



## FLOODS: HEAVY RAINS AND TROPICAL STORM NOEL

**DREF Bulletin**  
**no. MDRHT004**  
**Glide No.**  
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**30 October 2007**

*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

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 150,000 (USD 128,096 or EUR 90,361) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 29 January 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 29 April 2008). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[Click here to go to the attached map of the affected areas](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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>

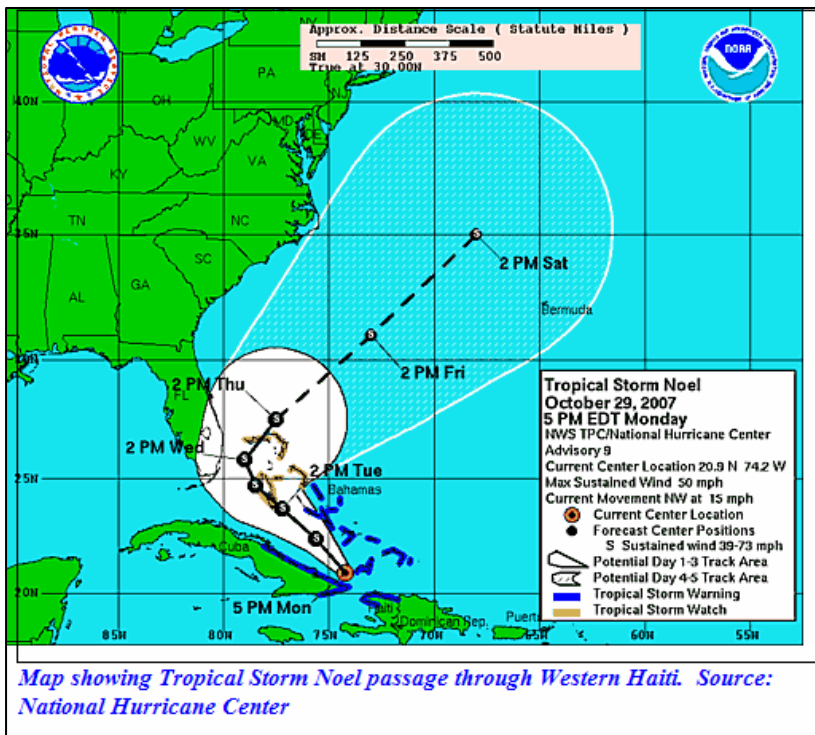
**Background and current situation**

Since late September/early October 2007, prolonged heavy rains and floods have affected most regions in Haiti. The regions of Grande Anse, Les Nippes, Sud, Sud-Est and Ouest were in yellow alert due to imminent risk of landslides and flooding. These floods in October have caused a total of 37 deaths and approximately 14,500 families have been affected mostly in Sud, Ouest, Artibonite and Nord-Est provinces. The main road between Gonaives and Port de Paix (Nord-Ouest) was blocked by landslides.

During the weekend of 27 October tropical depression #16 was upgraded to Tropical Storm Noel. At 8 a.m. on 29 October, the center of Tropical Storm Noel was estimated west of Port Au Prince in Haiti. Noel was moving toward the North-Northwest near six to nine miles per hour and this motion was expected to continue. The storm produced winds of 60 mph. The center of Noel became disrupted by the high terrain of the island, but was expected to move over or near the western coast of Haiti during 29 October. A red alert was activated in Sud-Est, Sud, Grand Anse, Nippes, Ouest, Centre and Artibonite. An orange alert has been declared for Nord-Est, Nord and Nord-Ouest departments. It is predicted that many of the provinces affected by the floods that have taken place in October will be affected again by Noel.



*Two days of heavy rains in Cabaret, Haiti on October 12, 2007. Source: Reuters*



*Map showing Tropical Storm Noel passage through Western Haiti. Source: National Hurricane Center*

Noel is producing rainfall accumulations of 10 to 20 inches in Hispaniola, which is expected to cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides. At the time of writing, reports of heavy rain and flooding were starting to come in from the north and central areas of the country, including the border with the Dominican Republic, which is also being affected.

**Red Cross action**

During the floods caused by heavy rains in October, the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) participated in pre-alert activities together with the Civil Protection Agency performing evacuation activities and distributing food items to temporary shelters. Damage and needs assessments were carried out and identified the immediate needs for relief operations. To date, there have been 100 families in Sud province (Les Cayes) and 150 families in

Ouest province (Cabaret) who have been benefited with relief items. In Cabaret, HNRCS in coordination with the DPC (Civil Protection) have enabled a shelter camp for 240 evacuated people due to the floods. These same areas are now being affected by the heavy rains associated with Noel. Contacts have been made with other NGO's who provide support in water and sanitation, food and health.

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The HNRCS has developed a Plan of Action that will provide 3,800 families with basic non-food items in Cabaret, Tabarre, Zoranger, Gonaives, Grande Saline, Saint Suzanne, Ouanaminthe, Baie de Henne, Jean Rabel, Anse à Pitres and les Cayes.



*Distribution activities held in Cabaret, Haiti on 25 October. Source: International Federation*

On 27 October HNRCS local branches in the Southern peninsula activated their volunteers and their high frequency radio network. Assessment reports are being communicated to the HNRCS headquarters through this means. The HNRCS is currently responding to the Hurricane Dean operation with support from the Federation through the same appeal. Distribution of relief supplies are being finalized in Sud (Les Cayes) and Ouest (Cabaret).

Through recent and previous operations, the Pan American Disaster Relief Unit (PADRU) in coordination with the HNRCS has been able to pre-position relief supplies for 900 families in Haiti. Another container from PADRU is underway, with supplies for another 550 families so that supplies for 1,450 families are pre-positioned.

At the time of writing four International Federation staff members were present in Haiti: the Head of PADRU, the Deputy Head of the Americas Zone, one Disaster Management delegate from PADRU and one Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the American Red Cross. PADRU is coordinating contingency plans jointly with the HNRCS and Partner National Societies (PNS) such as France, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United States.

### The proposed operation

**This DREF seeks to strengthen the Haitian National Red Cross Society by immediately replenishing stocks with non-food relief items and provide mobilization of relief items within Haiti to the affected areas.**

The HNRCS will be utilizing their pre-positioned stock to distribute relief items in areas recently affected by rains and floods caused by Tropical Storm Noel and by preceding heavy rains. Therefore, this operation will focus on replenishing relief items. It is a necessity and of utmost importance for the HNRCS to maintain pre-positioned stocks in order to be prepared for future relief operations. Pre-positioning relief items enables an adequate and rapid response when disaster strikes.

#### Objectives and activities planned

##### Replenishment of relief items

**Objective 1: HNRCS stocks will be replenished with relief items to benefit 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries):**

Relief Item	Quantity per family
Blankets	2
Hygiene kits	1
Kitchen kits	1
Buckets	2

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Jerry cans	1
Mosquito nets	2

The content of the kits are based on the SPHERE project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for disaster relief:

No.	Hygiene kit (for 5 persons for 1 month)	Quantities
1	Washing powder, 1 kg, for washing machine, for clothing	3
2	Toilet, paper, hygienic, roll	12
3	Soap, body soap, 100g, piece	5
4	Toothpaste, tube 75 ml	5
5	Tooth brush, medium	5
6	Shampoo, 250 ml	2
7	Razor, disposable	5
8	Sanitary napkins, normal	8

No.	Kitchen kit (for 1 family of 5 persons)	Quantities
1	Bowl for food	5
2	Fork, table, stainless steel	5
3	Frying pan, 2.5L	1
4	Knife, kitchen, stainless steel blade	1
5	Knife, table knife, stainless steel	5
6	Spoon, wooden, stirring, 30cm	1
7	Spoon, soup, stainless steel, 15 ml	5
8	Cooking pot, 5L, alum. diam 20 cm	1
9	Cooking pot, 7L, alum. diam 24 cm, with handles	1
10	Cup, stainless steel, with handle, 300ml	5
11	Plate, deep, aluminium, diam. 22 cm	5

**Activities planned to reach this objective include:**

- Procurement and transportation of relief items to HNRCS main warehouse.
- Customs clearance and storage.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

**Communications and coordination**

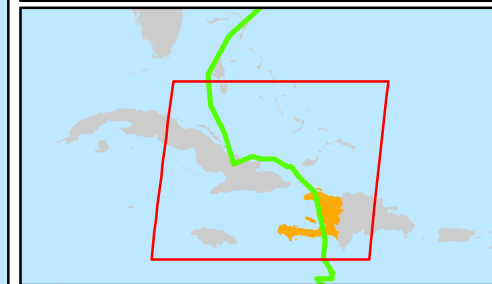
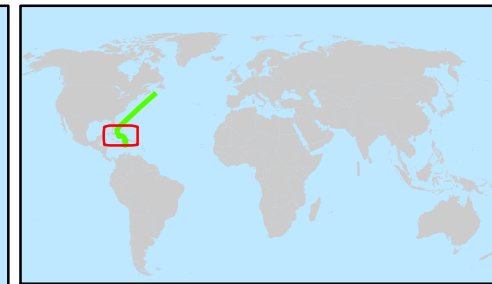
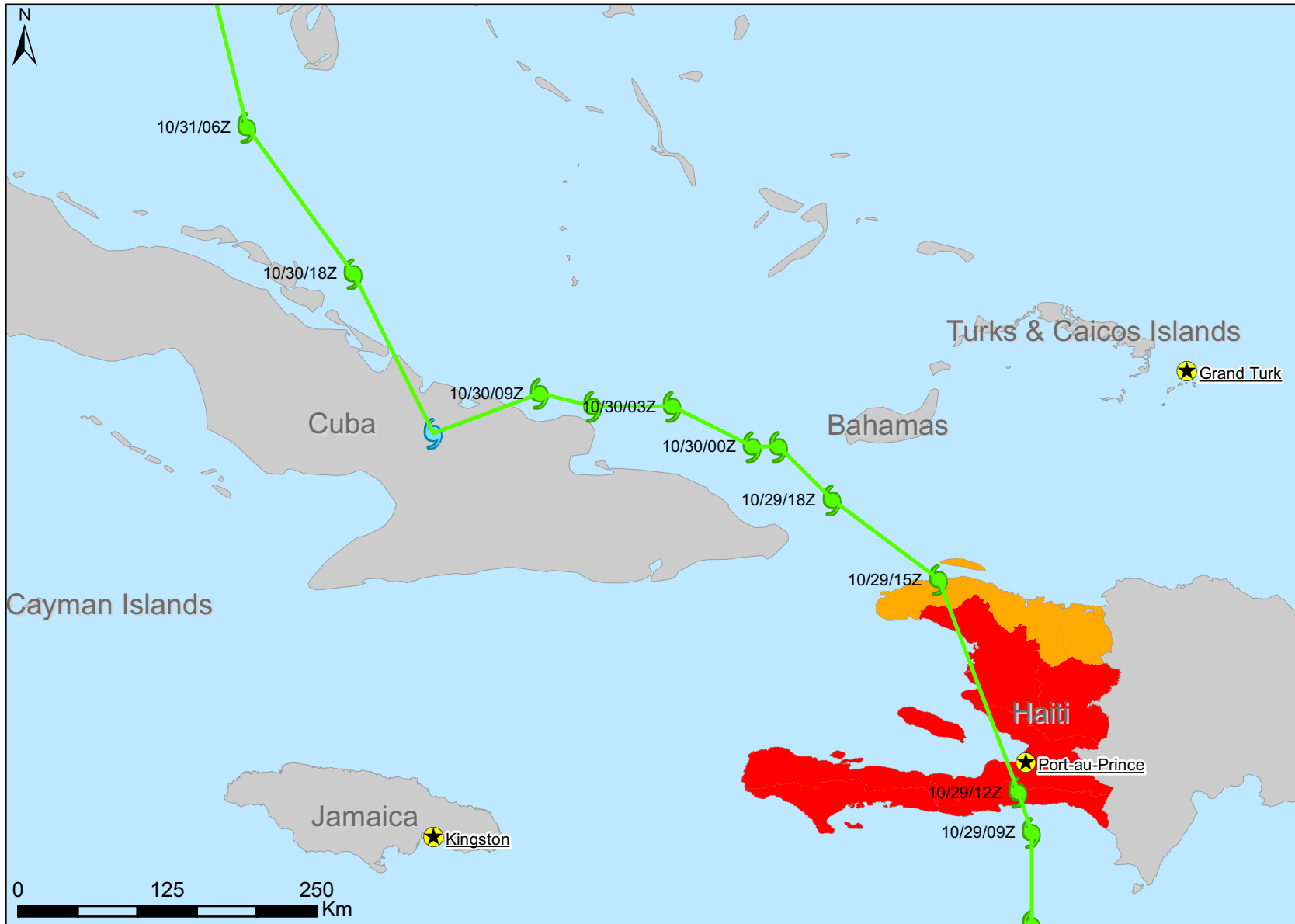
Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. There has been close coordination and support to the Haitian National Red Cross Society to increase the visibility of their actions with regards to the communication through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), the Regional Representation Offices and the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. Furthermore, the communication activities targets five main target audiences: the media, the Red Cross Movement, beneficiaries, local authorities and donors.

Two reports have been issued through the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global Federation website: [https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/prepare/view\\_report.asp?ReportID=3349](https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/prepare/view_report.asp?ReportID=3349). PADRU will coordinate deployment of a Regional Intervention Teams (RIT's) or additional personnel if needed.

**[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)**



# Haiti: Cyclone Noel



- ★ Capitals
- Track of Noel
- ☯ HURRICANE-1
- ☪ TROPICAL STORM
- ☪ TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- Orange alert
- Red alert

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation, UNISYS as of 30/10/2007 at 10:00 UTC