HIGHLIGHTS  

- Hospitals, orphanages, civil protection units and other emergency services are functioning with limited capacity because of fuel shortage, lack of safe water and other essentials.
- UN agencies and their partners seek to resume humanitarian assistance to thousands of vulnerable Haitians, as their ability to deliver is affected because of restricted access.

KEY FIGURES

- 2.6M People in need
- 1.3M People targeted
- 2.1M People in IPC phase 3
- 571k People in IPC phase 4

FUNDING  (2019)

- Required: $126.2M
- Received: $26.4M
- Progress: 21%

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BACKGROUND  

Security incidents and roadblocks have disrupted humanitarian programmes of United Nations agencies and NGOs in Haiti.

Humanitarian programmes of UN agencies and NGOs in Haiti have been impacted – in some cases severely - by roadblocks and several security incidents across Haiti.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been liaising with humanitarian and development partners to assess the impact of the current situation.
FEATURE (2 Oct 2019)

Food security threatened

The food security sector co-led by the World Food Programme and the Food Agriculture Organization (WFP/FAO), in support of national institutions, reported that should the situation continue, thousands of people already facing the consequences of severe food insecurity will be further negatively impacted, with food assistance unable to reach them.

The sector is scaling up response efforts with the latest funds received from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of about US$5 million in August 2019 to target about 65,000 people, and $9 million from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid for another 125,000 people. However, the current situation has forced a slowdown of the activities.

At the beginning of the year, 2.6 million Haitians were food insecure. There are indications that more people could be food insecure due to economic challenges and rainfall deficits in some parts of the country. The current situation impacts the most vulnerable people's access to livelihoods and food. As of 16 September, WFP has had to suspend all food deliveries to schools. So far, only 39 per cent of schools have received the commodities; food deliveries to schools located in southern Haiti were particularly affected by the security situation. Additionally and since 16 September, cash transfers to over 7,300 households (37,000 people; emergency response/unconditional and disaster-risk reduction/conditional) planned in Grand’Anse, Artibonite and North departments have been postponed, due to the volatile situation and shortage of fuel.

FEATURE (2 Oct 2019)

Health sector most affected

The health sector is probably the most affected with hospitals facing significant challenges to operate. The shortage of fuel and the inability to replenish medical supplies are the main concerns. The World Health Organization has said it will continue to support Haiti’s Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) to the extent possible. Health-related programmes have been partially interrupted, but will likely be completely disrupted if the situation continues. Following the explosion of gas tanks in Les Cayes on 29 September, UNICEF supported the Les Cayes Health Directorate to evacuate the most seriously injured to Port-Au-Prince. However, roadblocks delayed the convoy, and regrettably a boy burned by the explosion died while in transit. Roadblocks also hamper medical staff's ability to report to work and affect people's access to medical facilities.

In the departments of Nord-Ouest, Nord, Nippes, Nippes, Sud-Est and Ouest, maternal health activities are practically at a standstill (80 per cent). Institutions are operating at a slower pace. No mobile clinics are operational in the North-West and South-East departments affecting around 500 beneficiaries.

FEATURE (2 Oct 2019)

Cholera response disrupted

The cholera response in the country has been affected by roadblocks and fuel shortages. Partners on the ground are experiencing great difficulty in ensuring community monitoring and rapid response and prevention activities. The distribution of items to prevent and control cholera such as cholerine and hygiene kits, is temporarily on hold. UNICEF
is doing its best by remotely monitoring the response with the MSPP and at the community level. So far, no increase in suspected cholera cases has been recorded.

FEATURE (2 Oct 2019)

Water, sanitation and hygiene activities compromised

As the response to emergencies has been compromised by the lack of water, UNICEF has begun to receive requests for drinking water, diesel and other supplies from Haitian institutions, such as hospitals and children's shelters. UNICEF is responding to these requests through national entities, such as DINEPA, the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation, and NGOs, considering current limitations.

Local women organizations responsible for implementing the programme Community Approach to Total Sanitation (ACAT) in the municipalities of Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, Saint-Michel and Gros-Morne have been affected as they are restricted in their movement. In the Centre Department, work has been at a standstill at Lascalahobas for more than three weeks. On 15 September, the NGOs Action Contre la Faim and Deep Springs International were unable to launch home water treatment activities planned from September until November.

CERF WASH cholera activities have also been on stand-by mode for over two weeks.

FEATURE (2 Oct 2019)

Protection of children, a major concern

Basic social services, such as health and education, have been interrupted across the country, leaving students, particularly adolescents, at risk of becoming victims of violence or of being recruited by gangs. Haiti has many children in institutions, such as orphanages and prisons, which have been severely affected by the shortages of basic commodities.

UNICEF has received information about an orphanage with 33 children with limited water supplies in Port-au-Prince. On 27-28 September, one of the largest orphanage in the country was attacked by a group of armed men. All 182 children in the orphanage witnessed the violence and remain vulnerable to subsequent attacks should the national police not be able to maintain order in Les Cayes. A local psychosocial service provider is providing services to the children.

Census-related activities are suspended as reported by the UN Population Fund, UNFPA.

Assistance activities at the national level for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, children born of sexual exploitation and abuse have been suspended. More than 50 beneficiaries from the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Victim Assistance Project run by United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, the UN Development Programme and Terre des Hommes in Les Cayes, Port-Salut, Jérémie, Port de Paix and Port-au-Prince have been affected.

FEATURE (2 Oct 2019)

Education disrupted
Schools reopened on 9 September, but from 16 September they were operating at a slower pace throughout the country. For the past two weeks, many schools have been closed, mainly in the major urban centres of Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes and Cap Haitien. In rural areas, schools operate as best they can with a small number of staff. Today, it is estimated that more than 2 million children and young people are unable to attend school.

**FEATURE** (2 Oct 2019)

**Provision of shelter and repatriation affected**

Almost all activities related to providing shelter for the displaced and repatriation of migrants have been almost completely interrupted, according to the International Organization for Migration. Some activities in remote locations or in areas where building material was available on site have continued. However, by 2 October, these activities will stop due to unavailability of materials. No repatriation operations by land or sea have taken place in the last two weeks.

**FEATURE** (2 Oct 2019)

**Humanitarian shipments affected**

Port and customs operations are on hold due to the current situation and humanitarian shipments cannot be received. Private transporters are unwilling to deliver due to the current security situation and this has affected the implementation of the response. Roads are regularly blocked in many towns across the country.

*OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.*

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