances were mobilized with Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) paramedic teams and one with a HRCS paramedic team. The teams have provided pre-hospital care to two injured people and transported them to local hospitals. The CRCS teams support the Haitian Red Cross Society/IFRC relief and shelter programmes carried out through the Earthquake operation.

The IFRC Haiti delegation activated the Emergency Response Team (ERT) system. ERT teams are composed of Partner National Society staff, IFRC staff and Haitian Red Cross Society staff and volunteers. The emergency assessment team roster has been maintained since the beginning of August, and training of teams began in late August.

Deployments on this occasion were carried out in coordination with OCHA and the IFRC-convened Shelter Cluster.



Torrential rain drenched camps across Port-au-Prince. This lady washes up as clothes and personal items were soaked and soiled in the rains. Photo: Matthew Cochrane, IFRC

Early on 25 September, three IFRC teams and one Colombian Red Cross Society team were deployed to seven camps. Camps assessed by the IFRC/Haitian Red Cross Society ERTs are as follows:

Team	Location
IFRC	La Piste
IFRC	Annexe de la Mairie
IFRC	Caradeux Petit Place Cazeau
CRCS	Juvenat (second)
HRCS	Santos 17
HRCS	Champ de Mars

After the completion of damage and needs assessments by the teams, the following response activities have been organized:

Commune	Section Communale	Site of Distribution/Camp Name	N° of households (Planned number for redistributions)	Tents 1/HH	Tarpaulins 2/HH	Shelter kits	Blankets or Sheets	Wood
Delmas	1ère-Saint-Martin	Caradeux	780		1560	780		
Delmas	1ère-Saint-Martin	La Piste / Ancien Aéroport Militaire	4		18	5		
Delmas	1ère-Saint-Martin	La Piste / Camp for those with hearing disabilities	110	50	150		330	
Delmas	1ère-Saint-Martin	Petit Place Cazeau / Parc Sainte Claire	91		182			182

Assessments in Pétiion-Ville of Juvenat camp in 3ème-Etang-Du-Jong lead to the conclusion that there were no immediate, urgent needs as a result of the heavy rain and in Santos 17 needs were being covered.

A total of 985 families will therefore be assisted by the HRCS/IFRC with relief materials to help them recover from the effects of the rain.

In addition, the French Red Cross deployed four teams on the morning of 25 September to several camps and needs assessments are ongoing.

The Red Cross relief teams along with the Logistics Unit have now mobilized resources and have dispatched the above items required for distribution in the camps from the different warehouses for relief distributions. The stocks mobilized are part of the prepositioned stocks from the Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Surge Project.

The IFRC logistic teams worked hand in hand with the relief teams and the ERTs packing and loading relief items in order to deliver the items to the sites. The items listed above have already been transported to the sites and distributions commenced on the afternoon of 25 September.

The IFRC shelter teams are working in the la Piste camp for the Transitional Shelter project. Since the morning of 25 September, the team supported an assessment in this camp of 110 people with disabilities. During the early afternoon, the team completed the distribution of 50 tents, 150 tarpaulins and 330 blankets. IFRC trained carpenters (as well as community members) are working on rebuilding the water station and recreational areas using timber from the Red Cross warehouse on this site.

A drainage plan was drawn up by IFRC site engineers and trenches were started to direct future precipitation away from the camp. This has begun using community labour from the transitional shelter construction project and will be continued by the community living at the camp over the next few days. All necessary tools will be made available from the Red Cross warehouse.



Distribution of 50 tents 150 tarpaulins and 330 blankets  
Matthew Cochrane, IFRC

In addition, the warehouse manager and the community leaders at the camp for those with disabilities were instructed that in emergency situations, such as the downpour during the previous day, the members of this community can seek shelter in the warehouse.

Moreover, the IFRC relief teams also completed the distribution in La Piste as planned. Other teams are now in Caradeux and Prolongée Petit. Thirteen Haitian Red Cross Society volunteers and 39 delegates are now supporting relief distributions in these three sites, which are currently ongoing.

## 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

**In Haiti:**

- Marcel Fortier, Country Representative for Haiti; email: [marcel.fortier@ifrc.org](mailto:marcel.fortier@ifrc.org)
- Stephen McAndrew, Head of Operations in Haiti: email: [stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org](mailto:stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org)

**In the Dominican Republic:**

- Alexandre Claudon, Regional Representative for the Latin Caribbean; e-mail: [alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org](mailto:alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org)

**In Panama:**

- Ruben Cano, Haiti Support Team Coordinator; phone: (507) 317 3050; cell phone: (507) 65505289; email: [ruben.cano@ifrc.org](mailto:ruben.cano@ifrc.org)
- Lourdes Pérez, Resource Mobilization Delegate; phone (507) 317 3050; cell phone (507) 65506081; email: [lourdes.perez@ifrc.org](mailto:lourdes.perez@ifrc.org)

**In Geneva:**

- Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41 22) 730 42 74; fax: (41 22) 733 03 95; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org)
- Shelter Cluster: Coordinator can be contacted on [shelterhaiti2010@gmail.com](mailto:shelterhaiti2010@gmail.com); information and updates can be obtained from [www.shelterhaiti.org](http://www.shelterhaiti.org)

**[<Click here to return to the title page >](#)**