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HAITI

Humanitarian Situation Report #9

Highlights

Cholera still continues to be the biggest immediate threat post Hurricane Matthew, putting the lives of thousands of children in danger in Haiti. Ensuring access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation is therefore a priority for UNICEF. Getting children back to school, ensuring child protection and basic levels of nutrition are further focus areas for UNICEF.

- UNICEF is responding in four departments of Haiti: Grand’Anse, South, Nippes and North-West. It is estimated that at least **590,000 children** are in need of assistance.
- Tens of thousands of people have been provided with safe water in the South, Grand Anse, and Nippes in the last few days through efforts of UNICEF and its partners including the establishment of a water plant for 20,000 people in Jeremie
- Due to damage to hospitals in South, cholera patients are being treated alongside other patients, including pregnant women and young children. This brings a high risk of the disease spreading.
- There is concern that in the affected areas routine vaccinations of children under 5 have not taken place since 1 October.
- There are no reports of unaccompanied or separated children.
- A phased return to schools in South and Grand’Anse will start on Tuesday 18 October.

“Less than two weeks after the hurricane, cholera may be spreading in areas where it previously barely existed.”

Marc Vincent, UNICEF Haiti Representative

16 October 2016

2,128,708 people affected including **894,057 children**
(UNICEF estimate on UN Haiti figures)

1,410,907 people including **592,581 children** in need of assistance
(UNICEF estimate on UN Haiti figures)

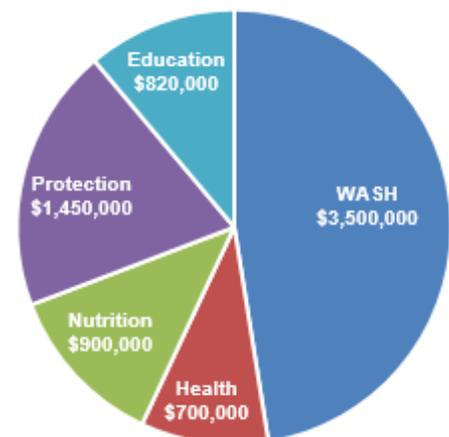
112,500 children under age five are at risk of acute malnutrition (OCHA)

546 people dead (OCHA)

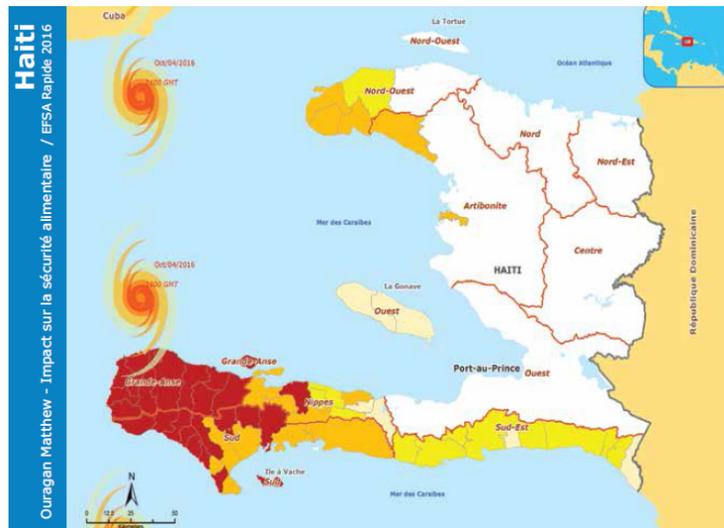
1,116 cholera cases (DELR, CTC. Data from all departments from 4 to 13 October 2016)

175,509 People in shelters
Source: Civil Protection Department (DPC)

Estimated UNICEF funds required **US\$7.3 million** needed to cover immediate life-saving needs



Official figures from the Civil Protection Department (DCP) cite 546 people dead, 438 injured and 128 missing, although media reports of the death toll are double the official figures. Access continues to be gained to more affected areas, but the poor conditions and lack of infrastructure, especially in the rural areas, continue to impede progress to the more remote areas. UNICEF is working with partners to continue initial needs assessments in the affected areas. Humanitarian needs include access to a sufficient supply of quality water, education, shelter, child protection, health and nutrition.



Map showing food security in Haiti. The red areas shows the highest priority area, where 806,000 people are facing food insecurity. (CSNA: National Coordination of Food Security)

Cholera is the largest immediate threat in the affected areas. In order to capitalise on knowledge and experience, UNICEF is looking to widen its existing cholera programmes into the two most affected hurricane departments of Grand'Anse and South, as well as ensuring cholera is being addressed in its WASH, Education, Protection, Health and Nutrition planned response.

There is widespread concern at a lack of medical supplies and materials to treat and prevent disease and health actors are rushing to fill this gap. In the affected areas children under five have not received their routine vaccinations since 1 October, and in areas where hospitals have been damaged and the cold chain disrupted, it is uncertain when these services will be fully restored. This puts the lives of children in danger. Furthermore, due to damage caused to hospitals, basic sanitation and hygiene protocols need to be adhered to, but in some cases patients suffering from suspected cholera and acute diarrhoea are in beds alongside vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and newborn children. This is of grave concern to UNICEF and other partners.

With the promise of official shelters set to close there is a fear that displaced people will cause overcrowding in the homes of families and friends, or live on the streets. Equally, there are reports of migration from rural areas to the towns as people are looking for food. This causes multiple concerns for the safety of children and families especially related to food security and malnutrition, vulnerability to violence, exploitation and abuse, susceptibility to disease – cholera in particular - and a lack of education for children.

OCHA reports that 100% of crops have been destroyed in Grand'Anse. This follows a period of drought in the country, which had already prompted the malnutrition rates to rise, particularly amongst the children under five years old.

As anticipated, the number of schools affected by the hurricane is currently being revised upward. The assessments are continuing and the Ministry shared a new list on October 14, reporting that 420 schools have been affected, including 106 schools in Grand'Anse entirely destroyed. The Ministry of Education is prioritising getting as many children as possible back to school as quickly as possible, and therefore efforts will go towards cleaning and repairing lightly damaged or undamaged schools first, before working on longer term rebuild projects.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Coordination structures include Humanitarian Country Team HCT and sectorial groups with government ministry or department leadership.

- UNICEF is leading sectorial coordination of WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection, taking part in meetings with ministers and partners at national and department level. Meetings have continued to take place over the past few days in order to ensure close and effective coordination of the response.
- Coordination structures in Les Cayes are reported to be functioning well and those in the other departments are being strengthened. OCHA has deployed UNDAC members to Jeremie to support these.
- UNICEF is working closely with PAHO/OPS and Ministry of Health to support and strengthen the coordination in the Health sector.
- UNICEF continues to provide the financial and satellite communication support for the COUD (Department of Emergency Operations) in the most affected areas.

Summary Analysis of Programme response: 13-15 October.

Priorities for UNICEF's immediate response are unchanged. They are in the sectors of WASH, education, health and nutrition and child protection, focusing on the following priority interventions:

- Providing safe water and adequate sanitation to help prevent the spread of water and vector borne diseases with particular attention to cholera - targeting **1,250,000 people / 500,000 children**;
- Ensuring early return to school for children, by providing equipment for both teachers and pupils - targeting **106,000 children**;
- Supporting child protection services to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse - targeting **10,000 children**.
- Ensuring close nutrition monitoring and treatment of children suffering from malnutrition.
- UNICEF will also prioritize community mobilization and communication with affected populations within each programme area and use the strengths and partnerships of regular programming to support the humanitarian response and link it progressively to development objectives.

WASH

Access to sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene continues to be a priority for UNICEF. Hygiene practices before the earthquake were poor, and it is feared that this, coupled with poor sanitation will lead to the rapid spread of disease. UNICEF coordinates the sector groups, working hand in hand with DINEPA, the Haitian water agency. As well as cholera there is also concern for vector borne diseases including ZIKV, dengue, chikungunya and malaria. In addition to activities previously reported:

- UNICEF has paid for fuel to support DINEPA to get water to most affected areas
- Assessment in Nippes shows that 65% of the water systems are damaged, with three out of forty-three completely destroyed. The situation in Grand Boucan and Barradères is described as 'critical'
- UNICEF has supported the installation of water treatment plants in Port Salut, Cayes a la Savanne, Roche, Torbeck and Maniche. UNICEF's NGO partners have just started their evaluation and UNICEF is supporting DINEPA to create a monitoring system, but based on the average water production of this type of machine it is anticipated that 30,000 people will benefit from this.
- Water purification stations have been installed in Gelée and Torbeck.
- A water bladder has been installed in Petite-Rivière in Nippes.



Water bladder being installed in Petite-Rivière © UNICEF/Fabienne

- On 15 October the large water treatment plant in Jeremie was installed, supported by UNICEF. As Jeremie had no water supply this is significant progress in the emergency response. This plant will produce approximately 300,000 litres of clean water per day, benefiting approximately 20,000 people.
- Drinking water has been distributed to seven schools that are makeshift shelters in Les Cayes, as well to people in Arniquet and Saint Jean du Sud. Water has also been distributed to the prison of Anse-à-Veau in Nipoes.
- UNICEF also ensured installation of a water bladder in the Hospital of the Immaculate Conception in Les Cayes
- UNICEF has supported fumigation of Arnould in Nippes as a preventative measure against malaria and other vector borne diseases.
- UNICEF continues to assess water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in institutions. As reported before, there is a fear that shelters may become long term accommodation facilities and therefore there has been some reluctance to put in place adequate water and sanitation systems in these shelters. UNICEF is monitoring the situation.
- UNICEF continues to lobby DINEPA to ensure shelters are clean and disinfected, and with hand washing options available. With some shelters set to close this weekend there is further concern that these people will be living outside, with no access to water, sanitation or suitable levels of hygiene.

Cholera response

Available data shows that 34 Cholera Treatment Centres out of 212 were completely destroyed. This is of large concern as it means people are being treated for cholera alongside other, potentially vulnerable, patients such as pregnant women and children.

One consequence of people starting to migrate, often walking on foot in search of better conditions, is a rapid increase in cholera cases. It is feared that amongst these people there are cases of cholera as well as that the probability to catch the disease is increased due to a poor sanitation and hygiene conditions. This presents a clear risk threatening further spread of the disease. UNICEF is:

- Integrating activities to prevent the spread of cholera as well as to ensure its swift treatment in its emergency response plan.
- Closely collaborating with ACTED in Port-a-Piment, Chardonnières, les Anglais and Tiburon to ensure a community response to cholera
- Working alongside ACTED to distribute 50 cholera kits in five shelters, as well as install 20 washing points and provide information to 2,000 people on safe hygiene practices in Les Cayes to prevent the spread of the disease
- Supporting the distribution of 70,000 Aquatabs which enable individuals to purify 700,000 litres of water, enough to benefit approximately 45,000 people.
- Assisting the installation of chlorination points and decontamination points in Port-a-Piment and Chardonnières. Assessment is underway to monitor how many litres of water these plants can process and therefore how many people will benefit.

Child Protection

Haiti has a very high number of children in institutions of whom 80% are believed to still have at least one living parent. There are already unconfirmed reports of a sharp increase in numbers of children in institutions, a week on from the hurricane, putting pressure on already weak institutions, and UNICEF is working with DPC to monitor this. UNICEF is also working to prevent an increase in violence, exploitation and abuse of children, especially gender based violence, which is often documented as a consequence of natural disaster. As in previous reports, there are no documented cases of unaccompanied or separated children.

- UNICEF continues to coordinate with relevant partners including IBESR and BPM.
- Children in detection centres might be at risk. There are 17 children in Les Cayes who are being assisted by UNICEF partner. There is an issue of concern that as families' resources decrease they may be unable to visit their children, particularly in areas where all crops and agriculture has been lost.
- UNICEF is planning on setting up Child Friendly spaces co-run with communities, IBESR and local authorities as soon as shelter issues are clarified. Complaint mechanisms will be put in place within those spaces.
- 36 residential centres have been evaluated by IBESR and 29 are in need of supplies or repairs. UNICEF is working with partners to deliver supplies to meet the needs of 1,452 children in the remaining 29 centres. Supplies include bags, hygiene kits, sanitation kits, drinking water and nutrition.

- UNICEF has also delivered 200 mattresses to residential homes via IBESR.
- 21 adoptive families have been evaluated through UNICEF partner TDH and UNICEF is working with partners to organize distribution of school kits, hygiene kits, bags, Aquatabs and food kits.
- UNICEF is exploring the reduced capacity of families to support detained relatives, particularly boys. Maintaining family links and ensuring the judicial guarantees of these children is of upmost importance and UNICEF is working with partners and families to increase the number of family visits.
- UNICEF works in partnership with the Corrections Offices and the Office of the Ombudsman, to improve the work in legal assistance provision in order to decrease the rate of prolonged pre-trial detention of children. UNICEF will integrate this activity into the emergency response to the protection needs of children in hurricane affected areas as a matter of priority.
- The team on the ground is continuing evaluations of residential care homes, shelters and foster care families.
- UNICEF is working with local partners to put together a plan of psychosocial activities for schools,
- UNICEF is also working with Care International on cash transfers to vulnerable families as a family strengthening mechanism to prevent family separation. It would be coupled with school reinsertion support and NFI assistance. This work is coordinated with WFP, UNFPA and UN Women.

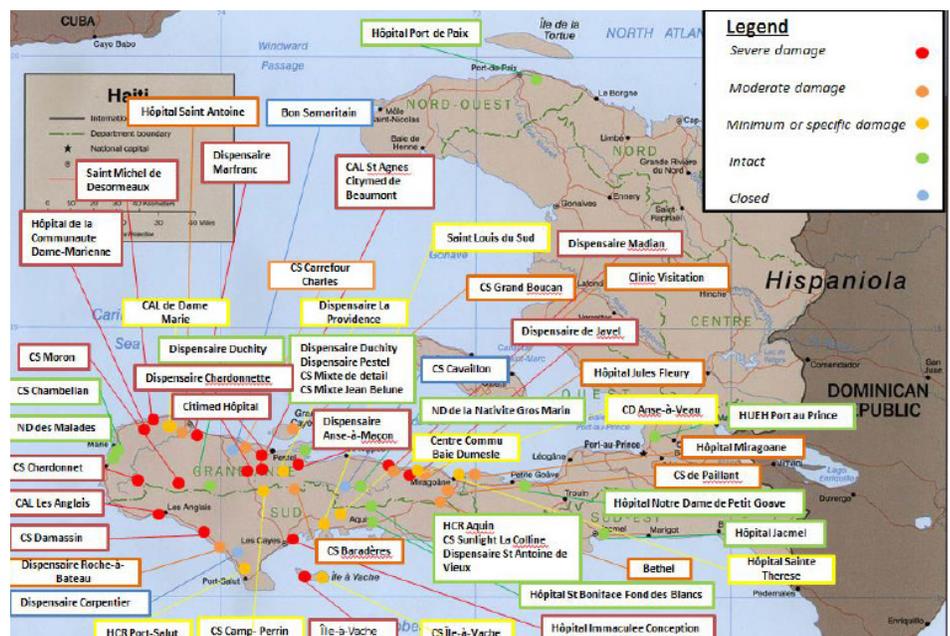
Education

The assessment of Catholic and Protestant schools has begun and it is certain that the number of damaged schools and children out of school will rise. In Grand'Anse alone 106 schools have been completely destroyed. Schools are set to reopen progressively as of Tuesday 18 October. The Ministry of Education has a clear priority of closing the temporary shelters currently in schools and getting as many children back to school as quickly as possible.

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education in the hurricane affected areas of North-West, South, Nippes and Grand'Anse
- There are four different ways UNICEF is supporting the education plan. UNICEF is 1) refurbishing schools, including ensuring suitable WASH facilities, 2) providing furniture including benches, tables and blackboards, 3) providing school kits to children and 4) providing teaching kits to teachers.
- Assessments are ongoing in North-west, South, Nippes and Grand'Anse
- Having received the list from the Ministry of Education of the first 30 schools to be rehabilitated, UNICEF has placed orders for 45,000 school bags and school kits for 8,000 children. These will arrive in the next few days.
- UNICEF has identified NGO partners to ensure the rehabilitation of these schools. These partners are La Federation des Ecoles Protestante d'Haiti, the Italian NGO AVSI, CEEC (Catholic Schools Network) and ADEMA (local NGO in operation in the N West).

Health and Nutrition

As the map (PAHO) indicates, a large number of hospitals have been affected by the hurricane. It is feared that stocks of medical supplies in affected areas are extremely low, while the routine vaccination campaigns have not taken place in some areas since 1 October. In addition, with 176,000 people at risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, particularly for children under five years old, is a further concern. Nutrition is highly dependent on the health sector, and the network of health centres and hospitals. Food aid, as delivered by WFP, is the initial emergency response, while UNICEF continues monitoring of nutrition and planning the response accordingly.



- UNICEF assessments of the situation, slowed by the fact that in some hospitals doctors and nurses are so overwhelmed with the situation, show that there is critical shortage of medication. UNICEF has organised the distribution of existing stock with PAHO.
- The UNFPA/UNICEF evaluation, highlights that Nippes department is in need of urgent interventions in the health sector.
- The Ministry of Health is coordinating the response and all personnel in the field need to register with the MoH before undertaking any relief work. CTCs must follow MoH policy and be in a Health facility. Equally all supply and kits must be registered with the Pharmacy Department of the Ministry of Health, so that there is a record of what drugs are in place.
- There are two vaccination campaigns being planned. The first is the cholera campaign which will benefit 500,000 people. This is being coordinated by the Ministry of Health, and UNICEF plays a critical role in administrating vaccinations and also ensuring the cold chain is in place. The second vaccination campaign is restoring regular vaccinations of pregnant women and those under five years old, including all outreach services.
- UNICEF chaired the technical group for Nutrition, enabling progress with partners for the plan for the weeks ahead. It was agreed that a mapping of current and prospective interventions would take place, in order to develop an emergency nutrition plan for the sector.
- UNICEF has completed its initial nutrition assessment, but now working with WFP on the forth-coming in depth food security assessment that will take two to three weeks to complete.
- There has been an unsolicited distribution of breast-milk substitute. UNICEF is updating its joint statement on donation and distribution of breast-milk substitute which will be redistributed to all relevant partners.
- UNICEF currently has nutrition supplies available for use in the response and will shortly resume services as they existed pre Hurricane Matthew.

Operations Support *Supply and Logistics*

A detailed supply plan has been compiled responding to the thus far assessed needs on the ground. This list will be updated as and when needs assessments are completed.

There continues to be some concern over the security of supply and logistics, so UNICEF is working with partners to ensure convoy escorts in collaboration with local authorities as appropriate. Delivery of supplies is mostly being undertaken in daylight hours for safety reasons.

Human Resources

An HR plan for the next two months has been compiled for the national office, and includes surge missions as well as longer term recruitments and staffing of temporary offices in Les Cayes and Jeremie. The initial needs assessments are being used to understand human resource needs on the ground. UNICEF HCO is applying lessons learned from previous emergencies in Haiti and fulfilling its commitments to build national capacity by keeping national staff and partners at the centre of its emergency response.

Media and External Communication

Work continues on keeping Hurricane Matthew in international news outlets to secure further funding opportunities to meet the immediate needs. The Spanish National Committee has visited Les Cayes with a film crew. UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon has also visited the most affected area of Les Cayes, 15 October.

- UNICEF has worked on the publication of a photo essay on the risk of cholera. It can be viewed here <https://medium.com/p/2dabfb72210e/>
- Daily blog posts have been published highlighting different aspects of the response.
- Interviews with French outlets including France Inter and ZDF

Funding

| | In donor currency | In US Dollar |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Canada | CAD\$900,000 | 683,526 |
| Italian Government | €600,000 | 668,400 |
| US Fund Mercury | US\$1,500,000 | 1,500,000 |
| TOTAL | | 2,851,926 |

UNICEF would like to thank Canada, the Italian Government and US Fund as well as other donors who have expressed their commitment or intent for their donations to date. To address the funding gap, UNICEF is exploring potential funding opportunities with USAID, DFID and ECHO amongst other opportunities, and appreciates donors' commitments made during the WHS to increase un-earmarked funding.

The joint Flash Appeal has been launched to address the immediate needs of the hurricane; clearer and more comprehensive projection of needs and required resources for an effective response will emerge from currently ongoing needs assessments.

UNICEF current funding gap stands at \$4,448,074 for the initial response to immediate needs of people affected by the crisis

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further
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