

# HAITI: Hurricane Matthew

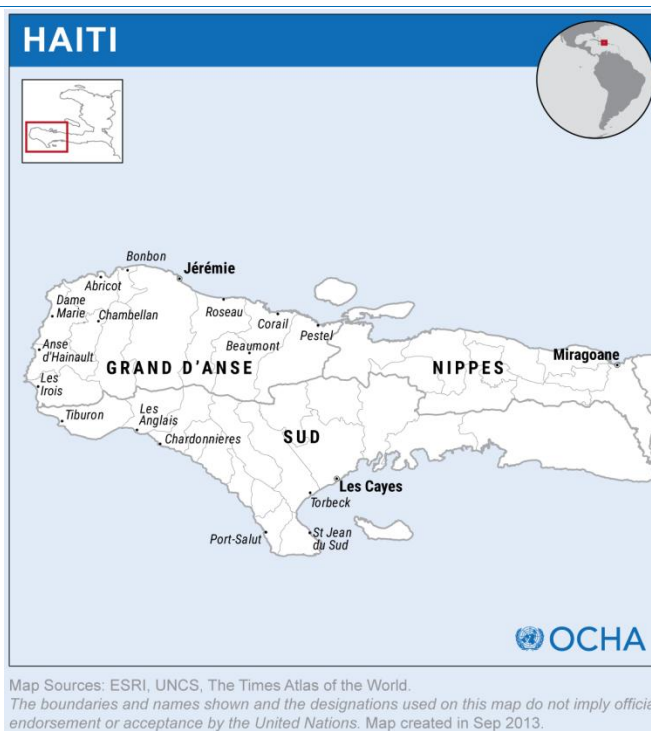
## Situation Report No. 22 (16 November 2016)



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response Team and covers the period from 11 to 16 November 2016. The next report will be issued on 18 November. Sign up to receive reports of the Emergency Response Team: <http://eepurl.com/Kyey5>.

## Main Points

- The delivery of humanitarian assistance is expected to slow down significantly over the next seven to ten days in anticipation of the electoral process and limited availability of transport and security assets.
- The percentage of extremely food-insecure people who have received food assistance increased to 65 per cent, as 520,000 people of the targeted 806,000 have now been reached.
- Health partners have expressed concern over growing evidence of a spike in cases of severe acute malnutrition in hard-to-reach areas in the Sud region.
- Cholera response partners are optimistic that the vaccination campaign of 8 to 15 November will contribute to reducing transmission in Sud and Grand'Anse and the risk of a future outbreak (Source: UNICEF)



**894,057**  
Children affected

Source: UNICEF

**592,581**  
Children need assistance

Source: Government and UN

**1,663**  
Schools incurred damages

Source: UNICEF

**5,802**  
Cholera cases suspected  
(4 October to 7 November)

Source: WHO/PAHO

## Situation Overview

During the reporting period, pressure has increased on humanitarian organizations to scale up delivery of aid ahead of the anticipated interruption of programmes due to nationwide polls scheduled for 20 November. MINUSTAH will suspend flights for partners from 15 to 24 November and security escorts from 19 to 21 as it increases support to the elections. Forces from the Haitian National Police (PNH) will also be reassigned mostly to secure polling stations. Meanwhile, national personnel from aid agencies are being released, when necessary, to travel to cast their votes. These factors will significantly reduce the scope and reach of humanitarian activities over the next week. For example, large food distributions will be put on hold on 16 November and resume on 24 November in all affected regions. UNHAS helicopters will continue to operate and deliver smaller food stocks to remote areas.

Once escorts resume, a new set of instructive guidelines issued by MINUSTAH will be implemented. They aim to improve the organization, scheduling and procedures for future humanitarian convoys by road under its security from Port-au-Prince to Jérémie and Les Cayes. This will allow requesters and providers to better coordinate and streamline the use of available resources.

[www.unocha.org/hurricane-matthew](http://www.unocha.org/hurricane-matthew)

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

**Coordination Saves Lives**

In response to continued tensions around the presence of displaced families in an estimated 86 schools across affected areas, a multi sectoral task force on return of people in collective shelters was established on 14 November. It comprises representatives of the *Centre d'Opérations d'urgence Départementales* (COUD) and from the sectors of protection, shelter, food, WASH, and education. There is consensus among humanitarian partners and Government officials on the need for a coordinated approach to emptying schools that respects the rights and dignity of the displaced families amid limited resources and the pressure of time. The approach will be piloted in three schools that are earmarked for eviction and which pose particular security concerns to the authorities. Lessons learnt from this initial return will then be applied before the evacuations are rolled out more widely in Sud.

As reported earlier, some people in those collective shelters are extremely vulnerable. Protection considerations will guide the work of the task force. This is contingent on the rapid mobilisation of operational partners that have links with the communities. Service providers from the authorities in child protection, women's issues and those working with the handicapped are being approached to support the initiative.

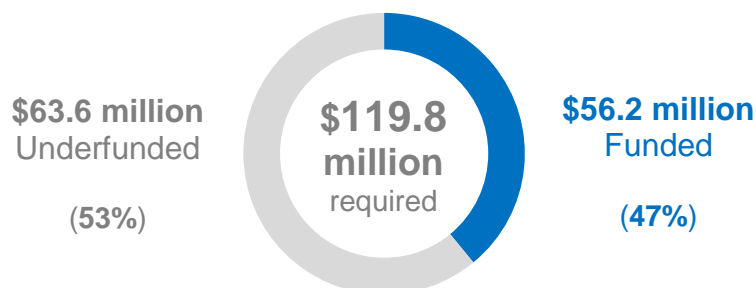
Humanitarian organizations in Grand'Anse are reporting a growing number of suspected cases of severe acute malnutrition in remote, mountainous areas, which were already prone to malnutrition before Hurricane Matthew. Further systematic screenings will be conducted in coming days. An estimated 112,500 children under the age of five are at risk of acute malnutrition, according to UNICEF.

Regarding cholera, UNICEF has stated that the national number of suspected cholera cases increased from the reported 2,236 cases during the four-week period prior to the hurricane to 5,100 cases within the four-week period after the hurricane. Over half (52 per cent) of the new cases were recorded between October 9 and November 5 in the departments of Grand'Anse and Sud. From 4 October to 7 November, an estimated 5,802 suspected cases of cholera have been reported, according to WHO/PAHO.

Partners supporting the Ministry of Health for the treatment of cases and those involved in rapid response in communities, however, remain optimistic as the fear of a nationwide severe outbreak of cholera in the weeks following Matthew did not happen at the expected scale so far. The Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) is also expected to contribute to further reduce transmission in Sud and Grand'Anse and the risk of a future national outbreak. The additional resources put recently to reinforce the response must remain in place to completely reverse the current trend, according to UNICEF.

## Funding

The US\$119.8-million, three-month Flash Appeal for Haiti, which was launched by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) within the first week of the hurricane, remains largely underfunded despite growing funding requirements in key sectors such as Health, Shelter, and Protection.



Humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) (<http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by emailing [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org). Inquiries from the private sector for offers of in-kind and pro-bono services can be directed to [pss@un.org](mailto:pss@un.org). Commercial offers are invited to visit <http://www.ungm.org> for more information.

## Humanitarian Needs/Response



### Food Security

#### Needs:

- An estimated 806,000 people need food assistance urgently.

#### Response:

- Between 8 October and 14 November, WFP reached 520,000 people with a total of 5,400 metric tons of food, making use of 23 trucks, 2 vessels and 2 helicopters.
- The food security sector is working on a strategy to deliver food to hard-to-reach areas with remote distribution points and the use of helicopters.
- To minimize risks for the upcoming planting season, WFP is implementing seeds protection activities jointly with FAO in Grand'Anse, Sud and Nippes. WFP will distribute food in these areas ahead of seeds distributions to prevent seeds consumption.

#### Gaps and Constraints:

- So far, the shortfall for the emergency response amounts to 57 per cent and \$27 million are still urgently required to maximize the efficiency of the response and the effectiveness of resources. Due to the shortfall in funding, the ration distributed to food-insecure targeted people amounts to 83 per cent of a full daily ration.
- FAO announced that they plan to distribute 55 tons of bean and peas seeds and 2.5 million of sweet potatoes cuttings from 24 November to 3 December. The distributions will be coordinated with WFP to ensure that only communities that have already received food support are targeted, thus avoiding seeds to be used for feeding.



### Health and Nutrition

#### Needs:

- An estimated 112,500 children under the age of five are at risk of acute malnutrition.
- From 4 to 6 November, the number of suspected cholera cases was 5,802, according to WHO/PAHO.

#### Response:

- UNICEF is scaling up cholera prevention interventions not only in the affected areas but also in other high risk areas of Haiti as part of its commitment to the National Cholera Elimination Plan 2016-2108.
- UNICEF is making progress in restoration of the nutrition information management system to allow for accurate reporting.
- Cholera response partners are optimistic that the vaccination campaign of 8 to 15 November will contribute to reducing transmission in Sud and Grand'Anse and the risk of a future outbreak.
- UNICEF has pre-positioned sufficient nutrition commodities in departmental warehouses of Grand'Anse and Sud to support about 600 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). UNICEF supported the Health Ministry for delivery of nutrition commodities to an additional three communes.

#### Gaps and Constraints:

- In Jérémie, representatives from MSF have indicated that nutritional screenings initiated in recent days in remote areas of the Grand'Anse region, accessible by helicopter only, have found suspected cases of severe acute malnutrition. A clearer picture of the extent of the nutritional situation will start taking shape as screenings are being systematized.
- Of the 219 Cholera Treatment Centers located in the most-affected departments, 46 are in need of repair. UNICEF partners have done rapid rehabilitation in nine centers.
- The most affected regions of Grand'Anse and Sud reported the highest number of suspected cases of cholera nationwide in week 43, according to UNICEF. High institutional mortality was reported in Artibonite (3.5 per cent) and North (3.9 per cent), which are high-risk areas at this time of year.
- UNICEF nutrition partners conducted screening through mobile clinics and reported six cases of SAM in Jérémie, Chambellant, and Roseaux communes in Grand'Anse; and 5 cases in Port Salut (Sud).
- Mass screening covering 1,000 children in the commune of Aquin (Sud) indicated a rate of 0.6% SAM, similar to pre-hurricane levels.

## Education

### Needs:

- Out of the 1,991 schools evaluated to date, 495 in the past week, around 1,633 have been reported to have incurred damage that affects around 490,000 children.

### Response:

- Through implementing partners, UNICEF has started rehabilitation efforts in 30 schools: 22 in Grand'Anse and 8 in Sud. By early December, 24 schools in Grand'Anse should be ready to welcome children back to classrooms.
- The Departmental Directorate of Education announced that 29 schools reopened, and 3,409 children returned to school in Grand'Anse on 7 November.

### Gaps and Constraints:

- UNICEF partners in the education sector have committed to rehabilitate approximately 59 per cent of affected schools. For the remaining 41 per cent, funds are still lacking to cover rehabilitation activities, including school supplies and furniture, until the end of the year.
- Due to unseasonably heavy rains resulting in flooded roads and property damage, the number of children who have returned to class this week remains very low. In highly-affected communes such as Abricot, on the north coast of Grand'Anse, schools remain closed. Data collection by the local Directorate of Education is ongoing in the area.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs:

- The Flash Appeal indicates at least 750,000 people require urgent WASH services until December.
- About 3,500 children, who are in institutions, require WASH and nutrition assistance.
- On 9 November, 9 new suspected cholera cases were reported in Nord, among which 8 are children.

### Response:

- UNICEF and its partners are currently engaged in rehabilitating 5 of 26 priority water systems that have been identified by the National Directorate of Potable Water and Hygiene (DIPENA).
- Thirty-eight collective shelters have been supported by UNICEF partners, ensuring access to water, hygienic toilets and hand-washing stations, which benefit at least 6,210 individuals, including some 1,680 children.
- Nearly 216,000 individuals, including 90,720 children, are receiving safe water through UNICEF partnerships to treat water in mobile treatment units, conducting repairs to the existing water system, and distribution of chlorination products.

### Gaps and Constraints:

- Of 65 functional water supply networks prior to the hurricane, 45 per cent have been damaged to such an extent that there is no more running water.
- Nord remains under close surveillance with regard to acute diarrhoea and suspected cholera cases.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

### Needs:

- More than 175,500 displaced people are living in 307 temporary shelters and require emergency shelter and NFIs. About 15 per cent of affected children in shelters are under five.

### Response:

- Up to 7 November, some 491,075 people received NFIs in the affected areas, including 362,795 people in the hardest-hit departments of Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud.

### Gaps and Constraints:

- Finding adequate shelters is becoming increasingly urgent, especially for the tens of thousands of displaced people living in schools, some of which will be used as polling stations for the elections.



## Protection

### Needs:

- Nearly 220,000 hurricane-affected boys and girls require urgent protection, according to UNFPA.

### Response:

- Through its partners, UNICEF is continuing its support to over 3,700 children in residential care facilities in the affected areas to meet their protection, education, and basic needs.
- UNICEF is continuing its support of partners who were able to identify and assist two survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) with psychological support, medical treatment, and referral. Given Haiti's context of severe under-reporting of GBV, UNICEF considers this figure as significant. One case of a child domestic worker was also identified by community members and was referred to partners for psychological support, emergency shelter, and material assistance.
- As an expansion of SGBV programme response, UNICEF is establishing Listening Points in hospitals to identify and refer survivors to needed medical care, mental health services and local women's groups for further support.

### Gaps and Constraints:

- SGBV cases remain highly underreported, according to UNICEF.



## Logistics

- On 10 November, the Logistics Working Group facilitated the loading of the two coastal vessels provided by WFP with 110 metric tons of food items on behalf of the organisation *Fondef*. The vessels left Port-au-Prince last Saturday to arrive on Monday, 14 November, in Tiburon.
- The WFP-led Logistics Working Group has been coordinating the use of two WFP helicopters in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes, transporting so far 760 passengers and over 90 metric tons of relief items to hard-to-reach areas on behalf of 38 organisations.



## Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

- The ETC is conducting an assessment of community communications needs to determine barriers to communication for affected communities. ETC is evaluating whether these barriers could be overcome through ICT, to inform a potential expansion of the working group response.
- The ICT working group continues to provide connectivity to 18 locations in Jérémie and Les Cayes with over 294 users each day. Connectivity services are provided in partnership with *Ericsson Response*, *emergency.lu*, and *Télécoms Sans Frontières*.

## General Coordination

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (CMCoord) activities continue to focus on improving coordination between humanitarian actors and PNH/MINUSTAH regarding the use of armed escorts by humanitarian actors in Port-au-Prince, Jérémie, and Les Cayes.

Since the beginning of the emergency response, a number of humanitarian actors have resorted to MINUSTAH/PNH escorts to transport and secure distribution of aid supplies and foodstuff. In order to make the best use of the limited assets, OCHA will set up a local Task Force in each of the affected cities of Jérémie and Les Cayes. The two Task Forces will be composed of key sectors' focal points and MINUSTAH representatives. They will review and prioritize the most crucial requests and enhance inter-sectoral coordination related to the use of armed escorts to ease the process. Alternatives to escorts, such as low profiling, acceptance, and enhanced communication with communities will also be discussed, specifically in cases of less sensitive or urgent requests.

In a bid to strengthen sector coordination in Jérémie, the frequency of sectors' meetings has been reduced to once a week (instead of thrice a week for some sectors).

### Background of Crisis

Hurricane Matthew, which violently struck Haiti on 4 October, caused widespread damage, flooding, and displacement. Nearly 2.1 million people were affected throughout the country, predominantly in the three departments of Grand'Anse, Sud and Nippes. The Government of Haiti has so far confirmed 546 deaths and 128 people missing. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, it is estimated that 1.4 million people need humanitarian assistance. The HCT, in coordination with the Government and partners, launched on 10 October 2016 a Flash Appeal seeking \$119.8 million in emergency funding to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of 750,000 people, including 315,000 children, for the three months following the hurricane.

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