

HIGHLIGHTS

- Major outbreaks of cholera recorded in several communes of the country. About 15 communes are on red alert;
- Sporadic floods were recorded across the country, during October, affecting over 300 families and causing extensive damage to the agricultural sector;
- Bi-national crisis: the humanitarian community pursues to collect information and the humanitarian surveillance;
- The drought has caused acute food crisis in 37 communes.



In this issue

- Cholera Epidemic P.1
- Emergency preparedness P.2
- Bi-national crisis P.3
- Food security and nutrition P.5

Cholera outbreak: 15 communes on red alert

Important outbreaks recorded particularly in western communes and in South East

With the heavy rains of October, the health actors have observed a resurgence of cholera cases in several communes, notably in the departments of Artibonite, West, South East, South and North. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO / WHO), in the situation report from October 18 to 29, affirms that in these departments more than 400 alerts were recorded.

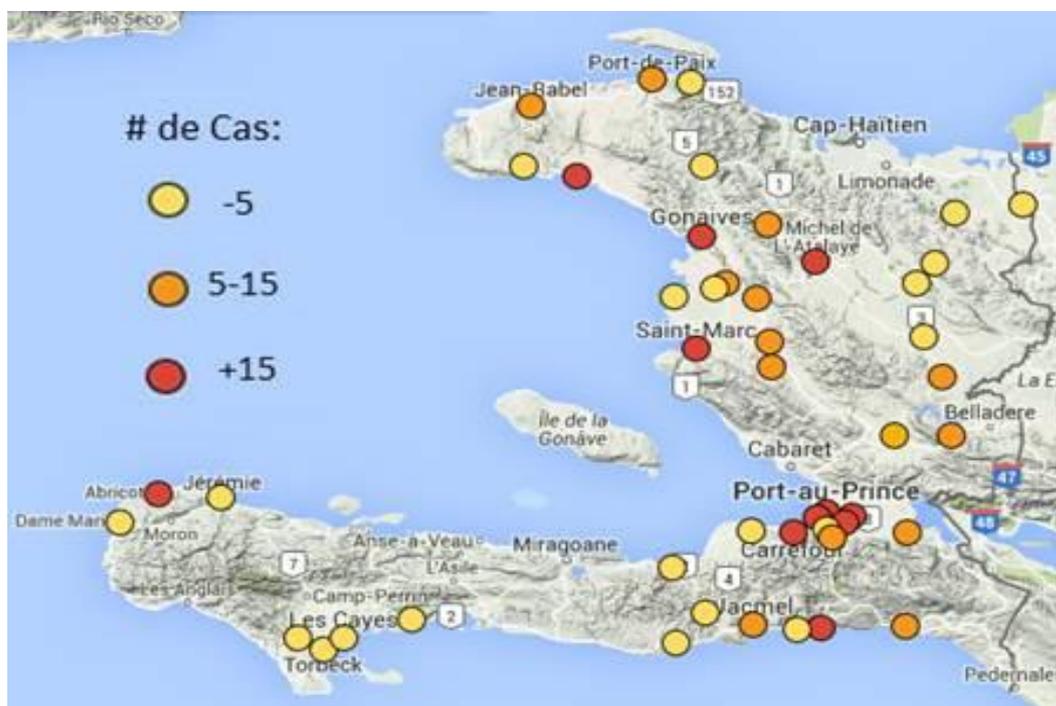
The document indicates that about fifteen communes are on red alert. The situation is more critical in Cite Soleil (91 cases), Marigot (51 cases), St. Mark (36 cases) and Jacmel (33 cases) communes. Humanitarian actors estimate that the untreated water consumption and poor hygiene practices are the causes of transmission of 73 percent of the cases investigated.

KEY FIGURES

Number of IDPs in camps 60,801
Source: DTM, June 2015

Cumulative cholera cases (1st Jan. to 19 Sept 2015) 22,511
Source: MSPP

Fatality cases (1st Jan. to 19 Sept 2015) 185
Source: MSPP



Distribution map alerts for the period from October 8 to 18, 2015. Source: OPS/OMS

The UNICEF-PAHO technical team recalled the partners to improve surveillance because the end of the year is the period where the number of cholera cases tends to increase both in the departments and in the capital. They encouraged a better coordination, more flexibility of intervention and information sharing between actors doing interventions in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and Health sectors.

Haiti enters the dry season, an appropriate moment to stop the cholera epidemic.

All the emergency actors are mobilized to support local authorities on responding to alerts

Faced with this situation, the UN agencies, through the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), UNICEF, and the health departments, have intensified activities of rapid response to alerts. The distribution of chlorinated product and oral serum, community awareness, decontamination of houses, dormitories and sanitary facilities, were held in affected communities.

Particularly in the West department, mobile teams of rapid response (EMIRA), supported by MDM-Canada, French Red Cross and volunteers from the Haitian Red Cross have decontaminated 23 dormitories and 8 toilet blocks (composed of 10 toilets each). They also installed 20 washing stations at the National Police Academy and organized a training session on hygienic practices for the benefit of 1,500 new recruited police, after 40 of them were contaminated with cholera last October.

In the department of Artibonite, the International Organization for Migration and PAHO / WHO supplied the diarrhea treatment center with medicines and human resources.

In the Southeast, the mobile teams (EMIRA) of the Ministry of Public Health (MSSP) assured the community response in the most affected areas, especially in Jacmel, Cayes-Jacmel, Marigot and Anse-a-Pitres communes. Other initiatives including the investigation of water sources, the active search of cholera patients, the decontamination of houses, the protection of water sources and awareness have been implemented. Moreover, an extra number of beds were made available in health centers.

Resource mobilization remains a major challenge in the fight against the epidemic

The Haitian government, the United Nations Agencies and their partners have made the fight against cholera a priority in the process of reducing the extreme vulnerability of the country. Therefore, the continued mobilization of donors remains essential to support the efforts of the Government and humanitarian partners to maintain a rapid response capacity at Community level.

It is possible that the rains will continue during part of November, being followed by the dry season, a period where the opportunities to cut the transmission of the disease are optimal. In this sense, the actors are still seeking financing for projects of approximately \$8 million to continue the rapid response to alerts, to improve water quality and to execute hygiene promotion activities.

October rains: Sporadic floods across the country

About 300 families affected and dozens of homes flooded

Rainfalls reported October caused flooding in several parts of the country, especially in the departments of North, Artibonite, South and West. Indeed, the heavy rains that hit the northern coast of the country during the passage of Hurricane Joaquin from 2 to 4 October have affected about 300 families and caused the death of one person and the disappearance of two fishermen.



Flooding in the city of Les Cayes. October 2015. Credit : DPC

At Anse Rouge, in the Artibonite department, Hurricane Joaquin caused a rise of the sea that has devastated agricultural plantations, the flooding of bassoons and the destruction of mangroves.

Other communes in the departments of South (Cayes), North (Cap-Haitien), Artibonite (Gonaïves) and West (Tabarre) experienced heavy floods that have damaged several homes and affected dozens of families. In

The recent floods illustrate the great vulnerability of Haiti's population to natural hazards, even to the minor ones

Gonaives, rainfalls from 17 to 18 October flooded a dozen houses. Around fifty houses were flooded in Cap Haitien following rains occurred on the night of October 23 to 24. In South department, several rivers and stream overflowed following heavy rains that lashed the city of Les Cayes on 25 October.

The Haitian government and humanitarian partners moved dozens of families living in risk areas to shelters, through the mobilization of civil defense patrollers. Assessments carried in Anse Rouge (Artibonite) confirmed the urgent need to conduct activities such as cleaning flooded ponds, constructing dams along the rivers and rehabilitating mangroves to mitigate the risk of floods in the communes in future rainfalls.

The floods of October increase the concerns of the humanitarian community

The humanitarian community remains concerned about the effects of recent rains in several departments. It recommends urgent action to be taken, particularly in terms of mitigation works (watershed management, drainage and dredging of rivers, shore protection, etc.), public awareness campaigns and refilling the emergency stocks in affected communes.

In this sense, the humanitarian community will continue to support the Haitian authorities in the framework of disaster risk prevention activities by supporting the National System for Risk and Disaster Management. It will continue to strengthen national capacities and coordination structures by deploying staff with different expertise such as management of information, public awareness, coordination, evacuation and pre-positioning of emergency stocks. Therefore, it is important to continue mobilizing resources in order to support the interventions of the Civil Protection Department and the National System for Risk and Disaster Management to reduce disaster risk and to strengthen resilience to disaster. The recent floods have highlighted the extreme vulnerability of the country and the need to strengthen the risk mitigation work, especially in the most exposed areas.

Risk and disaster management in the heart of the 2015 International Day for Disaster Reduction

On the occasion of the 2015 International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), celebrated on October 13, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has recalled the need to place risk and disaster management at the heart of the response to various crises that the country is currently facing.

This event was an opportunity for the United Nations in Haiti, while supporting the Directorate of Civil Protection and its partners, to invite the Haitian people to rediscover the role of traditional knowledge and modern technologies in disaster prevention. In this sense, a week of activities were conducted including reflection workshops on resilient cities (Port-au-Prince), a talk with Oxfam on risk reduction (Cap Haitien) and mass distribution of awareness tools across the country. In addition, the DPC has also implemented numerous initiatives such as a storytelling caravan (Anse-à-Galets), an evening of knowledge about the risks (Port-au-Prince), a bi-national fair on risks and disasters (Pedernales) and a workshop on fire-fighting.

On the same occasion, the International Civil Defense Organization (OIPC) has donated intervention and first aid materials to the Civil Protection Directorate (DPC). By this donation, OIPC, which Haiti is a member, intends to provide technical support to the DPC response capacities.

As part of this celebration, the Government of Haiti received support from various NGOs, partners and UN agencies such as UNDP, OCHA, UNICEF and UNESCO.

The bi-national crisis: the collection of information, a crucial task

Since June 17th, with the expiration of the deadline for registration of foreign illegal immigrants in the Dominican Republic under the National Plan for the Regularization of Foreigners (PNRE), Haiti has experienced significant and constant waves of returning Haitian nationals who lived in that country for years. The humanitarian actors noticed that some of the people arriving in Haiti were born in Dominican Republic and may be at risk

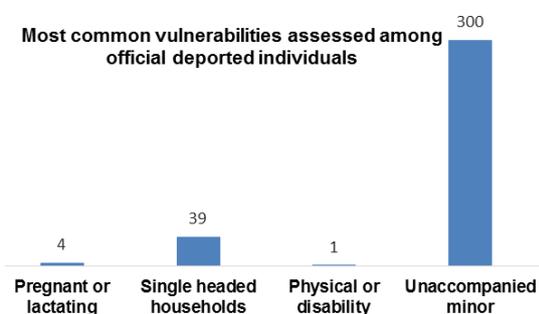
The humanitarian community continues to support the national authorities in the response to the binational crisis affecting thousands of vulnerable people

of statelessness. Organizations in both sides of the border have been taking steps to reduce this risk and to advocate with the authorities of both countries to address this issue.

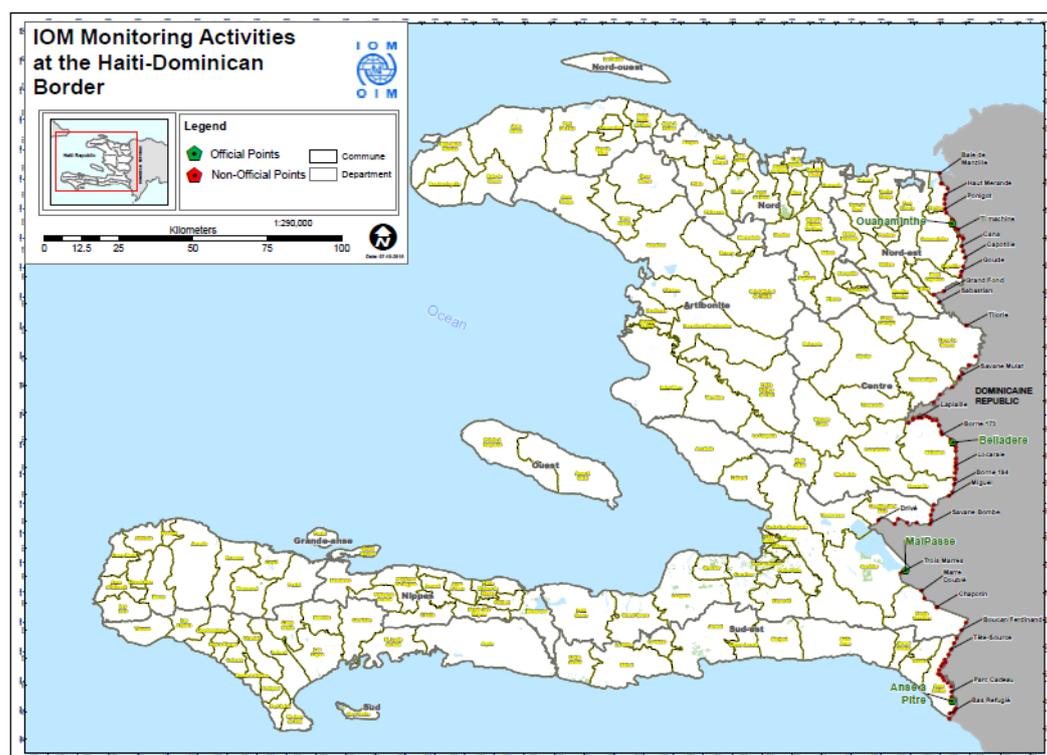
It is in this context that since the beginning of the crisis, the humanitarian community in collaboration with the Haitian authorities has set up a joint contingency plan to respond to the arrival of this population. One of the first actions of the plan was to set up a border monitoring mechanism coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with funding from USAID and OCHA and in partnership with national NGOs (GARR), Jesuit Service for Migrants (SJM) and the *Reseau Frontalier Jannot Succes* (RFJS). OCHA has supported this mechanism through funding, via the ERF (Emergency Relief Response Fund). This mechanism has been operational since July 2015 and has allowed collecting valuable information on the crisis and its scale.

Information is in the basis of any response

Through the border monitoring made by IOM, the humanitarian community observes that the profiles and the conditions of return of these returnees are varied. Thus, according to the situation report of October 30, 2015, nearly 18,896 families came into Haiti and represent 36,442 individuals. 37.1% of them are women and 62.9% are men. Many of these individuals declared they returned to Haiti spontaneously (21,331 individuals), others declared that they have been deported and others were officially deported (6,981 individuals) by the Dominican authorities through the 3 official entry points in Ouanaminthe, Malpasse and Belladères. In addition, the monitoring report shows that most of those who arrived had the intention to settle in one of the following 3 communes in Haiti: Cornillon, Anse-à-Pitres and Fonds-Verettes.



In addition, information on gender, age, documentation status, types of vulnerabilities, family members remaining in the Dominican Republic, records in the PNRE and professional occupation in the Dominican Republic are also collected during monitoring interviews and are made available to the Haitian government and the humanitarian community to facilitate the planning and implementation of the pertinent programs.



Solutions ... but also challenges...

With all the information collected, IOM and other partners involved in the response to the crisis have set up first humanitarian assistance and solutions case by case. To some transportation to their areas of destination was offered, to others the reunification with family members in Haiti while others are waiting for a durable solution, including documentation or regularized return in the Dominican Republic.

Despite efforts from the humanitarian community, many challenges remain in this crisis. For example, the large number of unofficial entry points (over 140) between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which raises fears that a considerable part of the movements are not controlled. This informal border crossing makes it difficult to monitor the situation and undermines the safety of people living at the border. Efforts are made but they are still small to address effectively the binational issue between the two countries.

The humanitarian community in collaboration with the Haitian authorities, and on the basis of the information collected, is finalizing a number of initiatives (strategy and response plan, secure financing, advocacy for the adoption of legal tools, etc. ...) in order to deal more effectively with the binational crisis, as everything indicates that the issue should continue in 2016.

For example, in the town of Anse-à-Pitres, where the spontaneous returnees' camps are located, actions are underway to relocate about 2,793 people (data received from partners in September 2015) to more secure areas. For this purpose an action plan for the relocation was completed; a strategy for durable solutions will also be developed for families/persons with no final destination. In coordination with the departmental authorities and in line with the Government's vision, to avoid aggravating the situation, specific and coordinated assistance activities will be made on the sites (during the profiling process that IOM will undertake in November). The most urgent needs are in food, transportation, child protection and the follow-up of relocated people and durable solutions in the destination areas.

Humanitarian actors warn on the food security situation

Thousands of vulnerable families at risk of falling in humanitarian emergency situation

It is urgent to take action in the most vulnerable towns to avoid the country to fall in an unprecedented food crisis

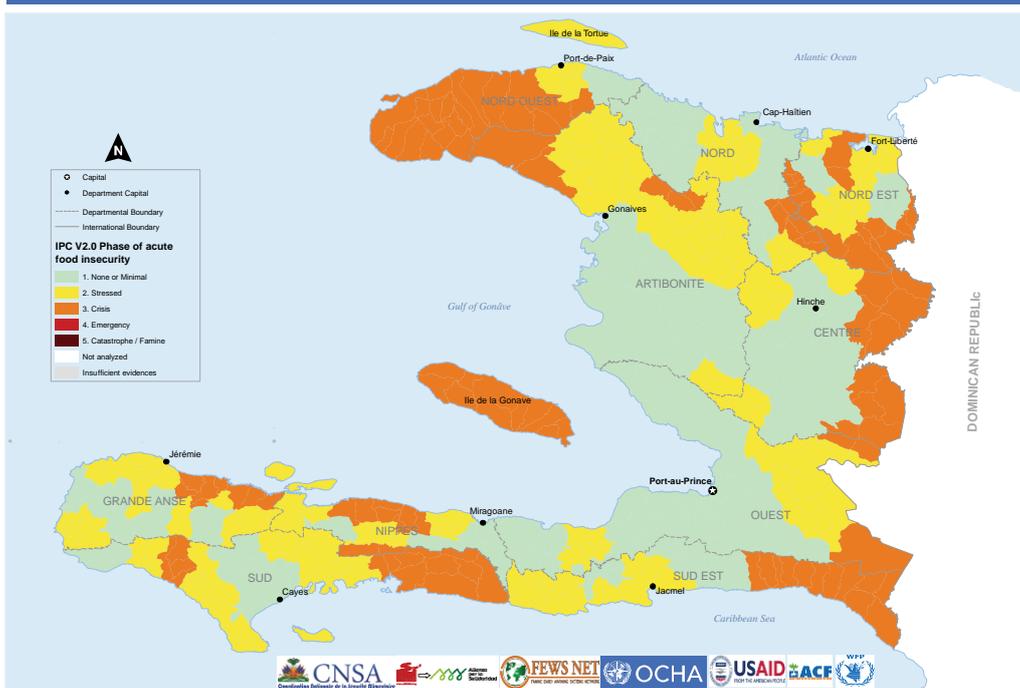
In a report published on October 20, the international organizations ACF and Oxfam present their concerns about food insecurity aggravated by the drought in the country. This drought has particularly affected departments in the Northwest and Artibonite and caused considerable losses on the spring campaign, which represents about 60% of annual production.

While July and August are usually the months of harvest and thus lower prices for local products, this year basic food prices are rising, including corn (average increase 50%) and black beans (up to 100%).

Crop losses, the trend of rising prices, the fall in agricultural labor demand and the increased pressure on natural resources are all factors that will have a negative impact on food access in the poorest households. Despite recent rains, El Nino will persist until spring 2016, which could jeopardize the winter harvest and autumn 2016.

All these factors indicate a tendency that the number of people experiencing food insecurity and suffering of malnutrition will increase in the coming months. If nothing is done now, the situation of families that are already in a crisis situation can evolve to emergency. In an advocacy note presented earlier in October, the CNSA estimates that approximately 300 000 to 560 000 people face a food crisis due to drought in 37 communes. This situation could worsen in the coming months

HAITI: IPC_Classification Food Security (September 2015)



Creation Date: September 2015 Sources: Geographic Data - Centre national de l'information géo-spatial (CNIQS) Analysis: Coordination nationale de la sécurité alimentaire (CNSA) / Groupe de travail technique de l'IPC (GT)

According to the Global Hunger Index 2015 published by the International Food Policy Institute (IFPRI) in October, Haiti is among the eight countries of the world and the only country in Latin America and the Caribbean whose hunger levels are considered as "alarming". Indeed, drought conditions continue to affect food supply in the country. The National Coordination of Food Security (CNSA) is predicting that food production will drop by half compared to normal levels this year.

In brief

HDX, a technological tool for humanitarian coordination

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has set up its profile on HDX (Humanitarian Data Exchange), a technological tool for data sharing among humanitarian actors. This initiative falls within the overall strategy of OCHA's information to support humanitarian coordination.

In fact, since October 2015, OCHA Haiti provides humanitarian actors, this unique platform, humanitarian exchange data. This tool includes the best standards of data collection, offering access to useful and accurate data. It is a unique system that will transform the role of data in the future as part of humanitarian operations. The HDX enables organizations to provide more targeted assistance and meet changing needs.

The HDX platform is open to any humanitarian organization. Interested organizations should contact pereira9@un.org. For more information, visit the OCHA Haiti Profile: <https://data.hdx.rwlab.org/organization/ocha-haiti>

For further information, please contact:

Widlyn Dornevil, Public Information Officer, dornevil@un.org, (509) 3702 5182

Alix Nijimbere, Humanitarian Reporting Officer, nijimbere@un.org, (509) 3702 5790

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at haiti.humanitarianresponse.info | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int

Join OCHA Haïti on social media : [@OCHAHaiti](https://twitter.com/OCHAHaiti) | [OCHAHaiti](https://www.facebook.com/OCHAHaiti)