

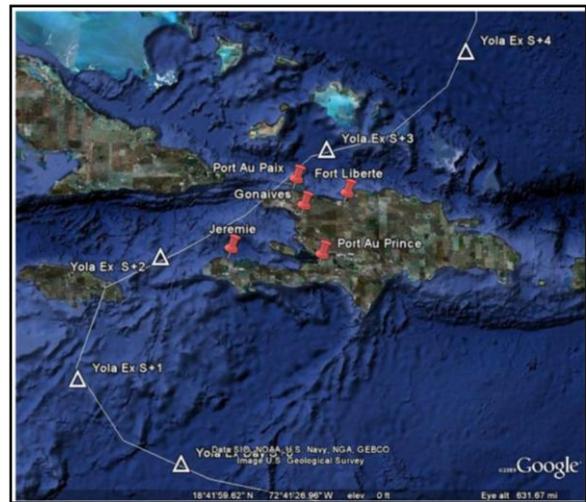
HAITI Operation

PORT-AU-PRINCE, GONAIVES AND LEOGANE
JOINT INTER-AGENCY DISASTER RESPONSE EXERCISE
- Gonaives simulation summary report -
 April 2011

1 BACKGROUND

The **first Joint Natural Disaster Simulation Exercise** took place on 13 and 14 April. Drawing from the path of Hurricane “TOMAS” that hit Haiti on 4 November 2010, a realistic trajectory for simulated Hurricane “YOLA” was prepared by the exercise planning cell. It was decided that the path of Hurricane “YOLA” would involve three locations in Haiti:

- **Port Au Prince**
- **Gonaives**
- **Leogane**



In preparation for the exercise, Joint Natural Disaster **Exercise Development Working Groups** were established for the different regions where the simulation was going to take place. This means that the Logistics Clusters had the opportunity to take part in the development of the simulation exercise, preparing scenario inputs that were used during the two day event. All the scenarios were developed based upon statistical data originated from DPC 2011 worst case scenario expectation for the areas tested.

2 OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Simulation Exercise was to test the following:

- ✓ **INFORMATION FLOW (INFORMATION)** – Lines of information sharing between reporting partners, operations centres, and key decision makers.
- ✓ **DECISION TRIGGERS (DECISION)** – Decision Triggers for Activation of Regional and Central Operation Centres:
 - Centre d' Operations d'Urgence National (COUN)
 - Centre d'Opérations d'Urgence Départemental (COUD)
 - Expanded Joint Operations Centre (EJOC)

- Regional Joint Operations Centre (RJOC)
- Inter-Cluster system
- ✓ **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (ROLE)** – Verification of roles and responsibilities of the various partners at COUN, COUD, EJOC, RJOC, and at cluster level. Understanding of procedural requirements of DPC, MINUSTAH Civilian, UNSEC, UNPOL, Military Contingent, and participating IO/NGO planned response phases to natural disaster.

Unlike the simulation exercises conducted last year, participants to the exercise were not informed about the nature/extent of the damage caused by the passage of the hurricane in the various departments. The participants were therefore required to conduct their own assessments to gain a better understanding of the situation and the damage caused by the disaster.

The Simulation Exercise also included the following practical components:

- ✓ **Loss of Primary Communications**
- ✓ **IDP Mass Casualty Event**
- ✓ **Coordinated Maritime Search and Rescue (by Air and Sea)**
- ✓ **Deployment of Engineering Units**

3 JOINT SIMULATION EXERCISE – GONAIVES PART

3.1 COORDINATION

WFP/Logistics Cluster was asked to act as a **coordinating actor in Gonaives**, taking on the role of scenario injector as well as guiding the overall direction of the exercise. The Gonaives area is critical to northern department's re-supply routes and therefore the coordination for this part of the exercise was crucial for the overall exercise testing.

WFP's Head of Sub-office for Gonaives, together with one representative from the Logistics Cluster in Port-au-Prince, acted as scenario injectors, submitting "problems" to be solved by participants primarily via Lotus Notes (artificial table top system). In addition to simulated problems injected by e-mail, real world physical events were also coordinated on cue from scenarios injected by mail, radio or collaborative website (i.e. Stixy site). WFP/Logistics Cluster team was supported in this coordinating task by MINUSTAH representatives who were tasked to assist especially for the conduction of activities with the military units involved in the exercise.

3.2 PRACTICAL EXERCISES

The **practical exercises** conducted during the simulation were:

- **READY ENGINEERING UNIT (RDEU) DEPLOYMENT**
MINUSTAH engineers were deployed from Pot-au-Prince to carry out mitigation works in Gonaives. The identification of the nature of works to be conducted by the engineers and the location were the result of a collaborative process lead by the *Direction de la Protection Civile*.

- **LOSS OF PRIMARY COMMUNICATION**



This part of the exercise was developed jointly by MINUSTAH and the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC). The objective was to test all participants' ability to operationally implement Secondary Communications Systems for response to a crisis. Therefore, as part of the exercise, there was a failure of cell phones and internet during the crisis which forced participants to communicate through secondary systems (UHF, HF, VHF). Furthermore, a collaborative website called STIXY was set up in

Gonaives by the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster. This means that, once registered in the system, participants could share messages with the different operation centres in Gonaives and Port-au-Prince.

- **RESCUE OF DOWNED AIRCRAFT**

Injected Scenario: The Delegee was informed by the Mayor of Terre Neuve that a white aircraft was seen falling from the sky in the immediate vicinity of the town. It is suspected that it might be a UN Aircraft.

This scenario activated coordinated actions for the rescue of victims travelling on an aircraft that was simulated to crash in a remote location near Gonaives.

Military contingents and agencies located the target crisis area, performed triage and transported "victims" by air to Port-au-Prince.



- **MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE**



As part of the exercise, the port authority of Gonaives reported that a small cargo ship attempting to cross from the *Isle De La Gonave* to Gonaives was missing with a crew of 13. This part of the exercise was meant to test the ability of military units to conduct coordinated rescues in remote areas in close support of aviation and maritime assets.

Therefore, a maritime search and rescue coordination cell was setup with representatives from URUMAR and Haitian Coast Guard. The cell coordinated the rescue of a target victim from the ocean in a remote sea location near Gonaives.



3.3 SCHEDULE

The following is a brief summary of the **schedule** for the Gonaives exercise:

DAY 1 – APRIL 12, 2011

WFP head of Sub-office (Gonaives) and the Logistics Cluster representative arrived in the MINUSTAH compound in Gonaives to perform an Equipment and Communication Check. A pre-briefing was held at 15:00 hrs with all participants and observers (see related briefing presentation) to refresh participants' knowledge of simulation exercise objectives and rules.

DAY 2 – APRIL 13, 2011

During the morning session, there was the deployment of the MINUSTAH Ready Engineering Unit (RDEU) from Port-au-Prince to Gonaives. Throughout the day, scenarios injections wanted to bring participants to discuss emergency preparedness plans prior to the arrival of Hurricane YOLA. A debriefing was held with all participants and observers at the end of the day to collect observations and suggestions.

Hurricane "YOLA" hit Gonaives during the night between 13 and 14 April 2011.

DAY 3 – APRIL 14, 2011

Participants experienced loss of primary communications. Email and Mobile phones were cut off, forcing participants to communicate by radio or using the collaborative website. During the loss of primary communications, participants were also asked to coordinate actions for the rescue of the downed aircraft, as well as for the maritime search and rescue. This simulation day was focused on emergency response plans and actions activated by all actors after the passage of Hurricane YOLA. Similarly to the first exercise day, a final debriefing was held with all participants and observers at the end of the simulation.

DAY 4 – APRIL 15, 2011

A final debriefing session was prepared and delivered by WFP head of Sub-Office/Logistics Cluster representative to summarise observations and comments expressed by participants and observers during the two simulation days (see related presentation on final debriefing session).

To receive further documentation on the Joint Simulations Exercise, please write to: viviana.deannuntiis@wfp.org