



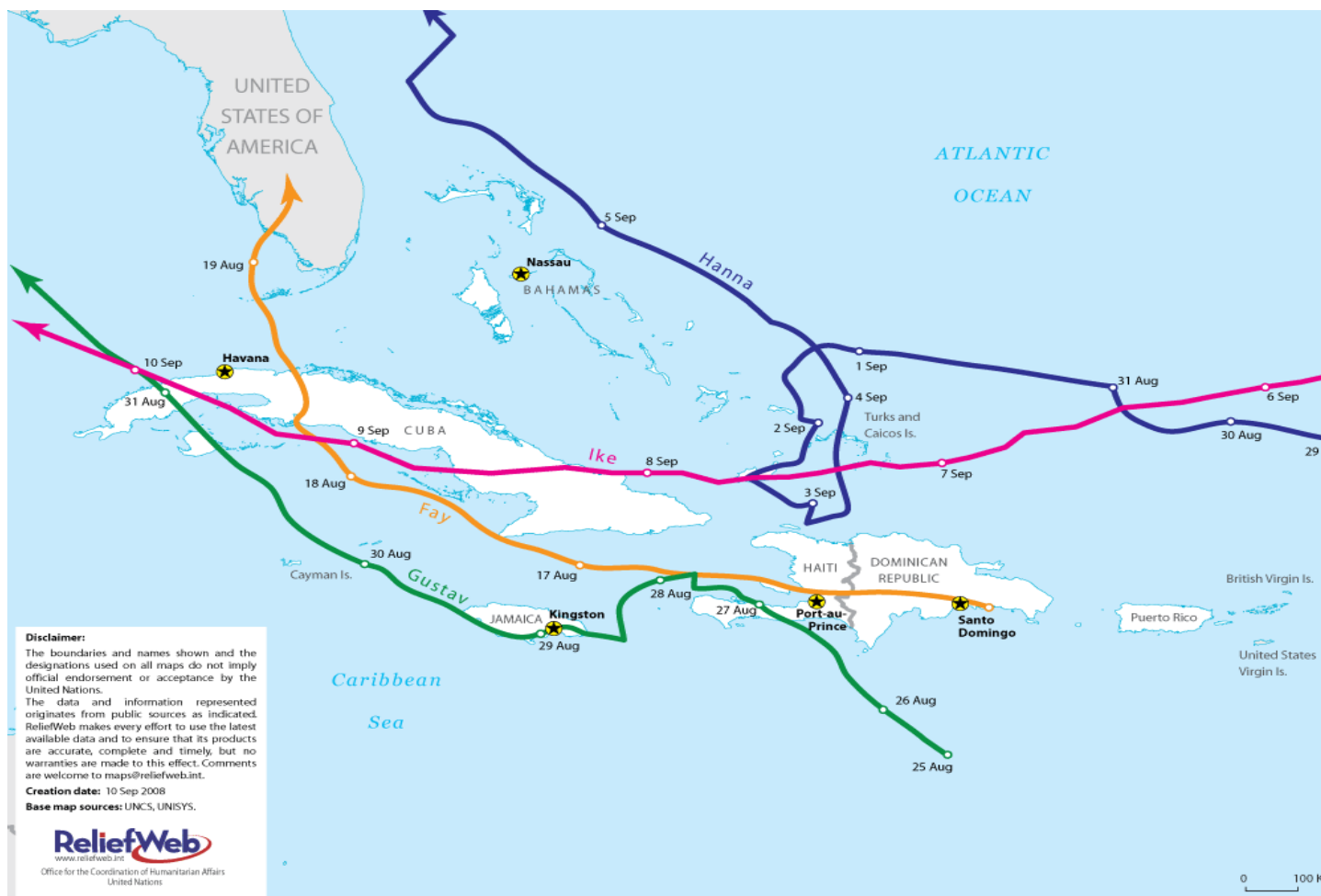
**Situation Report 23 – Caribbean Hurricane Season
22 October 2008**

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 storms and Hurricanes “Gustav”, “Ike” and “Omar” in the Caribbean.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, will visit Haiti on 23-24 October to review the response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the storms and hurricanes that hit the country.**
- **Shelter material is still a priority as well as early recovery interventions. The Flash Appeal is 23.5% funded.**

Hurricane Season in the Caribbean, October 2008





The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created 4 Sep 2008. Data source: UNISYS.

SITUATION

1. The vulnerability in the Caribbean has significantly increased since the beginning of the hurricane season and only little rain can have a significant impact on the populations at risk. October is part of the peak portion of the hurricane season. Activity drops off only around mid or end October. The 15th tropical depression of the season has transformed into Hurricane Omar affecting on October 15, as a category three hurricane, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Saint Martin, Montserrat, and Saint Kitts and Nevis who are now in the recovery phase following assessments.

HAITI

2. Following the passage of Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike, aid agencies continue to respond to the needs of disaster-affected populations with the support of clusters. The Emergency Relief Coordinator is visiting Haiti this week to review the response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the storms that recently hit the country.

Assessment Mission in the South East Department

3. From 15 to 17 October, OCHA and UNICEF conducted a joint field assessment mission in the South East Department. The mission visited Jacmel, Cayes Jacmel, Marigot, Côte de Fer, up country between Petit Goave and Côte de Fer and the road between Côte de Fer and Aquin. The mission found that water is the sector that has been the most affected by the hurricanes. Landslides and high level of water in rivers carrying debris of all kinds are responsible for hundreds of meters of broken pipes across the department. Catchment dams have also been affected and are either



broken or filled with rocks, mud and debris. The Spanish and Haitian Red Cross are currently providing a temporary assistance for drinking water to Cayes Jacmel and Côte de Fer. On the shelter front, the housing sector has been little affected. A few houses were still located in flooded areas and significant quantities of mud could still be seen in the streets of Marigot and Côte de Fer. All the shelters have already been closed throughout the South-East department.

4. On the agriculture front, heavy damage is limited to very specific areas and most of the agricultural sector is already in the early recovery stage. Because of the cropping cycle and raining patterns, most agricultural recovery in non-irrigated areas must take place immediately. According to the Haitian Red Cross (HRC), a few communities located in remote areas where the roads are such as Belle Anse commune, Baie d'Orange and Maribol localities; Côte de Fer commune, sixth communal section Jamais vue and third communal section Bras Gauche; Jacmel commune, La Montagne thirteenth communal section. The mission recommended that multisectoral evaluation teams should be organized as quickly as possible under the coordination of the Departmental DPC to reach the communities not yet visited. The road to Belle Anse remains blocked.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

5. To complement the rapid assessment of emergency shelters completed one week ago in Gonaïves, the shelter cluster will launch an assessment focused on individual and host family setting country-wide. This exploratory tool will have the following output: define culturally preferred shelter materials used in urban and rural settings, define damage to home per department and areas, define the impact of the disaster on host family settings, define the impact of disaster on livelihoods and identify vulnerable groups and priority NFI needs. To date, shelter and kit gaps country-wide are as follows:

- 22,52% of tarpaulins needs covered; shortfall of 83,153 units
- 6.6% of plastic sheeting needs covered; shortfall of 100,281 units
- 34,5% of sheets and blankets needs covered; shortfall of 70,345 units
- 13,6% of sleeping mats needs covered; shortfall of 92,744 units
- 22,94% of mosquito net needs covered ; shortfall of 123,290 units
- 10,28% of tools needs covered; shortfall of 95,759 units
- 43.58% of hygiene kits needs covered; shortfall of 93,288 units
- 25,88% of cooking kits need covered; shortfall of 72,556 units

No significant gains on gaps have been identified. Shelter materials are still a priority. According to the Shelter Cluster, tents are a 'last resort' option.

Food

6. As of 21 October, WFP has distributed 5,263 metric tons of food items to 525,944 beneficiaries, including 694,456 fortnightly rations distributed to 266,670 beneficiaries in Gonaïves. On 21 October, WFP/UNHAS airlifted military and ICT equipment for partners (OPS and UNDP) to the city of Fort Liberté in the North-East department as part of an interagency humanitarian cargo coordinated by the Logistic Cluster. Some 21MT were also delivered to Passe Catabois in the North-West department and remaining helicopter deliveries were completed in Seguin in the South-East department. On 20 October, some 5,800 new beneficiaries were reached in Plaisance, Nippes department, where 13MT of food assistance was distributed. WFP partner Caritas has been distributing assistance to hurricane-affected people in areas that had been inaccessible to date.

7. WFP/UNHAS successfully airlifted some 8MT of food commodities to Seguin, at 1,750 meters of altitude. Additional 21MT were airlifted, of which a part will be delivered to the community of Macary, where there is no landing area for the helicopter. These localities in the department of the South-East have been inaccessible to date. Distributions to targeted beneficiaries are done by WFP partner CROSE (Coordination Regionale des Organisations du Sud-est). In addition to the air operation, WFP deployed two 6x6 trucks in the department of South-East for food deliveries to remote areas, with difficult access by road. The WFP-contracted CITA II vessel was loaded with some 154 metric tons of food for the South department for targeted distributions in St Jean du Sud, Camp Perrin, Damassin and Maniche in collaboration with Caritas.



8. In Gonaives, distributions included food rations to participants in Food-For-Work activities of labor-intensive work, coordinated by ILO while AMURT is currently cleaning up some 50 schools (47 were already cleaned). Additional food-for-work schemes are ongoing in Gonaives and surrounding areas in collaboration with ILO. Fuel and food commodities were sent by road to Gonaives on 21 October to replenish supplies. Additionally, on 20 October, a food convoy was sent by road to Gonaives with a cargo of 240 metric tons. The cargo was doubled in order to secure more supplies as the deliveries on WFP-contracted vessel MV Grace have been delayed.

Education

9. Evaluations carried out by the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training are being used as the basis for developing and validating the education sector's recovery strategy over an 18-month period. The Ministry will prepare a list of priority schools for rehabilitation.

Health

10. The normalization of the current health situation has resulted in partners decreasing their activities in the affected areas, except in Gonaives where IFRC, MDM, MSF and PSF continue to work. While no epidemic has been reported, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and WHO are supporting biological analysis on eruptive diseases. The health sector's successes are inherent to the cluster's coordinated response to the health situation in the affected areas. Those efforts have enabled the implementation of mobile hospitals and mobile clinics by the Ministry of Health, Bombeiros Unidos, Caritas, IFRC-Haitian Red Cross, MDM Canada/France/Suisse, MSF Belgium/France, Health Partners, Pharmaciens Sans Frontières, SAMU, TDH, White Helmets and PAHO/WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF. In Gonaives, the temporary hospital set-up by MSF-Belgium is still functional with a 60-80 bed capacity. Gaps include the insufficient biological samples for diagnosing fevers and the precarious general nutritional situation of populations coupled with the lack of reference centres. The Health sector has identified priorities to be implemented countrywide. Those priorities include: 1) the facilitation of financial access to health care; 2) a nutritional assessment and an increase of the reference centers; 3) and increased access to safe water; 4) the expansion of anti-viral measures to prevent dengue fever; and 5) the Rehabilitation of a dozen run-down health centers in the Artibonite, North West, South, and South East departments. In Gonaives, one of the priorities is to support the reconstruction of a departmental hospital in a safe area.

Protection

11. According to information received by Handicap International from the Government of Haiti, the official statistic for disability prevalence is 10 % of the population; all agencies should therefore consider that 10 per cent of the affected population is also affected by disability. Handicap International works at the national level with the Secretary of State for the Integration of Handicapped Persons and with RANIPH, the national network of local NGOs working with handicapped persons). Handicap International and Atlas Logistique have been evaluating the situation of disabled persons in the Artibonite and South Departments. There are a few local NGOs working with disabled persons however they do not have the resources to respond to emergency needs. Many disabled persons informed that their walking aids were lost or damaged (wheelchairs, crutches, white sticks, prosthesis) and that accessibility has worsened due to large quantities of mud and damage to infrastructure. In Gonaives, disabled persons are living in shelters or private houses and their living conditions are very difficult. Distribution points pose a serious difficulty because they are too far away and the wait is too long in queues. In light of the above situation, Handicap International recommends the following actions: Replacement of walking aids; put in place a distribution system which will allow disabled persons to receive humanitarian assistance (food, blankets, clothes, hygiene kits, mosquito nets); special attention should be made to include disabled persons in livelihoods rehabilitation programs (income-generation, seeds and tools distribution); street-cleaning to improve access; development of psychosocial projects; mobile clinics operating in Gonaives should reach populations outside of the temporary shelters and the information should be communicated to the public in advance; and disabled persons should receive special assistance to repair and rebuild their homes.

CUBA

12. After the passage of hurricanes Gustav and Ike, Cuba reports losses of USD 5 Billion and almost 444,000 houses damaged (mainly on the roofs) of which 63,000 are destroyed. **Cash donations** in support of the recovery efforts can be made through the following bank account opened by the Government of Cuba:

Account Number: 033473

Bank: Banco Financiero Internacional (BFI)

Account Title: MINVEC Huracanes restauración de daños

13. Efforts from the Government on recovery are well underway. Through reports published in the national press, the Ministries of Agriculture and of the Sugar Industry have prepared an 85 measure-program in order to compensate damage and recover production levels, facilities and equipment. The school attendance rate is reported to be at 99.4%.

14. In order to support the recovery process, the UN has mobilized USD 8,649,516, out of which more than USD 7 million is from the CERF. United Nations agencies in Cuba are also mobilizing resources through a UN Plan of Action amounting to USD 13.8 million for the next six months and to approximately USD 16 million for recovery and reconstruction for the next 12 months. The UN Plan of Action will be presented in Havana on 23 October to the international community.

15. Cuba has already received 230 offers of aid from 63 countries and foreign institutions valued at some USD 30.5 million, as reported in Havana on 24 September by MINVEC Deputy Minister Ricardo Guerrero. Some USD 1 million dollar in foodstuffs and equipment, as well as 2 million in cash, have already been received, according to the official newspaper Granma (September 24, 2008).

16. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies prepared a revised Emergency Appeal for USD 9,187,600 to support the Cuban Red Cross to assist 12,000 Cuban families for nine months. USD 136,363 had been initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. This document focuses on providing support to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief through the provision on non-food relief items, shelter, water and sanitation, and capacity building. The Federation Secretariat has been in regular contact with the Cuban Red Cross through the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). More information is available on www.onu.org.cu.

REGIONAL RESPONSE

17. 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. ROLAC informs that no assistance was required at the moment. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency Coordinating Unit (CDERA CU) has been in contact with the countries affected by Hurricane Omar and continues to monitor the situation.

18. More information can be found on Reliefweb at www.reliefweb.int and REDHUM at www.redhum.org. More information on the hurricanes and storms can be found at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. Humanitarian organizations and donors are encouraged to report all contributions (cash and in-kind) to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service at fts@reliefweb.int or through the on-line contribution form at www.reliefweb.int/fts, where a list of already made contributions is available. More information on Haiti as well as the meetings schedules are available at <http://ochaonline.un.org/haiti> and on Cuba at www.onu.org.cu.



Contact Details		
Desk Officer (New York)	Ms. Heidi Kuttab	Office Tel: +1 917 367-3365 Office Fax: +1 212 963-36 30 E-mail: kuttab@un.org
GCMS (Geneva)	Mr. Peter Neussl	Office Tel: +41 22 917 1511 E-mail: neussl@un.org
OCHA Regional Office for America and the Caribbean	Mr. Douglas Reimer Regional Disaster Response Adviser	Office Tel. +507 317-1748 Office Fax +507 317-1744 Mobile: +507 6676-1689 E-mail: reimer@un.org
Press Contact: (NY)	Ms. Stephanie Bunker	Office Tel : + 1 917-367-5126 Office Fax: + 1 212-963-1312 Email: bunker@un.org
(GVA)	Ms. Elizabeth Byrs	Office Tel + 41 22 917 26 53 Office Fax + 41 22 917 00 20 E-mail: byrs@un.org

Contacts

Secteur	Lead	Tel.
Inter-sector coordination	OCHA Manuela GONZALEZ, gonzalez8@un.org	3478 6151/3661 6073 3488 8277 3414 5664 3602 9458
Nutrition	UNICEF Teresa de la TORRE tdelatorre@unicef.org Mireille TRIBIE mtribie@unicef.org	3401 3250 3796 9069
Agriculture	FAO Javier ESCOBEDO javier.escobedo@fao.org Sonel ARISTE (alt) sonel.ariste@fao.org	3750 0589 3741 5544
Health	PAHO/WHO Olivier KLEITZ, kleitzo@paho.org	3699 9245/881 631 446 883
Food	WFP Raphael CHUINARD raphael.chuinard@wfp.org Inka HIMANEN (alt) inka.himanen@wfp.org	3558 3551 3633 7702
Shelter/NFI	IOM Marie Giudice mgiudice@iom.int Emmanuelle LALOUM (alt) elaloum@iom.int	3491 1216 3409 3873
Education	UNICEF Galia Volel NGAMY gngamy@unicef.org Beatrice MALBRANCHE (alt)	3445 6224 3848 4819



	bmalebranche@unicef.org	
Watsan	UNICEF Tim Forster tforster@unicef.org ; tforster@oxfam.org.uk	3675 5385
	Rony BAYARD rbayard@unicef.org	3445 5984
Protection	UNICEF Mariavittoria BALLOTTA, mvballotta@unicef.org	3657 1044 3445 5984
	Rony BAYARD rbayard@unicef.org (alt)	
Logistics	WFP Jean François Milhaud, jeanfrancois.milhaud@wfp.org	3701 2340
Recovery	UNDP Marla Zapach, marla.zapach@undp.org Steven Smith, steven.smith@undp.org	3902 0139 3707 3733