

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Caribbean: Tropical Storm Noel

Emergency Appeal no. MDR49002;
GLIDE no. TC-000198-DOM/HTI;
1 November 2007

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 785,000 (USD 677,308 or EUR 469,217) in cash, kind, or services to assist 15,000 beneficiaries for 6 months.

A total of 380,000 (USD 327,600 or EUR 227,209) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation (CHF 230,000 for the Dominican Republic, and CHF 150,000 for Haiti). Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Responding to a request from the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) and the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS), the International Federation is launching this Preliminary Emergency Appeal to support the relief response to deliver and distribute relief supplies, and to provide health, shelter, and early recovery assistance.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 6 months, and will therefore be completed by April 2008; a Final Report will be made available by July 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>](#)



Floods in the province of Azua in Dominican Republic. Source: Dominican Red Cross

The situation

Tropical Storm Noel is now approaching the Bahamas [<click here to view the attached map, and the track of the storm>](#). The passage of the 14th named storm of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season has caused floods and mudslides due to heavy rains in the **Dominican Republic** and **Haiti**, and is headed for the central region of the **Bahamas** and the northern coast of **Cuba**. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the Cuban provinces of Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantanamo. With regards to the **Bahamas**, the government has discontinued the hurricane watch for the Northwestern Bahamas, but the warning remains in effect for the Central and Northwestern Bahamas.

The **Dominican Republic** is particularly prone to disasters given its geographical location and social and economic characteristics (among which widespread poverty and inequality). Both man

made and natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, landslides and fires) worsen the country's vulnerability and therefore, a tropical storm such as Noel, with its heavy rains and winds, affects its people severely.

Since 27 October intense rainfall has been affecting the entire country, especially in the littoral southern region, the area south of the central mountain chain, the Cibao valley and the eastern region. The National Meteorology Centre (Oficina Nacional de Meteorología - ONAMET) alerted the residents living in high risk provinces located in low zones along rivers and creeks. It issued flood and landslide warnings for the provinces of Azua, San Cristobal, Peravia, Independencia, Barahona, Pedernales, Espaillat, Salcedo, Duarte, Maria Trinidad Sanchez.

Several communities in the country report flooding and emergency calls have been received from various regions. The National Emergency Commission (Comision Nacional de Emergencias – CNE) has authorized the activation of several shelters. Latest reports indicate that 33,794 people have been affected, 19,658 people have been evacuated, and 2,939 houses have been damaged. In addition, approximately 41 deaths are reported and 20 people are missing. Serious damages were inflicted on houses and infrastructure. The country's electricity is down, paralyzing airports, schools and businesses in the northern and southern regions. Reports indicate 95 percent of plantain, banana and tomato plantations have been damaged in the provinces of Azua and Peravia (Southern region). The majority of casualties were reported in the province of San Cristobal, 30 km. west from Santo Domingo.



Floods in the province of Azua in Dominican Republic. Source: Dominican Red Cross

The Dominican Republic government has not requested international assistance but the Head of Civil Defence has expressed interest in the activation of a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC). The Risk Emergency and Disaster for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) group and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have held coordination meetings in order to prepare relief and recovery assistance. The Civil Defence is performing initial needs and damage assessments in coordination with the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETE).

Related to **Haiti**, at 8 a.m. on 29 October, the center of Tropical Storm Noel was estimated west of Port-Au-Prince, the capitol. As it moved over the island a red alert was activated in the Sud-Est, Sud, Grand Anse, Nippes, Ouest, Centre and Artibonnie Departments. An orange alert was declared for Nord-Est, Nord and Nord-Ouest Departments. Many of the provinces affected by the floods caused by heavy rainfall earlier in October, were again affected by Noel.

Noel produced rainfall accumulations of 10 to 20 inches in Haiti; heavy rain and flooding have caused life-threatening flash floods and mudslides. 4,500 people are in shelters, eight people died, 268 houses are damaged and 100 houses destroyed.

The storm passed along the northern coast of Cuba over a period of 12 hours. At the time of this writing, no official reports of damages and affected people in the Bahamas and Cuba had been received. Both National Societies are assessing the situation, and while this Appeal does not seek

support for these countries at this time, the situation is being monitored and the operation may be adjusted accordingly as needs require.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A total of CHF 380,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF); 230,000 for the Dominican Republic and CHF 150,000 for Haiti. Since the onset of the emergency, the **Dominican Red Cross (DRC)** has activated their search and rescue teams and their National Intervention Teams (NIT) to perform rescue activities and assess the needs and damages. Three coordination teams have been deployed for first response activities such as search and rescue, medical aid, and need and damage assessments. The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has activated a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member alert in order to support relief activities solicited by the DRC. A PADRU Disaster Management delegate and an IT & Telecom delegate have been deployed to help coordinate response and relief activities. The Head of PADRU is also currently in the field coordinating activities with the DRC. As a result, the DRC has developed a preliminary Plan of Action to assist 2,000 families, based on preliminary assessments.

The Coordination Centre is in permanent alert and a crisis room has been set up with personnel working 24 hour shifts. Some 500 volunteers have been mobilized and the DRC branches are working in close coordination with the local authorities and with PADRU.

Meetings have been held with the National Emergency Centre and the Crisis Management Room for the processing of information from the field. The DRC is managing all the information provided by their radio communication department, the Emergency Operation Centre and the National Centre of Meteorology. All local branches are monitoring the events and reporting need and damage assessments to the crisis room.

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, 100 families in Sud province (Les Cayes) and 150 families in Ouest province (Cabaret) have been provided with relief items. In Cabaret, the HNRCS in coordination with the Civil Protection (Dirección de la Protection Civile – DPC) have activated a shelter camp for 240 people who were evacuated because of the floods. The same areas are now 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.

The HNRCS has developed a Plan of Action that will provide 1,000 families with basic nonfood items in the most affected areas. On 27 October, HNRCS local branches in the Southern peninsula mobilized their volunteers and activated their high frequency radio network. Assessment reports are being communicated to the HNRCS headquarters through this system. The HNRCS is currently responding to the Hurricane Dean operation with support from the Federation through the same appeal.

The needs

Immediate needs: Tropical Storm Noel has caused serious damage to homes, infrastructure and communities. Based on the above information and initial assessments the immediate initial needs are described as follows:

Dominican Republic	Haiti
Food parcels	Food parcels
Hygiene kits	Non-food items
Kitchen kits	Water and Sanitation
Buckets	Health
Jerry cans	Shelter
Mosquito nets	
Drinking water	
Tarpaulin	

Further assessments will better define the needs in coming days.

Longer-term needs: The early recovery and rehabilitation needs of the affected populations will be reviewed by assessment teams and the response of the Red Cross will be adapted accordingly.

The proposed operation

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks to support immediate response activities in those affected countries that are requiring Federation support. Objectives and planned activities will be adjusted in line with more detailed information resulting from damage and needs assessments, including possible clean up operations, health, shelter and water and sanitation needs.

Objectives and activities planned

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

Objective 1: 3000 families (15,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of recent floods and effects from Tropical storm Noel (2,000 families in Dominican Republic and 1,000 in Haiti).

The DRC Plan of Action will provide the affected people with the following relief items:

Items	Quantities
Food parcels	2,000 (1 per family)
Hygiene kits	2,000 (1 per a family of five)
Kitchen kits	2,000 (1 per family)
Jerry cans	4,000 (2 per family)
Mosquito nets	4,000 (2 per family)
Tarpaulins	4,000 (2 per family)

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

Relief Item	Quantity per family	Provinces
Blankets	2	Ouest: 70 families Cite du soleil: 640 families Damien: 85 families Tabarre: 35 families Sud Est: 100 families Artibonite: 70 families
Hygiene kits	1	
Kitchen kits	1	
Buckets	2	
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:

Hygiene kit (for 5 persons for 1 month)	Quantities
Washing powder, 1 kg, for washing machine, for cloth	3
Toilet, paper, hygienic, roll	12
Soap, body soap, 100g, piece	5
Toothpaste, tube 75 ml	5

Tooth brush, medium	5
Shampoo, 250 ml	2
Razor, disposable	5
Hygienic pads, normal	8

Kitchen kit (for 1 family of 5 persons)	Quantities
Bowl for food	5
Fork, table, stainless steel	5
Frying pan, 2.5L	1
Knife, kitchen, stainless steel blade	1
Knife, table knife, stainless steel	5
Spoon, wooden, stirring, 30cm	1
Spoon, soup, stainless steel, 15 ml	5
Cooking pot, 5L, alum. diam 20 cm	1
Cooking pot, 7L, alum. diam 24 cm, with handles	1
Cup, stainless steel, with handle, 300ml	5
Plate, deep, aluminium, diam. 22 cm	5

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Identification and registration of the most vulnerable families with special emphasis on gender inequities and disability conditions.
- Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities.
- Warehousing, dispatch and transportation of relief items from local headquarters to the final destinations.
- Regular detailed reporting on the distribution.
- Monitoring and evaluation

Health

Objective 1: The affected communities will benefit from basic medical care provided by DRC medical brigades.

Activities to reach this objective:

- Coordination of activities with the National Secretary of Public Health (Secretaria de Estado de Salud Publica y Asistencia Social, SESPAS).
- Identification of shelters on where to perform medical assistance.
- Prioritization and identification of beneficiaries (children, women, elderly).

- Organization and support to SESPAS medical brigades.

Further assessments need to be completed by the HNRCS and other external actors in order to describe a health objective.

Objective 2: The affected communities will benefit from psychosocial support (PSP) to assist them in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

The DRC will mobilise their psychosocial support team to the most affected areas in order to alleviate the people, especially children and women, who have been affected by the floods. The teams will evaluate the needs of the affected population in order to identify the exact requirements of the operation.

Objective 3: The affected communities and people in shelters will have access to potable water for consumption and will be sensitized on key health messages through a health awareness campaign related to vector control and water borne diseases.

Activities to reach this objective:

- Need and damage assessments including basic sanitation activities.
- Mobilization of six water and sanitation teams.
- Identification of communities most affected and shelters available.
- Identification of beneficiaries in coordination with SESPAS and the National Institute of Potable Water (Instituto Nacional de Agua Potable, INAPA).
- Agreements with local authorities for water supply.
- Water and sanitation activities.
- Training workshops in water sanitation for all DRC volunteers.
- Storing and distribution of drinking water to shelters and affected communities.
- Health awareness campaigns

Further assessments need to be completed by the HNRCS and other external actors in order to illustrate the need for a water and sanitation campaign.

Shelter

Objective 1: The Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) will provide support for the displaced people housed in shelters.

The HNRCS in coordination with the Civil Protection will provide the shelter in Cabaret, housing 240 people.

Early recovery

Objective 1: Early recovery activities are assessed, planned and implemented together with the affected communities and key local, national and international stakeholders.

Relief assessments will seek to determine early recovery needs. A key element of early response will be to seek feedback from affected communities on the appropriateness of relief items being provided.

Coordination

The Federation's PADRU is in close contact with the Federation's Caribbean Regional Representation in Trinidad and Tobago, Partner National Societies (PNS) from France, Norway, Spain and the United States. Several of the PNS have expressed interest in supporting the relief and recovery activities.

PADRU is also in close contact with the National Societies in the affected countries of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba and the Bahamas.

Coordination meetings have been taking place between the Federation, OCHA, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and several PNS present in Dominican Republic and Haiti. The Red Cross National Societies are in close contact with their respective national disaster response agencies.

The Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in coordination with PADRU is dispatching an airplane with relief items for 2,000 families to Dominican Republic. PADRU has established High Frequency (HF) radio contact with the involved National Societies in order to ensure frequent and accurate communications, information sharing, and to monitor the situation. PADRU has deployed a Disaster Management (DM) delegate and an IT & Telecom delegate to the Dominican Republic as well as a DM delegate to Haiti. The head of PADRU is also in the Dominican Republic supporting relief activities. Two Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members are already positioned in Haiti providing immediate support. Additional PADRU personnel and RIT members will be deployed if the situation so requires.

The National Societies are monitoring the development of Noel and are taking the necessary precautions. All involved Red Cross Societies have initiated their Plan of Actions and are posting regular bulletins on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) as information becomes available.

Capacity of the National Societies

During the pre-hurricane meeting that took place in Panama from 14 to 17 May 2007, National Societies from countries prone to hurricanes in the Americas participated actively in the development of a contingency plan for the region. 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.

In general, the National Societies affected by tropical storm Noel were well prepared with pre-positioned stocks, radio networks, trained personnel and pre and post emergency coordination meetings. All the involved National Societies are part of the National Emergency Operations Centre and have specific roles within their country's National Disaster Plan.

In general, the Dominican Red Cross and the Haitian National Red Cross Society have broad experience in disaster response, particularly as a result of the lessons learnt from operations with hurricane Ernesto in 2006 and Jeanne in 2004.

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, 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 NS to increase the visibility of their actions with regard to the communication through PADRU, the Regional Representation Offices and the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

Regular situation reports have been issued by Red Cross National Societies through the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global International Federation website. Several short articles have been issued in order to develop a better understanding of the mission of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the activities the organization undertakes in assisting affected communities. In the same line, local and international media were provided with interviews directly from the involved National Societies.

Capacity of the Federation

PADRU, in coordination with the Americas Zone Office is providing support to the affected National Societies 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 Annex 1 for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala
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, Stephen McAndrew, Head of PADRU, e-mail Stephen.Mcandrew@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; Fax (507) 316 1082
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- In Panama: Maria Alcazar; Zone Relationship Management Coordinator; email: Maria.Alcazar@ifrc.org; phone (507) 317 1300; fax (507)317 1304
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[<Preliminary Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY - PRELIMINARY

Caribbean: Tropical Storm Noel

ORIGINAL

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	56,536
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	40,985
Food	93,680
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	46,840
Medical & First Aid	70,260
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	95,132
Other Supplies & Services	88,996
Total Relief Needs	492,429

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

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

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	68,494
Distribution & Monitoring	46,840
Transport & Vehicles Costs	

PERSONNEL

International Staff	10,350
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	36,652
National Society Staff	26,933
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	18,139
Information & Public Relations	18,701
Office running costs	15,437
Communication Costs	
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

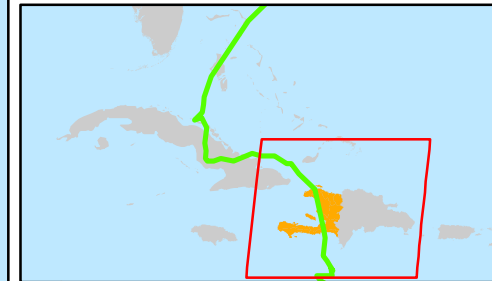
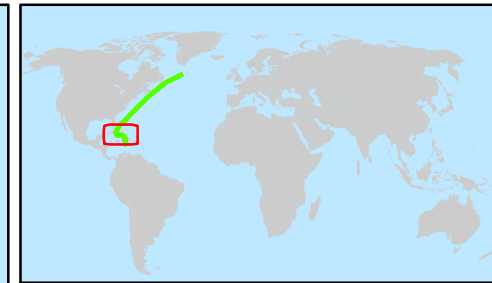
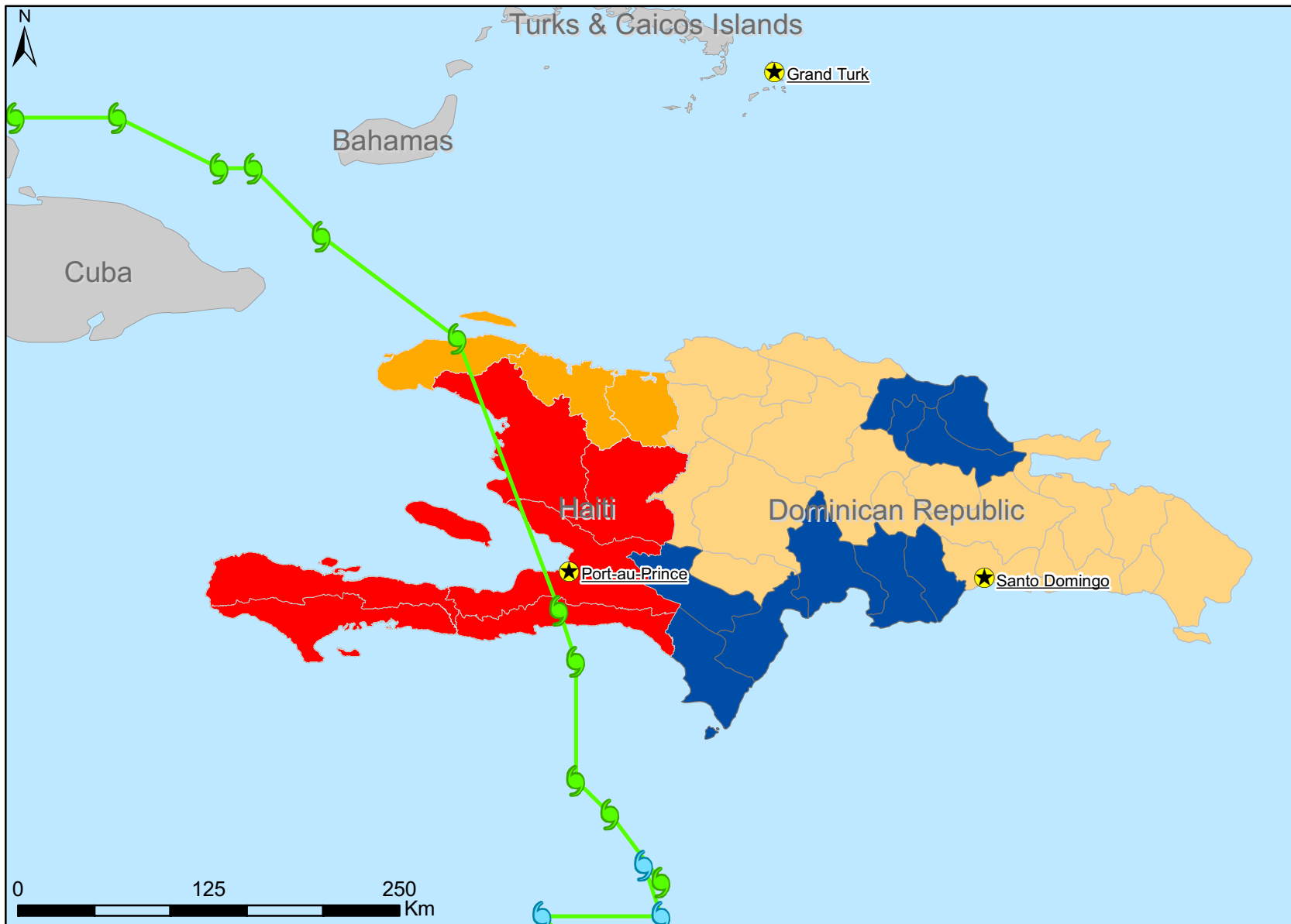
Programme Support - PSR	51,025
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Total Operational Needs	292,571
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Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	785,000
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Dominican Republic and Haiti: Cyclone Noel



- ★ Capitals
- 🌀 HURRICANE-1
- 🌀 TROPICAL STORM
- 🌀 TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- Track of Noel
- 🟠 Orange alert
- 🔴 Red alert
- 🔵 Flood and landslide warnings

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