



OVERVIEW

- Slight increase in desludging activities in camps
- Number of cholera cases decline with the dry season
- Reconstruction projects kick off

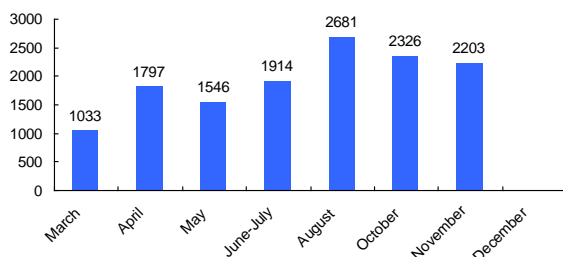


EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Slight improvement of sanitation conditions in camps

Sanitation conditions in IDP camps have slightly improved with a 5.3 per cent decline in November in the number of non-functional latrines compared to the previous month, according to the WASH Cluster. Consequently, open air defecation also decreased. Desludging activities by DINEPA-UNOPS have restarted last month, while 55 priority sites have received desludging services from the private fleet funded by UNICEF.

Decrease in the number of non-functional latrines



Disludging activities of cholera treatment units and centers (UTCs and CTCs) have also been conducted by the DINEPA-UNOPS fleet also funded by UNICEF.

IOM and the Federation of the Red Cross continue to operate their own disludging fleet. With a grant from the Emergency Relief Response Fund (ERRF) managed by OCHA, IOM will soon launch a six-month project to rehabilitate and dismantle more than 1,000 non-functional latrines.

The new waste treatment site of Morne-à-Cabri, initially funded by the Central Emergency Funds of the United Nations (CERF), and complemented by funding from UNICEF, EU and UNOPS, has been operational since October. Six other similar sites are being planned or built by DINEPA in other departments.

However, according to the latest Cluster's survey, the phasing out of humanitarian organizations has led to a

significant reduction in certain WASH activities in IDP camps.

In November, only 12 percent of the camps had a sufficient number of active hygiene promoters. Knowledge on how to prevent cholera is at its lowest level since March 2011. According to the survey, only 57 percent of the surveyed population was able to identify three cholera prevention methods.

The survey also shows that the number of functional hand washing stations in camps is dwindling. Today, six percent of the sites surveyed by IOM are equipped with hand washing stations and soap and water in sufficient quantity.

The WASH Cluster also notes that with the dry season and the subsequent decrease in new cholera cases in all departments since October, the distribution of soap and water treatment products in IDP sites and homes has declined substantially. This trend is also due to the phasing out of humanitarian organizations. From 35 per cent in June-July 2011, the percentage of people living in a temporary site and benefiting from such distributions dropped to 7 per cent in December 2011.

ACF will maintain its sanitation activities at Champs de Mars in 2012

With a \$ 210,000 grant from the Emergency Relief Response Fund (ERRF) managed by OCHA, Action Contre la Faim (ACF) is extending until June its disludging and maintenance activities of sanitation structures set up on Champs de Mars since January 2010. Withdrawal from Champs de Mars requires additional time to develop an exit strategy, says ACF.

Located around the Presidential Palace, Champs de Mars is still home of nearly 19,000 displaced people. While the number of IDPs in camps decreased steadily, the population of Champ de Mars has been rather stable.

ACF is currently the only partner covering the sanitation and hygiene needs of Champs de Mars residents. Its program includes daily disludging of 239 toilets,

maintenance of sanitation and hygiene facilities, twice daily disinfection of mobile toilets and hygiene promotion activities.

ACF ended its activities last May in all the sites where it was present, with the exception of Champs de Mars where its programs were initially scheduled to last until the end of December 2011

Unlike other sites hosting displaced people, individuals living in Champs de Mars come from different neighbourhoods, which does not allow for a community approach to the maintenance and cleaning of sanitation infrastructure as is the case elsewhere, according to ACF.

The organization's withdrawal depends on institutional commitment to respond to sanitation and hygiene needs of Champs de Mars residents until the closure of the camp.

ACF has already begun discussions to define to what extent and when DINEPA will be able to take over sanitation services.

Champs de Mars is one of the priority areas of the relocation program of President Martelly. Eventually the camp will be closed and relocation solutions will be offered to its residents.

More than a thousand transitional shelters for people with disabilities

Handicap International completed the construction of 1,050 transitional shelters in Petit-Goave and Grand Goave to house 4,799 people, mostly people with

disabilities and who lost their homes during the earthquake. The program is part of the overall return strategy of the humanitarian community.

Taking into account the specific needs of people with disabilities, these houses are equipped with ramps for wheelchairs. They have also been built to withstand heavy rains, hurricanes and earthquakes.



Source : Handicap International

According to the Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities (SEIPH), there are nearly one million people with disabilities in Haiti. It is likely that the earthquake increased the number of disabled people. Some 3,000 to 4,000 people were amputated as a result of the earthquake and many have been traumatized. The earthquake also destroyed 98% of buildings housing people with disabilities.



CHOLERA RESPONSE

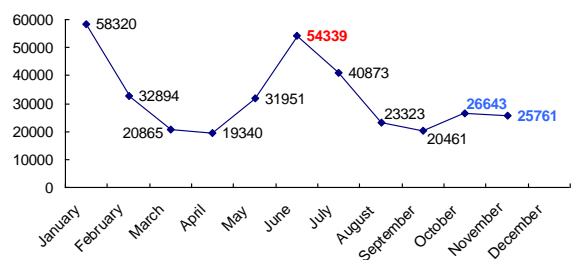
Number of new cholera cases is declining again with dry season

With the end of the rainy season, the number of new cholera cases is declining. Currently, an average of 300 cases per day is reported all over the country, compared to 500 cases last month, according to the Health Cluster. Cumulative case fatality rates are also going down or stabilizing in almost all 10 departments, with the exception of the South-East, where institutional case fatality rates increased from 2.2% to 2.4% between January and November 2011.

However, at 1.3 per cent, the cumulative case fatality rate nationwide is at its lowest and dropped from 2.4 in October 2010.

The Health Cluster also notes significant variations between departments in the number of new cholera cases. These can be actual differences, but are sometimes the result of underreporting in certain communes or treatment of other diarrhea-like illnesses.

Variation of monthly cholera cases



The symptoms of less severe cholera cases resemble other watery diarrhea symptoms. Therefore, a clinical distinction is impossible, and a stool testing should be performed, the Health Cluster notes. Haiti's national laboratory does not receive sufficient samples to perform cholera testing. Partners who are managing

<p>As of 17 Dec 2011:</p> <p>28</p> <p>Cholera Treatment Centres</p> <p>167</p> <p>Cholera Treatment Units</p> <p>Source: Health Cluster, MSPP</p>	<p>As of 30 Nov 2011:</p> <p>1.3%</p> <p>mortality rates nationwide</p> <p>515,699</p> <p>cumulative cholera cases</p> <p>6,942</p> <p>number of deaths</p>
--	--

CTCs and CTUs are requested to send samples of every 10th patient received to the laboratory.

The current cholera response is also affected by a withdrawal of partners owing to lack of funding and subsequent closure of cholera treatment structures, which also poses serious difficulties for the long-term institutional response.

A cartoon to fight cholera

In support of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFP), UNESCO published a comic book to educate children on cholera prevention and promote hand washing.

This 44-page comic is an adaptation of six animated films previously produced with the MSPP and broadcasted on public and private television channels in Haiti.

This comic book features a cartoon character already famous in Haiti called Ti-Joel. Through short stories, Ti-Joel explains how to protect oneself from cholera in school and in the street, how to purify water and prepare oral rehydration serum.

This document reinforces the principle of non-discrimination towards cholera patients and stresses the importance of hand washing as the most

economical and effective way to prevent cholera, diarrhea and pneumonia. It ends with a questionnaire in Créole and French to promote knowledge on cholera prevention and hand washing. It also aims at developing interactivity between, on the one hand teachers and community leaders, and on the other hand young Haitians.



Source :UNESCO

Printed by UNESCO, the comic book will be distributed in collaboration with the MENFP, UNICEF, PAHO / WHO and other partner organizations in schools, recreation centers for children, IDP camps, libraries, community centers, scout organizations, health centers and cholera treatment centers and units (CTCs / CTUs).



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Work starts on a national action plan to make schools safer

The first steps towards the drafting of a national action plan to make schools safer have been taken under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and the Economic and Social and Assistance Funds (FAES), in cooperation with education partners. The plan is intended to provide a national framework on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in schools.

Several activities to reduce disaster risks have already been held in schools in 2011. In the Ouest department, 1,962 teachers, inspectors and officials were trained in 274 schools. In the Sud-East education partners have also trained 7,000 students in 23 schools. In the Nord-Ouest department 29 schools have benefited from natural disasters and cholera prevention activities.

Installation of a tide gauge in the north

The Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti (SEMANAH) installed a tide gauge in the north of the country. The gauge will monitor sea waves and is part of the tsunami warning system. This \$ 30,000 project received financial support from UNESCO, and technical assistance from Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Hello, Emergency!

* 300 is the emergency telephone number that all Haitians will soon have to remember. On the other hand of the line, they will find employees of the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC). "We'll activate the service so that people can be informed of specific threats such as cholera outbreaks or cyclone," Karen Barsamian, WFP coordinator for the Cluster on information technology and emergency communication, said.

The Cluster was responsible for providing the DPC technological equipment and putting together the alert system. "Ultimately, the goal is to become the * 300 number that Haitians can call for any emergency, even for domestic accidents." The system should be operational by mid-2012.

Workshop on lessons learned from the 2011 hurricane season

From 30 November to 2 December, the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducted a workshop on lessons learned from the last hurricane season.

This workshop also aimed at taking stock of the actions taken by the National System of Risk and Disaster management (SNGRD) in 2011 and planning for the 2012 hurricane season.

IOM is working with the government, partner organizations and beneficiaries to develop response systems to disasters such as rapid deployment teams, emergency planning, pre-positioning of essential supplies.

In conjunction with the DPC, IOM also plans to set up evacuation centers at the national level. This is part of a multi-year effort that includes mapping and data management of such centers and the construction of new buildings.

Training on emergency communication

On 21 November, the DPC organised an emergency communications training session for journalists and

members of civil protection committees at the communal level.

This training, which will be implemented until next February, aims at strengthening the capacity of journalists to better process information during awareness raising campaigns to natural hazards and cholera.

In addition, IOM is conducting awareness activities and is implementing training programs for community leaders (camp committees, grassroots organizations) which include the establishment of vigilance committees, early warning and first aid systems at the local level.



RECONSTRUCTION

Urban planning of Port-au-Prince starts

The Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE), supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised on 22 and 23 November a forum on urban planning for Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.

The forum called "Vil nou vle a [the city we want]," served as a platform for discussion and reflection among actors involved in reconstruction. Participants will draw a development and strategic urban plan for the metropolitan area that bore the brunt of the destruction on 12 January 2010.



Prior to the Forum, some 23 workshops and a series of bilateral meetings, bringing together nearly 600 participants (elected officials, municipalities, civil society representatives,

urban professionals, architects and community leaders).

World Bank invests \$ 250 million in post-earthquake reconstruction

Access to education and housing, disaster management and promotion of agriculture are the main key areas of a \$ 250 million dollar post-earthquake reconstruction strategy approved by the World Bank.

Through this strategy, the World Bank will finance the education of 100,000 children, ensure hot meals to 75,000 children, support the return of 225,000 people in safe housing, rehabilitate the homes of 75,000 people and increase protection of the Haitian people in case of natural disasters.

The second phase of the Education for All project, which is part of this strategy, will benefit 175,000

children and result in the training of 800,000 teachers. It aims at supporting the education system by improving access to primary education for children 6 to 12 years.

Eighty six percent of the Haitian population is exposed to natural hazards, with the country ranking among the most vulnerable in the world. The reconstruction strategy will also help improve Haiti's disaster response capacities and rehabilitate its critical transportation infrastructures by investing in the transportation sector and local access to roads.

It also includes strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Communications and Energy (MTPTCE) as well as national and local departments and agencies. Public entities, such as the National Centre of Equipment (CNE) and the private sector will also be mobilized to implement rehabilitation work in case of an emergency.

With agriculture playing a dominant role in the Haitian economy, contributing 25 per cent of the GDP and accounting for nearly 50 percent of the total employment rate, the strategy will also support Haiti's National Investment Plan in Agriculture.

The National Plan aims at increasing productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector, while improving food and nutrition security of vulnerable groups. It also aims at strengthening the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture's capacities, promoting the access of 50 000 farmers to agricultural technologies and providing financial assistance in an emergency.

Major reconstruction projects announced for 2012

Haiti's President Michel Joseph Martelly announced the construction of 680 homes in early 2012 for homeless families living in Morne Cabri and Duvivier. He also said that during that year, major urban infrastructure projects, including the renovation of the Boulevard Harry Truman and rehabilitation work in Ennery and Mirebalais, will be implemented.



OTHER ISSUES

More than 24,000 women victims of abuse in 10 years

According to the preliminary results of a survey conducted between July 2009 and June 2011, 24,369 women have been victims of violence from 2002 to 2011. These data were published on 25 November by the Concertation nationale, a tripartite platform associating the Ministry for Women's Affairs, civil society and NGOs / international cooperation agencies.

The report notes that among the registered cases, only 7% were reported to the judiciary. It also reveals that women aged between 20 and 25 are the most affected and that physical violence (beatings, physical abuse, injuries with knives or guns) ranks first among the different forms of violence against women (59,74 per cent), followed by sexual abuse (22 per cent), economic violence (5 per cent) and psychological abuse (4 per cent).

Mannutrition cases detected in Gonaïves orphanage

Some 26 children from the El Shaddai orphanage in Gonaïves suffer from global acute malnutrition, including one of them who requires emergency care, according to a screening conducted on 25 November by Action Against Hunger (ACF).

The screening was done through the community network of volunteers of Gonaïves and aimed not only at collecting information on the nutritional status of all children living in the orphanage but also referring/monitoring all malnourished children to nutritional structures.

In total, 84 of the 104 children aged 3 to 19 years living in the orphanage have been screened.

According to UNICEF in Haiti, 9 per cent of children under 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, including 2 per cent from severe acute malnutrition.



IN BRIEF

SIS – KLOR, the DINEPA system for monitoring water quality celebrated its first anniversary last November. In one year, SIS-KLOR analyzed over 65,000 samples of water from public reservoirs, homes and camps.

The Housing and Public Buildings Unit (UCLBP) was established on 25 November. It will focus on the construction of housing and public buildings.

Haiti commits to preventing and reducing statelessness

The Haitian Government pledged to contribute to the fight for the protection of stateless persons and risk reduction of statelessness in Haiti.

On the occasion of the ministerial conference organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva on 7 and 8 December 2011, Reginald Delva, secretary of state for public safety, expressed the will of the Haitian government to join the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Many people are at risk of statelessness, including Haitian migrants who have not acquired the nationality of the country of residence and whose birth registration to acquire the Haitian nationality was not submitted on time. Added to this is Article 15 of the Haitian Constitution that does not recognize dual nationality.

IOM Assists with repatriation of shipwrecked migrants from Cuba

IOM has helped to voluntarily repatriate a group of 62 Haitian migrants many of whom were rescued after a shipwreck off the Cuban coast in late November. The migrants arrived at Port-au-Prince airport on 15 December.

At least 29 fellow migrants drowned when their overloaded boat capsized in the waters close to the Cuban coast. They were brought ashore near Banès in Holguin province where Cuban doctors provided medical and psycho-social care.

The voluntary repatriation was conducted under a tripartite agreement between IOM, Cuba and Haiti. IOM provided USD 15,000 from a special fund to cover the costs of the migrants' journey home.

In support of the fight against discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV, Mercy Corps and Partners in Health, in partnership with the Haitian Football Federation (FHF) and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action (MJSAC), organized on 1 December a friendly soccer game at Sylvio Cator stadium. The match also launched the project Football pou lavi.

After 22 months in Haiti, Communicating with Communities Affected by Natural Disasters (CDAC)

has ended its mission. Coordinated by Internews with the support of OCHA, CDAC aimed at ensuring the dissemination of vital information to affected populations and at giving a voice to beneficiaries

through local media and informal communication channels

Contact Information:

Head of OCHA Haiti: Philippe Verstraeten

Courriel: verstraeten@un.org

Tel: (509) 3702 8746

Spokesperson/ Public Information Officer: Emmanuelle Schneider

E-mail: schneider1@un.org

Tel: (509) 3702 5176

Public Information Officer: Rachelle Elie:

E-mail: elien@un.org

Tel: (509) 3702 5177

Reporting team: Widlyn Dornevil, Rachelle Elie

Courriel: dornevil@un.org/ ocha.haiti@gmail.com,

Tel : (509)3702 5182

For more information on the response in Haiti, please visit:

<http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info>