



## Situation Report 14 – Caribbean Hurricane Season 12 September 2008

This situation report is based on information received from, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) in the affected countries, the Regional Office in Panama and the National Hurricane Centre. This situation report covers the effects of Hurricanes “Gustav”, “Hanna” and “Ike” in the Caribbean.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Urgent support to the Haiti Flash Appeal is required to assist the Haitian population in emergency needs and early recovery. Access remains difficult, however distribution of assistance has increased.**
- **In Cuba, it is estimated that some 320,000 houses were damaged as a result of “Gustav” and “Ike”.**
- **In the Turks and Caicos, damage assessments are being completed.**

### Caribbean Hurricane Season (as of 10 Sep 2008)





## SITUATION

1. Hurricane “Ike” is now a *Category 2* hurricane and, after crossing over Cuba, is moving towards the north western Gulf of Mexico. The centre of “Ike” will be very near the upper coast of Texas and could become a major hurricane prior to reaching the cost line of the United States. An area of disturbed weather, including some of the remnants of tropical storm Josephine, is located a couple hundred miles northeast of the southeastern Bahamas. Some slow development of this system is possible over the next days as it moves west-northwestward and may impact Hispaniola.

2. The vulnerability throughout the Caribbean countries has increased dramatically with another 3 months left before the end of the hurricane season. The region has been affected since 15 August successively by tropical storm Fay, hurricanes “Gustav”, “Hanna” and “Ike” that claimed in the Caribbean more than 350 lives so far, affecting more than 2.8 million persons and damaging more than 200,000 houses- while assessments are still on going.

## HAITI

3. According to the DPC, some 337 people have died as a result of the tropical storms. Some 54 people are missing and 301 are injured. Approximately 170,780 families are affected and currently some 158,600 people are in temporary shelters.

4. There has been a significant increase in the distribution of relief items in Gonaives, the beginning of a joint assessment in the south department and further strengthening of coordination mechanisms between the Government, the UN/IASC system and donors, both at central level and in the field (Gonaives and Les Cayes in particular). An initial needs assessment for the whole country was completed by the DPC and the UN system, outlining affected families by departments and communities and focusing on food and water needs in priority areas.

5. Food distributions were stepped up in Gonaives, especially during the night in order to reduce the risk of riots. A total of 38 MT was distributed to 20,000 people in 6 shelters in one day on 10 September. The total number of people assisted with food in Gonaives is now 60,000 people and 101,000 in the whole country.

6. A river north of Gonaives has burst its banks due to a damaged bridge causing widespread flooding in surrounding areas and creating secondary streams that continued to flood Gonaives. An UNDAC member and a civil engineer from the Argentinean battalion carried out an assessment to identify solution in order to re-profile the river. Roads to Gonaives are still blocked and the axis between Saint Marc and Gonaives is being repaired. Southern parts of Gonaives city are still inaccessible

7. In the South, a joint assessment with the DPC, UNDAC, PAHO/WHO and MINUSTAH is being conducted particularly between Coteaux and Tiburon. One of the initial findings is that relief distribution has been reaching only a limited number of communities.

8. Progress was made in strengthening the coordination of the response. Following the meeting on 10 September with the Prime Minister, the HC met with – inter alia- the Ministers of Planning, Interior, External Relations, Education, Public Works, the President of the Haitian Red Cross and some donors. The meeting focused on the needs assessments conducted (including food and non-food items) for the next 15 to 90 days as well as on priorities to reach the most affected localities. The meeting was followed by a session of the *Groupe d’Appui de la Communauté Internationale* (GACI), headed by the Minister of Interior and co-chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator. The DPC presented a summary of damages and estimated needs, prioritizing infrastructure, housing, agriculture and education. The government has already allocated 50 Million Haitian Gourdes for the emergency response.



9. To further strengthen inter-cluster coordination, the Humanitarian Coordinator convened a cluster leads meeting on 12 September. After the launch in New York, the Flash Appeal will most likely be launched locally in Haiti on Monday, 14 September.

#### Information Management

10. In order to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of information during the emergency phase of the emergency, the information management component of the UNDAC Team, with UNDP and the OCHA office, are currently supporting the DPC in the production of an updated list of affected areas, tables of priorities districts (commune) as well as provisional needs and incoming relief items.

11. Maps are also produced with the support of the British NGO Map Action on the humanitarian situation. Those include access, humanitarian needs (based on the current limited information) and figures of affected families. Maps are available on [www.mapaction.org](http://www.mapaction.org)

12. The OCHA Haiti website (<http://ochaonline.un.org/haiti>) will soon be operational and will include inter alia all information on the recent disaster such as maps, contact lists, 3W (Who Does What Where), Meeting Schedule, Situation Reports and Survey of Surveys (list of assessment per sector/cluster).

#### Food

13. Some 122,568 persons were reached with the distribution of 623 MT of food. In Gonaives, 38 MT of WFP food assistance were distributed, with the support of MINUSTAH, to some 20,000 people in 6 shelters at night. The family rations, composed of rice, beans, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil, will last for seven days. WFP continues to monitor the consumption of the food as people located in shelters are sharing their food with neighbors. A further 38 MT of food commodities had been distributed in Gonaives as the security situation improves thanks to thorough planning of distributions. In addition, WFP sent a special ration on helicopter directed to an orphanage in Gonaives where 43 children were waiting for assistance. As of 11 September, in Gonaives, some 64,985 beneficiaries were reached with 103 MT distributed.

14. WFP is also providing food to local authorities in order for them to distribute it to the population. Since 10 September, WFP is distributing rations consisting of various commodities instead of biscuits as coal and cooking facilities are becoming available in town. This week sees the start of the US military's support of humanitarian logistics in Haiti. Since 8 September, WFP has dispatched landing crafts (US) with food commodities to Gonaives and arranged for interagency UN-chartered vessels. WFP has facilitated the transport of humanitarian supplies to Gonaives for several NGOs, including MSF-France and MSF-Belgium, Oxfam GB, ACF, Spanish Red Cross, IOM and Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres.

15. On 10 September, WFP airlifted food commodities to Les Cayes and Gonaives in US helicopters, and today 13 MT of food commodities were airlifted in two US helicopter to the northern city of Port-de-Paix. There are two more helicopters due to Port-de-Paix this afternoon, but they are delayed because of the flooded landing zone. In addition, 107 MT of food has been transported by US vessels to Gonaives between 10 September and 11 September. Distributed food commodities include high energy biscuits (to date a total of 32 MT), rice, beans, corn-soya blend, and vegetable oil.

16. There are currently 8 assessment missions on-going in Artibonite (Gonaives), Nippes, North, North East, North West, West (with a special focus on Cabaret) and the South East. Key issues:

- Food is being delivered by air, sea and road, when possible.
  - The situation remains tense in Gonaives regarding distributions but is improving compared to the previous days as distribution methods are well planned in coordination with MINUSTAH
  - WFP is carrying out monitored distributions to female beneficiaries during the day in Gonaives, security permitting;
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- WFP has 100MT of food commodities in stock in Gonaives and is preparing another shipment of additional supplies;
- Due to rising beneficiary figures in Gonaives, WFP is distributing rations to cover shorter periods than the initially planned 14 days in order to reach all beneficiaries;
- In the Nord-Ouest department (and Port-de-Paix), certain affected areas remain inaccessible for WFP monitoring visits;
- The destruction of crops will further deteriorate the food security situation;
- Shortage of food commodities on local markets is reported in some areas.

WFP is coordinating humanitarian logistics and acting as liaison on humanitarian logistics issues with MINUSTAH, as well as on other military assets being provided by the United States, including sea and air support. Regular coordination meetings are held with WFP partners (food security, logistics, ICT).

#### Protection

17. Needs are being identified by the protection sector and include the psychosocial support for children and youth in shelters and accessible public areas; assessment of prisoners in jails, of orphanages and psychiatric hospitals; family reunification activities and prevention of separation; and protection issues in and around shelters.

#### Education

18. The back to school official date is still October 6 which is of concern as it is estimated that schools represent almost half of the shelters in departments affected.

#### Water and Sanitation

19. Partners are reporting that needs are enormous for water and sanitation. Assessments continue to be conducted but because of access difficulties, it is still impossible to provide the exact amount of requirements at this point. UNICEF received a shipment of 8.5 MT from the Copenhagen warehouse including hygiene kits, water purification tablets, ORS, blankets, plastic sheeting, school kits. Material will be distributed to affected population and will be used to replenish stocks. The assistance in the WASH sector has so far reached 20,000 to 25,000 people, out of which 34% are children.

#### Shelter and Non-food Items

20. Priority actions are: the distribution of incoming kits; the reinforcement of distribution capacity; mapping of inaccessible areas and rapid action possibilities for these areas; exit strategy for the remaining population in shelters. The Civil protection delegate from Jeremie informed IOM that all shelters in the Grand Anse Department were closed. Some 3,500 jerry-cans arrived in Les Cayes, Gonaives, Port-a- Piment (South) and Jacmel. The distribution/monitoring mission to La Valle and Baintet is still ongoing. IOM received a second donation from USAID since the first week of September. All items will be airlifted to the IOM warehouse in Gonaives shortly. To keep track of all distributions done so far country wide, IOM has requested all humanitarian actors to provide data on distributions done. IOM Gonaives is trying to consolidate details related to the shelters in use in the city. Information for input is requested to all organizations based in Gonaives.

### **CUBA**

21. Since the end of August, Cuba has suffered in a very short period of time the direct or indirect impact of three hurricanes: "Gustav", the most devastating in the past 50 years; "Hanna", which, although did not strike the Island directly, caused flooding in the Eastern part of the country; and "Ike" that advanced through all the national territory. The main damage have so far been reported in the housing sector and the power grid, although the agricultural and cattle sectors have also been severely affected. Although "Ike" has already moved away from the Cuban territory, its influence continues to be felt in the western-most part of the nation. According to Advisory Note from the Cuban Weather Office, the hurricane's associated rains are still strongly felt in the province of Pinar del Rio, where a danger of coastal flooding in low-lying areas remains, as well as in the southern coast of Havana province.



22. Across the country, as a preventative measure, some 2,615,794 people - or approximately 23% of the entire Cuban population - were evacuated, of which 21% were in shelters and 79% of evacuees in homes of friends and family. The national authorities mobilized 236 directive bodies; 1,500 food preparation centres; 2,300 shelters, 158,000 persons; 9,600 transportation vehicles, and 1,500 machinery engineering. The Cuban National Civil Defence declared the recovery phase in the provinces of Ciego de Ávila, Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, Matanzas, Havana, City of Havana, Pinar del Río, the Special Municipality of the Isle of Youth, and the rest of the municipalities of Granma provinces. The National Headquarters of Cuban Civil Defense decided to also declare the Recovery Phase in the province of Pinar del Río.

23. In the agricultural sector, emphasis is placed on the recovery of products for human and animal consumption, clearing up the coffee fields of thousands of trees and planting crops of a short cycle. Special attention is given to carefully attending and properly feeding all persons who remain protected in official shelters. Affected educational centers will introduce different strategies for the resumption of the school year, such as moving classrooms, regrouping students, applying only one session of classes and the using other sites, such as private homes and/or state-owned buildings. All provinces are working on the restoration of electricity service in the affected areas. The situation of water reservoirs is closely monitored.

24. Health authorities are reinforcing vigilance in the areas affected by flooding and the overflowing of rivers in order to prevent possible outbreaks of diseases. The National Housing Institute is planning to offer advisory and quality control support to those interested in restoring their home—many of them without technical building knowledge – since the population itself provides 70% of the work force for reconstruction. This technical advice would prevent bigger building damage in the future.

25. According to Victor Ramirez, President of the National Housing Institute, “Ike” caused damage in over 200,000 homes in Cuba, of which 30,000 are totally destroyed. With the damage caused by “Gustav”, the amount of damaged homes totals to 320,000, most of which have lost their roofs.

26. Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela have already offered their support. The United Nations System (UN) has offered its assistance to the Government and held a meeting with donors and the international cooperation on 13 September where results from preliminary assessments were presented. The Country Team of the United Nations in Cuba and the UNETE continue to closely follow the current situation and work towards a preliminary evaluation of the severe effects and discuss further action. The United Nations System has mobilized USD 1.03 million in support for the recovery process: OCHA (100,000 USD), UNDP (100,000 USD), UNFPA (50,000 USD), UNICEF (280,000 USD) and WFP (500,000 USD).

27. Cash donations can be made at:

**Account Number: 033473**

**Banco Financiero Internacional**

**Account name: MINVEC huracanes restauración de daños**

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

28. The remnants of “Josephine” are likely to affect the Dominican Republic. Some 5,400 people are in 54 official temporary shelters and 11,324 are staying with friends and family. Due to the passage of “Ike”, the provinces of Barahona and San Jose de Ocoa were seriously affected. Communities in the area of the Cabral Lagoon have been flooded and several other communities in these provinces are cut off. Rivers and damns level are being monitored in view of the possibility of rains.

29. Some 3,297 homes were affected by floodwaters, and 50 were destroyed. The Ministry of Health is monitoring the possible outbreaks of leptospirosis and dengue. The Emergency services (Civil Defense, Plan Social de la Presidencia, Comedores Económicos, and Red Cross) are providing food rations and other items to the affected population. The Ministry of Public Works is clearing locked roads and is repairing bridges. The UNCT continues to



monitor developments closely through the UNETE and maintains contact with partners at the national level and in affected areas to assess situation more accurately and determine any need for interventions or support. An emergency cash grant may be requested from OCHA.

## **TURKS AND CAICOS**

30. The Government of Turks and Caicos declared the state of emergency in 3 districts, Grand Turk Island, South Caicos Island and Salt Cay. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, arranged with the Government of Jamaica through the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management mobilized a team to provide support for the assessment of the impact of Hurricane Ike on Turks and Caicos Islands. Approximately 75% of Grand Turk was covered by the Assessment Team. The remainder was covered by local trained personnel, whilst South Caicos was assessed using a more rapid methodology. Results will be available over the week end. The Local Red Cross society supported by the British Red Cross is delivering relief items to the affected persons in Grand Turks as initial assessments indicate that 6,000-8,000 people are affected in Grand Turks. Grand Turk suffered approximately 85% of damage to housing and infrastructure of which 20-30% is major. The airport and port have sustained major damages and logistical and coordination support is required. In South Caicos and Salt Cay, the US Coast Guard indicates that the assistance is required. The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility is set to give US\$6.3 million to the government of Turks and Caicos under the terms of the islands' disaster policy bought at the start of the 2008 Atlantic storm season.

31. The national response is coordinated by the Disaster Office TCI under the Minister for Home Affairs and Public and Public Safety, which under the state of emergency is reporting to the Governor of TCI. The UNDAC team completed a fly-over of the affected islands to conduct initial UNDAC assessment and identify environmental impact. The UNICEF assessment team returns from Grand Turks indicating that the hospital is damaged and stocks of medical supplies have been destroyed. Additionally all schools in Grand Turk are damaged. DFID has begun an assessment mission to Grand Turks Island. The US Coast Guard has deployed 3 helicopters based in Provo to support transport of relief items and personnel. The British Guard Ship, the HMS Iron Duke, has responded to the emergency and is presently in the Grand Turk providing support to the Department of Disaster and Emergencies.

## **REGIONAL RESPONSE**

32. The OCHA Regional Office in Panama is closely monitoring the situation and is in close contact with the RCs and UNETEs of the affected countries in the region. More information can be found on Reliefweb at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int) and REDHUM at [www.redhum.org](http://www.redhum.org). More information on the hurricanes and storms can be found at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>.

33. Humanitarian organisations and donors are encouraged to report all contributions (cash and in-kind) to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service at [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int) or through the on-line contribution form at [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts), where a list of already made contributions is available.

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Cluster	Cluster Lead	Organization providing aid	Department	Community	Type of Aid	Quantity /Beneficiaries
FOOD	WFP	WFP	OUEST		HEB/Dry rations	0.2 MT/150

**TABLE I: FOOD AND RELIEF ITEMS DISTRIBUTED (as of 10 September 2008)**



				<i>Prince</i>		
				<i>Grand Goave</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>1.1 MT/675</b>
				<i>Petit Goave</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>1.2 MT/1,450</b>
			<b>NORD OUEST</b>	<i>Port-de-Paix</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>9.7 MT/3,901</b>
				<i>Chansolme</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>0.6 MT/569</b>
			<b>ARTIBONITE</b>	<i>Gonaïves</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>49.6 MT/30,645</b>
			<b>SUD</b>	<i>Les Cayes</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>16.8 MT/2,500</b>
			<b>SUD EST</b>	<i>Jacmel</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>197.7 MT/15,373</b>
				<i>Cayes Jacmel</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>1.5 MT/257</b>
				<i>Bainet</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>5.0 MT/ 335</b>
			<b>GRANDE ANSE</b>	<i>Jeremie</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>14.8MT/2,408</b>
			<b>NIPPES</b>	<i>Miragoane</i>	HEB/Dry rations	<b>23.8 M/4,000</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>318 MT/42,263</b>
		<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>OUEST</b>	<b>Gonaïves</b>	<b>Nutritional supplies to support MSF-B</b>	<b>10 boxes of therapeutic milk F-100 5 boxes of therapeutic milk F-50 10 boxes of Plumpy Nut 1 Oxfam Kit 4 1 scale</b>
<b>WATSAN</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>ARTIBONITE</b>	<b>Gonaïves</b>	<b>Emergency supplies</b>	<b>15,000 blankets, 12 waters tanks 5,000 hygiene kit 20,000 purification tabs</b>
					<b>WATSAN Supplies</b>	<b>15,000 liters 1 water pump 6 Lay-flat rapid fitting hoses 2 collapsible Water tank of 10 000 L 4 Water distribution kit, 6 taps 1 Water purification unit</b>
<b>NFI</b>	<b>IOM</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>ARTIBONITE</b>	<b>Gonaïves</b>	<b>Jerri cans</b>	<b>300 Jerri cans</b>
		<b>ICRC/MSF B</b>	<b>ARTIBONITE /NORD OUEST</b>		<b>Body bags</b>	<b>100</b>



		PAHO	ARTIBONITE	Gonaives	Medical kit	Medical kit for 10,000 persons
		PAHO	ARTIBONITE	Gonaives	Surgical kit for St Marc hospital	1 Surgical kit
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Petit Goave	Hygiene kit DISTRIBUTED	839 Hygiene kit
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD	Les Cayes	Hygiene kit PREPOSITIONNE D	500 Hygiene kit
	IOM	USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Grande Goave	Hygiene kit DISTRIBUTED	100 Hygiene kit
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	ARTIBONITE	Saint Marc	Hygiene kit PREPOSITIONNE D	300 Hygiene kit
NFI	IOM	USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	ARTIBONITE	Gonaives	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	2000 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Port au Prince (Martissant)	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	GRANDE ANSE	Jeremie	Family kit PREPOSITIONNE D	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD	Ile a vache	Family kit PREPOSITIONNE D	100 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
NFI	IOM	USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Grande Goave	Family kit PREPOSITIONNE D	100 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD EST	Cote de Fer	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	CENTRE	Hinche	Family kit PREPOSITIONNE D	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
NFI	IOM	USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD EST	Bainet, La Vallé	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	400 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	ARTIBONITE	Grande Saline	Family kit PREPOSITIONNE D	200 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	NORD OUEST	Port de Paix	Family kit PREPOSITIONNE	200 Kit (Hygiene kit,



					<b>D</b>	<b>jerrycan, plastic sheeting)</b>
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