



Situation Report 3 – Tropical Storm Noel – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 4 NOVEMBER 2007

This situation report is based on information received from the National Emergency Commission and member institutions from the Emergency Operations Centre and United Nations agencies in country.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Priority needs privilege water sanitation, food rations, shelter and health**
- **Flash Appeal being finalized**
- **Approximately USD 4.2 million in cash contributions provided so far**

General Situation

1. Weather conditions in the last 24 hours have improved and, according to the Meteorological National Institute (ONAMET), precipitation will continue to diminish in the entire country, despite some isolated showers in the southeast, southwest, the mountain chain bordering Haiti and the Cibao Valley.

2. According to the latest reports of the National Emergency Committee (CNE) some 84 people have been killed, 48 are still unaccounted for, and approximately 3,400 have been rescued. Some 16,700 houses have been partially destroyed.

3. Approximately, 23,000 people are in 125 temporary shelters and some 43,500 have been received by relatives and friends. Temporary shelters are experiencing management problems as well as lack of relief items (including food) for those in the shelters.

4. Health- Hospitals and other medical facilities have reached its maximum functional capacity. Needs assessments continue as a basis to carry out vector control activities.

5. Water and sanitation- 40 per cent of the water supply distribution system as well as 60 per cent of the 122 aqueducts have been damaged. 19 of 110

6. Food security and Nutrition- The agricultural sector was particularly hit by “Noel” with a total affected area of 24,660 hectares. Main crops affected: banana 13,887 hectares; rice 4,269 hectares and fruits 1,830 hectares.

7. Power supply- Six southern Provinces (San José de Ocoa, San Juan, Elías Piña, Barahona, Bahoruco e Independencia) and two in the north of the country continue without power.

8. Infrastructure- Some 46 bridges and roads have been affected and, as a result, 100 communities are still isolated. Meanwhile, road traffic towards the Baharona Province has been restored.

Priority Needs

9. As mentioned in the OCHA Sitrep no. 2 of 2 November, priority needs continue to focus in the following sectors:

- Water and sanitation, including water pumping, water purification, water storage and distribution, vector control for 121 shelters and latrines;
- Food- food rations (cooked food) and food for children;



- Shelter_including mattresses, sheets, blankets and mosquito nets and hygiene and personal kits;
- Health- medical supplies and medicines
- Logistics- mobile communication radios (Motorola EM400)

NATIONAL RESPONSE

10. The response to this disaster continues to be led by the National Emergency Committee (CNE) which, together with provincial authorities and some NGOs, is also in charge of the distribution of relief items to the population affected.

11. Assessments missions continue as well with the participation of seven technical teams trained by the United Nations, government representatives, UN agencies and NGOs. These evaluations are being carried out on the basis of a methodology agreed upon by the regional inter-agency group on Emergencies, Risk and Disasters-REDLAC.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

12. The UN Country Team has adopted a coordination system which includes five sectors: Health, Water and Sanitation, Food and nutrition, Shelter, Coordination and communications). A Flash Appeal is being prepared focus on these five sectors as well as a request for a CERF grant.

13. The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) five- person team continues in the country supporting the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office as well as the Emergency Operations Center (COE). The UNDAC team also counts on the support of teams of Telecoms without Borders (Telecoms Sans Frontières) and the Map Action.

14. FAO has also deployed one expert as well as OCHA with one Humanitarian Affairs Officer. PAHO/WHO has also on the ground six experts on

water and sanitation. And the UNDP-Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Reconstruction has also deployed two officials. One WFP logistics expert is also in Santo Domingo assisting the UN Country Team.

15. PAHO/WHO has been assisting the CNE and SESPAS in the preparation and execution of national emergency and contingency plans, as well as training of nine national staff on the SUMA system. It is also assisting in the management of one million water purification tabs (Aqua Tabs) and acquisition of leptospirosis diagnostic kits. The Pan-American Health Organization (Haiti Office) has also delivered emergency medical kits for 10,000 people.

16. UNDP, through its Disaster Prevention and Reduction Program financed by the European Union, is also assisting the COE (at national and regional levels) in the coordination of damage and needs assessments, particularly in the area of collection and analysis of information on the situation of shelters, general infrastructures, mapping, updating of the Civil Defense webpage (www.defensacivil.org.do).

17. UNICEF has purchased locally 2,000 two-week food rations and hygiene items for children under five years-old. These supplies will be delivered to 400 families in shelters in San Cristobal, Manoguayabo, Los Alcarrizos y Cambita Garabito, southwest of the country.

18. Caritas Spain has provided an initial EUR 500,000 for emergency and reconstruction assistance in Santo Domingo, Peravia and Barahona.

19. CRS is mobilizing emergency relief supplies like water purification systems garbage and debris collection equipment plastic sheeting and mosquito nets for approximately 1,000 families.

20. Oxfam International is distributing hygiene and kitchen sets in temporary shelters north of the capital, Santo Domingo.



21. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) sent from Panama a plain with five tons of relief supplies in the value of USD 150,000, including sheets, mosquito nets, diapers, blankets, plastic sheeting and kitchen sets. A four-person technical team from the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has also been deployed.

22. International assistance (cash contributions)

International Organizations	Contributions
OCHA	USD 50,000
PAHO/WHO	USD 50,000
UNDP	USD 200,000 (rehabilitation)
UNFPA	USD 50,000 (shelters)
UNICEF	USD 60,000 USD
EU – USAID	USD 100,000
IFRC(DREF-Disaster Relief Emergency Fund)	USD 200,000 (230,000 CHF)
ECHO	EUR 1.5 million (Intermonde-Oxfam/PAHO/Red Cross)
Canada	USD 500,000 (including Haiti and USD 100,000 for the IFRC Appeal)
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	USD 200,000
Caritas Spain	EUR 500,000
Total	USD 4,210,000

23. International assistance (in kind contributions)

WFP	56 MT of HPB (high protein biscuits), Local purchase of 120 MT of rice, 48 MT beans, 15 MT de cooking oil, and 90 MT of fortified corn flour.
France	7,000 food rations
Japan (JICA)	tents, blankets, water purification kits
Spain (AECI)	EUR 200,000 in food, shelter material and medicines
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	USD 500,000 (including Cuba and Haiti) water purification kits, garbage and debris collection equipment, plastic sheeting and mosquito nets
Agro Action Alemana	Food, potable water, sprayed mosquito nets for 4,000 persons
Red Cross/IFRC	2,000 kits of baby food 2,000 kitchen utensils kits 2,000 hygiene kits 4,000 sprayed mosquito nets 4,000 bottles of water
Carrefour (Supermarket Chain)	5,000 food baskets



24. In addition to the bilateral contributions mentioned in the matrixes above, four US Navy helicopters are assisting in the search and rescue operations.

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