

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Haiti. The next report will be issued on 25 August 2012 .

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- According to the latest report from the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC), Haiti is in the path of Hurricane Isaac, which is expected to make landfall in the southwestern departments Friday night. In collaboration with the DPC, the UN and humanitarian community has activated contingency plans for hurricane response.
- International partners including MINUSTAH, UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are mobilized to support the efforts of the GoH to prepare and respond to TS Isaac.
- The *Groupe d'appui de la Communauté Internationale (GACI)* was convened Thursday by the Prime Minister to discuss preparedness efforts pre- and post-Tropical Storm Isaac. Tropical Storm Isaac is moving slowly. It is expected to strengthen before landfall and cross the southern peninsula by 2 a.m, Saturday 25 August. The storm is expected to bring heavy rains of up to 12 inches over much of the country. The storm will cross Haiti between Jacmel and West. Heavy rains waves and storm surge may cause coastal road damage.
- At this meeting GACI members provided initial indication of potential resources and support for response. The meeting was co-chaired by the acting Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Kevin Kennedy and Haiti's Minister of Interior and was attended by UN agencies, Red Cross, DPC, international NGOs, MINUSTAH and some governments and bilateral donor agencies.
- Camp Management/Camp Coordination cluster continues to broaden sensitization for disaster preparedness, and critically vulnerable people living in 18 camps are being evacuated by DPC with support IOM, Haitian Red Cross, WFP and partners.

II. Situation Overview

The international community is mobilized to support the government's response at both national and departmental levels. Emergency coordination structures, notably the Expanded Joint Operations Centre (EJOC) led by MINUSTAH and the Emergency Joint Operations Centre (EJOINT), led by OCHA and comprising members of the humanitarian clusters, have been activated. Coordination activities in preparation for the storm are ongoing as humanitarian partners reinforce field teams, continue to preposition stocks and intensify public information and sensitization campaigns.

MINUSTAH has mobilized both infantry and engineering units to likely affected areas to assist in ensuring access and security for humanitarian operations.

Evacuations of the most vulnerable remaining camp residents in Port-au-Prince are ongoing. Drinking water and dried food rations, including biscuits are being provided in the communes of Cité Soleil, Tabarre Fonts Verettes of the West department.

National government and international partners continue to prepare and sensitize the population to risks and measures to be taken.

During the GACI meeting, the Haitian government acknowledged the international community's support to the National System for Disaster Risk Management (SNGRD) and reiterated the importance of effective and coherent coordination among national and international partners. In addition, the need for a joint assessments to inform common assessments in anticipation of possible requests for assistance was reinforced.

The DSRG issued a statement later in the day, on the role of the UN agencies in assisting the government respond adequately and efficiently to impact of the storm, and a joint press conference was held by the Ministry of Communication, DPC and UN agencies.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



AGRICULTURE

FAO has repositioned basic farm tools for 20,000 households.



CAMP COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT/ EMERGENCY SHELTER

The CCCM cluster has prioritized awareness-raising activities, informing people of the potential dangers associated with storms and hurricanes. The cluster is supporting evacuation of vulnerable people living in high-risk camps and communities.

DPC with support from IOM and the CCCM cluster has identified 2,500 highly vulnerable camp residents IDPs living in 18 vulnerable IDP camp sites across metropolitan Port-au-Prince. IOM, the CCCM cluster lead, is also working to relocate up to 8,000 more vulnerable people in the Port-au-Prince area. These vulnerable people and their families are being offered temporary shelter in 14 pre-identified Evacuation Shelters in the capital. One thousand people have been voluntarily evacuated as of the evening of 24th.

In Jérémie, 50 families were housed in the lycée where DINEPA has guaranteed regular water supply to the lycée, and MAST is providing hot meals to the families. In Artibonite prisoners have also been relocated to other safer prisons.

Additional preparedness measures include:

- This morning (24th) IOM deployed teams to execute accompanied evacuations across 7 communes of Port au Prince, in partnership with the DPC, Haitian Red Cross, IFRC and WFP.
- Lodging at the Evacuation shelters is intended for 72 hours beyond the passing of TS Isaac.
- Management of the Evacuation Shelters will be handled by the Haitian Red Cross; latrines and water tanks will be provided by IOM; WFP to provide high-energy high energy biscuits.
- IOM's, WASH, Health, Protection, Registration, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management teams are working to execute the movement of persons from the camps to the Evacuation Shelters, in close collaboration with the E-Shelter/CCCM Cluster.
- Vigilance Committees are present in 32 vulnerable camps, including the 18 camps targeted for evacuation. These Committees are providing ongoing sensitization, and acting as the focal points for issues related to the movement of vulnerable households.
- In Artibonite, about 300 detainees in a flood-prone prison are being relocated.
- Post emergency evaluation capacity has been established covering 490 camps and 88 565 families
- IOM has carried out sensitization in 480 camps, and other organizations such as ACTED, World Service of Mercy, also carried out door-to-door public information and sensitization in 494 camps distributing Chimen Lakay, a national language newspaper.
- IFRC SMS messaging reached 70,000 people on 23 August and are continuing.
- IOM has constructed 10 evacuation Shelters and rehabilitated 19 Evacuation Shelters

Vulnerabilities associated with the 390,000 persons still living in 575 camps across Haiti are a particular concern with the arrival of Tropical Storm Isaac.

A total of 1,400 evacuation sites located in public buildings throughout the 10 administrative districts of Haiti have a capacity to host 240,972 persons. However, only 151 centers, with a capacity to host 53,816, are located in metropolitan Port au Prince, leaving a gap in accommodating the vulnerable groups in need of evacuation from vulnerable camp settings.

Emergency shelters supplies (tarps and tents) are available for 70,000 families. In addition, with 70,000 jerry cans, 53,000 hygiene kits, and other materials there is capacity for the first days of the response. .

Assessment capacity includes the commitment from 7 agencies for 215 camps.

While evacuations have been ongoing there is some reluctance by many people to leave their tents and awareness raising is ongoing.



EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

WFP is facilitating radio and communication for all UN agencies and a backup radio room is fully functional in case the main Camp Delta site 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 stocks are available for up to 320,000 people. Current WFP in-country emergency stock include: 64MT of High-Energy Biscuits (HEB), corresponding to 320,000 daily rations (200g/day/person). Stocks are available in Port-au-Prince (7MT), Jacmel (3.5MT), Gonaives (23MT), Cap Haitien (17.5MT). In addition, WFP has an overall stock of approximately 20,000 MT of various food commodities.

Friday 24th WFP dispatched 3.2MT of high-energy biscuits to 18 emergency evacuation centers in and around Port-au-Prince. The food dispatched is a two-day ration to cover approximately 8,300 people in evacuation centers.

WFP has been in contact with various NGOs with emergency response capacity and specifically in the South West (Catholic Relief Services, CRS), South East (ACDI/VOCA) and Ile de la Gonaive/Plateau Central (World Vision) in order to coordinate potential emergency response and avoid overlaps. NGOs are expected to support the initial response - in coordination with the local authorities - in their respective areas of operation, with their own stocks. WFP stands ready to provide additional support if needed.

Prepositioning of high-energy biscuits in Jérémie (5MT) and Le Cayes (5MT) is scheduled to be completed by 24th, with transport capacity available in case distribution will be required.



NUTRITION

Emergency items have been prepositioned with 3 partners and evaluation capacity is on standby.



HEALTH

The health cluster is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health (MSPP), and has deployed 4 teams of doctors in 4 locations covering all departments. In Port au Prince there are also focal points in the EJOINT, COUN, and one in the cholera cell response in MSPP. Seventy-seven emergency kits of basic medications have also been positioned in 10 departments and response teams are on standby. A PAHO/WHO team is also on standby in Washington, DC, and additional health resources available for immediate deployment include a Canadian Red Cross field hospital.



LOGISTICS

WFP is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with the Direction for Civil Protection (DPC), Minustah and other relevant UN agencies.

Two (2) boats will be made available to the DPC in Artibonite if needed.

WFP reinforced field teams are standing by in Jacmel, Gonaives, Cap Haitien and Port-au-Prince, in order to ensure maximum response capacity.

MINUSTAH has established 24/7 Emergency Operations throughout the country, which include Ready Duty Engineering Units (RDEU – self-sufficient for fourteen days without requiring additional logistical support) ready to clear roads for the deployment of emergency response teams and evacuations. MINUSTAH's 5,700 infantry troops are ready to deploy once the storm has passed to assess damage and requirements for further military relief efforts, as well as to deter any possible criminal activity.

MINUSTAH will also be providing reconnaissance flights immediately after the passage of the Tropical Storm.



PROTECTION

The protection cluster is working with the Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Affairs. NGOs are able to do evaluations, and some organizations are carrying out door-to-door awareness-raising.

Helpage has adopted a response plan for three communes: Delmas, Tabarre and Croix des Bouquets in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. It is disseminating protection messages targeting elderly persons.

Concern, IRC, World Vision and local NGOs have contingency plans and have located centers where victims could be housed.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The national water authority, DINEPA activated the emergency unit yesterday (23rd), and is holding meetings twice a day. This is the outcome of preparedness efforts over the past months.

The WASH cluster is supporting DINEPA's emergency unit to coordinate partners at all levels with the support of OCHA.

Distribution of chlorine (1,100 kg) took place on 24th in different departments, with an additional hundred tons set aside for distribution. Four solid waste drainage trucks have been deployed to the South.

All department emergency focal points are participating in department-level coordination meetings.,

IV. Coordination

The emergency coordination structures, notably the MINUSTAH-led (EJOC) and the OCHA-led (E-JOINT) are activated, to support coordination and information management, including contingency stock updates, roster of UN, Red Cross and NGO stand by capacities, and rapid needs assessment tools. OCHA is supporting coordination, working in collaboration with the DPC coordination cell in Port-au-Prince.

The government activated the COUN as of 23 August. OCHA, UNDP, WFP, and IOM are present to support the coordination efforts, with cluster specific cell on stand-by for activation as needed. OCHA, UNDP, and representatives of clusters, MINUSTAH and NGO partners are present in the COUN, COUD COUC (national, departmental and commune level emergency centres) support preparedness and response activities for Tropical Storm ISAAC

Recent changes in communal-level COUN focal points, requires strengthening capacities, based on lessons learned from the recent SIMEX. OCHA is supporting liaison with mayors.

Four key clusters established during the earthquake response – WASH, HEALTH, E-shelter/CCCM, and Protection – remain activated.

Needs

Joint government and humanitarian partner assessments will identify needs arising from TS Isaac following the passage of the storm.

VI. Contact

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