

DREF Bulletin 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

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this update: 14 April to 23 May, 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- **CHF 200,000 (USD 164,474 or EUR 123,457) was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 12 April 2007, to respond to the needs of this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.**
- **This operation is expected to be implemented for 4 months, and will be completed by 12 August 2007; a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12 November 2007).**

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.**

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

Since 17 March 2007 prolonged heavy rainfall and isolated storms over Hispaniola caused severe flooding in Haiti, affecting more than 3,000 families. The most affected have been the provinces of Nord-Est, Ouest, Grande-Anse, Nord-Ouest and Nord. Some of these areas (Grande Anse, Nippes, Ouest and Nord-Ouest) had already been affected by the floods last December, which put them at a higher risk during these new events.

According to the reports from the Civil Protection Directorate (Direction de la Protection Civile – DPC), heavy rains left 12 casualties, two people missing, 14 wounded, 270 houses destroyed and another 1,215 houses severely damaged. Out of the estimated 3,000 affected families, at least 261 families were displaced to temporary shelters.

The Haitian Government allocated 9 million Gourdes (approx. USD 237,000) to an Emergency Fund for the Provincial authorities in order to carry out relief operations within the affected areas. The DPC also allocated 250,000 Gourdes (approx. USD 6,600) to carry out relief actions.

Road access was limited in several departments. In Abricots (Grande-Anse Department), the only access available was by boat, since the road infrastructure was completely inaccessible. Road access infrastructure was also limited in the departments of Nippes and Nord-Est. Due to the work of the Ministry of Transportation on the rehabilitation of the road infrastructure in the affected areas all roads are now accessible.

Despite the continuous rainfall during April (mostly in the south of the country according to information reported several days ago), no major floods were reported and the situation remained stable. The affected families returned to their homes since the water levels in the affected areas decreased.

Red Cross action

The Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) supported the activities carried out by the government, such as search and rescue, needs assessments and first aid care. The Headquarters' Disaster Management Department and the Federation's Country Delegation in Haiti are closely monitoring the operation through regular visits to the local and regional branches involved in the response efforts and by coordinating with the DPC and other governmental and non-governmental institutions in the field.

The HNRCS received support from the International Federation in order to carry out the emergency operation according to the Plan of Action. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is providing technical and logistic support to the HNRCS and the Country Delegation and has deployed a Disaster Management delegate to the affected area.

Emergency relief (non-food)

Objective 1: 1,100 affected families (5,500 persons) in the departments of Grand'Anse, Nord-Est, Ouest, Nord-Ouest and Nord will benefit from the distribution of non-food items which help them to recover from the effects of the floods.

During the past month, relief distribution activities have been completed in four of the five affected areas, thereby providing relief items to 970 affected families (approximately 4,850 persons).

In Warf Jeremy, the HNRCS faced constraints in identifying a suitable distribution point due to security matters in the area. Nevertheless, distributions of relief items were carried out in the third week of May with support of the Haitian National Red Cross headquarters personnel.

Further relief actions in the Nord Province are under evaluation due to the constraints in identifying suitable warehousing for the relief items. Consequently, beneficiary registration has not yet been completed.

Table 1 - Relief distribution

Area	Beneficiaries (Families)	Relief Distributions	In process
Grande Anse	200	3 rd week of May: - Bonbon (80 families) - Abricots (80 families) - Jeremie (10 families)	Abricots (30 families)
Nord-Ouest	100	2 nd week of May : - Port-De Paix (51 families) - St. Louis Du Nord (20 families) - Anse a Foleur (29 families)	-
Nord-Est	200	2 nd week of May: - Fort Liberté (55 families) - Ouanaminthe (65 families) - Ferrier (80 families)	-
Ouest	500	2 nd week of May: - Cabaret (250 families) 3 rd week of May: - Warf Jeremy (250 families)	-
Nord	100		Under evaluation (100 families)
TOTAL	1,100	970	130

Based on the Damage Assessment and Need Analysis (DANA), the HNRCS decided to distribute the following non-food items to each of the 1,100 families:

Table 2 - Items Distributed

Items	Quantity	Unit	Observations
Blankets	2,200	pc	2 pc. per family
Mosquito Nets	2,200	pc	2 pc. per family
Jerry Can (1 gallon)	1,100	pc	1 pc. per family
Potable water tablets	1,100	Box (50 pc)	1 box per family
Family Kit	1,100	kits	1 kit per family

Contents of the kitchen kits for one family of five people:

Product	Items
Spoon	5
Fork	5
Knife	5
Plates	5

Pot	1
Kitchen knife	1
Bucket	1
Soap (body wash)	3
Laundry soap	3
Powder soap (cleaning)	3

The composition of the families has been taken into consideration during the distribution activities, and the composition of the family kit has been adapted to the number of family members. A family with two members received less kitchen items while families with six or seven members received enough of the kitchen items for all its members. The distribution of separate kitchen and hygiene items made it possible to provide humanitarian aid adapted to the existing needs.



The Haitian National Red Cross Society distributing relief items to the affected communities.
Sources: photo 1: International Federation, photo 2: Haitian National Red Cross Society.

Objective 2: The HNRCS maintains its existing relief stock in the warehouses through the replenishment of relief supplies used in this operation.

Haiti is very vulnerable in terms of impact and number of disasters to which the region is prone. Floods, landslides and hurricanes are threatening and affecting Haiti during almost the entire year. In order to provide timely and effective emergency response, it is very important to maintain the current level of relief supplies stocks. The HNRCS owns three warehouses with an existing capacity to deliver relief goods to more than 2,000 families when the need should arise. In order to maintain this pre-positioned stock, humanitarian relief supplies for 1,100 families need to be replenished with the following items:

Table 3 - Haitian NRCS Stock replenishment plan

Item	Units	Observations
Blankets	2,200	RLU procurement
Hygiene Material*	1,100	Local procurement
Kitchen Sets	1,100	RLU procurement
Jerry Can (10 l. / collapsible)	2,200	
Mosquito Nets	2,200	Local procurement
Water purification tablets	2,200	

*Hygiene material: 3 types of soap and Clorox for cleaning purposes

In order to replace the relief items distributed during this operation, purchasing processes have started following Federation standard procedures. Some of the supplies will be procured locally while others will be procured through the Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in PADRU.

Due to support of the RLU at PADRU and Federation staff based in the Haiti Country Delegation there has not been a direct need so far to deploy a RIT specialized in logistic for the procurement process. However, further specialized logistic support could be required by the HNRCS for capacity building on the subject and warehouse management.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: Affected communities benefit from raised awareness in environmental health and sanitation topics as a result of talks given by Red Cross volunteers during the operation.

According to the Plan of Action the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) carried out the following actions:

Some volunteers of the HNRCS local branches in Nord-Ouest and Grande Anse have been trained by the Federation during the previous emergency operation since December 2006 in order to carry out awareness raising activities on health and sanitation topics within the affected communities.

Due to the fact that the population of Nord-Ouest and Grande Anse has been affected again during the recent flooding, the trained volunteers from the local branch in Nord-Ouest carried out additional health and sanitation activities within this operation. The trained volunteers from the local branch of Grande Anse have prepared a plan of action in order to commence with new health and sanitation activities within a week from now.

Other HNRCS local branches that were not involved in the previous emergency operation, based in Nord, Nord-Est and Ouest, are also planning to carry out a health and sanitation training for a selected group of Red Cross volunteers within next week. These volunteers will then disseminate this knowledge within the affected communities.

Educational materials about health and sanitation topics (brochures, posters, etc) that will be distributed amongst beneficiaries to support and enhance the awareness raising activities are being developed by the HNRCS and will be produced within the next days.

Capacity of the National Society

The Haitian National Red Cross Society has eight National Intervention Team (NIT) members trained in Evacuation, Search and Rescue, First Aid actions, Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA), emergency logistics, and humanitarian relief. In addition, 200 trained "Relais Communautaires" (community volunteers trained by the National Society) worked during six months on the implementation of a disaster preparedness programme (*Kouri di Vwazin 'W*), which mainly focused on raising community awareness and disaster preparedness within the vulnerable populations.

The Haitian National Red Cross Society has a Disaster Management Department and an Emergency Operations Centre, fully equipped to coordinate emergency activities and operations in the field.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation has a Country Delegation in Haiti with a Head of Delegation and a Disaster Management delegate. This structure will be maintained until June 2007. After this date, the Federation will be present in Haiti through a Federation representative. A number of Partner National Societies (PNS) are also based in Haiti and are closely working with the Federation, in order to ensure harmonization of approaches and methodologies in the different programme areas.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has deployed one Disaster Management delegate to provide technical support to the operation. The Panama Regional Delegation is also available to provide support as required.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

An initial bulletin alerting of this situation was posted on the Federation's Disaster Monitoring and Information System (DMIS) on 31 March 2007, followed by an update. In addition, an Information Bulletin was issued on 4 April and posted on the Federation website (www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts07/HAIB01_2007.pdf), leading up to the launch of this DREF operation on 13 April (www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts07/MDRHT003.pdf).

The Federation will support the HNRCS in communication activities through the preparation of a video which demonstrates all the Disaster Management and relief activities during an operation.

In order to increase visibility, official Red Cross t-shirts and other items (banners and flags) with Red Cross logo have been disseminated amongst the Red Cross volunteers and used during distribution activities. More visibility material will be procured in order to increase the visibility of the Red Cross during the coming activities.

Coordination

The HNRCS and the Federation's Country Delegation in Haiti have been participating in several inter-agency meetings with the United Nations agencies (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti - MINUSTAH, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Actions - OCHA) and other international organizations present in the country.

To avoid the duplication of efforts, it has been decided that organizations will cover different sectors of intervention.

The HNRCS and the Federation are maintaining close contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which as the lead agency is responsible for security issues.

Since the onset of the disaster, the Haiti Country Delegation has been in communication with the Federation's PADRU and has received support in the definition of the intervention. Furthermore, the HNRCS and its local branches also closely coordinate humanitarian activities with other local non-governmental organizations and local authorities present in the affected areas.

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