



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

Italian Red Cross  
Mr L. Carmenati - Director of  
Operations Division  
Via Toscana, 12  
00187 Roma

Geneva, July 26, 2010

Dear Leonardo,

**Re: Italian Red Crosses contribution to the Haiti earthquake operation**

I would like to take this opportunity to share the International Federation's sincere appreciation of Italian Red Cross's (IRC) contribution to the multi-lateral emergency response operation in support of Haitian Red Cross and its people.

Following the January 12 earthquake that hit Port au Prince and the surrounding areas, IRC quickly responded positively to our Emergency Response Units' (ERU) alert for assistance and made available its Base Camp ERU for deployment.

The deployment of an ERU is a challenge in any operation, let alone in response to an event such as the Haiti earthquake. In addition, deploying an ERU for the first time in a multi-lateral context usually poses challenges to all players involved. This operation was no exception to that 'rule' It goes without saying, however, that IRC not only fulfilled the expectations raised following our cooperation over the past three years and the preparation for an eventual ERU deployment, but showed extreme flexibility in this operation. We like to particularly mention the readiness to play a decisive role in the very early days of the preparation and set-up of the Base Camp on-site, the supplying of services for the other Base Camp and, last but not least, IRC's immediate willingness to cater for a very considerably higher number of RC/RC staff, both expatriates and local, when needs vastly surpassed what we expected on the outset of the operation.

While there remains work to be done to further standardise the Base Camp ERUs as they exist today, there is no doubt about the fact that IRC's contribution has been a decisive factor in the well being of hundreds of RC/RC staff throughout what is now a seven months lasting Base Camp operation that, thanks to IRC, will continue for several more.

Together for humanity  
Ensemble pour l'humanité  
Juntos por la humanidad  
معاً من أجل الإنسانية



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It is my hope that you can share with all IRC staff that worked for and/or in the Base Camp, be it in Italy or in Haiti itself, our gratitude, our appreciation and our respect for the work done, their professionalism and flexibility shown and to underline to them that we hope we can count on all of them again in the future should there be a need for a new deployment.

In the meantime, I look forward to working with you and your team on the future of our cooperation and I hope we can continue that work in the same enjoyable and professional spirit in which we worked until now.

Yours sincerely,

Pieter de Rijke  
Surge Capacity  
Disaster Services Department  
Int. Federation of RC/RC Societies

