

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian aid insufficient to fight hunger in Haiti.
- Scarcity of drinking water in Belle – Anse.
- Threats of forced evictions.
- Boosting resilience to disasters in Haiti?
- Decline in new cholera cases.
- Solar lamps for women's safety.

### KEY FIGURES

**1.5 million**  
**People in severe food insecurity**  
(Source: Food security and nutrition working group)

**347,000 IDPs in camp**  
(Source: DTM report January 2013  
 CCCM/Shelter Cluster)

### FUNDING NEEDS

**144 million**  
 requested

**13,1 %**  
 funded



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## Humanitarian aid insufficient to fight hunger in Haiti

**Despite efforts by humanitarian partners to reduce hunger, at least one in five households faces serious food deficits and acute malnutrition**

The food crisis, characterized by the inability of households to cover their basic food requirements, would have entered an early emergency phase if it weren't for the timely intervention of humanitarian partners.

The World Food Program's "Supplementary Feeding Programme", for example, has fed some 685,000 students and 145,000 pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years. In addition to response to Hurricane Sandy, the "Take home ration" provided food to 200,000 people over a period of 15 days. USD 5.2 million was set aside to fund "work for money" programs in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy and in other vulnerable zones.

The GoH, through FAES, a public body for social security, has distributed 138,402 food packages worth about USD 5 million. USAID, on its part, has funded projects totaling USD 15 million covering food distribution, cash transfers to the needy and infrastructure repair.

According to the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA), Hurricane Sandy food assistance has reached about 700 000 people. However, the aid falls below the real needs of the affected. The situation is dire in 30 communes in six departments (especially Sud-est, Plateau Central, Presqu'île du sud, Nord-ouest, Ouest and Artibonite) and requires continued assistance to prevent the affected from falling into Phase 4 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which is equivalent to a humanitarian emergency.

According to WFP, the current lean season up to 145,000 persons in acute livelihood crisis may require food aid until crop harvests in June and July.

### Key figures



**6.7 million**  
 people in food insecurity  
 in Haiti

**5.2 million** people in food  
 insecurity moderate in Haiti

**1.5 million** people in food  
 insecurity severe in Haiti

Disaggregated data

**792,568** (52%)

**731,601** (48%)

En milieu rural: **4.1 million**

En milieu urbain: **2.6 million**



**81,600**  
 children under five with acute  
 malnutrition

**61,200** (4%)  
 children under five with Moderate  
 Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

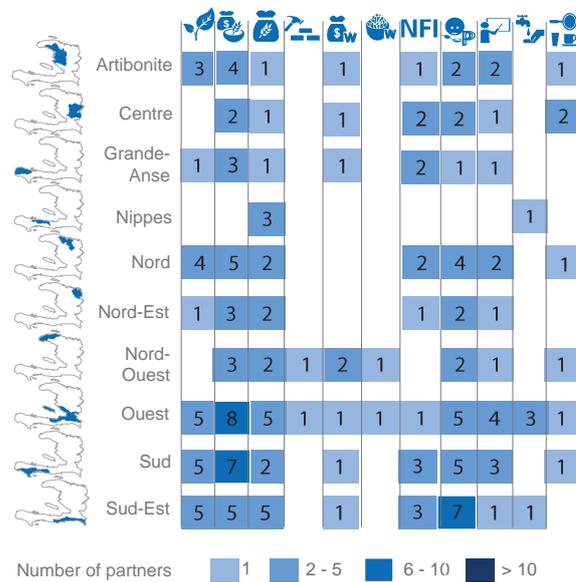
**20,400** (1.1%)

An increase in acute malnutrition has been recorded in vulnerable areas

### Survival strategies that undermine lives

As a result of the rising trend in prices of staple foods such as rice, maize, sorghum and peas (16 to 28 per cent in the Centre and 50 – 100 per cent in the Sud and Grand'Anse), households are increasingly resorting to selling immature livestock, tree felling for charcoal in fragile ecologically sensitive areas, and reducing the number of daily meals.

#### Activities



An increase in acute malnutrition, as measured by brachial perimeter (BP), has been recorded in vulnerable areas since October 2012. The situation is of great concern particularly in Moron (Grand Anse) where the number of cases of malnutrition have almost doubled from 2.1 to 4.0 per cent between December 2012 and January 2013. Humanitarian interventions have helped to contain acute malnutrition in the Troisieme Section Calumette and the Baie d'Orange in the Sud-est.

WFP is concerned about the lack of funds for pre-positioning stocks in four areas where WFP is based (Gonaives, Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Cap-Haitien), ahead of the rainy and hurricane seasons. Other major challenges, including logistical requirements relating to transport fleets, human resources and rent, may undermine rapid and efficient response to potential disasters.

**Key activities**

- Environment
- Cash for Work/Voucher for work
- NFI Distribution of agricultural tools / fertilizer / seed
- Average subsistence
- Cholera Prevention/WASH
- Food distribution
- Nutrition projects and health
- School feeding program
- Food for Work
- Capacity building
- Construction/Rehabilitation

Source: Food Security and nutrition working group – February 2013

The new funding component "Food Security and Nutrition" in the Humanitarian Action Plan 2013, totaling USD 4.4 million, will provide the needy with a better response and enable the mitigation of food insecurity and acute malnutrition mainly in children under 5 years. However, there is an urgent need for continued advocacy for resource mobilization and work with the Haitian government to carry out joint actions, WFP stresses.

## Scarcity of drinking water and deteriorating infrastructure put the Thiotte, Grand Gosier and Belle - Anse communes at risk

The population of Thiotte had no potable water for a very long period

Reports from an evaluation mission carried out by OCHA from 14 to 16 March, has revealed a serious lack of infrastructure and limited access to drinking water in the Belle-Anse arrondissement, specifically in Grand Gosier, Anse-à-Pitres and Belle-Anse.

Access to Belle-Anse by road from Jacmel, is very difficult and compounds the growing difficulties faced by people living in the area. During bad weather, it is virtually impossible to provide assistance by road from Jacmel, thus further isolating the Commune.

The towns of Grand Gosier and Thiotte have limited or no access to safe drinking water at certain times. This raises the risk of cholera outbreaks in the area. Out of a population of more than 100,000 in the district, slightly over a quarter have access to drinking water

and less than 20 per cent to latrines. The water grids in Thiotte and Grand Gosier have been hard hit in recent years, especially in 2012 by TS Isaac and Hurricane Sandy.

The population of Thiotte has had no potable water for a very long period. Municipal authorities say the entire municipal water system has not been maintained in the past thirty years. According to DINEPA office in Jacmel, the rehabilitation of the water systems throughout the district to remedy the situation is ongoing. A new water system has been inaugurated in Anse-à-Pitre while rehabilitation and extension work on the water system by World Concern is nearing completion in Grand Gosier, thanks to funding from the Spanish Cooperation (AECID).

Beginning April 2013 in Belle-Anse, the GoH, with funding from AECID, will launch a six-month rainwater collection project that will supply the communal sections located on the surrounding hills.

A study has been conducted in Thiotte, the municipality most affected by the water crisis, to determine whether pumps could draw water from the Royers river to supply the commune. The project will be launched as soon as a funder can be found.

## Threats of forced eviction persist for many IDPs

*Most of the camps threatened with forced evictions are on private land.*

Many IDP camps continue to face threats of forced evictions. The latest reported case concerns CAPVVA camp located on private land in Cité Soleil. Discussions are underway between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the mayor's office to facilitate the relocation of the camp as soon as possible. The situation in the camp is currently calm as negotiations continue.

Another camp - Fanm Kooperativ - is in the middle of a legal tussle with two persons claiming ownership of the land. 389 families for (1945 people) live in the camp. Reports indicate that some families had to hurriedly leave under difficult conditions, after being threatened with eviction on 22 January. About half of the families have since returned. They are currently not facing further threats.

National authorities and the humanitarian community are closely monitoring the situation so as to anticipate and prevent new evictions as much as possible. Most of the camps threatened with forced evictions are on private land.

Return and relocation planning is one of the main priorities for the GoH and humanitarian community. There are currently 347,284 IDPs (87,750 households) in camps. 31,135 grants were awarded for relocation between 2011 and the beginning of 2013. An additional 28,000 will be allocated to IDPS in the coming months.

## Haiti hosts regional conference on large-scale emergencies and disasters

The United States Southern Command and the Louisiana National Guard, in partnership with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, organized a conference on large-scale emergencies and disasters from 5 to 7 March 2013 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The conference brought together national and international actors in the disaster mitigation and response to share lessons learned and best practices in emergency preparedness and response, explore avenues for joint training and discussed the role of regional frameworks in fostering strategic partnerships for the development, enhancement, delivery and maintenance of policies and programs which build regional and national capacity for loss reduction.

The conference culminated in a roundtable discussion on civil-military coordination in natural disasters organized by the Humanitarian Policy Group and OCHA Haiti. It focused on recent disasters and examined the role of the military in boosting national preparedness and response capacities.

Round table participants also discussed the HOPEFOR Initiative that aims to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian coordination and the use of military and civil defense assets in relief operations at regional level. Of particular note was the planned creation of a Civil-Military Center of Excellence in the Dominican Republic to provide further cooperation between humanitarian and military groups in the Caribbean Region.

## Haiti tests tsunami warning communications system

Haiti was among 30 countries in the Caribbean that participated in a tsunami warning and coastal hazards simulation exercise in the Caribbean Sea and adjacent regions on 20 March. This exercise tested the warning system for tsunamis.

The scenario of the exercise, dubbed Caribe Wave/Lantex 13, was intended to simulate a major earthquake generating a tsunami 92 km north of Oranjestad in the Caribbean Sea, March 20, 2013. The communications system for such an eventuality was set by countries in the region in 2005.

The Haitian national system for risk management and disaster awareness has been conducting drills in schools and communities to mitigate the risk of a tsunami in the country.

Haiti's participation in this exercise reflects the country's commitment to strengthen its risk management system and make people and communities more resilient to natural disasters.

## From Emergency Preparedness and Response to disaster risk reduction and resilience

*Haiti is prone to a number of climatic risks and meteorological hazards.*

Since the devastating earthquake of January 2010, that left over 220 thousand people dead and 1.5 million persons in camps for the internally displaced, the Government of Haiti (GoH) along with its humanitarian partners have worked to adopt and implement measures, which reduce the vulnerability of the population to man-made and natural disasters.

However, gains made in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance are constantly being eroded by recurrent disasters. Haiti is prone to a number of climatic risks and meteorological hazards and the country is located on two seismic fault lines (one in the north and one in the south).

The UN and other humanitarian partners have assisted the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) in redrafting the National Contingency Plan and are currently working with the GoH and partners in drafting an earthquake contingency plan to take into account the new circumstances.

In addition, humanitarian and development partners helped national authorities to carry out a seismic macro-zoning for Port-au-Prince, which is crucial for designing risk-sensitive urban planning. Other initiatives supported by the UN are ongoing, for instance to strengthen the early warning system in coastal areas.

As natural hazards continue to cause significant loss of life and property, straining national coping capacities, Haiti no longer has a choice but to focus on disaster risk

management and building resilience. The United Nations defines disaster risk reduction as: “The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.” Without a renewed sense of urgency on this issue, the impact of recurrent disasters will significantly limit Haiti’s progress towards sustainable development.

Since early 2000 the *Système National de Gestion des Risques et des Désastres* (SNGRD) has promoted a culture of risk reduction across the country through prevention, preparedness and response activities. The Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) has also considerably reinforced its capacities at the national and department levels, with the increased provision of human and in-kind resources from its partners.

Building resilience goes beyond this to address the root causes of vulnerability, create increased capacity to be able to adapt to a range of possible disasters. It is a two-part concept that comprises, on the one hand, the preparation for the population to better manage response efforts in times of crisis. This also includes a better preparation for the government, the civil society, and the private sector to play a responsible role in DRR, efficient response, and rapid rebound. On the other hand, it means the necessity to change practices that add a disproportionately high risk to the nation’s overall risk profile.

This may imply resettling populations that live in riverbeds, working to reduce flooding and erosion by replanting deforested watersheds, and working to change wood-use habits. The adoption of a legal framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) remains a priority. Sustained donor funding is required to continue investing in strengthening institutional capacities at all levels and in scaling up mitigation and infrastructural improvements. Efforts are also needed to consolidate the national early warning system.

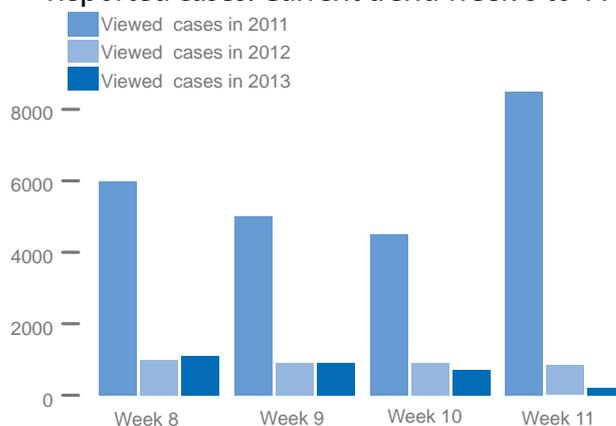
Haiti is increasingly becoming a focus country for progress on the agenda of the global initiative of the Political Champions for Disaster Resilience. The group was launched by the United Kingdom and the UN Development Programme in 2012 to apply greater political focus and investment in disaster resilience. Its three major priorities include building regional resilience especially in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel; promoting disaster resilience in specific countries such as Haiti; and, integrating disaster resilience in donor humanitarian and development investments.

## Decline in new cholera cases continues

### Despite all, there is need for vigilance at the start of the rainy season

Although the downward trend continues in new cholera infections and deaths when compared with the same period in 2012, the government and the humanitarian

#### Reported cases: Current trend week 8 to 11



Source: Cases viewed comparison between 2011, 2012 et 2013 – March 2013

community are calling for vigilance at the start of the rainy season.

According to PAHO/WHO, the hospital fatality and overall infection rates for 2013 stand at 0.93 per cent and 0.42 per cent respectively so far this year (the overall infection and hospital fatality rates since the advent of the epidemic in 2010 are 1.43 per cent and 1.23 per cent, respectively).

Twelve outbreak alerts have been recorded since the beginning of 2013, including 5 in the Nord, three in the Artibonite, 2 in the Centre and two in the Ouest departments. Artibonite is currently

the department with the highest number (23.04 per cent) of recorded cases since the beginning of 2013. It is closely followed by the Ouest department with 21 per cent of all reported cases this year.

During the 10th epidemiological week (mid-March), the Centre department (outbreaks in Mirebalais in Grand Boucan) and Artibonite recorded the highest number of new cases with 164 and 161 respectively. However, the Nord department reported the highest fatality rate (4.43 per 100,000) in 2013. The other departments remain below the 2 per 100,000 cases mark.

The Ministry of Public Health (MSPP) has met with donors and some key humanitarian partners to ensure that all partners align their interventions with the overall strategy of the first phase of the cholera eradication plan.

The GoH has allocated 60 million Gourdes (about USD 1.35 million) to finance the first phase of the eradication plan in 2013.

|             | # CTCs*<br>(Mar. 2013) | # UTCs*<br>(Mar. 2013) | # CTDA*s*<br>(Mar. 2013) |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ouest       | 5                      | 3                      | 14                       |
| Artibonite  | 2                      | 7                      | 16                       |
| Nord        | 1                      | 0                      | 18                       |
| Sud         | 1                      | 7                      | 3                        |
| Nord-ouest  | 1                      | 4                      | 6                        |
| Centre      | 0                      | 1                      | 13                       |
| Grande-Anse | 3                      | 2                      | 10                       |
| Nord-est    | 1                      | 0                      | 16                       |
| Sud-est     | 0                      | 0                      | 19                       |
| Nippes      | 0                      | 0                      | 8                        |

Source: MSPP/PAHO Numbers of Cholera Treatment structure – March 2013

## Solar lamps to fight violence against women

The Ministry for Women's Affairs and Rights (MCFDF), with the financial and technical support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on 12 March 2013, launched the third phase of a project to install 190 solar lamps in Morne Lazarre, an area that was devastated by the 2010 earthquake.

As part of the project for the prevention of gender-based violence through solar lighting for people affected by the earthquake, this initiative covers ten sites (camps and neighborhoods) which are part of the Government's current relocation program.

"This area was formerly in the dark. The installation of lights has sparked a resurgence of activity," said a member of the Morne Lazarre Community Platform. It has enabled people to pursue activities after dark.

Solar lamps also allow some women to meet informally and in safety and students who do not have power at home to study at night.

Since the start of the project, 200 solar lamps have been installed in fifty camps hosting earthquake victims. Thirty seven more lamps will be installed in the next project phase.

## In brief

### UNICEF supports rural communities with water sources and improved sanitation

UNICEF, as part of its strategy of protecting water sources and improving sanitation, has been assisting communities and organizations in the Nord department in installing drinking water systems. To date, 25 water systems have been set up in three rural communities (Petit Bourg Borgne, Champagne and Trou d'Enfer).

In Petit Bourg Borgne, UNICEF partnered with Concert-Action, a local organization, to build a clean water system for the village, which is located in the mountains of the Nord department. Most people in the village used to fetch water from streams, rivers and groundwater sources for all their daily needs.

As part of the celebration of World Water Day in Haiti, on 22 March 2013, an international symposium was organized on the theme "Cooperation in the field of water." Several topics were discussed including international cooperation in the field of water policy: issues and perspectives, participatory management of water and state obligations regarding the right to water and sanitation.

## Corrigendum

An unfortunate error occurred in the February issue of the Humanitarian Bulletin in the article entitled "The Executive Coordinator of United Nations Volunteer Programme visits Haiti." It should have read:

There are some 250 United Nations Volunteers in Haiti. "It was largely because of the importance of volunteering in this country that the UNV Executive Coordinator - newly installed in office - chose Haiti for his first official visit," said Isabelle Blanc, a UNV project and advocacy officer attached to MINUSTAH. "The UNV is actively working on a report on Volunteering in Haiti, including the mapping of Haitian organizations mobilizing volunteers."

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