Financing

39 million USD required to assist victims of Hurricane Sandy in Haiti

The United Nations and humanitarian organizations are appealing for 39.2 million USD in urgent assistance to tackle the worsening humanitarian emergency in Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Some 2 million people were affected by Sandy, including 1.6 million people facing critical needs in food security, agriculture, shelter, health and potable water.

“...”

Under the 39 million emergency appeals, UN and humanitarian partners will support the GoH in addressing critical needs for more than 1 million people.
Cholera epidemic

Hurricane Sandy’s passage raises concerns about an upsurge in new cholera cases.

Health authorities and partners are concerned about a cholera upsurge in the wake of Sandy. A significant increase was observed in the most affected departments (Artibonite, South, South-East, Nippes and West).

Initial post-hurricane assessments report a rise in daily infection rates from 203 on 19 October, when the last statistics were released, to 1,081 new cases, dozens of hospitalizations and about twenty deaths, mainly in Artibonite, in the Southern peninsula (Sud, Sud-est, Nippes) and Ouest department following the first week after Hurricane Sandy. Several assessments report damage to 30 water supplies systems and wells in some remote locations. 22 cholera treatment centers were destroyed, a situation which could worsen the infection rates.

Comprehensive assessments have been slowed down due to storm damage to roads and bridges, and limited access to some affected communities. However, alerts from the departments indicate an alarming situation, especially in Artibonite and Sud departments where up to 100 new cases were reported in Gonaives and Maniche alone, and more than 80 in Les Cayes and Aquin.

In the Ouest department, PAHO/WHO reported nearly a hundred new cases mostly from IDP camps where sanitary conditions are often inadequate.

PAHO/WHO is supporting the Ministry of Public Health by distributing cholera kits and WASH supplies as well as 5,274 non-food items. Evaluations of cholera treatment centers are ongoing by four departmental teams, which are also coordinating management and movement of patients.

Emergency preparedness

Hurricane Sandy: preparedness and response

Hurricane Sandy was not expected to make landfall in Haiti. However, as it approached the region, the Government of Haiti (GoH) activated the National Risk Management and Disaster Plan (PNGRD). It also activated the national emergency operations center (COUN) as of 23 October. On 24 October, all departmental level emergency centers (COUDs) were activated to support preparedness and response activities.
The MINUSTAH-led Expanded Joint Operations Center (EJOC) was activated, and OCHA deployed staff to support coordination management within the COUN. Support included contingency stock updates, Red Cross and NGO stand by capacities monitoring, and provision of rapid needs assessment tools.

OCHA also supported coordination, working in collaboration with the DPC coordination cell in Port-au-Prince and the Inter-cluster Coordination (ICC) group.

During the emergency preparedness phase, OCHA ensured constant liaison with the GoH through the DPC and shared all available information with partners.

The Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Nigel Fisher, met with senior government officials, including Prime Minister Lamothe, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Director of Civil Protection to coordinate response to Hurricane Sandy.

The ICC group and Government representatives from the DPC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held regular emergency meetings at OCHA to discuss the humanitarian community’s response to Sandy.

Although joint multi-sectoral assessments and strategic planning meetings are ongoing, it is increasingly evident that, overall, the impact of Sandy on Haiti has been devastating.

The southern (Sud, Sud-est, Grande Anse) and Ouest departments bore the brunt of the hurricane. All rivers in the South and some in Ouest department burst their banks and flooded many localities, making them inaccessible. The islands in Les Cayes bay were completely isolated.

Seven major categories of impacts were reported: flooded homes and public structures (hospitals, schools, offices); significant deterioration of beaches and port areas; damaged roads, bridges and culverts; crop, livestock, and fishing boat losses; landslides; excessive sedimentation; and increased risk of health emergencies including cholera.

In all, as of 30 October, the number of confirmed deaths stood at 54. In addition, 21 persons were reported missing and 20 injured. At the height of the emergency the GoH and the humanitarian community evacuated 21,107 people to 158 shelters nationwide. Up to 18,277 homes were flooded, damaged or destroyed.
Areas affected by Hurricane Sandy

**Strengthening management of disaster risks in Haiti**

Tulane University, USA, organized the first leadership development training in resilience to natural disasters for professional risk and disaster managers from 21 to 26 October in Mirebalais, Centre department, in collaboration with the State University of Haiti and the Department of Civil Protection.

The training was part of the International Leadership Fellowship Program on Resilience to Disasters (GDRL), which is an essential component of the Leadership and Resilience to Disasters Program (SLDRP). It aims to reduce disaster risks in vulnerable communities by systematically strengthening capacity practitioners in disaster risk reduction (DRR), supporting the development of future leaders and working for sustainability through a network of global university, public and private actors.

The GDRL is dedicated to strengthening and improving the skills of current practitioners in risk reduction through a number of courses and professional training seminars, using the program as a framework for leadership and resilience training.

This 3-year project to reduce risks and disasters in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank. It is being implemented by the Academy for Leadership and Resiliency and Tulane University, in partnership with other universities and institutions.

**Food security**

**Sandy heightens concerns about food security**

The succession of natural disasters in Haiti since the beginning of the year, including drought in the northern departments, TS Isaac in August, and Hurricane Sandy in October, have compounded the problems of the agricultural sector and subjected the country to growing food insecurity. The food security situation in at least 60 of the 140 communes in Haiti is considered serious by international partners. The food insecurity rate hovers around 50% and some 2 million people are thought to be at risk. In a report published in July 2012, FEWS NET predicted that food supplies to local markets would be greatly affected in September and October due to the drought. There is now growing concern that the recent crop and livestock losses, which are the main sources of nutrition...
of most poor households, will make it even harder to access basic foodstuff for the rest of the year.

**Agriculture and event time line in 2012**

According to the latest report from FEWS NET and CNSA (September 2012), released prior to the passage of Hurricane Sandy, poor households would continue to face stress until December 2012.

Crop production deficits observed in the country have placed most poor households in Phase 2 (‘Stressed’) of the FEWS NET “IPC Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table for Household Groups” sooner than expected, according to the report. This has been compounded by an upward trend in the price of imported basic foodstuff noticeable in the markets. Furthermore, a slight appreciation in the value of the US dollar is undermining the purchasing power of poor households.

The government has taken measures to counter the rising cost of living, including the creation of a Price Stabilization Commission on September 14 of this year. A six-point plan has been adopted, comprising the direct involvement of the state in importing 5 key commodities (rice, corn, flour, cooking oil and beans), initiating the creation of food reserves.

**Response to the earthquake**

**Project 16/6: A year of success in relocating/returning displaced persons**

The rehabilitation program of 16 districts following the closure of six camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) has been described as a success. In the year after it was launched, the program has returned or relocated 44,000 people (11,000 families) to their home districts in metropolitan Port-au-Prince.

The project plans to continue rehabilitating and rebuilding neighborhoods destroyed by the January 2010 earthquake, while improving local living conditions in areas slated for the relocation program in the Port-au-Prince area through the creation of income generating activities.

**Rebuild or repair homes**

Project 16/6 enabled the construction, in one year, of 718 out of the 1,100 houses planned. By the end of the year, 1,600 houses will either be repaired or built according to guidelines published by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communications (MTPTC).

**Revival of economic activity**

The project is part of a GoH’s strategy aimed at boosting economic activity in neighborhoods by systematically integrating local actors and strengthening micro-finance institutions and business support. Overall, 1,000 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) will benefit from microcredit facilities and/or vocational training in
technical and business management. This should enable the creation or strengthening of nearly 2,000 jobs from the 16/6 project implementation.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are backing the GoH in the 16/6 program.

The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) also played an important role in the project’s implementation, through the registration of 2,039 families in the Maïs Gaté Camp (one of the six priority camps) in November 2011, representing 40% of the number of families in 6 camps.

By the time the 16/6 project ends in 2013, it is forecast to have enabled access to solid and safe homes for hundreds of families, and to thousands of new jobs created through the program.

UNICEF supports the free education program

UNICEF has distributed 750,000 school kits in public and community schools in the ten departments of Haiti, to mark the start of the 2012 new school year. The distribution campaign is part of UNICEF’s support for the GoH’s universal free and compulsory education program (PSUGO) launched in 2011.

In addition to the 750,000 primary school beneficiaries (37.5 percent of the total primary school population), the campaign covers 21,000 teachers (31 percent of the teaching staff), and 3,500 schools. Special attention is given to schools in the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas.

The school packs contain notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, chalk for children. Teachers also receive attendance registers, books, notebooks, course preparation materials, accessories and maps.

According to the UNICEF Representative in Haiti, Edouard Beigbeder, the organization has mobilized a large part of its resources so as to reach the greatest number of students across the country, including in remote areas. “This is part of the principle of equality which is at the heart of our agenda,” he explained.

School children are the best promoters of hand washing

In 2009, in a small village located in the mountains of Fréchou 6th communal section of Petion-Ville, near Port-au-Prince, the mother of a 14-year-old boy named Dérilus’ almost succumbed to cholera. Poor sanitation was the cause. Since then, the boy has fully realized the importance of simple hand washing with soap, to protect his family and to protect him from the disease and other infections.

The school Dérilus attends was destroyed by the earthquake in 2010. UNICEF rebuilt it, providing latrines and wash stands with soap. Training sessions were organized to encourage students to practice regular hand washing.

On World Hand Washing Day, October 12, 2012, Dérilus’ school hosted senior Haitian government and UNICEF officials. UNICEF representative Edouard Beigbeder was quite
ecstatic with the progress made. “This school now has excellent sanitation. Students can wash their hands with soap and benefit from sanitation advocacy campaigns. They will be much better protected against diseases such as cholera.” said Mr. Beigbeder.

The campaign is led by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, and the National Directorate of Potable Water and Sanitation, with the support of UNICEF, 40 additional organizations, and more than 30 community organizations.

**OCHA organizes a CM-Coord Course**

From 15 to 18 October 2012, a United Nations Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) course was held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The event was hosted by OCHA Haiti, with the support of the Civil Military Coordination Sections (CMCS) of OCHA Geneva. The course is one of the tools used by OCHA to improve the responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian relief operations.

During four days, 42 participants from the Government of Haiti (Directorate of Civil Protection), Humanitarian Community, MINUSTAH and the US Embassy took part in intensive discussions led by UN-CMCoord professionals aimed at:

- A better understanding of humanitarian response and coordination mechanisms, including the role of OCHA globally and in Haiti;
- Analyzing and applying the Haiti specific Civil Military Coordination Guidelines;
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of military actors in international relief response, particularly in the Haitian context.

Discussions and presentations were intensive, while attendants learned about valuable inter-agency coordination tools and communication. “It was interesting to understand the complexity of the situation and the necessity for a full mobilization of resources. OCHA’s role is definitely the backbone of humanitarian’s intervention” said Madame Jourdain, Haïti DPC director in the Centre Department.

Most of the participants stressed that they learnt new aspects of the humanitarian response and coordination framework. Sylvia Ramos, WASH Cluster lead (UNICEF), explained that she “will remember the willingness of the military to assist the humanitarian community whenever they ask. And, to be honest, I was not totally aware of that before. I wish they had done this course when I arrived.”

Military Officers also expressed satisfaction with the training. Lieutenant-Colonel Jeffrey Miller from the US Marines Corps (MINUSTAH) explained how the course has provided him with a “better understanding of the civilian point of view as well as the goals and objectives of everyone in the process. Actually, I even think this training needs some more NGOs.”

Brazilian Colonel Eduardo Acosta, also part of MINUSTAH, added that “the barrier between military and civilians was crossed this week. We shared experiences and we avoided generalizations. After all…we all work in a multi-actor environment.”

The Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti, Mr. Nigel Fisher, and MINUSTAH’s Force Commander, Major General Fernando Goulart, attended the graduation ceremony and
expressed their satisfaction with the course. To them, the course had succeeded in promoting humanitarian-military relationship by raising mutual awareness and understanding of the roles of the military and humanitarian actors in natural disasters as well as complex emergencies.

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