

# 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: FLOODS

29 September 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 181 countries.*

### In Brief

**Preliminary Appeal No. 22/04; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 25 – 29 September 2004; Appeal coverage: 78%;** ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#))

#### Appeal history:

- Preliminary Appeal launched on 22 September 2004 for CHF 4,246,000 (USD 3,376,771 or EUR 2,746,024) for 6 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 150,000

**Outstanding needs : CHF 933,549**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Haiti: Social Unrest (Appeal 07/2004; Dominican Republic & Haiti: Floods (Appeal 13/2004, Caribbean Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.52/2004), Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Annual Appeal (Appeal 01.51/2004)**

**Operational Summary:** The situation in northwest Haiti and, in particular in the town of Gonaïves, is dramatic. It is estimated that 250,000 people are without shelter in the region, following torrential rains caused by the passage of Hurricane Jeanne between 17 and 19 September. Around 1,500 people are confirmed dead and approximately 1,000 are reported still missing and feared dead. Flood waters are now beginning to recede, and security has improved, however, the situation remains tense. The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is protecting convoys of humanitarian aid as well as the distribution points established in Gonaïves. There are long queues of people at the distribution points and a need to increase the numbers of these centres in order to meet the needs of more vulnerable beneficiaries. There remain major risks of epidemics given the stagnant, contaminated flood waters and there is an urgent need to clean the city as flood waters have swept in debris, latrines have been flooded and human and animal corpses remain to be retrieved. Food and water continue to be urgently needed. The French Red Cross mass water emergency response unit (ERU) has now been established in Gonaïves and is producing 30,000 litres of clean water per day; full capacity will be reached by the end of the week. The Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS)/Federation are conducting aerial assessments of the affected areas beyond Gonaïves, and these are on-going; today, 29 September, a survey of the Isle de la Tortue is taking place.

A total of 11 cargo planes of relief supplies have now reached Haiti to support the relief effort flown in by the Belgian, Canadian, Colombian, French, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross Societies. Goods have also been supplied by the Pan American Disaster Response Unit and 2,000 food parcels together with 2,300 hygiene parcels are due for shipment by PADRU to Haiti, tomorrow, 30 September. A plan of action is under development focusing on assistance to Gonaïves and outlying areas in the north west of the country. The preliminary appeal is currently under revision and a revised appeal document will be issued in the coming days.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Haïti: Haitian National Red Cross Society, Dr. Michaële Amédée Gédéon, President, Port-au-Prince; email [croroha@haitiworld.com](mailto:croroha@haitiworld.com), phone (509) 510-9813, fax (509) 223-1054
- In Haiti: Hans Havik, Federation Representative, Haiti Country Office, Port-au-Prince; email [ifrcht03@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcht03@ifrc.org), phone (509) 513-5067, fax (509) 221-8633
- In Panama: Gilberto Guevara, Head of Regional Delegation, Panama; email [ifrcpa51@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcpa51@ifrc.org), phone (507) 317-1300, fax (507) 317-1304
- In Panama: Nelson Castaño, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; email [ifrcpa07@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcpa07@ifrc.org), phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082
- In Geneva: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email [luis.luna@ifrc.org](mailto:luis.luna@ifrc.org), phone (41 22) 730-4274, fax (41 22) 733-0395
- In Geneva: Eva Calvo, Strategic Communications, e-mail; [eva.calvo@ifrc.org](mailto:eva.calvo@ifrc.org), phone (41 22) 730 4357; fax (41 22) 733 0395

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## Background

Tropical storm Jeanne hit Haiti between 17 and 19 September with torrential rains causing severe flooding and landslides in the north of the country. The most affected departments include l'Artibonite, Plateau Central, Sud and the Nord-Ouest. The town of Gonaïves, with a population of around 200,000 people, and its surrounding area has been hardest hit. The town is surrounded by mountains with an opening towards the sea; however, all the natural channels for rain water to run off were blocked given the concentration of housing. In addition, drainage systems were cluttered with garbage, which resulted in the backing-up of flood waters. As of Saturday evening, 18 September, flood waters in the town had reached a depth of 2 metres. People began to climb on top of roofs to escape the rising waters which increased to a level of 5 metres in some parts of the city as rain continued to fall until Sunday. Both electricity and communications were cut off. On Sunday, people began to take shelter in churches and administrative buildings. However, it was not until Monday, 20 September that the UN peacekeeping mission was able to clear a route through the flood waters for aid supplies to be brought into the town.

The death toll has risen to over 1,500 in Gonaïves and the surrounding region and the number of missing and feared dead has been placed at over 1,000. Figures as to numbers of people affected remain unreliable and are mostly limited to the town of Gonaïves, whilst it is clear that other cities and villages in the north and northwest of the country have also been seriously affected. There are major concerns that there may be outbreaks of epidemics given that people have little access to clean drinking water, and latrines and sewers have been flooded. The two main hospitals in the town and over 90 per cent of private clinics were destroyed by the disaster. However, local medical services have set up a treatment centre in the premises of the Town Hall and Médecins du Monde have opened a centre in the Ebenezer hospital, in the southern part of the town. In addition, Médecins sans Frontières has set up a health centre in Raboteau in the premises of the Ministry of Education. It is estimated that around 250,000 people in the region, including the town of Port-au-Paix, also badly hit, are now without shelter as a result of the devastating floods, having lost their homes, belongings, livelihoods and loved ones.

## Operational developments

A Field Assessment and Coordination (FACT) team arrived in Haiti on Thursday morning, 23 September, made up of a team leader and a relief delegate, who joined a water and sanitation delegate, a relief coordinator and an information and reporting delegate already on the ground. The Federation Secretariat deployed a French Red Cross mass water emergency response unit to Haiti which has reached Gonaïves with a five member team. A health officer from the Secretariat, a finance delegate, together with a finance analyst from the regional finance unit in Panama have also joined the team in Haiti.

In addition, a French Red Cross/Spanish Red Cross logistics ERU is now in place in Haiti. The unit is receiving all incoming relief flights, determining transportation, customs clearance and ensuring tracking of goods. The

logistics ERU will travel tomorrow, 30 September, to Gonaïves, together with a seven member Spanish Red Cross team which will set up a second mass water ERU. This second mass water ERU will support a field hospital ERU to be established by the Norwegian Red Cross/Canadian Red Cross. An assessment of the referral hospital in Gonaïves took place by the Federation's health delegate, a representative of the Norwegian Red Cross and the President of the HNRCS; the findings confirm information provided through the ICRC and the UN-coordinated sectoral group on health. While the basic infrastructure is in place, all equipment has been damaged by mud and flood waters, the generator has been lost, wells have been contaminated and there is serious damage to the equipment and furnishings. As a result, an ERU field hospital is essential given that the Gonaïves hospital was the referral hospital for the area. The ERU field hospital to be established will have a capacity of 100 beds and will be staffed by 17 medical personnel. The hospital will provide general surgery, maternity services, paediatrics, internal medicine, emergency and reanimation services, and x-ray capacity. It is planned that the hospital will be in place by 3 October and it is anticipated that it will function for a six month period. An advance team to assist the deployment and setting up of the Norwegian/Canadian ERU hospital will arrive in Haiti on 30 September. A site has now been selected for the location of the hospital. A commitment has also been made to facilitate the rehabilitation of the former hospital in parallel to deployment of the ERU. Once rehabilitation is completed, all medical equipment will be donated to the hospital and all tents and material brought in to support the accommodation of staff will be donated to the Haitian National Red Cross Society to improve disaster response capacity. It is planned that the ERU field hospital will employ current medical staff from the Gonaïves hospital and provision of fuel and food to patients will be covered by the Haitian authorities.

The Federation has secured a helicopter and has conducted aerial surveys of the north and northwest region, focusing on areas outside of Gonaïves which, as yet, have received no assistance and which have been severely hit by the floods. Three teams have conducted needs assessments of the affected populations in Ennery, Anse-Rouge, Port-de-Paix, Chansolme and Bassin Bleu, complementing those carried out in Plaisance, Bassin Clair, Gobert, Pilate and Gros Morne. Plaisance, Bassin Clair and Gobert were only slightly affected by the hurricane, however, 143 houses were totally destroyed or severely damaged in Pilate and households lost all belongings. The local health centre is in urgent need of medicines since access to the town is impossible by road. In Gros Morne, between 200 and 250 families were identified as in need of food and non-food support and a number of cases of typhoid have erupted. Assessments are on-going and will be completed by the end of the day, tomorrow, 30 September. Further details of results of these surveys will be available once data has been compiled and will be presented in the revised appeal document.

The atmosphere in Gonaïves remains tense with pressure increasing around warehouses and distribution points; distributions are proceeding in difficult conditions given the need to ensure security. An assessment of the capacity of the HNRCS volunteer network is taking place, given the increasing demands on volunteer support to the activities under implementation.

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

### **Emergency relief (food and non-food)**

**Objective: 40,000 beneficiaries (8,000 families) will have benefited from the provision of food rations including drinking water through secure distribution centres and will have been assisted with non-food relief items including kitchen sets and blankets.**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The logistics ERU has arranged the offloading and warehousing of relief items brought in by planes chartered by PADRU, the Belgian, Canadian, Colombian, French, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross Societies and has further assessed transport options. A large shipment of relief items to the CARE warehouse in Gonaïves is being planned so that distributions can take place in the coming days. As yet, distributions are not based on beneficiary lists which, once drawn up, will facilitate more targeted distribution of aid.

The French and Spanish Red Cross logistics ERU secured the use of a warehouse at the airport and CARE has access to increased warehouse capacity in Gonaïves. A total of eleven flights have reached Haiti carrying relief goods. The following quantities of relief items have been dispatched and a total of 130 tonnes of relief goods are now available in the warehouses for distribution:

Relief Goods	Quantity
Lamps	5,004
Family food parcels	4,003
Hygiene parcels	5,000
Tarpaulins	2,500
Stoves	1,340
Blankets	11,620
Jerry cans (10 litres)	5,100
Kitchen sets	1,000
Water purification tablets	512,000
BP5 Biscuits	2,000

These goods are in addition to the relief items which the Pan American Disaster Response Unit sent in by cargo plane at the outset of the disaster including blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen kits and plastic sheeting. Further relief goods are also due to reach Haiti tomorrow, 30 September, including food parcels, BP5 biscuits, blankets, body bags, soap, tarpaulins, hygiene parcels and jerry cans.

#### **Impact:**

Some distributions have taken place, assisting those in need of food, water and non-food items. However, the current emphasis is on needs assessments; once these have been completed and the most vulnerable areas and beneficiaries targeted, the operation will focus on implementation of distributions to reach those in need.

#### **Constraints:**

Transportation of relief goods to the Gonaïves area is complicated by difficult conditions. Just outside Gonaïves, there is a large expanse of flood waters and a number of trucks have slipped off the road. The tense atmosphere in Gonaïves and the lack of security is delaying the distribution of relief items which can only take place from distribution points secured by UN peacekeepers. Roads are unsafe after sunset and therefore no movement of staff or relief goods is possible at night. MINUSTAH and WFP have begun an accompanied convoy system to allow the Red Cross and NGOs to travel safely. The population is confronting difficulties to prepare food since stoves and kitchen items were lost in the flood waters and there is an absence of fuel.

#### **Shelter**

**Objective: 40,000 beneficiaries (8,000 families) will have been assisted through the setting up of communal temporary shelters and the distribution of plastic sheeting and tarpaulins.**

#### **Impact:**

Some distributions of shelter materials have taken place, assisting those in need. However, the current emphasis is on needs assessments; once these have been completed and the most vulnerable areas and beneficiaries targeted, the operation will focus on implementation of distributions.

#### **Constraints:**

There are overwhelming needs for shelter and assessments are continuing to ensure that the most needy are reached, both in Gonaïves and in the outlying areas.

#### **Water and Sanitation**

**Objective: 40,000 beneficiaries (8,000 families) will have benefited from the provision of hygiene articles and will have an enhanced understanding of basic sanitation.**

The French Red Cross mass water ERU constructed the first water tank and placed six water bladders in strategic areas which are fed with tanker trucks provided by CARE. On 27 September, 15,000 litres of clean drinking water were provided and yesterday, 28 September, capacity was boosted to the provision of 30,000 litres. It is expected

that full capacity will be achieved by the end of the current week and that the system will be able to meet the needs of 50,000 people. 14 Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers are involved in the distribution of water. The Spanish Red Cross mass water treatment ERU will, as of 30 September, travel to Gros Morne where vital needs for potable water were identified by the Federation's assessment team.

In Gonaïves, there is an urgent need to construct latrines and preparations are being made for the introduction of a health campaign focusing on the prevention of water-borne diseases and the use of latrines. The German Red Cross is preparing the distribution of 400 water filters to affected families.

#### **Constraints:**

Potable water is a major concern; the population of Gonaïves is currently obliged to drink from contaminated water sources since water supply systems have been damaged. There are risks of outbreaks of epidemics and many people are in need of medical attention. The mass water ERU is meeting some of the needs in potable water; however, there is a deficit of water sources and a lack of tanker trucks.

#### **Strengthening of capacities**

**Objective: The Gonaïves branch of the Haitian National Red Cross Society will have been reinforced and will be better prepared in the event of future disasters.**

Activities towards this objective will be carried out once the emergency phase of the operation has been finalized.

#### **Federation Coordination**

Daily coordination meetings are taking place with all components of the Movement. In addition, close cooperation is ensured with the UN agencies including the UNDAC team. The Field Assessment and Coordination team has been requested to share information on the assessments in areas outside Gonaïves with partner organizations and major donors. The support provided by the ICRC resulted in identifying the owners of the site on which the ERU hospital will be set up and the signature of a contract which guarantees use of the site for a six month period at no cost. Discussions were held with OFDA/USAID which will support the clean-up of the existing Gonaïves hospital premises and will speed up rehabilitation efforts by the Norwegian and Canadian Red Cross Societies.

The ICRC is developing a tracing programme with the assistance of volunteers from the National Society. A web site has been set up in order to help provide information to those in search of missing family members.

Coordination with the PNS working in Haiti including the American, Canadian, French, German, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, is taking place in order to agree on a framework for the operation and to avoid duplication of efforts. All PNS are involved in the Federation/HNRCs assessment, planning and implementation work to increase effectiveness of collective efforts.

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

- Relief activities being carried out are based on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Beneficiary selection criteria focus on the vulnerability of those affected.
- Relief operations are being conducted with respect for the culture of the beneficiaries, ensuring gender sensitivity and prioritizing assistance to children and the elderly.
- Activities are based on the SPHERE Project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.
- Transparency is being ensured through the production of regular reports and news bulletins.
- All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

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

The provision of information influencing public opinion regarding the Red Cross is a key activity. From this point of view, relations with the media are particularly important in order to convey the message of the Red Cross Movement. A reporting and information delegate is in Haiti. A number of media interviews have been given by

both the delegate and the Federation representative in Haiti. News articles concerning the disaster have been placed on the Federation's web site and a press release was issued on 23 September concerning the launch of the Federation's Emergency Appeal.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

# Haiti - Floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 22/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/30/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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# Haiti - Floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 22/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/30/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4,246,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 78.0%	
BELGIAN - GOVT/RC		8,409	EUR	12,959	22.09.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	91,440	28.09.04	
CANADIAN - RC		50,000	CAD	46,900	20.09.04	ASSESSMENT MISSION
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS		200,000	CAD	187,600	24.09.04	
OFDA/USAID		990,000	USD	1,200,000	23.09.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	167,500	27.09.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,706,399	CHF	40.2%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIAN - GOVT		257,214	EUR	396,367	22.09.04	PURIFICATION TABLETS, JERRYCANS, BLANKETS, PLASTIC SHEETING, FAMILY TENTS
FRENCH - RC/GOVT/ECHO/VEOLIA		785,000	EUR	1,209,685	24.09.04	DIRECT ASSISTANCE: MEDICAL KITS, BLANKETS, JERRYCANS, KITCHEN SETS, LAMPS, TARPAULINS, HYGIENE KITS, STOVES, 5 DELEGATES, ERU LOGISTICS AND WATER DISTRIBUTION & TRUCKING

# Haiti - Floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 22/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/30/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				1,606,052	CHF	37.8%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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