

# 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

**Appeal No. MDRHT002**  
**Operations Update no. 3**  
**GLIDE no:**  
**FL 2006-000171-HTI**  
**15 June 2007**

## HAITI: FLOODS

*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

**Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 4 February 2007 to 22 May 2007; Appeal target: Revised Appeal target: CHF 418,500 (USD 342,444 or EUR 261,125) Appeal coverage: 95.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 15,750 (USD 12,748 or EUR 9,703)**

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 4 December 2006 for CHF 624,500 (USD 522,799 or EUR 392,633) for 4 months to assist 17,500 beneficiaries (3,500 beneficiary families).
- Appeal and corresponding budget revised on 21 December 2006 seeking CHF 418,500 (USD 342,444 or EUR 261,125) to assist 11,845 beneficiaries (2,369 beneficiary families) for 4 months;
- Final report is therefore due on 4 July 2007
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 80,000 (USD 64,000 or EUR 50,315).

#### Operational Summary:

At the end of November 2006, Grande-Anse, Nippes as well as the Southern, Western and North-Western regions of Haiti experienced severe flooding affecting some 4,040 families, destroying at least 317 homes and damaging a further 617. The Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS), supported by the Federation, carried out response activities, focusing on the distribution of essential non-food relief goods and implementation of water and sanitation activities. To date, the 2,369 target beneficiaries received family kits, mosquito nets, blankets, jerry cans, buckets, mattresses and soap which are helping them to resume normal patterns of living. In addition, the HNRCS supplied blankets, mosquito nets and cleaning products to Jérémie Hospital which was damaged by the floods. The response operation focused also on water and sanitation activities in 39 of the worst-affected neighbourhoods in the North West and Grande Anse Departments. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) mobilized a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in water and sanitation to work with the HNRCS teams in the field. Water and sanitation activities have included mainly cleaning and awareness-raising amongst the population. The HNRCS/Federation worked closely with the ICRC, Partner National Societies (PNS), the Civil Protection Department and United Nations agencies, in particular the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), international NGOs as well as local organizations.

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>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

## Background

As of 23 November 2006 Haiti experienced extreme weather in the regions of Grande-Anse and Nippes as well as in the Southern, Western and North-Western regions. Particularly heavy rainfall fell between 23 and 28 November and caused serious floods in Grande-Anse, Nippes and the North West region. This affected some 4,040 families of which 325 were displaced and obliged to move to temporary shelters in Jérémie, Bonbon, Abricots and Chansolme. The following areas were identified as the most affected by the floods:

- *Grande-Anse:* Jérémie, Abricots, Bonbon, Anse-du-Clerc, Moron, Roseau, Corail, Pestel, Beaumont.
- *Nippes:* Miragôane, Baradères, Arnaud, Anse-à-Veau, Plaisance.
- *North West:* Port-de-Paix, Jean-Rabel, Bord-de-Mer de Jean-Rabel, Mare Rouge, Môle Saint-Nicolas, Baie de Henne, Chansolme, Anse-à-Foleur.

River levels receded to normal levels and as a result the affected families were able to return to their homes during the month of December. Nevertheless, damage to housing was considerable and it is estimated that 2,500 families (12,500 people) have suffered significant losses as a result of the floods. Stagnant waters have now mostly receded and the situation for those affected by the floods has improved considerably. However, constant rains due to the rainy season have to be taken into consideration because of the impact on the already affected communities (in March, severe strong rainfalls caused floods in some of the areas affected by the November floods).

## Operational developments

In the initial days of the emergency, the Haitian National Red Cross Society intervened immediately to ensure urgent assistance to those affected by the floods including: search and rescue, first aid, evacuation and transportation of affected population and needs assessments.

Relief distributions and sanitation activities were carried out immediately in the affected areas in order to improve the living conditions of the affected population.

All the activities were carried out in close coordination with local authorities and organizations present in the affected communities. At national level, regular meetings have taken place in order to ensure good coordination in the field. HRCNS and Federation representatives took part in “Forum Humanitaire” (Humanitarian Forum) meetings, along with the Civil Protection Directorate (Direction de la Protection Civile – DPC) and the Ministry of Interior.

### Beneficiaries

The operation seeks to assist 2,369 persons that were affected by the floods. Selection criteria was based on the level of damage their property sustained, paying particular attention to the elderly, single mothers, children, persons with disabilities, loss of belongings and/or the degree of difficulty for families to cope with and recover from the situation

## Red Cross action - objectives, progress, impact

### Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective 1: 2,369 of the most affected families (approximately 11,845 people) receive non-food items which help them recover rapidly from the effects of the floods.**

### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

In response to the heavy rains as of November 2006, HRCNS with the support of the Federation has distributed non-food items to 2,369 families in Nord-Ouest and Grand'Anse provinces.

An initial distribution of non-food items for 309 families in the North West region took place in mid December 2006 (see table 1 below). Beneficiary families have received non-food items consisting of family kits, blankets, mosquito nets, 15 litre buckets and jerry cans.

**Table 1 – Relief Distribution Activities in Nord-Ouest Province**

Date	Place	Beneficiaries	Relief Items Distributed
<i>Nord-Ouest province</i>		<i>309 Families</i>	
10.12.06	Port-de-Paix	192 Families	- 192 Family Kits - 384 Mosquito Nets - 92 Jerry Cans (1 gallon) - 384 Blankets - 192 buckets (15 ltr)
13.12.06	St. Louis du Nord	30 Families	- 30 Family Kits - 60 Mosquito Nets - 30 Jerry Cans (1 gallon) - 60 Blankets - 30 buckets (15 ltr)
13.12.06	Bassin Bleu	30 Families	- 30 Family Kits - 60 Mosquito Nets - 30 Jerry Cans (1 gallon) - 60 Blankets - 30 buckets (15 ltr)
14.12.06	Anse a Foleur	30 Families	- 30 Family Kits - 60 Mosquito Nets - 30 Jerry Cans (1 gallon) - 60 Blankets - 30 buckets (15 ltr)
14.12.06	Baie Moustiques	27 Families	- 27 Family Kits - 54 Mosquito Nets - 27 Jerry Cans (1 gallon) - 54 Blankets - 27 buckets (15 ltr)

With regards to Grande-Anse province, the identified priority needs were blankets, mosquito nets, mattresses and soap. Table 2 demonstrates the relief distributions to the remaining 2,060 families in that province, which took place during the last week of January:

**Table 2 – Relief Distribution Activities in Grande-Anse province**

Date	Place	Beneficiaries	Relief Items Distributed	
<i>Grande-Anse province</i>		<i>2,060 Families</i>		
22.01.07	Jeremie	1,500 Families	- 3,000 blankets - 500 mattresses	- 3,000 mosquito nets - 170 boxes of soap
24.01.07	Abricots	300 Families	- 600 blankets - 100 mattresses	- 600 mosquito nets - 35 boxes of soap
25.01.07	Bonbon	200 Families	- 400 blankets - 80 mattresses	- 400 mosquito nets - 20 boxes of soap
26.01.07	Les Basses	60 Families	- 120 blankets - 20 mattresses	- 120 mosquito nets - 5 boxes of soap

Each family received five bars of detergent. The families who received mattresses were those whose houses were seriously damaged or totally destroyed.

Haitian National Red Cross Society also distributed 300 bottles of water donated by World Vision amongst affected communities in Grand Anse.

### **Impact:**

The most immediate impact of this objective is that 2,369 of the worst affected families (approximately 11,845 people) saw their basic needs met through the distributions of relief items in order to recover from the effects of the floods and to resume their daily lives.

### **Constraints:**

Due to delays in supply delivery and donor funding the distributions by local HNRCS branches in Grande-Anse were delayed and postponed until January. In addition, constraints in the internal Red Cross procedures to mobilize human and material resources have also caused some delay within the operation. Fortunately, relief distributions have been carried out amongst the remaining 2,060 families in the Grande Anse province in the last week of January.

**Objective 2: Two hospitals affected by flooding, one in Jérémie and one in Port-de-Paix, benefit from non-food items which help them resume their activities by replenishing lost items and restoring appropriate sanitary conditions that were affected by the floods.**

On 26 and 27 February the Saint Antoine Hospital in Jérémie was provided with 200 blankets, 200 mosquito nets and cleaning equipment products such as 12 mops, 12 brooms, 1 mop bucket and 16 gallons of disinfectant.

However, the Immaculée Conception Hospital in Port-de-Paix has not yet received the non-food relief items due to administrative constraints faced by the local branch in Port-de-Paix which has delayed effective coordination in distributions of these items. Distributions will take place in due course.

### **Impact:**

Saint Antoine Hospital has been provided with necessary non-food items which help them resume their activities by replenishing lost items and restoring appropriate sanitary conditions that were affected by the floods, thereby improving the conditions under which their patients receive medical care.

### **Constraints:**

The HNRCS local branch in Port-de-Paix faced administrative constraints which has delayed effective coordination in delivering the non food items to the Immaculée Conception Hospital.

## **Water and Sanitation**

More in-depth assessments carried out in the flooded regions indicate that sanitation activities were essential. The informal, marginalized and chaotic neighbourhoods that were affected lack basic sanitation planning and structure. In this insalubrious environment, homes, roads and gutters easily fill with mud and garbage.

**Objective 1: The population of the departments of North West and Grande-Anse benefit from a basic sanitation programme consisting of the provision of cleaning materials and a hygiene promotion campaign in 39 affected neighbourhoods.**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

In order to carry out this activity, HNRCS volunteers from the local branches within the affected areas received training on sanitation topics. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in Water and Sanitation was deployed to Haiti in order to support the HNRCS with the development and organization of the volunteer sanitation training that took place in the beginning of February.



**Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers are carrying out cleaning activities in the Nord-Ouest province**

Hygiene awareness raising activities at community level, as well as cleaning activities were carried out in the affected communities in the Nord-Ouest province during the last week of February and in Grande Anse during the second week of April.

The following awareness raising activities have been carried out:

- Cleaning and clearing stagnant water in order to prevent mosquitoes from breeding;
- Cleaning houses;
- Solid waste control at safe distance from households;
- Cleaning of canals and gutters in order to prevent obstruction by garbage.

The activities were accompanied by dissemination of Principles and Values of the Movement.

Several cleaning tools and equipment, including wheelbarrows, spades, picks, forks, masks, gloves and boots were dispatched to the flood-affected regions in order to facilitate the cleaning activities. Communities and volunteers carried out cleaning activities in the drainage systems and waste and garbage disposals. Road and house cleaning was also encouraged.

All the activities were carried out in coordination with local authorities and communities, which has strengthened the support to the sanitation initiatives. The design and development was closely coordinated with the local Ministry of Health. The activities were also coordinated with the Ministry of Transportation, which has supported the initiatives by providing trucks for the removal of disposal and garbage in the affected areas.

**Impact**

These activities had a strong impact on the affected communities, since adequate drainage of the rain waters was established. After the completion of the cleaning activities, it was evident for the population that heavy rains not necessarily cause flooding if the drainage system is clean. The commitment of the affected population in cleaning the drainage systems was hereby rewarded and many beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction.

**Constraints**

In the beginning of the operation, the HNRCS local Branch in Grande Anse faced some logistic difficulties due to lack of accessibility to some of the affected areas. Other administrative matters at HNRCS internal level caused some delays in the completion of the activities.

**Federation Coordination**

Since the onset of the disaster, the Haiti Country Delegation has been in constant communication with the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and has received support in the definition of the intervention. A Disaster Management delegate from PADRU was also mobilized to Haiti in the emergency phase of the operation to contribute to the revision of the initial Plan of Action and at a later stage to provide additional support and follow up on issues.

The HNRCS continues to coordinate activities with other actors involved in relief actions; in particular, the HNRCS and the Federation ensuring close liaison with PNS present in the country and the ICRC which, as the lead agency, holds responsibility for security issues.

The Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Haiti shared information and ensured the coordination of humanitarian interventions in support of the national Risk and Disaster Management System. Meetings with OCHA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of the Interior took place on a regular basis during the emergency phase.

Meetings at national level (Forum Humanitaire) with the participation of DPC, UN agencies and other involved NGO's have taken place in order to share information, avoid duplication of efforts and develop long term activities and plans. Organizations involved in response to the floods emergency are the UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), OCHA, the Haitian Department of Civil Protection, Initiative au Développement, CARE, OXFAM and Caritas.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

- Relief activities are being carried out based on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Beneficiary selection criteria focus on the level of vulnerability of those affected with particular attention paid to the elderly, single mothers, children, persons with disabilities, those who sustained losses of belongings and/or the degree of difficulty for families to cope with and recover from the situation.
- Activities are based on the SPHERE Project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response

**National Society Capacity Building**

Red Cross staff and volunteers continue to gain experience in damage and needs assessment and in the organization of distributions. The Water and Sanitation Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member deployed to Haiti supported the HRCNS at both National and Branch level carrying out specific trainings and field coordination activities.

**Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The Federation is issuing regular reports on the operation on its web site [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org).

An article was published in the « Le Matin » newspaper focusing on the HNRCS distributions in Grande-Anse.

In order to increase visibility, official Red Cross t-shirts and flags with Red Cross logo were provided to the Red Cross volunteers and used during the distribution and sanitation activities.

[\*Click here to return to the title page.\*](#)