

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Haiti. The next report will be issued on 26 August 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Damage assessments are ongoing: six deaths, including that of an eight-year-old girl reported.
- Forty-one (41) temporary evacuation sites opened in affected departments, in particular in Ouest, Sudest, Grand Anse and Nord-est departments.
- Prepositioned food and water stocks are being distributed to people in temporary evacuation sites.
- The National System for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNGRD) reports that 14,375 people have been evacuated and 13,561 are in temporary evacuation sites.
- Monitoring for possible increase in cholera cases remains a priority.

II. Situation Overview

Tropical Storm (TS) Isaac reached Haiti at approximately 2 a.m. 25 August. With the centre of the storm passing over the southern peninsula. Heavy rains over Haiti are expected during the next 24 hours. The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) is maintaining Red Alert and disseminating information and risk awareness bulletins.

Heavy rains have been reported in much of the country, but there are only isolated reports of significant damage. Rainfall accumulations were of 8-12 inches.

Preventative evacuations targeted the most vulnerable people in high risk camps. An additional The UN, NGOs and the Red Cross partners, in collaboration with the Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC) and the Haitian National Police (HNP) worked closely to safely evacuate some 14,000 people in West, Grande-Anse, Artibonite and Nippes departments. There is a risk of an upsurge in cholera cases, especially after flooding and heavy rains; the most vulnerable and affected departments are Grande-Anse, South, South-East, Artibonite and West

The National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN), the Department Emergency Operations Centre (COUD) and the Commune Emergency Operations Centre (COUC) remain activated and regular contact is maintained with the Department Delegates and the technical coordinators of the DPC to follow up on actions undertaken. DPC teams have been deployed to carry out first impact assessment.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



AGRICULTURE

The Food Security Technical Group, composed of FAO, WFP and partner NGOs, has been activated in support of the National Centre for Food Security (CNSA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARNDR). Fifty well-trained staff of MARNDR, supported by FAO, have been deployed throughout the country to assess damages and respond to needs in the agriculture sector.

Agricultural contingency stocks covering the immediate needs of 20,000 households have been prepositioned in strategic locations, under the lead of the MARNDR and its decentralized structures.

FAO noted losses to livestock and banana crops, which comes on the heels of the drought that severely affected the cereal crops, especially in the northern departments. Further assessment and monitoring of food security is required.



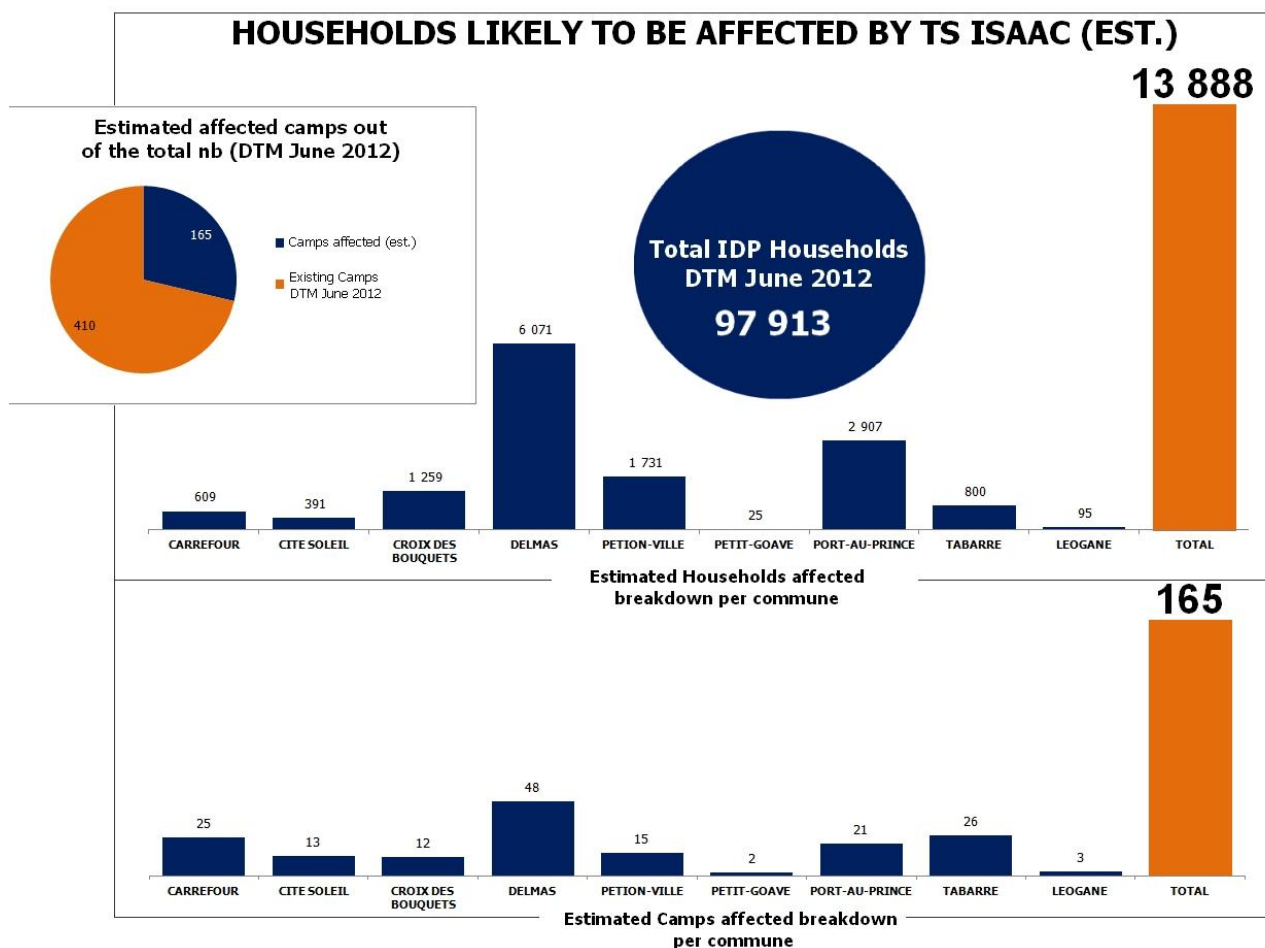
ESHelter / COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Rapid assessments were conducted by phone with camp committees and cluster partners in all of the most vulnerable camps. Field assessments to verify the information have started and depending on weather conditions will continue.

Preliminary findings indicate that 13,888 families have been affected in more than 160 camps, mostly in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. Coordination was ongoing during the day with the CCCM and Emergency shelter Cluster (IOM lead agency).

Cluster partners (IOM, ACTED, MOFKA, CARE, IEDA RELIEF, SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL, J/P HRO, and World Vision) are gathering preliminary information via phone calls. Where weather conditions allowed, field assessments were also launched, although most available figures still need field verification. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement deployed emergency teams to undertake preliminary assessments and have assessed more than 50 camps in the Port-au-Prince area.

The NGO J/P HRO evacuated 180 persons from the IDP camp Terrain Golf to on-site school premises.



EARLY RECOVERY(ER)

The ER group, coordinated by UNDP, is providing support to the Ministry of Public Works (MTPCT) in the Leogane area where six rivers have risen, including the Rouyamme River that overflowed its banks.

Cash for work brigades are organized and on standby and stocks are available for deployment if requested by the DPC.



EDUCATION

UNICEF notes the use of 14 school premises in metropolitan Port-au-Prince as temporary shelters for evacuees. UNICEF recommends that this use be as brief as possible and that the premises and furniture be protected from damage as schools are expected to resume in September.



EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

WFP is facilitating radio and communication for all UN agencies and a backup radio room is fully functional in case the main one becomes unavailable. A special request for military escort was sent to MINUSTAH to ensure that radio operators have access to the radio room in case of serious floods.



FOOD

In addition to provisions by national actors, WFP emergency food rations are available for up to 305,000 people. In addition, WFP has an overall stock of approximately 20,000 MT of various food commodities able to cover a total of 517,000 people throughout the country for 21 days.

On Friday 24th August WFP dispatched, in coordination with IOM, 3.2 metric tonnes of high-energy biscuits to 14 emergency evacuation centers in and around Port-au-Prince. The food dispatched is a two-day ration to cover approximately 8,300 people evacuated from 18 camps.

WFP staffs are present in main coordination points: COUN, DPC, OCHA-managed Emergency Joint Operations Centre (EJOINT), MINUSTAH-managed Expanded Joint Operations Centre (EJOC), food sector coordination, nutrition sector coordination, NGOs;

WFP Vulnerability Assessment Monitoring (VAM) staff is coordinating with the National Food Security Commission (CNSA) on assessments needs together NGO partners.

Information and requests for food are being collected at this stage. All requests are being routed through the DPC, registered in a centralized database for joint analysis with local authorities.

WFP reinforced field teams are standing by in sub-offices in Jacmel, Gonaives, Cap Haitien and Port-au-Prince, for maximum response capacity.



HEALTH

The Health Cluster reported six new cases of cholera in the West department: four in Arcahaie and two in Delmas. Monitoring is continuing as a priority.

PAHO and IOM repaired two cholera treatment units destroyed by wind in Estère and Marchand Dessaline in the Artibonite department. Field teams are assessing hospitals in the area.

The IFRC has donated 63 units of blood to the Haitian Red Cross.



LOGISTICS

No major damage to national roads reported, with repairs underway for the few damaged stretches. The road to the Dominican Republic is clear. Several minor roads are cut off by fallen trees or water logging, thus isolating some areas;

Port-au-Prince airport is open and operational but flights are at the discretion of the airline (most major airlines have cancelled flights)

A fleet of 48 WFP trucks and private trucks (1,000 metric tonne total daily capacity), is on stand-by, and extra storage capacity can be rapidly established through mobile storage units to integrate WFP warehouse network. 12 boats are also ready to be deployed.

MINUSTAH military contingents are currently doing patrols of their Area of Responsibilities (AOR) to assess bridge and road conditions, with information being consolidated by OCHA and WFP Liaison officers located in the EJOE and submitted to the EJOINT.

MINUSTAH UNPOL teams are patrolling and monitoring situation. UNPOL IDP Camp Units are active in camps, including patrolling camps which do not have static units.

MINUSTAH Military Engineering Units are on standby and have been assessing damages and doing reconnaissance of requests for support.



PROTECTION

The Government Child Protection agency (IBESR) has staff 24/7 in their Call Centre for vulnerable children. The Call Centre is based in Port-au-Prince but takes calls from across the country.

The Child Protection Brigade (BPM) has a Call Centre the public can contact. IBESR and the BPM have focal points in the different departments. Both IBESR and the BPM are in constant contact with partners, including the IFRC and the Haitian Red Cross and are working with the COUN and COUDs. Community-based partners are working in collaboration with IBESR and the BPM to prevent and respond to any concerns regarding vulnerable children and their families. IBESR leads on family tracing and reunification efforts.

IBESR is also following the situation of children in institutions/residential care centres. Some centres are at risk of flooding, and IBESR is responding to these needs. In one 24-hour period, IBESR's Call Centre received 1,071 calls with queries ranging from how to prepare for the storm/hurricane and where to move to be keep safe, to reporting cases of separated children in need of help.

The Haitian Red Cross has psychosocial counselors available who can respond throughout the country.

UNICEF Child Protection is working with Government and NGO partners throughout the country to provide technical support as part of ongoing regular and emergency programming. Stocks have been pre-positioned throughout the country. UNICEF Child Protection has provided financial support for the running of the Call Centres, and to support the efforts of the Government Child Protection actors, notably IBESR social workers and BPM officers.

An emergency cell has been activated settled in the ministry of women's affairs (MCFDF) in collaboration with DPC and UNFPA to support response to gender based violence (GBV). Five GBV safe houses are available. Awareness raising for people in camps on preparations for the hurricane season has also been conducted.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Preliminary assessments of drinking water systems (chlorine, bladders) in camps were conducted in three departments - Grand Anse, Nippes and Ouest. DINEPA and Helvetas prepared 45 temporary shelters for 5,000 people (chlorination system, distribution, awareness). Concern is supporting the distribution of water in temporary shelters.

Following initial inspections, DINEPA has confirmed that the water grid has not been compromised. Chlorination has improved. DINEPA has stocked 5 tonnes of chlorine and will begin distribution across the country on Monday.

IV. Coordination

- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) had a meeting in which UN and humanitarian community shared information and reiterated the importance of undertaking joint coordinated multi-sectoral assessments to identify needs and requisite response. Rapid assessments are underway.

- The COUN and most departmental and commune levels remain active. The MINUSTAH-led EJOC and OCHA-led humanitarian coordination center, EJOINT, are fully operational.

V. Contact

For further information, please contact:

George Ngwa Anuongong, Chief, Communication section, ngwaanuongong@un.org, Tél. (509) 3702 5192

Rachelle Elie, information officer, elien@un.org, Tel. (509) 3702 5177

Widlyn Dornevil, reporting officer, dornevil@un.org, Tel. (509) 3702 5182

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at <http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info/> | www.unocha.org |