



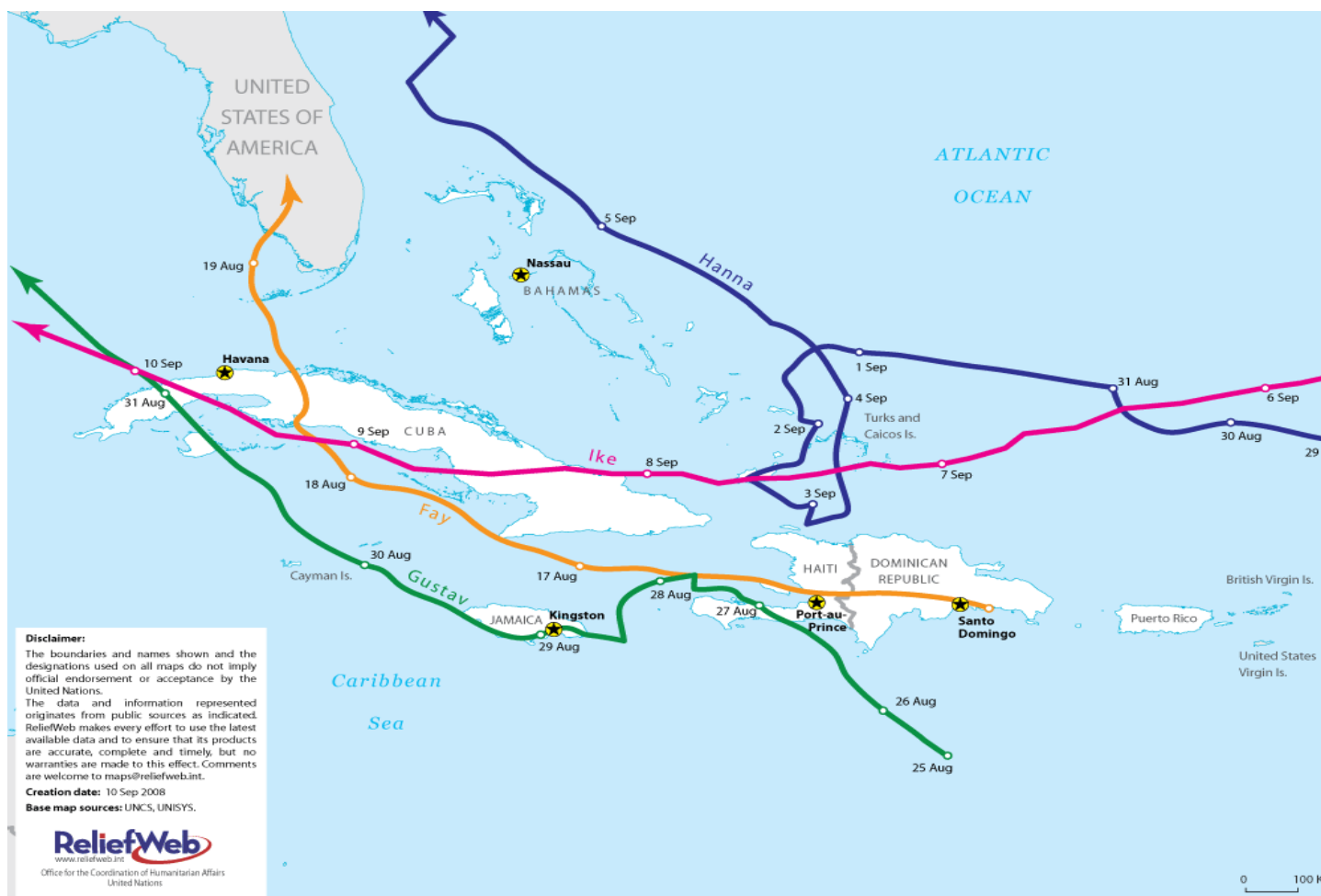
**Situation Report 24 – Caribbean Hurricane Season
30 October 2008**

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes visited Haiti on 23 and 24 October. He called for continued efforts from the humanitarian community and appealed for donors to sustain their generosity.**
- **The situation in Gonaives and other affected areas in Haiti remain difficult in particular with regards to shelter and food security.**

Hurricane Season in the Caribbean, October 2008





SITUATION

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

1. On 23 and 24 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, visited Haiti. He met with officials from the Government and partners to discuss the ongoing relief operations in response to the August and September hurricanes. He visited Gonaïves where he described the situation as "dramatic and grim". Mr. Holmes announced that an additional allocation from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) would be released for Haiti on top of the \$5.1 million USD allocated over a month ago, bringing CERF funding to \$9 million USD.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

2. As pressure mounts for re-opening schools, more families are being evicted from schools that are being used as shelters. A quick assessment was conducted over the weekend by the Gonaïves Shelter Cluster members (Oxfam, Care, Save the Children, AMURT, HRC, OCHA and IOM) in schools that are being used as shelters in order to determine the shelter needs of the displaced. Results are being processed and will be made available as soon as possible. Based on these assessment results shelter repair kits will be distributed to families whose houses have been damaged and are able to return to their locality of origin. IOM will be sending an initial number of 3,000 shelter kits and the IFRC/French Red Cross will be provided 500 shelter kits. UNFPA will also provide hygiene kits to targeted beneficiaries. The distribution plan is being finalized by the Shelter Cluster in consultation with authorities.

3. IOM and CARE have been conducting renovation works at the Praville camp to increase the space area between tents and to build a cooking area. In addition, other sites are being identified to possibly relocate displaced families who are being pushed out of schools. Authorities are in the process of sorting out ownership issues and according to the DPC, the decision to use the land must be taken at the COUD level. The Civil Protection has informed that all management issues linked to the setting up of transitional shelter sites will be administered by the Civil Protection and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

4. In order to adequately address shelter needs across the country, the Shelter Cluster has decided to set up two technical groups: one specific to Gonaïves and one based in Port-au-Prince for the rest of the country. The purpose of these technical groups is to review lessons learned from past hurricane seasons in Haiti and use best practices used in other countries to set standardized guidance for the shelter assistance package. The first meeting of the Port-au-Prince technical group will take place on Monday, 3 November at 9:00 am at the IOM office. Representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNFPA, CWWH, Handicap International, IFRC, IOM and the Protection Cluster will be present. The Shelter Cluster invites other organizations with technical shelter expertise to participate in this working group.

5. According to the Shelter Cluster Environment Advisor, there are more damages in the South-East than in the South region. This correlates the Civil Protection's information on damaged and destroyed houses. In the South, around Les Cayes, Les Anglais and Cavaillon, wind resulted in no or minimal damage to roofs. Observed damages to houses are localized and mostly near rivers on floodable areas. This increases the risk of recurrence. If houses cannot be relocated to safer areas, warning and evacuation plans are needed. In the South-East region, damages to houses resulted from a combination of wind and flooding. Local capacity exists to address the needs: the HRC, UNFPA,



IOM/GRAP/BND/GARR/Concern have already distributed NFIs while PADF and Plan International are planning to distribute hygiene and cooking kits.

Food

6. As of 27 October, WFP has distributed 5,804 metric tons of food to 572,119 direct beneficiaries. This includes 3,687 metric tons of food to Gonaives, corresponding to 707,086 fortnightly rations distributed to 266,670 beneficiaries. In addition, WFP continued to airlift food assistance to l'Asile and Plaisance today for distributions to targeted beneficiaries with WFP staff to coordinate with partner and local authorities. Distributions of some 13MT of food assistance to 2,500 beneficiaries were carried out by CROSE today in the community of Troumaro in Bainet. CROSE is WFP's major partner in the department of Sud-est. Furthermore, additional 500 beneficiaries received 1.5MT of food assistance in Passe Catabois, distributed by UEBH. WFP-contracted CITA II vessel left Port-au-Prince on 26 October with a cargo of 113 metric tons towards the southern coast. Food commodities were dispatched along the coast to Tiburon, Les Anglais, Port a Piment, Chardonnières, Coteaux and Roche a Bateaux and distributions to targeted beneficiaries will be carried out by Caritas. Nevertheless, due to bad weather conditions will accost only on 29 October. WFP continues its helicopter assistance to inaccessible areas, such as the island Ile de la Tortue located in the North-West department. Staff participated in airlifts and coordination of future distributions with partners and local authorities. Several helicopter rotations were carried out to Ile de la Tortue, Seguin and Plaisance.

7. On 25 and 27 October, Caritas distributed some 88.6 metric tons of food in the communities of Passereine and Savanne Carree in Ennery, two communes located outside Gonaives. On 25 October, some 6,000 new beneficiaries received food assistance in La Montagne and Marbial, in the South-East. Additionally, food distributions were also carried out in Bainet. Some 24,350 metric tons of food assistance were distributed by CROSE to 11,000 beneficiaries in the above-mentioned localities. Also on 25 October, some 22 metric tons of food was distributed to beneficiaries in Passe Catabois, in the North-West department, by WFP partner Union des Eglises Baptistes d'Haiti (UEBH). On 28 October, WFP delivered 7MT food assistance to Ile de la Tortue where a total of some 39MT have been airlifted. Distributions in collaboration with Caritas are being organized for this week.

8. The Norwegian Red Cross has donated 6x6 trucks to WFP to strengthen its logistic capacity in the country. A total of 23 trucks have reached Port-au-Prince and some 23 additional trucks are expected to arrive soon. The deployment of these trucks will increase WFP transport capacity tremendously as currently the fleet consists of only fifteen 6x6 trucks. Following an enhanced transport capacity, WFP will set up four maintenance centers for trucks in Cap-Haitian, Gonaives, Jacmel and Les Cayes in addition to the operational workshop located in Port-au-Prince.

9. As far as Gonaives is concerned, the data analysis following the rapid family census exercise has been completed. The census was carried out by WFP, Direction de Protection Civile, community leaders and partner NGOs. The total number of families in Gonaives (69,639) is being used to issue new WFP ration cards. Current distributions of food rations are done against the ration cards. The first large scale distribution of 103MT of food commodities using the new rations cards was carried in collaboration with CARE to some 17,250 beneficiaries in the community of Trou Coulevre. Final results are shown below:

Total Gonaives Population:	294,881
Pregnant women:	10,178
Under five children:	59,357
Under eighteen:	119,358
Total of families:	69,639
Houses visited:	26,731
Families of 1 person:	5,988
Families of 2 persons:	11,318
Families of 3 persons:	14,118
Families of 4 persons:	12,567



Families of 5 persons and more: 25,648

Agriculture

10. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has announced an agreement to provide Haiti with a USD 10 million package to help boost the country's agricultural sector, whose harvest was decimated by the recent hurricanes. FAO has agreed on a rescue package with the Government to boost farming output in the current and upcoming agricultural season by supporting hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers – 80 per cent of the agricultural workforce – many of whom are severely under-nourished. More than 240,000 farmers will receive an agricultural parcel consisting of vegetable seeds, cereal seeds, manioc, sweet potato and banana plants among other planting inputs.

11. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN agency dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries, is funding the USD 10.2 million agreement as part of FAO's recently established Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP).

Logistics/ emergency telecommunications

12. A meeting was held with an important vehicle hire company, which resulted in obtaining uniform prices for United Nations agencies and NGOs who rent vehicles over the coming three months. A partnership with Handicap International – Atlas Logistique is being finalized for the management of a float of 6 x 6 lorries. This collaboration with WFP will start on 1 November 2008 and last for six months. The lorries will be available for the inter-agency service and will be based in five zones: Les Cayes, PAP, Gonaives, Cap Haitian and Jacmel. Operations can take place within a 60 km radius.

13. The Logistics Cluster remains available to provide transport to isolated areas and for urgent or fragile cargo. An evaluation of logistics capacities has restarted with data collection on the port and a fuel provider possessing 6 x 6 lorries. As a result, the customs dossier has been identified as a priority. The Logistics Cluster is no longer represented in Gonaives and requests its partners to find a focal point to ensure inter-agency liaison.

14. The mapping of road conditions has been taken over by the National Center of Geo Spatial Information (CNIGS Haiti). The partnership with CNIGS covers data exchange and updating of the road conditions map for the rest of the cyclone period. For development of any specific products, the contact at CNIGS is: Boby Emmanuel PIARD, Tel. 3455-3761 Email: bepiard@yahoo.fr. Partners are still requested, however, to inform the Logistics Cluster of changing road conditions.

15. Concerning sea transport, the CITA II (unloading barge of 150 metric tons) continues its trips to Nippes and the South. The ship MV Grace (650 metric tons) will serve Gonaives for the next two weeks.

16. Concerning air transport, three UNHAS helicopters will continue their service until 20 November.

17. Latest updates relating to ICT in Haiti are now published on Logistics Cluster website with a special folder for the Inter-Agency Emergency Telecommunications (IAET). The link is: <http://www.logcluster.org/ht08a/iaet-telecom>. The ICT cluster inter-agency cyber cafe remains in the MINUSTAH compound in Gonaives and will be open at least up to mid-January 2009. A radio room has been installed at the port with the possibility of a common channel if requested by partners in the field.

Protection

18. A Senior Protection Officer has been deployed to Haiti to coordinate the Protection Cluster until the end of December 2008. She is based in the OCHA office but has an inter-agency mandate to strengthen the cluster in collaboration with all partners. She will work closely with UNICEF and MINUSTAH's Human Rights section in the



management and organization of the clusters in Port-au-Prince and Gonaives and to develop a medium and long-term Protection Strategy for Haiti.

19. A member of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group in Geneva, is currently in Haiti with UNFPA and will participate in the next Protection Cluster meeting on 29 October to exchange ideas with cluster members. A meeting of the Protection Cluster was held in Port-au-Prince on 22 October. Until now, the Protection Cluster concentrated especially on the protection of women and children in a vulnerable situation after the storms. Questions of gender-based violence as well as the needs of displaced persons and handicapped persons were also addressed.

20. The Cluster will now look at other protection issues such as legal protection against violence and abuse, the rights of the host community, ownership and land rights, rights to documentation, returning assistance for the displaced population as well as legal and economic support. According to the definition adopted by the IASC in 1999, Protection is described as "all activities which aim to obtain complete respect for the rights of individuals as expressed in human rights, in humanitarian law and in refugee law". Protection is the sector which addresses all aspects of rights in a humanitarian situation and must maintain close links with all the other sectors.

21. An inventory of protection problems in the hurricane-affected areas of Haiti has been established by the cluster. There are numerous problems and the solutions must be developed in a coordinated way. The Protection Cluster will strive to reinforce its links with the other clusters in order to obtain more information and to influence decisions. A first draft of the cluster strategy has been developed.

22. In Gonaives, a meeting of the Protection Cluster was held on 23 October. Issues related to shelters were discussed and the actions to be taken were identified. It is important for the Protection Cluster to monitor expulsions from shelters and to report on any violations that may take place. The sector will keep in close contact with the Shelter Cluster and the Coordinator will develop a form for reporting and monitoring violations and abuse. Such a form already exists for registration of cases of violence.

23. Medecins du Monde (MdM) has reported an increase in domestic violence in shelters, particularly at Praville. Some children who were beaten by their parents were referred to MdM for medical treatment. This violence is due to lack of services, activities and general organization of the shelters. Some situations of violence were reported during last week's distribution of mosquito nets by PAHO/WHO. Programs aimed at reducing violence in the shelters are already implemented: provision of psychosocial assistance: MdM, MSF; child-friendly spaces: Save the Children; improving parenting skills: UNICEF and CARE; and improving shelter management: Shelter Cluster. The Protection Cluster will contact the Haitian National Police to obtain more information on their capacity to monitor. Partners from the Protection Cluster encourage humanitarian actors to provide more information to the beneficiaries regarding the organization of distributions and to seek beneficiaries' participation in order to reduce the risk of violence.

24. There is currently no information regarding cases of rape or sexual violence, however the members of the sexual violence sub-cluster have developed a form for reporting any such cases. A nurse from UNFPA will visit the shelters during a 10 day period, and members agreed that it is necessary to maintain a medical presence in shelters. The cluster will continue to monitor cases of sexual exploitation including "sex for food" and other forms of exploitation.

25. ICRC will obtain further information on the number of missing persons in Gonaives, and human rights NGOs will be contacted to provide judicial assistance to families of missing persons.

26. Regarding lost identity cards, birth certificates and land title documents, more information on the extent of this problem is being collected as part of the current IOM shelter survey. It was agreed to undertake advocacy with local and national authorities to facilitate the procedures for replacing lost identity cards and other documentation.

CUBA

27. 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

28. 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%.

29. 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 was presented in Havana on 23 October to the international community.

30. 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).

31. 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

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. 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.

33. 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.



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