

DREF operation update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Haiti: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRHT006
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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 25 September to 22 October 2009

Summary: CHF 50,118 (USD 48,826 or EUR 33,159) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRC) in providing water and essential relief items to 800 people affected by the floods in the communities of Williamson and Carries in the department of l'Ouest. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

On 18 September several communities in Haiti were severely affected by heavy rain and mudslides. This DREF operation is focused on providing support to the Haitian National Red Cross Society in order to provide relief assistance to the most affected people.

The last pending activity is the completion of the water distribution for the targeted families, which is ongoing. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. This Operation Update covers activities up to 22 October 2009.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 22,675 (EUR 15,000) and the European Commission's Office for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) contributed CHF 27,210 (EUR 18,000) to the DREF fund in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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Distribution of vouchers in the community.
Source: International Federation

The situation

On 18 September 2009, the community of Williamson in the department of l'Ouest experienced flash flooding due to heavy rains. In total, 65 families were affected by the floods (296 persons). Although the houses were not completely destroyed, the floods severely damaged crops and fencing around properties.

Water sources and systems which had been destroyed in this community after the passage of hurricanes in 2008 were contaminated. Additionally, the affected families lost their valuables and personal effects.

In the nearby community of Carries (l'Ouest department) heavy rainfall during the second week of September affected 23 families (102 persons). The community of Carries was hit by mudslides, due to the heavy rain, killing one resident and injuring six others. The mudslides destroyed 11 houses and severely damaged 12 others. Safe drinking water is no longer available to these families as their wells were also contaminated. Health problems have been reported by the health authorities in this community as a result of these events. These 23 families sought refuge in collective centres (church and school). This community still remains vulnerable following the hurricanes that struck Haiti in 2008.

Coordination and partnerships

Officials from the HNRCS regional branch with the participation of a manager from the headquarters, and representatives from the Civil Protection (Direction de la Protection Civile) and the National Directorate for Potable Water and Sanitation (Direction Nationale de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement - DINEPA) conducted an initial assessment in both affected communities

The HNRCS in coordination with the French Red Cross conducted assessments of the water systems in both affected communities and consulted with local authorities regarding the status of water distribution networks in Williamson and Carries. The French Red Cross has provided support to HNRCS volunteers for water distribution in the communities.

Moreover, the HNRCS arranged the distribution of water to Carries using a 3,000-gallon cistern truck.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted an initial needs assessment in one area and has distributed) family kits to 23 families in Carries. In addition, the Civil Protection in Carries provided families living in temporary shelters with mattresses.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From the onset of the emergency volunteers from the HNRCS local branches conducted needs assessments in both communities and the HNRCS planned water distribution to address immediate needs.

The International Federation maintains a sub-delegation in Haiti as part of the response operation to the Hurricane season 2008. The sub-delegation consists of 4 delegates and 12 staff. There are currently five Partner National Societies (PNS) in-country implementing bilateral programmes with the HNRCS: the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the German Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

The International Federation, through its Pan-American Disaster Response Unit in Panama and the Regional Representation for the Latin Caribbean in Santo Domingo, has been in constant communication with the HNRCS. Additionally, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Canadian Red Cross is in country and has provided assistance to the HNRCS in carrying out the preliminary assessments and implementing the plan of action.

Progress towards objectives

The overall objective of the operation is to provide safe drinking water and relief assistance to the families affected by the recent heavy rainfall causing flash floods and mudslides in the communities of Carries and Williamson.

Additionally, activities within the objectives include actions to reinforce the response capacity of the HNRCS which include: damage and needs assessments, registration of beneficiaries, distribution of relief items and water and monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 800 people in the communities of Williamson and Carries will receive essential non food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Activities planned:

- Conduct emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop a 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.

The Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Panama shipped by sea the family emergency kits. Each family emergency kit consists of:

- 1 hygiene kit (washing powder, toilet paper, body soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, razor, hygienic pads).
- 1 kitchen kit (frying pan, knives, plates, glasses, forks)
- 1 bucket,
- 2 jerry cans,
- 2 blankets,
- 2 mosquito nets per family.

In addition, the HNRCS has distributed cleaning kits, which contain the following items: 1 wheelbarrow, 2 shovels, 1 pick axe, and 1 pitchfork. These kits have been locally procured following National Society procedures, ensuring transparency in the process. The Canadian Red Cross RIT member and the French Red Cross provided supervision of the provision of water and distribution of kits during the initial period.

Progress:

On 19 September, HNRCS volunteers and staff conducted an initial needs assessment of Carries and Williamson and identified beneficiaries in both communities.

On 25 September, a team composed of the presidents of the regional committee, representatives of the affected communities, and of the French Red Cross and of the International Federation identified and selected suitable distribution sites in both communities. They also consolidated beneficiary lists from the various assessments conducted by the HNRCS, the local authorities and NGOs in the area. The distribution of vouchers to most vulnerable families was completed on 27 September. Ten HNRCS volunteers took part in the distribution of relief items to affected families on 28 September in the community of Carries and on 29 September in the community of Williamson.

A total of **163 families (815 people)** from the two affected communities received emergency family kits: 45 families (225 people) in Carries and 118 families (590 people) in Williamson). These family kits were supplied by the French Red Cross which had pre-positioned stock in the vicinity of the affected communities. The French Red Cross family kits consist of 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen set, 2 mosquito nets, 2 blankets, 2 jerry cans and 1 bucket. As a result, the family kits shipped by the Regional Logistics Unit will replenish the French Red Cross stocks in Haiti. .

Additionally, the HNRCS distributed the following **food items** to all **163 families (815 people)**:

Rice (25 kg bag per family)
Dried beans (1 bucket per family)
Cooking oil (1 L per family)

Moreover, **33 families (165 people)** from the Carries community received **cleaning kits**.

Selection of beneficiaries for the cleaning kits was done according to the following criteria:

1. Must be a resident of Carries who was affected by the mudslide.
2. House must not be completely destroyed so that clean-up allows the house to be rehabilitated.



Distribution of family kits, cleaning kits and food items in the community. Source: International Federation

Water and sanitation

Objective: The HNRCS will financially assist the affected families receiving water from cistern trucks by compensating for the water fee for up to 30 days

Activities planned:

- Distribution of water to the affected families
- Monitor and evaluate the distribution activities

Progress towards objectives:

On 27 September, 118 families in Williamson and 45 families in Carries were provided with vouchers to receive their daily water allowances. SPHERE standards were used to determine water quantities required.

A contract was signed between the HNRCS and a local water supplier for daily distribution of safe drinking water using three cistern trucks as of 2 October in both communities.

Support in the preparation of the water distribution was provided to the HNRCS volunteers by a coordinator trained in water and sanitation from the French Red Cross. By 18 October, 189,961 litres of water had been distributed to the affected population in both communities. HNRCS volunteers from the neighbouring communities of Arcahaie and St. Marc participated in the water distribution.

Monitoring of the water distribution and adjustments to the actual demand are made as required, in consultation with the operations coordinator in the field.



Distribution of water in the community Source: International Federation

The following table shows the quantity of litres of water distributed per community, and number of families who received water per day:

Date	Site							
	Carries				Williamson			
	Qty (L) distr.	Qty (L) trucks	No families	average. (L)	Qty (L) distr.	Qty (L) trucks	No families	average. (L)
02/10/09	1 388	3 400	17	81,65	3 628	10 000	84	43,19
03/10/09	3 300	3 400	45	73,33	6 316	10 000	109	57,94
04/10/09	3 141	3 400	45	69,80	9 386	10 000	110	85,33
05/10/09	3 149	3 400	40	78,73	4 137	5 000	57	72,58
06/10/09	3 360	3 400	43	78,14	5 780	7 500	59	97,97
07/10/09	3 360	3 400	45	74,67	6 864	10 000	104	66,00
08/10/09	3 372	3 400	45	74,93	9 280	10 000	116	80,00
09/10/09	3 360	3 400	45	74,67	9 184	10 000	108	85,04
10/10/09	3 072	3 400	45	68,27	8 724	10 000	113	77,20
11/10/09	3 380	3 400	45	75,11	8 756	10 000	110	79,60
12/10/09	3 304	3 400	44	75,09	9 656	10 000	118	81,83
13/10/09	3 376	3 400	45	75,02	9 224	10 000	113	81,63
14/10/09	3 352	3 400	45	74,49	8 800	10 000	118	74,58
15/10/09	3 372	3 400	45	74,93	8 800	10 000	118	74,58
16/10/09	3 372	3 400	42	80,29	9 092	10 000	110	82,65
17/10/09	3 372	3 400	45	74,93	9 616	10 000	111	86,63
18/10/09	3 344	3 400	45	74,31	8 344	10 000	112	74,50
TOTAL Distributed	54 374	57 800			135 587	162 500		

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:

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