



Haiti Situation Report #4



October 6, 2016

Highlights

Facing the largest humanitarian event since the earthquake six years ago, Haiti declares state of catastrophe in wake of Hurricane Matthew

- First aerial observation mission shows Hurricane Matthew has severely affected the south part of the country, especially the departments of Grand Anse and South, where the wind produced severe damages. OCHA/UNDAC teams did not observe major landslides or floods at this time.
- According to the information provided by the Civil Protection Directorate (DPC), more than 15 thousand people are evacuated, 152 temporarily shelters opened, 1,855 houses flooded, 500 houses very damaged, 348 houses destroyed and the hospital of Jeremie affected. Unofficial figures of evacuees significantly higher.
- The Minister of Interior declared today that death toll is now at 108 from Hurricane Matthew.
- One of the main roads to deliver assistance to the affected communities is still inaccessible due to the collapse of a bridge in Petit Goave. A temporary bridge allows humanitarian actors to cross the river and access the South of the island. The roads to Grand Anse Department are also reported to be damaged.
- Phone lines have not been re-established with municipalities in the department of Grand Anse.
- 234 shelters are open across the country and 186 temporary shelters are available in the South.
- Schools will remain closed until the 10th October 2016.
- The Haitian authorities have postponed presidential and legislative elections originally scheduled for Sunday, October 9th, until assessment of impact of the Hurricane Matthew is made.
- Haiti's National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN) has been activated by the DPC, as well as other departmental emergency centers. However, these entities do not have any power generator capacity or satellite phones, which have impacted communication, as they are struggling to be in contact with the capital city.
- The DPC has made a projection of an estimated **350 thousand people in need of immediate assistance** and asked the humanitarian community to help the assessment and response accordingly, asking to prioritize the people currently located in the temporary shelters for urgent humanitarian response.
- According to PAHO/WHO, a cholera outbreak was recently reported in Randel, South department. Six deaths were already registered before the passage of Hurricane Matthew in the same community. However, it is not yet clear if the impact of the hurricane will increase the spread of cholera epidemics in the region.

Situation in numbers

4,615,468

Population less than 18 years old
(IHSI 2015)

10,911, 819

Total population
(IHSI 2015)

1,125,402

Estimated affected population
(UNOSAT)

350,000+

In need of assistance
(Civil Protection Departement)

15,623

Evacuated
(Civil Protection Departement)

1.855

Flooded houses
(civil Protection Departement)

Estimated UNICEF Funds required

5 million USD

will be needed to cover
immediate life-saving needs

UNICEF's actions with partners

In the daily joint DPC/HCT meeting, it was decided that available thematic coordination mechanisms will be used for the response post-Matthew and other specific meetings have been scheduled to coordinate assessment and response. Regular coordination meetings are held in the following sectors: Education, Food Security and Nutrition, WASH, Logistic, Health, CCCM/Shelter and Protection. UNICEF has the lead in four sectors: Education, WASH, Nutrition and Protection.

UNICEF is also closely collaborating with PAHO for the emergency Health response and supporting the Nutrition Section of the Ministry of Health in re-establishing sectoral coordination at central and departmental level to maximize preventive measures and care capacity in the affected areas. In addition, opportunities are being explored to improve epidemiological surveillance and control risks to health and nutrition in affected areas, but also to prevent diseases outbreaks in shelters and communities, while ensuring efficient information management.

UNICEF's first priority remains to ensure water and sanitation to people affected by the hurricane, the continuity of school services with the delivery of educational supply (school kits, tents, early childhood development kits, etc.).

After a first UNICEF team reached by road the South yesterday, another vehicle it is on its way today, transporting staff from Emergency, WASH, Education and Protection sections. A UNICEF truck crossed also safely the river in Petit Goave, loaded with emergency supplies. These teams join the 20 interagency multi-sectoral teams, working hand in hand with NGO partners and authorities. They focused on the city of Les Cayes, the West and East axes. Current logistics needs include clearing the road and rapid diagnostic of damage in the coastal cities of the West Coast via helicopters.

According to stakeholders assisting at the COUD meeting last night, 70% to 80% of houses in Les Cayes' are now uninhabitable (flooded/roofless). 20% of them have collapsed walls. 100% of the crops are destroyed around Les Cayes. Strong damages are observed in St. Louis du North. It is still impossible to access Jeremie from les Cayes as the access is cut to Camp-Perrin.

In the North West, first rapid assessments from our partner ACF deplore the loss of most of cattle and crops. Houses and schools are heavily damaged. 1806 persons are affected in Mole St Nicolas, 6777 in Baie de Henne and 3727 in Bombardopolis. In that zone, 45% of our intervention areas are inaccessible for the moment, especially in Bombardopolis (close to the sea). Today, UNICEF is supporting the DINEPA to refine these first assessments.

UNICEF Protection and Emergency staff have been working with the DPC and municipalities in order to map out shelters. One main area to reinforce is the documentation of cases as well as disaggregated data. Two shelters in Port-au-Prince are being prioritized for assessments and assistance: one in Tabarre where 43 children are reported to have been evacuated, and a second one in Kenscoff. Two alerts about orphanages in the area of Leogane are also being followed up.

2.000 children were evacuated from among the 700 institutions in different areas of the country. Many of the children evacuated in Port au Prince have already returned to the institutions. The Protection section notices that most alerts received concern cases of destroyed orphanages or children in residential care in need of emergency assistance. It is important to continue to monitor the situation of families to avoid more children being placed in informal foster care/ residential centers. At this stage no case of unaccompanied minors have been documented.

Main concerns, for the protection program in the next weeks are a rapid identification and referral and ensuring assistance to vulnerable families to help avoid the cycle of informal foster care/ institutional care. Information from Grande Anse, Nippes, South are still being gathered.

Heavy damages have been reported in school infrastructure in the Southern Departments (Grand Anse, Nippes and South). Moreover, many children are reported to have lost all their books and school supplies, while schools have been used as shelters. Ministry of Education has already called upon partners to support affected schools (173 according to the MoE) and the 24,000 children possibly affected mostly in the Grand South Departments (Grand Anse, Nippes,). MoE says that 70% of schools in Grande Anse might have been affected. UNICEF needs 600 kits for immediate response.

UNICEF supports the WASH, Protection and Education sectors with supplies. After the conduct of the first field assessments, additional needs will be known and new supply will be ordered.

Based on the current figures a minimum of 5 million USD will be needed for UNICEF to set-up a response that covers immediate life-saving needs with further needs to be identified as the impact becomes clear.

More articles are available on UNICEF Haiti's blog [Timounyo](#).
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