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HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the storm, over 180 new cases a day of cholera have been reported
- Tropical Storm Isaac struck Haiti late on 24 August, affecting 15,000 households in post-earthquake camps.
- Coordination for emergency response during TS Isaac functioned smoothly
Potential food insecurity feared in the aftermath of TS Isaac

Cholera epidemic

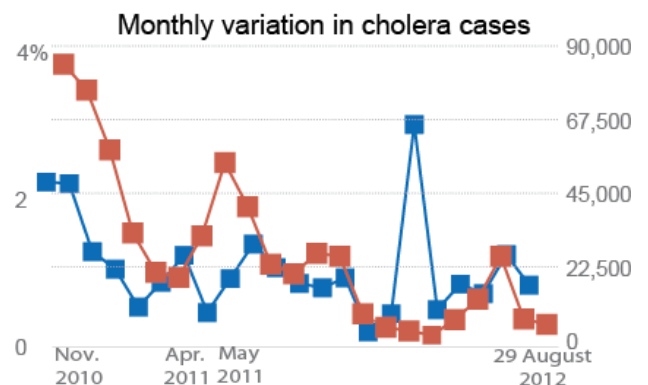
Tropical storm Isaac renews focus on cholera epidemic

TS Isaac raised fears of a possible renewed cholera outbreak in the Haiti, prompting humanitarian partners to strengthen their surveillance and preparedness efforts. Working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), partners are monitoring possible outbreaks, and 3,242 cholera kits have been distributed to check for a potential upsurge in new infections in the 18 most vulnerable camps. The CCCM and WASH clusters have also intensified the chlorination of water, distribution of potable water and aquatabs in the camps.

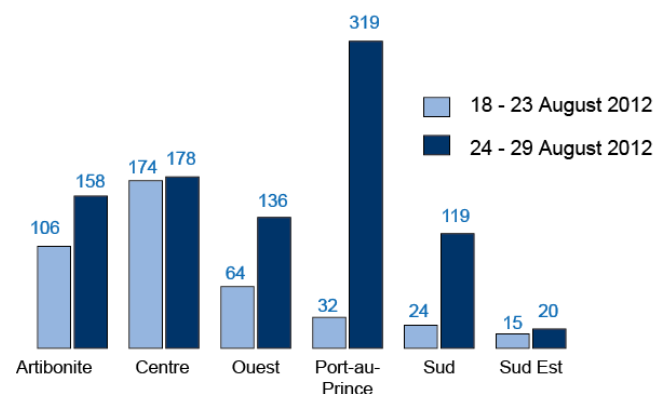
Cases rise sharply in week following the storm, but still lower than July

The most recent MSPP statistics, released August 29, showed a slight decline in the average number of daily cholera infections, falling from 241 in late July to 115 in August. A slight rise was noted in the Sud and Ouest departments and in metropolitan Port-au-Prince following Tropical Storm Isaac. The daily average of new cases in the country, from August 24 to 29 was 180 cases per day, compared to 78 during the week preceding the storm. This represents an increase of over 50 per cent of cases seen per day. The cumulative fatality rate remains at 1,3 percent.

PAHO had warned that Haiti could register up to 170,000 infections in 2012, especially during the April-November rainy and hurricane season. According to PAHO, cholera has infected almost 600,000 people and killed 7,500 since the epidemic struck in October 2010.



Variation in cholera cases one week before and after the Tropical Storm Isaac



Cholera partners to end some programmes amid lack of funding

Most departments in the country, especially Ouest and Sud, fear an upsurge in cholera infections as humanitarian partners pull out gradually, due to lack of funding. Alerts

FIGURES

Number of IDPs in camps	390, 276
<i>(Source: DTM, June, 2012.)</i>	
Cumulative cholera cases	588, 752
<i>(Source: MSPP, 29 August, 2012.)</i>	
Fatality cases	7, 533
<i>(Source: MSPP, 22 August, 2012)</i>	

FUNDING

128 millions
requested (en US\$)

37%
funded

Daily rates of cholera infections decline slightly after the storm.

emanating from Ouest (100) and Sud (47) indicate that dozens of people have been infected in IDP camps and remote locations. Without assistance, these departments do not have adequate capacity to respond to the any upsurge.

Damage to health infrastructure could exacerbate cholera situation

The Health Cluster reports that 38 Cholera Treatment Centres (UTCs) with 200 beds were damaged by the storm. This has greatly compounded an already limited national capacity to respond. Before TS Isaac, Haiti had only 468 beds earmarked for the treatment of cholera, as compared to 2,500 at the height of the epidemic in June 2011. Outreach to local communities on cholera prevention has decreased markedly due to a lack of resources. Despite these challenges, partners continue to mobilize regular and volunteer assistance, although greater support is required.

Survey of recent post-Isaac cholera response activities

PAHO/WHO/IOM:	Repair of 2 cholera treatment centres (Estère and Marchand Dessalines)
PAHO/WHO/IOM:	Pre-positioning of 77 emergency kits and medication in 10 departments
Haitian Red Cross:	800 volunteers for cholera surveillance and outreach
IFRC:	40 hygiene promoters and 150 community liaisons promoting surveillance in 18 camps

Camp management

Daily rates of cholera infections decline slightly after the storm.

Storm wreaks havoc in Haiti, but total impact less than expected

Tropical Storm Isaac made landfall in Haiti late on 24 August, raising fears of serious humanitarian consequences. The impact of the storm turned out to be less than expected, but the toll is still grim: 24 deaths; 3 missing; 42 injured; 8,189 stricken families; 48,000 displaced people; and 1,005 houses destroyed. In all, some 50,000 people are estimated to have been affected and required humanitarian assistance.

Impact of the tropical storm ISAAC

24 dead, **42** injured, **3** missing,

8,189 affected families at the community level (source DPC)

	Dead	Missing	Injured
Artibonite	2	0	2
Centre	1	0	0
Grande-Anse	1	0	0
Nippes	1	0	0
Nord	1	0	0
Nord-est	0	0	0
Nord-ouest	0	0	0
Ouest	10	1	25
Sud	2	1	0
Sud-est	6	1	15
TOTAL	24	3	42

According to the Emergency Shelter, Coordination and Camp Management (E-Shelter/CCCM) clusters, there were 14,996 affected households in camps for people displaced by the 2010 earthquake, or 12 per cent of the population. These people were already highly vulnerable and largely dependent on humanitarian aid.

Affected IDP Camps (source CCCM/Shelter) :

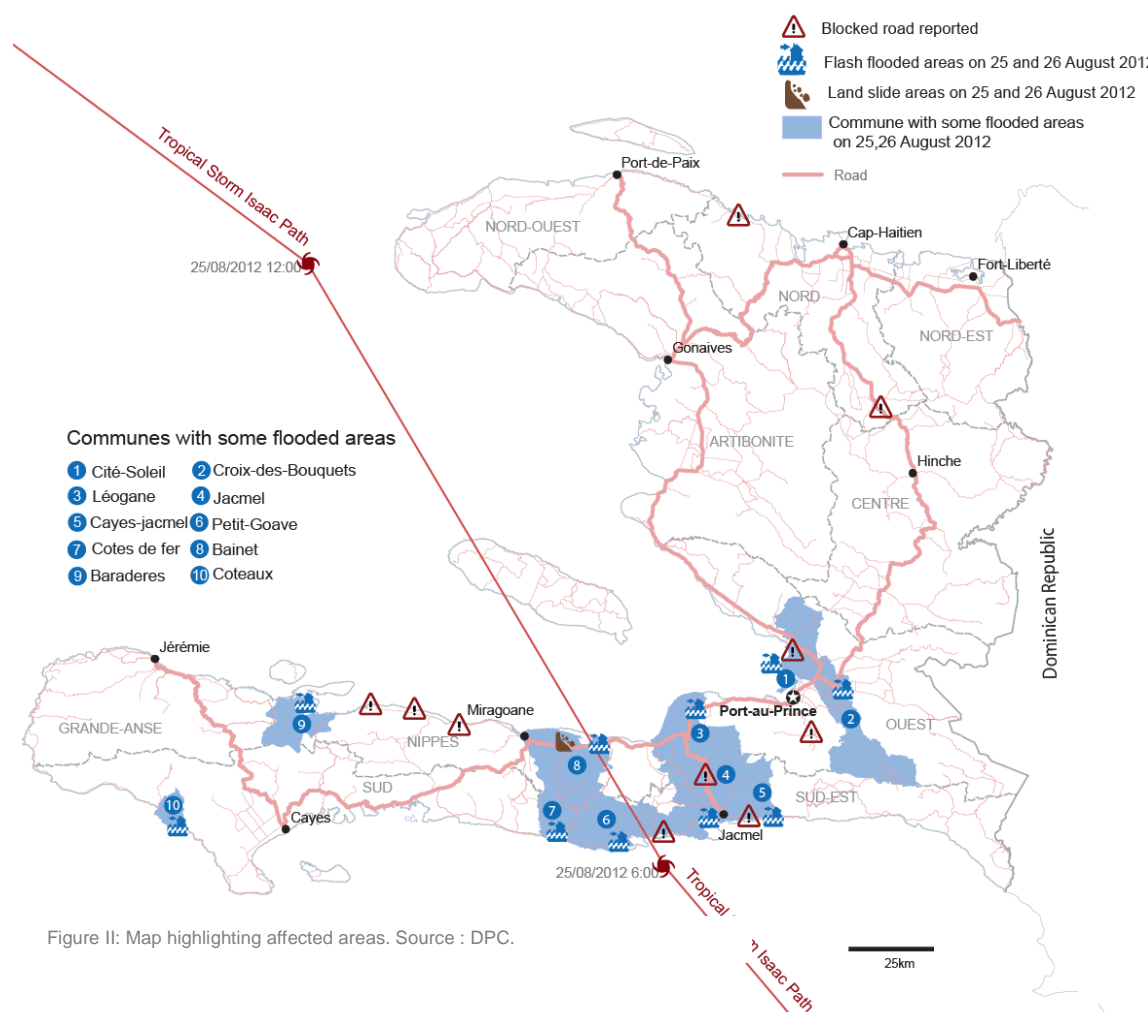
180 camps affected

118 camps with high vulnerability prioritised for intervention

14,996 affected displaced families

Graphic I: Impact of Tropical Storm Isaac
Source : Direction de la protection civile (DPC).

Graphic II: Affected people in camps
Source : CCM/Shelter



The storm also had a serious impact on key social and humanitarian infrastructure. Important damage was reported in the education sector, with 102 schools damaged, 51 destroyed and 6 others flooded across the country. UNICEF is appealing for 60,000 dollars to repair the damaged schools before classes resume next month. In the health sector, 39 Cholera Treatment Centres (CTC/CTU) housed under tents were damaged, resulting in the loss of 200 beds for treatment of cholera cases.

Support from humanitarian partners

In the wake of the storm, the humanitarian community stepped up its response. *La Direction de la protection civile* (DPC), with humanitarian partners, quickly evacuated 15,839 people from camps. With food and non-food items among the most important needs, some 15,205 people received emergency food rations, and the DPC, IOM and several NGOs distributed 25,682 tarpaulins, 10,360 hygiene kits, 6,160 buckets, aquatabs, mosquito nets and soap to affected areas.

FAO provided farm tools and kits for 20,000 households under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. The humanitarian community continues to assist the Government through established coordination mechanisms to respond adequately to the emergency.

Emergency preparedness

The drainage of toilets has greatly improved sanitation in the camps, but the quality of available water remains questionable.

Coordination mechanisms functioned smoothly during the Storm.

Coordination systems put in place by the Government and the humanitarian community enabled the mitigation of possible damage during Tropical Storm Isaac. The smooth coordination of emergency preparedness and response activities enabled the Government, with the assistance of the humanitarian community, to provide fast, efficient and effective assistance during the storm. All sectors were activated through various coordination structures - the National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN) and the OCHA-led humanitarian coordination centre, EJOINT and the MINUSTAH led EJOC - to assess emergency stocks and prepare for effective response.

On 23 August, MINUSTAH deployed its assets in collaboration with DPC, to assist the COUN and its departmental (COUD) and communal (COUCs) emergency command centres. During the emergency preparedness phase, OCHA ensured constant liaison with the Government through the DPC and shared all available information adherence to agreed protocols on emergency response. Staff from the humanitarian community were deployed to the COUN, COUDs and COUCs to facilitate liaison, information sharing and emergency response.



E-joint members met continuously during TS Isaac .
Photo credit : Widlyn Dornevil/OCHA Haiti.

Two meetings of the “Groupe d’appui de la communauté internationale” (GACI) were convened by the GoH and Humanitarian Coordinator during which an overview of the post-storm humanitarian situation was made and sustainable solutions discussed. The HCT met a few days after the storm to discuss the humanitarian community’s response to TS Isaac. A government representative made a presentation on the GoH’s preparedness and response to TS Isaac. Other assessments and strategic planning meetings are ongoing to evaluate the humanitarian community’s response to the effects of the storm and to discuss ways and means of replenishing used emergency stocks.

Food security

Communes in the Sud, Ouest, Nord-Ouest and Nord-Est departments where there have been great losses in crop harvests due to the drought, may face food shortages in September.

Storm devastated crops and livestock in affected areas

The long-term impact of Tropical Storm Isaac, which swept through the southern part of Haiti on the night of 24 August, is beginning to emerge. While the storm’s full effect is still being assessed, most recent figures from the “Direction de la protection civile” (DPC) indicate that the agriculture sector bore the brunt of the storm. Crops and livestock were devastated. The storm killed more than 2,000 heads of cattle and damaged over 80 per cent of the crops in 10 communes. The Sud-est, Nippes, Nord-est, Ouest, Sud and Grande-Anse departments were the worst affected. The banana, maize and bean crops, as well as fruit trees, were mostly destroyed in these areas. According to a worst-case scenario on food security, a growing attack by pests would compound the damage caused by the drought on the rice and groundnut crops in the Nord-est for the rest of the year.

Rapid assessments show up to 90 per cent crop losses in some areas

The first series of rapid assessments carried out by the WFP Vulnerability Assessment Monitoring (VAM) unit and *Coordination nationale de la sécurité alimentaire* (CNSA) showed that the Nippes and Sud-est departments alone suffered 90 and 85 per cent crop losses respectively, followed by the Ouest and Nord-est departments. Overall, 74,000

hectares of plantations throughout the country were damaged by the storm. These findings point to a heightened risk of food insecurity in Haiti due to the combined effects of the drought in the northern part of Haiti earlier in the year and the damage to crops and livestock wrought by TS Isaac.

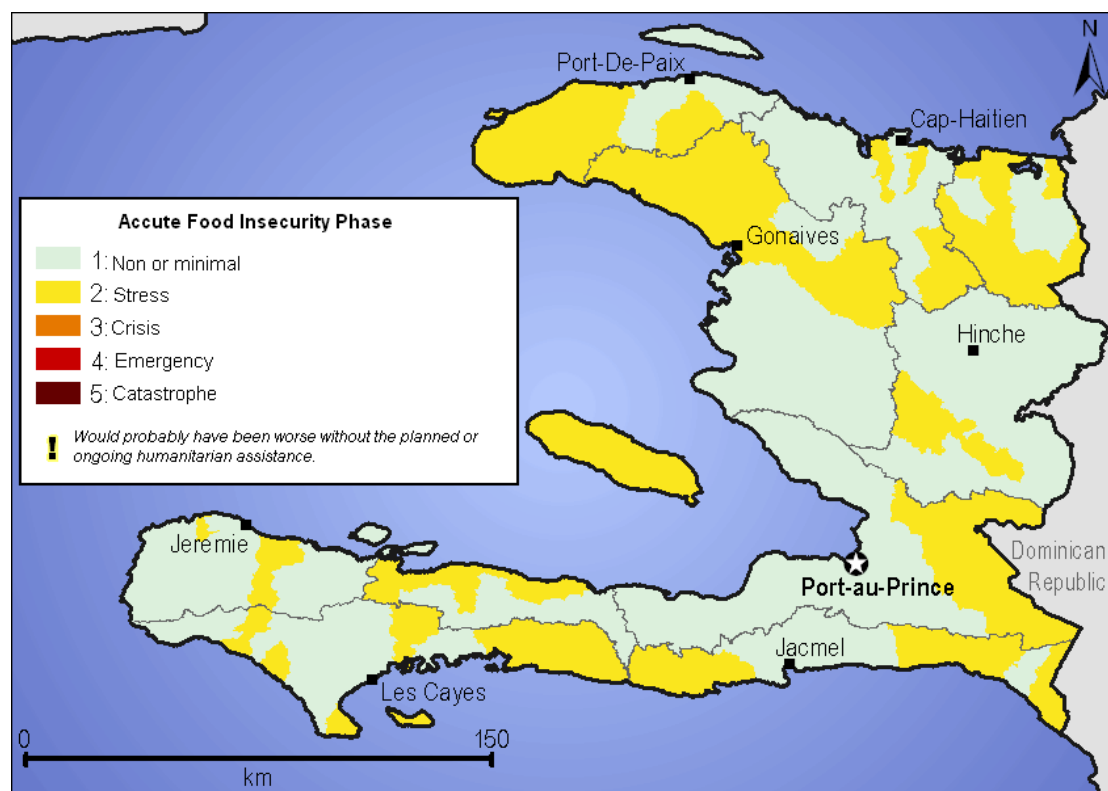


Figure II: Estimated results of food security. Source: Fews Net, August 2012.

Impact of storm could compound effect of earlier drought on food security

FEWS NET predicted in July 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 post-Isaac loss of the bean and maize crops, which are the main source of nutrition of most poor households, will make it even more difficult for families to access food before the next harvests in October and November. Other factors, such as the decline in the value of the national currency against the US dollar and the rising price of cereals in world markets, could result in higher prices of local foodstuffs, especially for poor households. However, normal rainfall in September and October may result in a rise in household income for the poor, thus enabling them to ride out the predicted food insecurity later in the year.

In brief

The CARMEN Project repairs 700 houses

Barely eight months after it was launched, the “Centre d’Appui pour le Renforcement des Maisons Endommagées” (CARMEN), is proudly counting its successes – 700 houses repaired, 300 in the process of repairs, and 6000 houses assessed. CARMEN has also trained 5,000 participants, including 600 masons, in anti-earthquake construction techniques, hosted by the Ministry of Public Work, Transport and Communications (MTPTC).

A thousand families have benefited from assistance from the Government, UNDP and the CARMEN Project, in rebuilding their homes destroyed during the 2010 earthquake. To

qualify for this assistance, each interested family must apply through a local branch of the CARMEN Project and show proof of the house to be repaired.

The CARMEN Project, which was launched by the Government with the assistance of UNDP in October 2011, has opened five branches in Port-au-Prince and Léogâne.

Pregnant women in Limonade no longer have to worry

A new maternity ward has been launched in the Limonade Clinic to facilitate access for pregnant women to maternal and neo-natal healthcare in the region. Inaugurated by the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), with the support of UNICEF and in collaboration with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the maternity can handle up to 600 deliveries a year. It is expected to lower complications resulting from child births and the incidence of maternal and neo-natal deaths in the region in the longer term, according to Edouard Beigbeder, the UNFPA Country Representative.

The maternity is part of a joint initiative financed by CIDA. Its main objectives include capacity building so as to ensure quality health services, rehabilitation of maternities in targeted areas and improvement of community interventions. Haiti has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, and only 25 per cent of women in rural areas give birth in health centres. With the help of UNOPS, UNICEF has rehabilitated six maternities in the three departments - Artibonite, le Nord et le Nord-Ouest.

UNFPA donates tents to most vulnerable families

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has donated some 100 tents to vulnerable families in various municipalities in Haiti, as part of its support to the national effort to mitigate risk and protect lives and property during the hurricane season.

The tents which were handed over to the "Direction de la Protection Civile" (DPC) in Ouest and Grand Anse, will be distributed to the neediest in those departments. The location of Haiti in the Caribbean Basin exposes it to tropical storms during the annual hurricane season which lasts from June to November. For the 2012 hurricane season, the DPC has identified a thousand temporary shelters where people could be evacuated to and has installed an early warning system in several strategic points in the country.

Three reproductive health clinics to go operational soon

Three Cliniques Sourire aimed at providing improved maternal healthcare, will go operational in September 2012, in hospitals in Petite Place Cazeau (Nord-est), Marigot (Sud-est) and Jean Denis (Nord-ouest). Bethany, a similar clinic was inaugurated in Martissant (Port-au-Prince) in April 9, 2012.

The clinics, with an average capacity of 100 deliveries per month, are among the 40 busiest maternity hospitals in Haiti. Staffed with qualified personnel, they are designed to provide all reproductive health services (obstetric and neonatal emergency care). They were jointly sponsored by UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, the United Nations Volunteers and WHO / PAHO, and are aimed at reducing maternal mortality in Haiti.

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