

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

18 October 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

Appeal No. 22/04; Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 30 September to 18 October, 2004; Appeal coverage: 29.8 %; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 22 September 2004 for CHF 4,246,000 for 6 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- Budget revised and increased to CHF 11,673,000 (USD 9,246,529 or EUR 7,515,212) to assist 50,000 beneficiaries for 6 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 150,000

Outstanding needs: CHF 8,094,165 (USD 6,575,000 or EUR 5,261,907)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal 01.51/2004; Haiti Social Unrest Emergency Appeal 07/2004 and Dominican Republic & Haiti Floods Appeal 13/2004.

Operational Summary: During the reporting period, security conditions in Haiti deteriorated further, which has temporarily disrupted relief distributions. However, the first relief supplies have now reached the hands of beneficiaries in the towns of Gonaïves and Ennery. A fully-equipped 100-bed field hospital is in place in Gonaïves and is providing primary and secondary health care services to the affected population. The Spanish Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (ERU) has installed the first water treatment line, which is now providing approximately 40,000 of high quality water to the field hospital. In addition, the French Red Cross ERU team is now producing between a 125,000 and 300,000 litres of potable water per day, which is being distributed to between 7,000 and 10,000 people in Gonaïves and the surrounding areas. Damage to infrastructure is continuing to delay the transportation of relief supplies within Haiti.

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description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

A month after heavy rains, brought by the passage of Tropical Storm Jeanne, caused violent flash floods in the Artibonite and North West departments of Haiti, the official death toll stands at 1,810 people, while more than 800 remain missing. Deforestation and poverty were major contributors to the high loss of life as landslides buried homes and people. It is estimated that 300,000 people in at least 8 communes in the region have been affected as a result of the devastating floods. The town of Gonaïves in l'Artibonite, with a population of around 200,000 people, has been hardest hit in terms of number of affected inhabitants. Homes and possessions were swept away, sewers and latrines overflowed and agricultural land was destroyed. It is estimated that at least half the population in Gonaïves is in need of food, water and shelter. The majority of the affected population is reported to be living in shelters set up by the Haitian authorities (la protection civile). The risk of epidemics remains a serious concern because latrines and sewers have been flooded, leaving people without access to clean drinking water. The main hospital in the town of Gonaïves and over 90% of the private clinics were damaged by the disaster. Stagnant flood waters remain in the streets, still covered in mud and debris. Heavy machinery is being brought in to start cleaning up access roads, public spaces and private homes. It is expected that a full clean up will last between 8 and 10 months, using a workforce of 300 teams of 6-7 persons each.

The revised Emergency Appeal, launched on 5 October by the Federation, is based on the plan of action designed by the joint Federation Field Assessment and Coordination (FACT) team and Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) assessment team that conducted a four-day assessment of the affected regions. This assessment focused mostly on remote areas outside Gonaïves. The FACT team identified pockets of destruction, with a total of 3,000 affected families (15,000 people) in the communes of Pilate, Gros Morne, Bassin Bleu, Anse Rouge, Port de Paix and Ennery in need of assistance. These people had not been either identified or targeted during preliminary assessments. The plan of action prioritizes emergency relief distributions, shelter, health and water and sanitation interventions. The plan also includes activities to strengthen the disaster capacity of the HNRCS. The National Society is now facing the third consecutive disaster in Haiti in only one year. Therefore its ability to respond to future disasters must be further enhanced.

Security remains precarious, making the distribution of aid difficult. Maintenance of public order is the responsibility of the Haitian authorities. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has been mandated by the UN Security Council, in agreement with the present government to help the Haitian authorities in this task. This means that the MINUSTAH is directly involved in helping to provide a minimum of security for the public, which includes being present during distributions of relief goods so as to ensure that distributions take place in the best possible conditions for everyone involved.

The international community has responded with distributions of food and water and the provision of immediate medical attention, in spite of a complex security situation. These efforts to date, however, have been insufficient to meet the needs of the population. There will also be significant needs for international support in the rehabilitation phase after the emergency period.

Operational developments

In order to respond more efficiently to the disaster, the Federation has established an office in the town of Gonaïves. During the reporting period, the increased climate of insecurity has limited the ability of the humanitarian community to operate. The security situation has deteriorated further in both Gonaïves and Port-au-Prince, where a number of incidents have been reported. As a result, most humanitarian organizations have been forced to interrupt distributions. In Port-au-Prince, businesses have remained closed for the last two weeks, which is adding to the operation's logistical constraints.

The shortage of diesel fuel in Gonaïves is also undermining planned relief distributions. The Federation has, however, been able to secure a minimum of diesel fuel required for the operation, including the running of the field hospital. The fuel was shipped by boat from Port-au-Prince to Gonaïves.

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

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 50,000 beneficiaries (10,000 families) will have benefited from the provision of non-food items delivered through secure distribution centres.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A total of 7,000 families in Gonaïves and 3,000 families in the outlying 7 communes have been identified by the Federation assessment as being in need of non-food assistance.

During the reporting period, delegates in the field and HNRCS volunteers continued to conduct a census, physically verifying the status of each family in the most affected areas, registering beneficiaries and cross checking lists. Beneficiary cards have been printed and are being distributed. The selection criteria used are:

- Families whose houses were completely destroyed
- Families whose houses were severely damaged

A census has been conducted by the Federation and a team of 15 HNRCS volunteers in nine communities in the commune of Ennery. A total of 691 beneficiary families were registered and received ration cards. Distributions took place the following day with the help of an additional 16 volunteers from the local Red Cross branch. Each family received a hygiene kit and two collapsible jerry cans of 10 liters each.

In Gonaïves, hygiene kits have been distributed to 202 families in the central part of the town.

Summary of non-food assistance distributed to beneficiaries:

Place	No of beneficiary families	No of hygiene kits distributed	No of jerry cans (10 litres) distributed
Gonaïves	202	202	404
Ennery	668	668	1,336

Impact:

Families who have lost most of their belongings have received much needed non-food relief items according to their needs. These first distributions, however modest, represented a first step towards providing families with supplies that will help them to cope better and recover from the material losses they suffered with the floods.

Constraints:

Damaged and flooded roads are causing difficulties in the transportation of relief goods to Gonaïves. A detour has been established to provide alternative access to the city as the main road remains flooded. However, this alternative road is muddy and only suitable for 4x4 vehicles. In addition, the lack of security is impacting on the safe arrival of relief supplies and the ability to distribute them. A number of planned Red Cross activities have been cancelled or interrupted as a result of the security situation. More distributions will take place as soon as the security situation improves.

Objective 2: 1,400 families (7,000 people) will have benefited from the provision of food items delivered through secure distribution centres.

In the communes of Ennery and Chansolme, the joint Federation/HNRCS assessment team identified some 1,400 families (within the same above mentioned 3,000 families) whose subsistence and cash crops were destroyed and are therefore in need of food assistance. Beneficiary families for the food distribution have already been identified in the commune of Ennery, while in the commune of Chansolme the selection is still pending.

Impact: So far no food items have been distributed by the Federation/HRCNS team.

Constraints: The WFP has distributed a two-week food supply to a total of 9,500 people in the commune of Ennery and reported the intention to distribute a one-month ration to 3,000 people in Chansolme. The Federation Gonaïves coordinator will establish contacts with the WFP coordinator based in Cap Haitien with a view to coordinating distributions in these two communes and avoiding duplication of efforts.

Shelter:

Objective: 15,000 beneficiaries (3,000) families) will have benefited from the provision of shelter materials delivered through secure distribution centres.

No distributions have taken place due to the prevailing security situation.

Health

Objective 1: To rehabilitate Gonaïves' only referral hospital, La Providence, serving the primary and secondary health care needs of the population.

A fully-equipped 100-bed field hospital, jointly sponsored by the Canadian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, is in place in Gonaïves. 13 Norwegian and 11 Canadian medical and technical staff were deployed to set up 35 tents. A team of Cuban doctors, employees of La Providence Hospital, are working at the field hospital until La Providence is rehabilitated. The field hospital will then be dismantled and all medical equipment and activities transferred to La Providence Hospital.

Impact: The population of Gonaïves and the surrounding areas now have access to primary and secondary health care services. During its first three days in operation, the field hospital received 684 out-patients, while 12 persons were admitted for care. Team spirit at the hospital is reported to be high.

Constraints: Due to extreme weather conditions (more than 45 Celsius at midday); the work to construct the rub hall and tents had to take place in the early morning or late afternoon and evening. In spite of these difficulties, the hospital was set up in a record time, due to the hard work of each team member.

Although it was planned that the existing local staff of the destroyed referral hospital would be transferred to the field hospital, there is a serious shortage of local nurses. The field hospital administrator will meet with the head nurse of La Providence Hospital in order to find a swift solution.

Objective 2: To reduce the impact of water/vector born diseases (typhoid, malaria and diarrhoeal diseases) in the affected areas.

A rapid-impact health promotion campaign was drafted and 12 Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers from the St. Marc, Cap Haitien, Port de Paix and Gros Morne branches were trained in health issues related to water and sanitation, hygiene, basic nutrition and HIV/AIDS. The correct use of aqua tabs and water makers was also demonstrated to the participants. This training will allow volunteers to carry out basic health promotion sessions during distributions of relief items with the aim of delivering hygiene messages and convincing families of the importance of using the purification tablets and mosquito nets they receive.

Impact: The participants in the health promotion campaign, who are active and committed volunteers, will not only deliver basic health promotion messages to beneficiaries during distributions, but will also train other volunteers. A follow-up workshop is scheduled to take place shortly, at which time visual materials to be used in the campaign will be elaborated.

Constraints: Volunteers from Gonaïves were not able to participate in the training but will, hopefully, be able to participate in the upcoming workshop.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: To provide 450,000 litres of water in accordance with WHO water quality standards, affording 30,000 people (6,000 families) in Gonaïves with 15 litres per day.

The French Red Cross ERU team, specialized in mass water and sanitation, is now producing between 125,000 and 300,000 litres of potable water per day, and is distributing 100,000 to 150,000 litres at 11 distribution points each day. Up to 12 trucks are available for the distribution. Two complete production lines with storage capacities have been installed on a rented site and water is being drawn from a nearby river. As the ERU members will leave Haiti shortly, a handover to the Federation water and sanitation delegate and a team of Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers is being prepared.

Impact: The present amount of potable water being distributed to the affected population in Gonaïves is sufficient to provide 7,000 to 10,000 people with 15 litres of clean water per day.

Constraints: Although production capacity is up to 300,000 litres per day, more trucks are needed to distribute more water to a greater number of people.

Objective 2: To improve the transport and storage capacity at household level of clean water for 50,000 people (10,000 families)

In the commune of Ennery, 668 families have each received two collapsible 10-litre jerry cans.

Objective 3: To supply the Gonaïves field hospital and living compound with sufficient water that is in accordance with the WHO standards for quality water.

Prior to the arrival of the field hospital in Gonaïves, the Federation-deployed Spanish Red Cross specialized water and sanitation ERU had completely conditioned the site. In addition, the nearest well was cleaned in order to ensure that there was a water source close by the hospital as there is a permanent lack of trucks. During the reporting period, the ERU team installed the first water treatment line, consisting of a 30,000-litre collection tank, a water treatment plant, a 10,000-litre bladder container and 3 water hose distribution units. This equipment is helping to provide approximately 40,000 litres of high quality water. In addition, the ERU team, assisted by HNRCS volunteers, have constructed shower areas and installed pre-fabricated latrines.

Impact: High quality water, as well as showers and latrine facilities, have been ensured for the hospital and for the staff living quarters.

Constraints: The lack of diesel fuel in Gonaïves is an issue of concern. Thus far, the Federation logistics delegates have been able to solve this problem on an ad-hoc basis, and the team on the ground in Gonaïves is investigating alternative ways of securing the distribution of diesel fuel to the Federation's operation. Another constraint is the fact that the HRCNS has not been able to identify skilled volunteers to be trained in the maintenance of the water supply unit.

Objective 4: To provide materials and technical assistance in latrine reconstruction for 1,000 families living in areas where the risk of uncontrolled disease is high.

The Federation assessment identified the need to reconstruct latrines in order to avoid additional water contamination. There are, however, two major obstacles which have postponed the construction of latrines

- The water table is still very high. Digging the usual type of latrines is hence not an option for the time being and would only contribute to further contamination. Elevated latrines are very expensive and it has therefore been recommended this component of the appeal is put on hold until soil saturation decreases.
- The rehabilitation of latrines is perceived by the affected population as a secondary priority when compared with the urgent need to rebuild destroyed or damaged homes.

The health/hygiene informational campaign scheduled to accompany these activities has also been postponed until more urgent needs have been adequately addressed.

Strengthening of Response Capacity

Objective: To reinforce the HNRCS with its mandate to respond to catastrophes within a country with a fragile political context and during the hurricane season.

During this phase, the focus of the relief operation is on the immediate needs. Activities to strengthen the capacity of the HNRCS will be undertaken once the emergency relief phase of the operation has been completed and resources can be dedicated towards rehabilitation.

Federation Coordination

From the onset of the disaster, the Federation, the ICRC and Partner National Societies in Haiti have coordinated their support to the Haitian National Red Cross Society in order to agree on a framework for the operation and to avoid duplication of efforts. The ICRC is also being consulted daily in connection with the security situation. In addition, the Federation is ensuring close cooperation with UN agencies and other external partners in its effort to make the best use of available resources. In Port-au-Prince, the Federation is participating in the UN agencies' coordination meetings, which take place every two days. A summary of the revised appeal was prepared for the UN agencies, giving short and concise information, with a clear distinction between intended activities in Gonaïves itself and the seven outlying communes.

In the field, the Federation-deployed Spanish Red Cross specialized water and sanitation ERU is participating in coordination meetings with other water and sanitation actors, such as the French Red Cross, OXFAM, Action against Hunger (ACF) and CARE. In addition, the Federation's flood response office is moving from Port-au-Prince to Gonaïves, which will further facilitate coordination with other humanitarian actors.

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 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.

National Society Capacity Building

The International Federation expects to leave the affected communities and the National Society better organized and prepared for disasters. As a first step, the participation of branch volunteers in activities such as conducting census, distributing relief supplies, installing and maintaining water supplies and the training of trainers in health related issues has provided volunteers with additional skills and capacities to respond to disasters.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The provision of information influencing public opinion regarding the Red Cross is a key activity. A reporting and information delegate is in Haiti, and 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 website and a press release was issued on 5 October concerning the launch of the Federation's revised Emergency Appeal.

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

Haiti - Floods (hurricane Jeanne)

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 22/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/10/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					11,673,000	29.8%
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR		15,000	USD	18,967	28.09.04	
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	
JAPANESE - RC		111,400	USD	140,865	01.10.04	
OFDA/USAID		990,000	USD	1,200,000	23.09.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	167,500	27.09.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				6,552	29.09.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,872,783	CHF	16.0%

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, TARPULINS, HYGIENE KITS, STOVES, 5 DELEGATES, ERU LOGISTICS AND WATER DISTRIBUTION & TRUCKING

Haiti - Floods (hurricane Jeanne)

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 22/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/10/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				1,606,052	CHF	13.8%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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