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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Humanitarian assistance, emergency relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction in response to the humanitarian emergency in Haiti, including the devastating effects of the earthquake

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in compliance with its request in resolution 65/135. It provides a status report and an analysis of the current challenges encountered in the delivery of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners in Haiti.

* A/66/150.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in compliance with its request contained in resolution A/65/135. The report covers the period from October 2010 to July 2011.

II. Overview

2. The earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January 2010 affected almost 3.5 million people, including the entire population of 2.8 million people living in Port-au-Prince. The Government of Haiti estimates that the earthquake killed 222,570 and injured another 300,572 people. Displacement peaked at close to 2.3 million people, including 302,000 children. At least 188,383 houses were badly damaged and 105,000 were destroyed by the earthquake. Sixty per cent of Government and administrative buildings, 80 per cent of schools in Port-au-Prince and 60 per cent of schools in the South and West Departments were destroyed or damaged. Total earthquake-related loss is estimated at \$7.8 billion, equivalent to more than 120 per cent of Haiti's 2009 gross domestic product.

3. The earthquake response was complicated by an outbreak of cholera, which was confirmed on 21 October 2010 in the rural Artibonite Department. Within 10 weeks, the outbreak had spread to all 10 of Haiti's departments. As of 10 July 2011, 5,899 deaths had been reported, with thousands more individuals requiring medical treatment.

4. On 5 November 2010, Haiti was hit by Hurricane Tomas, which swept across the west of the country. The hurricane caused extensive flooding and the death of six people.

5. Haiti's history is plagued by serious humanitarian crises, stemming from recurrent waves of violence against a background of structural socio-economic challenges, including endemic poverty, chronic malnutrition, weak health systems, low literacy rates and limited access to clean water, sanitation and other basic services. Hundreds of thousands of people have been doubly affected by the earthquake's aftermath and the cholera epidemic, with large numbers of Haitians still dependent on assistance for their basic survival. The country continues to face significant humanitarian challenges, including regular exposure to natural disaster risks.

6. Humanitarian aid is only part of the essential response required for Haiti, where socio-economic indicators prior to the 12 January earthquake were among the lowest in the world. Long-term recovery challenges are massive and require large-scale investment to spark socio-economic recovery, including in the energy and infrastructure sectors. In addition, it is necessary to rebuild housing, revitalize urban planning to reconstitute destroyed communities and develop new communities. The private sector requires additional capital to facilitate investment in microcredit and small- and medium-sized businesses. There is also a need to strengthen governance and the rule of law, create greater transparency in public markets and improve customs and taxation operations.

7. As of the end of July 2011, only 37.8 per cent of the funding pledged at the 2010 international donors' conference, held in New York, had been disbursed. Additional financial support for Haiti's recovery is essential.

III. Progress in humanitarian response

8. During the reporting period, humanitarian assistance was provided to individuals, families and communities affected by the earthquake and cholera crises. Underlying structural poverty, insecurity, political instability and recurrent natural disasters faced by the Haitian people remain serious challenges.

A. Post-earthquake response

9. As of July 2010, six months after the earthquake, the number of displaced persons had dramatically decreased from 2.3 million to 1.5 million. During the reporting period, the number of displaced persons continued to decline. In March 2011, the number of internally displaced persons was estimated to be 680,000 in 1,061 sites. By May 2011, those figures had further decreased to 634,000 internally displaced persons in 1,001 sites. The majority of displaced persons (372,417 individuals or 58.7 per cent of the May 2011 total) resided in 70 large sites. The remaining 931 locations hosted fewer than 100 households each, or approximately 15 per cent of the total displaced population.

10. Communities in the southern regions (Léogâne, Petit-Goâve and Grand-Goâve) are registering more significant decreases in displacement sites and displaced populations. Reconstruction efforts have helped facilitate returns, while evictions and poor conditions within some official displacement sites continue to influence the decline in internally displaced persons in official sites.

11. Humanitarian efforts in support of the Government of Haiti are being coordinated through the humanitarian country team and the clusters. They have been crucial in bringing international actors together with national and local authorities to prioritize needs and implement sector responses. Coordination has helped to shape a shared vision of requirements and has facilitated the exchange of information and the formulation of strategic guidance.

12. During 2010, humanitarian partners responded to the emergency shelter needs of internally displaced persons by providing 117,200 tents, 1,185,052 tarpaulins and 2.5 million household items such as blankets, mats and kitchen sets. The camp coordination/camp management cluster played a critical role in the design of pilot programmes, which facilitated the return of 2,714 families. As of June 2011, 73,000 out of 116,000 (63 per cent) planned transitional shelters had been constructed.

13. Thousands of earthquake-affected families were also provided with agricultural assistance during the past three cropping seasons. Inputs included 4,000 tons of crop seeds, 2,378 million roots and tubers, 179,000 banana plants, 16.5 tons of vegetable seeds, 239,000 hand tools, 24,000 tons of fertilizer and 170 tons of compost. Other interventions in 2011 have included the local purchase of milk for some 25,000 households and the creation of thousands of temporary jobs through cash-for-work activities targeted at food-insecure households.

14. A working group comprising the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and non-governmental organization partners, regularly monitors trends in food prices and their impacts on vulnerable communities, and recommends responses. Food-based safety nets, cash and food-for-work programmes, food assistance for particularly vulnerable populations and support to small businesses are part of the emergency response that aim to mitigate the impact of food and fuel price increases on the poorest households. Urgent additional funding is required for continued implementation of those activities.

15. Following the earthquake, the nutrition status of the affected population was closely monitored. A total of 345,000 pregnant and nursing women, children under five and people living with HIV and tuberculosis patients were provided with nutritional supplements. Nearly 220,000 children aged 6 months to 59 months were screened. Nutritional interventions were provided to 200,000 children under five, as well as pregnant and lactating women. Progress on establishing nutritional stabilization units has been made in all 10 departments, with coverage reaching 78 per cent.

16. As of June 2011, 132 baby-friendly tents and spaces had been established to promote appropriate infant and toddler feeding. A total of 543,245 children and mothers benefited from nutrition counselling. More than 50,700 moderately malnourished children were admitted into selective feeding programmes and another 16,500 severely malnourished children benefited from outpatient treatment programmes in 30 stabilization centres throughout the country. In addition, more than 1 million children aged 6 months to 59 months were provided with vitamin A supplements and deworming tablets.

17. Education for the majority of earthquake-affected children has been restored, with 77 per cent of school-age children in camps attending classes, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). That represents an improvement over pre-earthquake nationwide estimates of 50 per cent attendance (68 per cent for the West Department). Training has been provided for 13,149 teachers and 7,842 teaching staff in areas including psychosocial support for traumatized children. Distribution of basic learning materials has benefited 952,122 students. More than 600 schools have been reconstructed, while the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has improved the water and sanitation infrastructure of 150 schools. Working with the national school feeding programme, WFP has provided daily food rations to 1.1 million children. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has supported secondary education by providing psychosocial support to teachers and equipment for high schools.

18. As of June 2011, 1.2 million people had benefited from water provision through the transportation of more than 4,200 cubic metres of water daily. More than 6,000 latrines and 2,800 showers are functioning in displacement sites, approximately 1 million households have received water chlorination products and 415,000 have received soap. Government-endorsed water, sanitation and hygiene messages have been disseminated by 1,300 hygiene promoters and community mobilizers and 881,050 people have been trained in basic hygiene promotion techniques.

19. During the reporting period, the logistics cluster continued to support the transportation and storage needs of the humanitarian community. As of July 2011, 16,600 tons of relief items had been dispatched by road, air and sea from Port-au-Prince to various locations throughout the country. At the peak of operations, 28,000 square metres of storage space was available to the humanitarian community. To date, the logistics cluster has facilitated the delivery of supplies for 124 organizations, including shelter, water and sanitation, food and nutritional assistance. From January 2010 to March 2011, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service transported more than 20,000 passengers from 300 organizations, including the United Nations, donors, non-governmental organizations, Governments, embassies and the media. It flew to more than 100 isolated villages, dispatching approximately 1,400 tons of light humanitarian cargo for 162 agencies. Due to a steady decline in demand, the Humanitarian Air Service discontinued services in Haiti on 30 March 2011, but continues to monitor the humanitarian situation and is prepared to rapidly re-establish air support in Haiti if required.

20. During the reporting period, the emergency telecommunication cluster provided more than 50 United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations with secure communication and basic data connectivity services required to effectively communicate and coordinate humanitarian assistance. The cluster continues to expand service coverage and enhance interoperability with the radio network of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Critical challenges

21. Although relief assistance sustained millions of people during the critical emergency phase, longer-term solutions are desperately needed. At the same time, Haiti faces significant development challenges, including stark disparities between urban and rural areas and uneven distribution of wealth. With 86 deaths per 1,000 live births, Haiti has the highest under-five mortality rate in the region. Less than 40 per cent of Haitians have access to health care and less than 60 per cent of children are immunized for measles. More than 3.7 million people do not have access to safe drinking water. Only 17 per cent of the urban and 10 per cent of rural populations have access to sanitation, leaving 8.2 million persons without reliable access to latrines or toilets. Poor availability and quality of education has translated into only half of school-aged children benefiting from regular education.

22. The acceleration of recovery efforts is needed, including structural reforms in the areas of education, water and sanitation, agriculture, justice and housing. The central, strategic role of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission needs to be strengthened in order to provide the necessary support to technical ministries and partners in defining and implementing national plans in key areas such as housing, debris removal and health care.

B. Response to the cholera outbreak

23. The cholera epidemic in Haiti experienced two main peaks, the first in November 2010 and the second in early June 2011. The second peak saw a significant increase in severe cases in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, parts of the West, South-East, South, Grand Anse, Artibonite and Centre Departments and a twofold increase in the number of patients in the North Department area during a

two-week period. From the start of the first cases in October 2010 until 5 August 2011, the Ministry of Health and Population reported that cholera had been responsible for 6,156 deaths, with a total of 424,450 cases. Despite the resurgence in cholera cases, mainly attributed to heavy rains, mortality rates have been declining throughout the country, reaching a nationwide rate of 1.4 per cent. At 0.7 per cent, the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area has the lowest mortality rate in the country.

24. Within days of the confirmation of the cholera outbreak, a humanitarian response was put in place under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Population. The national response strategy included key sectors, starting with health. The Ministry of Health and Population-led inter-cluster structure met weekly to ensure a coordinated, multisector response, which in addition to health included water, sanitation and hygiene, logistics and emergency telecommunications. The Government of Haiti, with support from the humanitarian community, substantially increased the number of cholera treatment centres and units from 12 at the end of October 2010 to more than 200 (and 1,065 oral rehydration points) as of July 2011. In addition, the number of beds in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area increased from 1,400 in May to 2,500 during the epidemic's second peak in June 2011.

25. Awareness-raising on cholera prevention and treatment together with the distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene items helped to reduce incidences and mortality rates and to mitigate the impact of the epidemic. Messages on cholera helped communities to recognize symptoms, resulting in earlier treatment and fewer severe cases, including among internally displaced persons. Soap and purification tablets were distributed to 186,000 and 135,500 internally displaced persons, respectively. Hygiene promotion sessions including messages that emphasized the importance of hand washing were held in 11,000 schools throughout the country.

26. From October 2010 until July 2011, the logistics cluster transported nearly 3,000 tons of cholera relief including water and sanitation supplies on behalf of 41 organizations to 72 locations throughout the country. Mobile storage units from cluster stocks in Port-au-Prince augmented storage capacity for life-saving goods in the country's affected departments.

27. The emergency telecommunication cluster quickly mobilized resources to extend secure telecommunications services in the most affected areas. In areas without Internet connectivity, "fly-away" kits were deployed to support emergency data and voice services.

28. Partners worked with the Ministry of Health and Population to develop capacity at the central and local levels for preventative and curative service delivery, case management and prevention campaigns. The distribution of bulk chlorine for urban water treatment and systematic testing of water quality and treatment operations were undertaken in coordination with the Government's water and sanitation authority (*Direction nationale de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement*). Water purification tablets and soap were also distributed to communities, including from contingency stocks pre-positioned with the Ministry of Health and Population.

29. Several partners who had started to phase down their cholera responses prior to the second peak in June 2011, reactivated operations. Others, particularly those involved in longer-term development, reoriented their support from the area of service delivery to that of capacity development of national structures, in order to

better manage the endemic nature of the epidemic, and/or build systems that could support the rapid scale-up of services in outbreak areas.

Critical challenges

30. Serious gaps in Haiti's basic service coverage, in particular water and sanitation systems, mean that cholera outbreaks are likely to reoccur. Longer-term behaviour change and the addressing of disparities between urban and rural areas are needed and will require sustained investment in social mobilization and the integration of health and hygiene education into relevant curricula for children as well as adults. Continued support for the Government's decentralization policy should remain a priority, as it aims to align services and investments in order to address the gaps and disparities that expose rural communities to higher outbreak risks.

31. Disaggregated data to enable a gender-based analysis of the cholera epidemic was not collected. Although the available information does not provide an indication of how men and women were differently affected by the epidemic, data indicates that children under the age of five and older people are particularly vulnerable.

C. Protection

Gender equity

32. Gender inequalities and sexual discrimination remain important facts of life in Haiti. Women are inadequately represented in the legislature and while they form the majority of heads of household, there are few measures that support the equitable sharing of family responsibilities or increases in women's access to sustainable livelihoods.

33. As before the earthquake, gender-based violence is a serious concern in Haiti. Coordinated efforts are focused on preventing and addressing cases of sexual assault and rape. Activities have included providing camp lighting and reinforcing multisectoral referrals for survivors, including the distribution of regularly updated referral cards. Training has been provided to camp managers, health-care workers, judges, lawyers, police officers and community agents, and has supported better access to services. The Haitian National Police and MINUSTAH have increased foot patrols in camps, which have benefited more than 230,000 internally displaced persons in 102 locations. In addition, the Brigade for the Protection of Minors has provided 16 community agents in 88 camps as a means of supporting the authorities and preventing and responding to sexual violence and other forms of violations of children's rights.

34. In addition to camp interventions, the Brigade for the Protection of Minors helped to bring 52 cases of rape of minors to prosecution over a period of six months. Its interventions include responses in camps and efforts to strengthen the country's institutional capacity to prevent gender-based violence and care for survivors. However, work is also needed to respond to other prevalent forms of such violence, including intimate partner violence, child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is also crucial to support institutions that promote women's empowerment in Government and civil society. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) has covered costs

and staff training for the organization and the opening of three shelters for women victims of gender-based violence. Staff from the Ministry of Women's Affairs have also been trained. Additionally, 13 day-care centres for victims of such violence have been established throughout the country.

Child protection

35. The earthquake exacerbated existing vulnerabilities that Haitian children face. Child protection actors led by the Government of Haiti and UNICEF are focusing on strengthening the child protection system, particularly mechanisms to prevent, detect and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation. Mechanisms include reinforcing the child protection and social welfare systems through reform of the social services curricula, improving the rule of law and reinforcing Government and non-governmental organizations actors. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the creation of 445 child-friendly spaces that reach more than 120,000 children. The spaces are managed by 82 organizations, of which 66 are national actors.

36. The United Nations supported the revision of Haiti's child protection legal framework to bring it in line with international conventions, norms and standards. That included revisions to the draft national bill on adoption and advocacy for the ratification of the 29 May 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (signed by Haiti in March 2011). Reform standards and guidelines on a broad range of child protection issues were also supported. Awareness-raising on International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 182 and 138, on preventing child labour, reached more than 100 Government staff and child protection focal points at the centralized and decentralized levels (with staff reached in 8 of Haiti's 10 departments). Technical, financial and material support for institutional reinforcement was also provided to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, including an institute for social well-being and research (*Institut de bien être social et de recherches*), the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and the Brigade for the Protection of Minors within the national police.

D. Coordination

37. During the reporting period, coordination on emergency preparedness and response issues was strengthened with the Ministry of Interior, especially the Civil Protection Directorate. The Government, the humanitarian community and MINUSTAH developed a joint contingency plan and organized a simulation exercise aimed at testing national response capacity for the cyclone season.

38. Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, the humanitarian country team in Haiti was established in February 2010 after the earthquake. The team provides strategic guidance to the inter-cluster coordination group on response and preparedness activities and includes nine United Nations agencies, five non-governmental organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements and humanitarian donors. The main objectives of the team are to define common objectives and priorities, develop strategic plans, provide operational guidance to clusters and provide support and advice on resource mobilization.

39. The inter-cluster coordination group, facilitated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, also continues to play a critical role in bringing humanitarian actors and national and local authorities together to implement response priorities. The group supports the humanitarian country team by coordinating multisector needs assessments, developing inter-agency contingency plans and establishing linkages with and support for Government coordination structures, such as the national emergency operations centre. On behalf of the team, the inter-cluster coordination group also supports civil-military coordination, including working with the joint operations and tasking centre as a single point of contact to prioritize requests for the use of military and policy assets in support of humanitarian operations.

40. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also continued to support field-level coordination through offices in the West (Léogâne), South East (Jacmel) and Artibonite (Gonaïve) Departments, including liaising with Government authorities at the delegate, director and technical levels. In addition, inter-agency focal points, established in each of the country's 10 departments, facilitated coordination with local authorities on humanitarian concerns.

41. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen the involvement in coordination mechanisms of national non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and local associations, particularly those run by women and young people. Local non-governmental organizations are now included in the consolidated appeal process and are given access to funding through the emergency response fund. Improved coordination has helped to strengthen local committees and community-based organizations working on camp management and to ensure that the displaced population receives appropriate assistance according to standards. At the same time, mechanisms for the relocation of internally displaced persons are being pursued.

E. Funding

42. On 11 November 2010, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations partners issued an inter-cluster cholera response plan requesting a total of \$164 million in support of the efforts of the Government of Haiti to mitigate the impact of the cholera outbreak. That plan, together with ongoing support to address the humanitarian needs of the 1.3 million people still in camps at the time, formed the 2011 consolidated appeal process, which included a request for a total of \$906 million. By June 2011, the number of displaced persons in camps had decreased to 634,000, prompting a downward revision of the process to \$382 million. As of July 2011, the process had received \$192 million, or 52 per cent of the required funding.

43. Although some donors have indicated that additional funds would be available to respond to a new crisis, both non-governmental organizations and United Nations partners indicate funding shortfalls as the main reason for reducing current cholera response activities, including water, sanitation and hygiene activities in camps. Additional funding to cover ongoing humanitarian needs is essential to facilitate transition to reconstruction and development.

44. The emergency response fund received a total of \$81.6 million from 40 donors. As of June 2011, \$74.8 million had been disbursed to fund 80 projects

implemented by 51 partners. Approved projects target both displaced and returning populations, the cholera outbreak and needs stemming from natural disasters.

IV. Progress in recovery and development

45. By mid-2010, emphasis was increasingly being placed on recovery planning, including the creation of conditions that would enable the displaced population to return to former or new communities. However, a sustainable response goes beyond humanitarian assistance and has to include a well-planned transition to development programming, which aims to rebuild communities and restore social services. The Government action plan for recovery and development was presented at the international donors' conference, held at United Nations Headquarters in March 2010. The plan identified four priority pillars: territorial, economic, social and institutional rebuilding. The United Nations Integrated Strategic Framework for Haiti, covering the period from June 2010 to December 2011, is directly aligned with the Government action plan.

A. Territorial rebuilding

46. Under this pillar, the United Nations aims to strengthen the capacity of local and national Government to mitigate and respond to disasters; plan and manage the return and resettlement of affected populations, including debris management; and assist in developing plans for each department of Haiti based on population analysis.

47. Haiti is exposed to major risks associated with its annual hurricane season, which usually lasts from June to November. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported the national system for disaster management for more than 11 years, and while progress has been made, further work is required to better respond to future disaster-related challenges, including concerted efforts by national actors to reduce the impact of natural disasters and ensure rapid, effective response to affected populations. Efforts to engage with the new administration on that issue are under way.

48. During the reporting period, the Civil Protection Directorate, with support from the international community, developed a contingency plan for the 2011 hurricane season. The plan included a main scenario in which up to 300,000 people would be affected, with half requiring emergency shelters during at least one hurricane. Preparedness efforts have included pre-positioning of emergency stocks in the country's departments, supported by the logistics cluster, and setting up a crisis communication system in the Civil Protection Directorate, supported by the emergency telecommunications cluster. Nationwide gaps and capacities are analysed monthly and the Government and United Nations performed a joint simulation exercise involving more than 330 people in July 2011. In addition, support was provided to open a Civil Protection Directorate national emergency operation centre in Port-au-Prince.

49. In early 2011, UNDP helped to map out the seismic risks (macrozonation) of Port-au-Prince, an essential tool for risk-sensitive urban planning. As part of the broader land use planning project within the Ministry of Planning, the Government allocated funding to assess seismic risks in all major cities in Haiti. A UNDP-

supported seismic risk reduction project targeting the north of Haiti has been approved by the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission and the Haiti Reconstruction Fund, as part of a larger national seismic risk reduction programme.

50. The early recovery cluster coordinated the collection of 3.5 million cubic metres of debris, including 2 million collected in 2010 and 1.5 million in 2011. At the same time, as a part of the structural assessment of earthquake-damaged buildings, the level of damage and habitability of more than 400,000 structures was assessed by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications, with support from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Debris removals and housing assessments facilitated the return to houses identified as habitable (green), those in need of repair (yellow) or uninhabitable and requiring demolition (red). To date, the international community has supported the repair of approximately 6,000 “yellow” houses and rebuilt some 5,700 houses.

51. The United Nations, through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP, continues to support important flood risk reduction work, including initiatives targeting the improved management of watersheds. In early 2011, a key initiative for the south of Haiti aimed to improve the management of one of the country’s most important rivers, which every year threatens Les Cayes, one of the largest cities. In addition, the United Nations, through labour-intensive projects, supported the cleaning of urban waterways prior to the cyclone season since garbage blockage routinely heightens flood risks.

B. Economic rebuilding

52. The United Nations is also supporting new economic opportunities for Haitians, particularly in earthquake-affected areas and where displacement remains high. With the support of FAO, 55,000 households located in rural and suburban areas generated additional income in 2010. From February to November 2010, UNDP, MINUSTAH, IOM and WFP collaborated to provide jobs to more than 400,000 people in labour-intensive jobs, including rubble removal, irrigation works and community infrastructure. As of 2011, the focus of United Nations-supported programmes shifted increasingly towards longer-term employment opportunities.

53. The sustainable use of natural resources in Haiti is also a priority for the United Nations. In that area, UNDP, WFP and ILO implemented watershed management and reforestation activities in the Artibonite Department to protect 470 hectares of land. UNEP, IOM, the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) worked with the Government and the private sector to advance discussions on energy efficiency and new energies, including a private-public partnership to develop the liquid petroleum gas sector.

C. Social rebuilding

54. Under the social rebuilding pillar, the United Nations aims to reduce disparities and ensure equitable access to quality social services, including health, food and nutrition, education, culture, water and sanitation and protection. Vulnerable and traditionally marginalized groups have been prioritized in order to ensure that services are provided in a culturally and gender-sensitive as well as enabling environment.

55. During the reporting period, the United Nations and partners supported a nationwide campaign for children, which provided vaccinations against measles, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis and polio and distributed vitamin A supplements. The campaign covered schools, camps, residential care centres and displaced communities and reached 1.9 million children. In November 2010, during Child Health Week, more than 1 million children were covered by catch-up vaccinations and vitamin A supplements.

56. In 2010, the Government's education operational plan was finalized, with support from the United Nations and international partners. The plan laid out the priorities and required investments to improve education through 2015. The United Nations and the partners also contributed to a national school feeding programme by supporting the development of the long-term plan to provide free national universal school feeding by 2030.

57. The United Nations also supported the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in drafting its strategy on social protection. UNICEF is working in close collaboration with the Ministry and the Faculty of Human Sciences at the State University of Haiti to revise the social services curriculum. UNICEF and the United States Agency for International Development are also carrying out an assessment of the social welfare workforce in Haiti to examine social work and health providers and assess technical expertise and gaps.

58. The United Nations also supported the drafting of the Government's action plan for social protection in the health sector, which is being implemented through two programmes: free obstetric care and free health care for children under five. The projects are being scaled up with support from WHO/PAHO.

D. Institutional rebuilding

59. The strengthening of institutional capacities at the national and local levels is at the core of the United Nations country team mandate in Haiti. In addition to the technical resources that individual agencies have provided to their counterpart ministries, the country team also provides technical assistance in areas where coordination adds value. For example, coordinated support is being provided to the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, the strategic planning and coordination body co-chaired by the then-Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean-Max Bellerive, and former President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton, to help the Government determine recovery priorities and ensure coherence and efficiency in the allocation and financing of projects. The United Nations has played an instrumental role in establishing the Commission, by seconding several experts in areas such as aid coordination, disaster risk reduction and communications, and technical staff. To date, secondees have been provided by IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS and the Resident Coordinator's Office.

60. The United Nations has also contributed to the development of sector strategies coordinated by the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission and/or the Government of Haiti. Good examples include the housing strategy, elaborated with the involvement of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the health strategy supported by WHO/PAHO, the agricultural investment plan, produced by the Ministry of Agriculture with the support of FAO, and UNDP support for the seismic risk reduction strategy.

61. UNICEF has provided financial, technical and in-kind support to reinforce Government offices in Port-au-Prince and throughout the country. The support includes assistance to reopen offices of the Ministries of Education, Health, Social Affairs and Labour and Women's Affairs (including the *Institut de bien être social et de recherches* and the National Migration Office) and the Ministry of Justice and Social Security (including the penitentiary department and the child protection police). UNICEF is also supplementing or covering costs for civil servants within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (including the *Institut de bien être social et de recherches*) and key posts within the Brigade for the Protection of Minors. UNOPS has placed technical experts within the Ministry of Public Works to support structural assessments of earthquake-affected buildings and establish a database to manage the resulting information. WFP is covering the salaries of 32 civil servants at the Ministry of Agriculture and, along with Brazil, has made experts available for the national school feeding programme.

62. The United Nations country team has placed 419 Haitians and 106 international staff in positions that support Government institutions. Seventy per cent of the staff provide long-term expertise to various government bodies.

63. The first and second rounds of the presidential and legislative elections were held on 28 November 2010 and 20 March 2011, respectively. UNDP, in collaboration with the Electoral Section of MINUSTAH, provided technical support that allowed the Provisional Electoral Council to produce a list of 4.7 million voters and set up 1,500 voting centres in which a total of 11,181 polling stations were located. UNDP was responsible for the management of the \$31.9 million international basket fund for the 2010-2011 electoral process.

64. For the 2010-2011 electoral process, UNDP worked hand-in-hand with the Haitian electoral management body in three main areas: (a) systems and databases; (b) voter lists; and (c) review of the legal framework to deal with electoral complaints. UNDP assistance on technology-assisted communication mechanisms allowed the Provisional Electoral Council to significantly increase its outreach capacities, including through an improved website, SMS system and call centre, to inform more than 1 million voters on the location of polling stations. UNDP technical support on the legal aspects of the electoral process enabled the Council to produce official documents containing rules and guidelines aimed at complementing and ensuring an adequate interpretation of electoral law, as well as a procedures manual for the Vote Tabulation Centre. That support was the first step of a longer-term capacity building programme that will extend into 2012 to strengthen the professional abilities of the Council.

65. The United Nations country team, together with MINUSTAH, has been involved in strengthening State capacities, including police, justice, corrections and public administration. MINUSTAH supported the national police, including in vetting new recruits. Of the 913 individuals vetted for the 22nd programme of admission of national police cadets, 877 cadets, including 60 women, were recommended for graduation on 20 May 2011.

66. National police staffing levels reached a total of 10,001 officers, including 783 women. Staff have reinforced the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince (West Department) and police departments now include a special weapons and tactics unit, correction service, maritime police and anti-drugs units. Additionally, 28 officers have been trained to monitor and support the 12-month field training process for the

877 recent police graduates. MINUSTAH developed and delivered additional specialized training to enhance policing capabilities in first aid, gender awareness, border activities, close protection, crowd control and judicial policing.

67. The recruitment process for the 23rd and 24th programmes of admission is continuing, with 1,900 potential candidates identified. The process includes the goal that women comprise at least 30 per cent of those graduating from the next programme. MINUSTAH continues to help Haitian authorities to develop the five-year Haitian national police development plan for 2012-2016, to replace the current plan, which will expire in December 2011. The Mission also continues to provide technical guidance on several donor-funded projects to rehabilitate and construct police facilities.

68. MINUSTAH continued to support the decentralization initiative of the Ministry of the Interior, including by designing a performance assessment system to facilitate the monitoring of municipality administrative and financial management, the delivery of municipal services and the promotion of local development activities. From April to July 2011, MINUSTAH monitored the implementation of the 2010/11 municipal budgets and assisted the Ministry of the Interior in updating the guidelines for the budget preparation process, which both parties supervised. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH also helped the Ministry to finalize its five-year decentralization activity report, and recruited four (of 10 planned) national professional officers to provide technical and administrative advice to departmental delegations.

69. Infrastructure and equipment projects in support of Haitian authorities continued during the reporting period, though several projects have been delayed awaiting preparation of sites. Construction of the temporary parliament office block was completed in April. MINUSTAH also continued to provide technical and advisory support to the Haitian Parliament. The Mission's parliamentary liaison office, defunct since the 2010 earthquake, reopened in August 2011 and is facilitating interaction on policy issues between the Mission and Haiti's legislators, as well as providing parliamentarians with work and a meeting space.

70. MINUSTAH continued rule of law advocacy and coordination activities, although progress was hampered by delays in forming the new Government. The mission supported the Government of Haiti in developing a national rule of law strategy. UN-Women supported the elaboration of a national law on equality, which will be submitted to the next session of parliament.

71. Despite obstacles, rule of law capacity-building efforts continued with various institutions. MINUSTAH worked on reinforcing the Customs Service, which presently accounts for 65 per cent of the fiscal revenue of the Government of Haiti. Further efforts included seconding a technical expert to the Customs Surveillance Unit and providing technical advice to international donors. MINUSTAH continues to press the Government of Haiti to set up a technical border commission and has been engaging Parliament to pass the new customs code.

72. MINUSTAH and UNDP partnered to train 63 registrars, including 7 women. UNDP set up prison administration training facilities, strengthened the inmate tracking databases and launched a training programme on penitentiary administration for 43 executive managers. The Mission and the United Nations country team partnered to train judicial actors on the social elements of gender-

based violence and the legal framework for combating it. In June, 20 Haitian magistrate students, including 3 women, concluded 10 months of training at the national magistrates' school (*Ecole nationale de la magistrature*) in France. Training was also conducted for 130 narcotic investigation unit recruits as part of a joint programme by UNDP, the Haitian Drug Enforcement Agency and MINUSTAH.

73. The Mission has continued to work to address the challenge of prison overcrowding and to improve sentence management and access to health-care services for detainees. The daily presence of corrections officers in each of the country's prisons has enabled progress to be made across those priority areas, in particular at the local level. Nevertheless, administrative reforms at the ministerial level to ensure sustainable change have lagged, and serious violations of human rights and inhumane detention conditions persist in Haiti.

74. Corrections Unit engineers, working with the Haitian prison administration and international partners, have developed projects to improve the prison infrastructure and increase detention capacity. They have assisted Haitian prison authorities in adopting an integrated approach to project planning to facilitate the coordination of international partners and donors. The Mission's engagement has helped to increase prison cell space by 28 per cent since the previous report. Legal and sentence management experts, together with justice and human rights advisers, continue to support Haitian prison and judicial officers in reviewing cases of inmates who are deemed to be illegally detained. The team obtained the release of 260 detainees since March 2011, bringing the total number of releases in 2011 to 469.

E. Coordination

75. Throughout the reporting period, the United Nations country team in Haiti has remained a key coordination mechanism. Although the work of the country team had already started before the 12 January earthquake, the level of collaboration increased significantly during the spring of 2010.

76. Soon after the earthquake, the United Nations country team and MINUSTAH undertook a joint planning exercise that culminated in establishing an integrated strategic framework, which was endorsed by the integrated mission task force on 25 November 2010. The framework has become the main programming reference for United Nations entities in Haiti and has helped the country team and MINUSTAH to reach agreements on joint strategic objectives and results through December 2011 that are aligned with Government priorities. The framework represents a major step in support of United Nations integration in peacekeeping environments and provides evidence that joint planning exercises can be undertaken efficiently (the framework was produced in only 4 months), while ensuring broad participation from country team and MINUSTAH technical staff.

77. During the design of the integrated strategic framework, the country team also accelerated efforts to produce and implement joint programmes under the leadership of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. Since June 2010, the country team has jointly selected, formulated and submitted 18 projects totalling \$367 million for the consideration of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission. Of the 18 projects submitted, 13 involve at least two United Nations agencies, signalling the

commitment of the country team to United Nations coherence. The projects relate to education, employment, housing, agriculture, health, gender-based violence and natural disaster risk reduction. To date, eight proposals have received funding from the Haiti Reconstruction Fund, and bilateral donor funding was identified for the remaining proposals. Additionally, at the request of the President of Haiti, the United Nations and the non-governmental organization Concern Worldwide have provided technical assistance for a Government project that aims to rehabilitate 16 neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince in order to allow displaced populations from six camps to return to their neighbourhoods of origin. The President presented the project to the Board of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission for approval during its most recent meeting on 22 July 2011, during which \$30 million was allocated from the Haiti Reconstruction Fund to fund part of the initiative.

78. The United Nations country team also joined efforts to advocate on human rights issues through the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator or the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. For example, in cases of forced evictions and gender-based violence, joint advocacy has opened space for collaboration with counterparts. The country team has also strived to foster a coherent dialogue with counterparts on system-wide issues and has become a reliable partner of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission and the Haiti Reconstruction Fund, while avoiding risks of contradicting messaging and competition among United Nations agencies.

79. Under the chairmanship of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, the “Group of Twelve”, representing the main donors in Haiti, has regularly gathered to accelerate progress and coordination in the recovery process, while also supporting the reactivation of key sector groups to ensure greater ownership of national ministries in the recovery process.

80. Under the technical coordination of UNDP, the development of an aid management platform that is jointly overseen by the Ministry of Planning and the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission has been a priority. The platform, which will be fully operational in 2011, allows for the tracking of donors’ pledges and disbursements and their alignment with Government priorities. The fund is expected to facilitate planning and budget decisions by line ministries.

F. Critical challenges

81. The programming requirements for a number of large-scale reconstruction programmes, notably the \$65 million housing projects supported by the World Bank, the Government’s new housing initiative to build 2,000 homes in Port-au-Prince and the housing and debris removal programmes supported by the United Nations, total \$72 million. A significant shortfall remains, with only 37.8 per cent of the funding pledged at the 2010 New York donors’ conference disbursed to date.

82. The current political stalemate between the President and Parliament is also affecting the pace of recovery, with a number of policy decisions outstanding. Progress in key sectors such as education, social protection and employment hinge on the appointment of a Prime Minister and other key ministerial positions for the formation of a new Government.

83. Continued investment in projects to develop the capacity of State institutions at the central and local levels remains a priority for the United Nations. While a consensus between field actors is growing on prioritizing Government leadership across all sectors of recovery, additional United Nations advocacy will be needed throughout 2011.
