

# 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: SOCIAL UNREST

12 March 2004

**Appeal No. 07/04; Operations Update no. 1**

**Appeal launched on 5 March 2004 for CHF 1,388,000 (USD 1,071,915 or EUR 879,495) for 9 months.**

**Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 60,000**

**Period covered: 5 – 11 March 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 180 countries.*

*For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***In Brief***

**Appeal coverage: 17.6% ; See the Contributions List on the Federation's website for details.**

**Outstanding needs: CHF 1,143,712**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (01.52/2004)**

**Operational Summary:** The situation in Haïti remains chaotic and there are major security constraints. Fears of shortages of water, food, fuel and services, particularly in the field of health, are growing constantly as lawlessness prevails and the economy is further damaged by botting of businesses. Federation delegates, who had been re-located in Santo Domingo, returned this week to Port-au-Prince and are working with the Haïtian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) in defining the plan of action for implementation of the activities under the Emergency Appeal Work has begun immediately on the installation and implementation of a telecommunications system which will facilitate the work of the components of the Movement in the country to respond to the crisis. The ICRC, as lead agency, is responsible for coordination of international Movement activities in the country, and cooperation between the components of the Movement and external partners is proving effective to maximize resources and work towards the common goal of assisting the most vulnerable in the country.

### **Operational developments**

The humanitarian situation in Haïti remains extremely volatile, underpinned by uncertainty over the future role of armed factions and despite the departure of the former President and appointment of a caretaker Prime Minister. There is continuing social unrest throughout the country and a troubled security situation, with on-going looting and sporadic violence including gun battles. The international Military Interim Force is faced with continuing lawlessness, given the prevalence of arms. This situation is further reducing access by the population to health services, food markets and public amenities. Moreover, strategic items, such as fuel, affecting both food and water supplies, are running short, particularly in Port-de-Paix, Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien. Nevertheless, it is possible to conduct humanitarian activities in almost all regions of the country at present. Priority areas have been identified as Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Cap Haïtien, Saint Marc, Port-de-Paix and Hinche. To date, it appears that there has been little movement of populations either internally or towards neighbouring countries as a result of the crisis in Haïti, although National Societies, particularly the Dominican Red Cross, are on stand-by.

The Federation delegates who had been re-located to Santo Domingo during the escalation of the crisis in the country, have now returned to Haiti. The Federation office in Port-au-Prince is currently made up of a Federation representative, an organizational development delegate and three telecommunications delegates, together with members of local staff. Federation staff are currently working with the Haitian National Red Cross Society on the drawing up of a plan of action in order to implement the objectives of the Appeal, taking into consideration the present security constraints and resources available.

The national telecommunication networks are increasingly dysfunctional in Haiti. As a result, an expanded Red Cross telecommunications system is indispensable for increased activities.

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

### **Emergency relief**

**Objective 1: To help meet emergency relief needs arising from the crisis situation in Haiti.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

Distribution of first aid kits and volunteer materials, funded by the Norwegian Red Cross, to National Society branches and communities is on hold at present since the shipping company transporting the relief items withheld the container of goods in Kingston, Jamaica, as a result of the security situation. The Federation is holding discussions with ECHO regarding the plans to distribute 1,500 kitchen kits and 1,500 family hygiene kits, funded by ECHO, to beneficiaries affected by floods in Cap-Haitien during the month of December 2003. As a result of chaos in the port area, it has been confirmed that the containers of relief goods were looted whilst stocked in the port at Port-au-Prince. There is therefore a need to replace the kits, as well as to procure an additional 1,500 kitchen kits and 1,500 hygiene kits for distribution to vulnerable beneficiaries to be identified by the Haitian National Red Cross Society.

### **Disaster Management**

**Objective 1: To implement an emergency telecommunications system with VHF and satellite phones to respond to the current crisis.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

With a view to enabling all components of the Movement to conduct further needs assessments and to implement planned activities, reinforcement of telecommunications activities is planned over a three month period. In coordination with the ICRC, a single VHF network covering almost all of the territory of Haiti is being installed as shown in the map below and will serve all components of the Movement working in Haiti. In order to complete the network, the Federation, the ICRC and the HNRCS are sharing available equipment and human resources. Equipment was already provided to the HNRCS by the Federation with funding from the Norwegian Red Cross outside the framework of the present Appeal. This will be installed to ensure VHF communication in the 13 regional HNRCS branches and will be incorporated into the network. Reports indicate that 9 out of 13 branches already have this equipment, whereas the material for the remaining four branches is being held at national headquarters given a lack of infrastructure in the branches. Furthermore, the Spanish Red Cross, in coordination with the Federation and the French Red Cross, has provided additional telecommunications equipment to expand the HNRCS VHF network essential for the coordination of Red Cross security and humanitarian operations around the country.

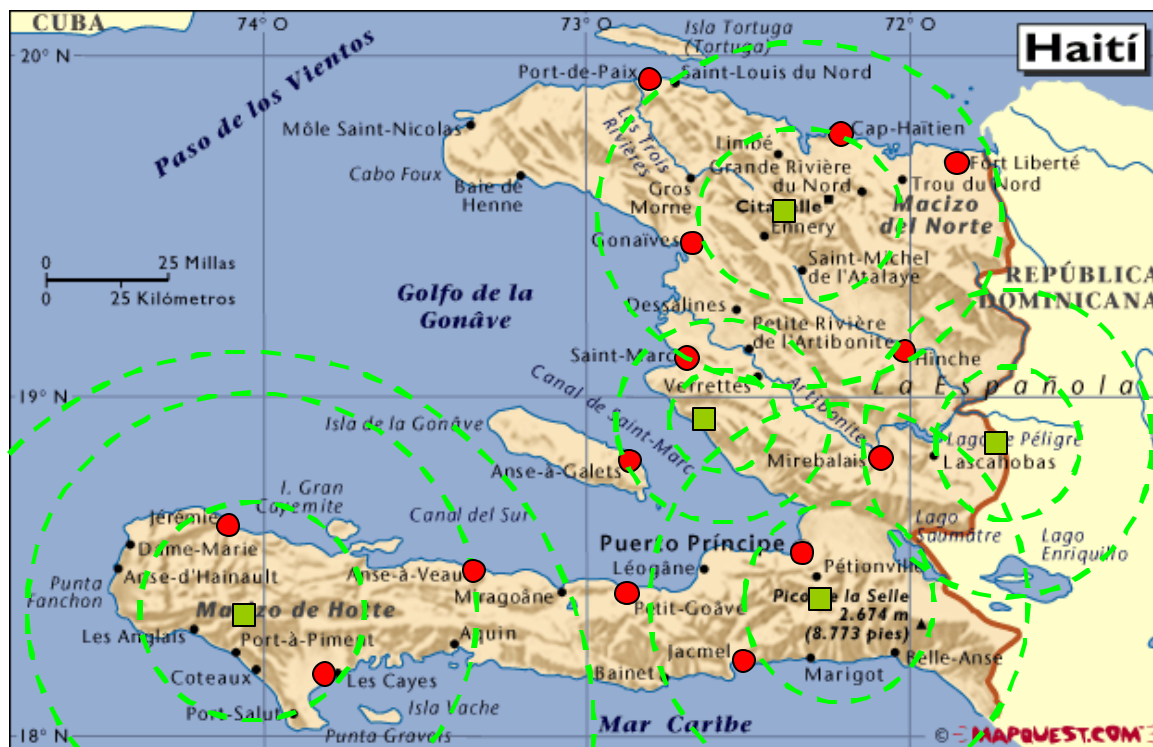
The telecommunications system will be installed and implemented over a three month period in three phases. Phase I will include the installation of the equipment and agreement with Haitian authorities on use of VHF frequencies (1 month). Phase II will include the implementation of the technical protocols and training of the network users (2 months). Phase III, which will be implemented solely by the Federation and the HNRCS, will include the maintenance of the network and additional training of HNRCS staff, as required. The management of activities within Phase I and II will be undertaken by the ICRC in the interests of security and the efficient deployment of human resources. Discussions with the National Society regarding the identification and placement of a national telecommunications coordinator to ensure the sustainability of the network are expected to conclude in the coming days.

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Since 5 March, two Spanish Red Cross telecommunications delegates have been seconded to the Federation and are working with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) telecommunications delegate assigned temporarily to Haiti since 18 February. The Federation telecommunications delegates are providing the technical support necessary to ensure that the VHF radios to be placed in the ambulances, provided by the French Red Cross, are compatible with the existing VHF network before the vehicles are deployed to their HNRCS branch stations in the capital or in the regions.

The Federation telecommunications delegates from PADRU and the Spanish Red Cross are working with the two ICRC telecommunications delegates and a technical representative from the National Society. This integrated team is pooling resources and expertise.

Consideration is being given to the provision within this objective of technical support by Federation technicians to other humanitarian organizations working within Haiti for their telecommunications systems. While this assistance would clearly enhance cooperation amongst humanitarian actors, this could only be made available where resources allowed and whilst ensuring that implementation of the primary objective of the project is not jeopardized.



- VHF Base
- VHF Repeater

**Impact**

The impact of the telecommunications objective will be threefold:

1. Increased security for components of the Movement working in Haiti.
2. Improved coordination, notably for HNRCS branches.
3. Enhanced operational efficiency within the Movement in the implementation of humanitarian activities in Haiti.

**Constraints**

Discussions with the government of Haiti have been complicated over recent months because of civic unrest and changes in the State and governmental structures. The Department within the Ministry of Communication which is responsible for managing radio frequencies is not functional at present. It is hoped that an adequate range of VHF frequencies will be allocated to the Movement in the near future and the unauthorized use of frequencies by other operators will be controlled. If this is not the case, it is possible that delays may occur in Phase I of the project. Furthermore, as indicated earlier in this report, security conditions should currently allow access to sites for the maintenance and installation of VHF equipment, but there is a need for comprehensive security arrangements to be made where field work is involved.

**Health**

The Netherlands Red Cross has provided five medical emergency kits, 3.7 tonnes of materials in total, each kit estimated to provide basic health assistance for 10,000 people for three months. Three kits have been distributed to hospitals in Port-au-Prince, while the two remaining kits have been dispatched to the south, to hospitals in Jeremie and in Les Cayes. The selection of hospitals has been made by the Netherlands Red Cross in cooperation with the HNRCS and with Médecins du Monde whose staff are working in the hospitals to which the kits have been distributed.

The French Red Cross has provided seven fully equipped ambulances for the HNRCS, three to be used in the capital, and four in the regions; as part of this programme, an expatriate ambulance manager will be based in Haiti for six months to conduct training of ambulance drivers and to provide support on general vehicle management. The hand over ceremony of the ambulances to the HNRCS took place on 12 March.

*A plan of action defining implementation of the remaining objectives in the fields of disaster management, health, promotion of humanitarian values and organizational development is being drawn up together with the National Society. Detailed information will be provided in future operations updates.*

**Coordination**

In addition to liaison between the components of the Movement, coordination of humanitarian organizations active in Haiti is undertaken by UNOCHA on a weekly basis with the attendance of representatives of the Federation. A UN assessment mission is currently underway in Port-au-Prince and other principal towns of Haiti. Additionally, a needs assessment mission was organized by OFDA to Port-de-Paix on 5 March.

The table below indicates, outside the Red Cross Movement, the current participants in emergency assistance in Haiti.

Sector		
<b>Health</b>	WHO/PAHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Médecins du Monde/Canada, OFDA/USAID, AmeriCares, Save the Children, Médecins Sans Frontières, Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Population Services International (PSI), Concern World	

	Wide, Helvetas, CARLI, World Vision	
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	Oxfam, Caritas	
<b>Food Security</b>	WFP, FAO, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), CRS, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)	
<b>Telecommunications</b>	WFP (UN focal point), United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD), Oxfam	
<b>Non-Food Relief</b>	MCC	

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

- The Federation is working with the HNRCS, in close cooperation with the ICRC, to ensure an impartial response to the current crisis and to assist the most vulnerable.
- The Federation will seek to ensure that the HNRCS continues to work in the framework of its approved national development plan (NDP).
- Coordination between all components of the Movement is taking place under the ICRC, as lead agency; external partnerships are sought in order to maximize resources and ensure optimum impact of activities.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

Faced with daunting humanitarian needs and in view of weak or non-existent public services, the contribution of the Haitian National Red Cross Society is highly solicited by private and public organizations alike. The Federation aims to support the National Society to remain focused on its mandate and to stay centered on its national development plan (NDP) which is the core document for discussing actions and activities. This is considered an essential task and a major role for the Federation.

The Federation will intensify its efforts to strengthen the capacity of the disaster management and health departments of the National Society. The conflict has and will continue to exacerbate the vulnerability of a population which is already at risk of natural disasters, and it is therefore urgent to reinforce the disaster preparedness of the HNRCS before the hurricane season begins in June.

Acknowledging the need to raise the profile of the National Society in Haiti, the Federation is actively seeking a reporting/information delegate to support the National Society dissemination department in collecting and reporting on HNRCS activities. In addition, the Federation will be complementing ICRC support to the National Society through the programme “Safer Access”.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

Information concerning support provided by the Federation for the work of the HNRCS has been provided through the Federation website. Furthermore, a special focus on Haiti will be presented early next week (15 March) on the disaster management information system (DMIS) under the Federation web page. There is a need to further increase visibility for the work of the National Society in the present emergency. Increased information capacity is planned through the Emergency Appeal under the objective to conduct awareness campaigns to enhance knowledge of Humanitarian Values and the Fundamental Principles and to promote the image of the Haitian National Red Cross Society in cooperation with the ICRC.

## **Conclusion**

Given that the Appeal coverage today stands at 17.6%, donations are urgently needed in order to ensure effective implementation of emergency response activities and to assist in strengthening the Haitian National Red Cross Society. Donors are therefore encouraged to provide contributions to the Emergency Appeal.

### ***For further information 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)*
- *Niels Scott, Federation Representative in Haiti, Phone (509) 513 5067; Fax number (509) 221 8633; email; [ifrcht03@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcht03@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 assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is 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 programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

APPEAL No. 07/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

12.03.2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1388000</b>		<b>17.6%</b>
BRITISH - RC		950	GBP	2241	30.03.04	FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE
NORWEGIAN - RC				85000	16.02.04	EQUIPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				87241	CHF	6.3%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPANISH - RC		100000	EUR	157550	01.03.04	BILATERAL: TELECOM EQUIPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				157550	CHF	11.4%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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