

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Haiti: Hurricane Season 2008

Emergency appeal n° MDRHT005
GLIDE No. TC-2008-000147
5 September 2008

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 3,812,770 (USD 3,466,154 or EUR 2,360,848) in cash, kind, or services to support the Haitian National Red Cross Society to assist 10,000 families (50,000 beneficiaries) for 6 months.

CHF 300,000 (USD 272,727 or EUR 186,335) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.



This image shows the devastation caused by the rains brought by Gustav first and then Hanna in one of the affected neighbourhoods in Haiti. Source: International Federation.

Summary: On 26 August, hurricane Gustav hit Haiti with force, leaving thousands of people affected. Just as the **Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS)** was responding to this emergency, tropical storm Hanna surprised the country on 1 September, after it unexpectedly changed its course heading towards the northern coast of Haiti. This exacerbated the effects of Gustav and left more people affected. In addition to this, hurricane Ike and tropical storm Josephine will likely affect Haiti in the coming days. Based on this

situation, the National Society requested international support through an Emergency Appeal. This appeal will focus on providing an appropriate and timely response by delivering assistance and relief through the distribution of relief items, health, shelter, water and sanitation, logistics and early recovery, to lay the foundations for future risk reduction. A Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) has been mobilized for deployment to Haiti. In addition, Relief and Logistics Emergency Response Units (ERU) are being deployed and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) alert has been issued.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 6 months, and will therefore be completed by 5 March, 2008; a Final Report will be made available by 5 June 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#)
[here to link to a map of the affected area; or](#)
[here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Hurricane Gustav, the seventh named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, made landfall on the south-west peninsula of Haiti, approximately 10 miles west of Jacmel on 26 August, 2008. Airports, sea ports and public offices were closed. On the morning of 27 August, as Gustav left Haiti, thousands of people were left affected by the heavy winds and floods and many of them were evacuated to temporary shelters. The Haitian Civil Defence has been leading assessments in the affected areas. Access to information from the affected areas outside Port au Prince has been sporadic. Assessments have been delayed by logistical challenges. On 4 September, official government figures reported 79 deaths and 7 people missing and 35 injured; 6,790 people are in emergency shelters; 3,307 houses have been destroyed; and 11,827 houses have been damaged. Numbers are likely to rise as information finds its way back to officials.

On 3 September 2008 tropical storm Hanna continued to move erratically off the North coast of **Haiti**. A tropical storm warning is in effect for Haiti from the Northern border with the Dominican Republic to Port au Prince. The storm caused heavy rains affecting the departments of Nord, Nord West, and especially Artibonite. The Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH) organized an aerial assessment of Gonaïves, the capital city of Artibonite, and it reported flood water reached up to three meters on some locations.

A team constituted of a Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Disaster Management delegate, American Red Cross, a Water and Sanitation officer from the International Federation and a representative of the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) conducted an aerial survey of the area of the Gonaïves, affected by heavy flooding. It is estimated that over 20,000 houses have been flooded, in most areas of the city and to various degrees. Although the emergency search and rescue phase of the relief effort is now mostly over, the affected population is in dire need of water and food. The city is completely cut off from outside assistance as the main road leading from Port au Prince is under water and impassable. The local airport is in a similar situation and strong tidal surges make it impossible to access the area by sea. The damage is widespread and goes beyond the city. Large areas of farmland have been heavily flooded and the loss of crops will exacerbate the already precarious food security situation. The area north of Gonaïves towards Haiti's northern coast is also reported flooded, but weather conditions made it impossible to assess the situation.

An Interagency meeting chaired by OCHA took place on 3 September. Results of the Red Cross air evaluation were shared. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the nearby hospital of St.-Marc is being prepared for a wave of patients, while Medecins sans Frontieres Belgium (MSF) is flying in by helicopter to set up a field hospital to provide healthcare to 5,000 people for one month.

At the time of writing this preliminary emergency appeal, two other storms are heading to the area of the Great Antilles: hurricane Ike and tropical storm Josephine.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Movement has been coordinating efforts both internally and externally from the onset of the emergencies. The Deputy Head of Zone for the Americas and the Regional Representative for Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti were initially in Haiti supporting early damage and needs assessments after Gustav, undertaken by the HNRCS. A PADRU Disaster Management delegate arrived in Haiti on 28 August to provide coordination and technical support. Daily coordination meetings with the HNRCS, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies (PNS) from Canada, France, Spain and the United States, provided additional support to HNRCS assessments and operations. The Norwegian Red Cross has contacted the International Federation to offer its support based on the evolution of the emergency. It also facilitated the logistics of the Federation team in Haiti, by making their transport means and other services available. Additionally, French Red Cross (through a PIRAC delegate) arrived in Haiti to support the HNRCS, along with a German Red Cross representative.

The ICRC offered relief goods from its warehouses to cover the needs of up to 3,000 families. The International Federation has participated in interagency meetings in-country and at the regional level hosted by OCHA to share information. Local authorities are coordinating activities with the HNRCS local branches and have activated coordinating committees. Clusters have not been activated but sector leads have been assigned.

A FACT consisting of members from Partner National Societies of Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, United States and Switzerland has been mobilized for deployment to Haiti. The Team Leader arrived in Haiti on 3 September. Relief and Logistics ERUs are being deployed and a RIT alert has been issued.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The **Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS)** has held meetings with the local branches and other actors present in the field, and has mobilized its National Intervention Team (NIT) members to the affected areas. Early warning actions by HNRCS volunteers saved lives as they alerted the communities on the need to move to safer ground as water levels rose. The HNRCS is still performing assessments in hard to reach areas. Volunteers have been working since the onset of the emergencies, assisting in shelters and providing first aid care. The HNRCS has dispatched 500 family kits to Jacmel (Sud-Est) and 300 family kits to Les Cayes (Sud) while assessments are being carried out. These are being distributed according to the results of the assessments.

While relief operations were still on-going due to Gustav, tropical storm Hanna surprised northern Haiti on 3 September, with heavy winds and rain. The local HNRCS branches began search and rescue activities in coordination with the Civil Defence and mobilizing volunteers. On 2 September, a Red Cross assessment mission team attempted to fly over to gather information from the affected areas, but was not able due to the weather conditions. On 3 September, the team was able to fly over the affected area confirming the severe situation affecting the city of Gonaives. The Haitian National Red Cross Society has mobilized the remaining 200 family kits from its warehouse in Diquini and will go as close as possible to the affected areas. It has distributed 5,000 meals provided by the government to the people in the outer areas of Gonaives. It has at its disposal six rafts and two dinghies to try and reach people beyond the water line.

The FACT team is arriving in country, and setting up the structure necessary for further assessments and operations.

The International Federation including PADRU, the ICRC and the PNS present in the country (Canadian, Dutch, French, Spanish and United States; and Germany, Finland, Norway and Switzerland through the deployed FACT) have been coordinating actions since the onset of the emergencies, making their resources available as needed.

A PADRU flight with emergency kits for 1,000 families will be sent in from Panama on 5 September, along with a PADRU logistics delegate. A ship with another 1,000 kits will be arriving shortly. In addition, a plane with family kits has been flown in by the Spanish Cooperation Agency. A Spanish Red Cross Water and Sanitation team will go to the Sud Department to evaluate the situation. The Dominican Red Cross has offered support to the HNRCS in the form of helicopters and mobilization of water treatment plants and teams.

The needs

Immediate needs: The floods have swept away the homes, crops, cattle and household belongings of hundreds of thousands of people in the north-western region of Haiti and damaged one hospital and other infrastructure. There is an urgent need for drinking water, food, basic relief items and medical assistance, as well as for shelter material.

Longer-term needs: The longer term needs identified are rehabilitation of livelihoods and permanent housing. It is also important to promote disaster risk reduction activities in affected communities, which will contribute to building community safety and resilience for the future, as well as the integration of risk management with a focus on climate change.

The proposed operation

The operation will consist of support to the National Society in the delivery of immediate assistance in the sectors of emergency relief (non-food items), shelter, emergency health, water and sanitation, logistics, IT & telecoms. The National Society activities on Restoring Family Links (RFL) will be supported, with technical support of ICRC. Further, guidance will be provided to The National Society in the establishment of longer-term disaster risk reduction actions.

Assessments are still being undertaken, and more detailed information will become available shortly. Based on this, objectives may be included or expanded, as relevant to the operation. More specifically, objectives concerning Emergency Health and Water and Sanitation will be added.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: 10,000 families (50,000 people) affected by the floods will have benefited from the distribution of non-food items in order to help them recover from the floods.

Expected results	Activities planned
Approximately 50,000 people see their basic needs met by receiving essential non-food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERU relief deployment. • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Develop an exit strategy.

10,000 families will receive the following relief items:

- Hygiene kits (1 per family).
- Kitchen kits (1 per family).
- Mosquito nets (2 per family).
- Blankets (2 per family).
- Jerry cans (2 per family).
- Buckets (1 per family).
- Cleaning kits (1 per family for 5,000 families).
- Tarpaulins (1 per family for 5,000 families).

Shelter

Objective: To provide adequate shelter for 3,000 families by repairing partially damaged roof tops or providing temporary shelter.

Expected results	Activities planned
3,000 families have adequate shelter which assists them in returning to their daily lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop community and beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with local authorities. • Procurement of materials to complete the shelter kit for repairing of damaged houses and setting up of temporary shelters.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • One Trainer of Trainers workshop for HNRC staff and volunteers and workshops to be organised in the areas of shelter kit distribution. • Supervision of the repairing of damaged houses by National Society staff and volunteers trained in shelter construction reporting on shelter kit distributions.
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3,000 shelter kits will be distributed to 3,000 families. The shelter kit contains the following items:

Specifications	Quantity per kit	Units
Tarpaulins	2	Pc
Rope	1	Roll
Hand saw	1	Pc
Roofing nails	0.5	Kg
Shovel	1	Pc
Hoe	1	Pc
Machete	1	Pc
Tin Snips	1	Pc
Nails	0.5	Kg
Tie wire	1	Roll
Claw hammer	1	Pc
Woven sack	1	Pc

Public Health in Emergencies and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

Because of the nature of these emergencies and the characteristics of the country, *Public Health in Emergencies and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion* will be addressed through this appeal. There is insufficient information at this time to formulate adequate and clear actions, but as assessment information becomes available from the affected areas, needs in these sectors will be adequately identified and addressed.

Early Recovery

Early recovery needs will be assessed, planned and implemented together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.

An Early Recovery Specialist has been deployed with the FACT team to initiate the detailed assessment process and to identify opportunities for early recovery interventions targeting the restoration of livelihoods and permanent shelter. Options including small unconditional cash grants and cash-for-work for debris clearing will be considered following a rapid market survey.

Logistics

Since the hurricane season is just beginning and because of the country characteristics and current needs, an ERU logistics team has been requested.

A coordinator from the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) and the ERU logistics (4 team members) have the primary tasks of providing additional logistics capacity on the ground with an aim to:

- Assess logistics infrastructure, set-up efficient logistics unit and identify best supply chain to support the operation.
- Carry out reception of air and sea relief goods and arrange transportation to distributions points.
- Liaise and coordinate with other key actors to ensure best uses of all information.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. The communications activities outlined in this appeal are aimed at supporting the National Society to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. An information officer has been deployed in Haiti to assist and set up media interviews and to increase visibility of the Red Cross and Red Crescent action in the field. A detailed communications plan of action is forthcoming.

Capacity of the National Society

During the pre-hurricane meeting that took place in Panama from 3 to 6 June 2008, National Societies from countries prone to hurricanes in the Americas participated actively in the revision of a contingency plan for the region (which had been elaborated during the 2007 pre-hurricane meeting). The development of the regional contingency plan helped explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice. The HNRCS is part of the National Risk and Disaster Management Office.

In general, the Haitian National Red Cross Society has broad experience in disaster response, particularly as a result of the lessons learnt from operations with hurricane Dean in 2007 and Noel in 2007. This operation will contribute to strengthening the skills of staff and volunteers (headquarters and branches) in the International Federation's emergency response mechanisms. The well-prepared National Society (WPNS) process was recently completed in Haiti. It was attended by representatives from HNRCS headquarters and thirteen regional branches, as well as representatives from Participating National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation as observers and actors involved in advancing the process. This enabled the National Society to reflect on existing capacities and identify gap areas in disaster management.

Capacity of the Federation

PADRU, in coordination with the Zone Office in the Americas is providing support to the affected National Society in the response needs such as organizing the provision of initial relief items, development of Plans of Action, logistics and human resources as needed.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

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

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of PADRU, phone (507) 316 1001; Fax (507) 316 1082; email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Dario Alvarez, Disaster Management Delegate, PADRU, phone (507) 316 1001; Fax (507) 316 1082; email: Dario.alvarez@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Mauricio Bustamante, Head Regional Logistic Unit, phone (507) 316 1001; Fax (507) 316 1082; email: Mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org
- In Dominican Republic: Rafael Olaya, Regional Representative for Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti; e-mail: Rafael.olaya@ifrc.org
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@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

[<Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Haiti Hurricane Season

MDR4900X

ORIGINAL**RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	303,000
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	490,000
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	100,000
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	830,000
Other Supplies & Services	350,000

Total Relief Needs **2,073,000** 54%**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	14,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	60,000

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	435,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	63,240
Service fee & recovery	150,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	435,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	161,700
National Staff	50,000
National Society Staff	
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	40,000
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	35,000
Information & Public Relations	20,000
Office running costs	6,000
Communication Costs	12,000
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	10,000
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	247,830
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Total Operational Needs **1,739,770** 46%**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)** **3,812,770****Available Resources****Net Request** **3,812,770**



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