

**Situation Report 30 – Caribbean Hurricane Season
11 December 2008**

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Preliminary results of the country-wide family and host family survey for the regions of Grande-Anse, North and the commune of Gonaïves (Artibonite department) indicate that 47% of families are still living in host family settings and have thus not been able to regain their homes three months after the series of tropical storms that hit Haiti.**
- **The contract of the remaining WFP helicopter which was due to end in mid-December has been extended until 31 January 2009 in view of the continuous food assistance needs and malnutrition in remote areas.**
- **In Baie d'Orange (South-East department), 2 children died out of the 60 severely malnourished children who were hospitalized. Most of them have now returned home. The imminent opening of a school canteen (UNICEF, WHO and WFP activity) would help in curbing the situation of malnutrition in the region.**

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

SHELTER

1. Preliminary results of the country-wide family and host family survey for the departments of Grande-Anse, North and the commune of Gonaïves (Artibonite department) indicate that 47% of families are still living in host family settings; and have thus not been able to regain their homes three months after the series of tropical storms that hit Haiti. A preliminary analysis of data indicates the following:

- **Type of damage:** In Grande-Anse, floods (53.7%) made more damage than wind (53.7%) while in the North; wind (72.8%) caused significantly more damage than floods (29.3%). In both regions, mud caused relatively little damage to houses (around 13%) compared to the commune of Gonaïves (39.5%). Since the majority of houses are built of wood or mud in these regions, heavy damages were reported on both walls and roofs.
- **Needs assessment:** With regards to families that participated in the survey, 89% in Grande-Anse and 72% in the North indicated a loss of property or livelihoods. 100% in Grande-Anse and 70% in the North would require assistance in the form of technical expertise for reconstruction. CGI, wood and cement are high priority requirements.
- **Available resources:** A great majority of families (92.6% in Grande-Anse and 82.6% in the North) indicate that they do not have enough resources to start reconstruction or repair of damaged dwellings. More materials seem to be recoverable in Grande-Anse (CGI 33%; wood 40%) than in the North (CGI 13%; wood 21%).

Situation in Gonaïves

2. In the surrounding areas of Gonaïves, besides the 3,300 shelter kits already distributed and the 1,140 soon to be distributed by the IFRC in rural areas, IOM shelter material distribution is planned to reach 2,000 families before the end of the year. Furthermore, IOM will purchase 1,787 repair kits (half-kits and full-kits)¹ consisting of wood, cement, CGI, tools and plastic sheeting. As part of the second phase of its strategy, the IFRC is planning to rebuild around 4,000

¹ **Half Kit for damaged houses** : 8 CGI (0.8 x 1.9 m), 7 pieces of timber (2"x 4"x 12'), 12 of timber (1"x3"x12'), 2 tarpaulin with rope (4m x 6m), 5 cement bag s (42.5 kg each), 1.5kg of nails for CGI (2"), 2kg of nails for wood (4"), 1 shovel, 1 pick axe, 1 trowel, 1 hammer, 1 saw, 1 bucket, 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen kit, 2 mats and 36 bars of laundry soap.

Full kit for destroyed houses : 16 CGI (0.8 x 1.9 m), 15 pieces of timber (2"x 4"x 12'), 24 of timber (1"x3"x12'), 2 tarpaulin with rope (4m x 6m), 5 cement bag s (42.5 kg each), 3kg of nails for CGI (2"), 4kg of nails for wood (4"), 1 shovel, 1 pick axe, 1 trowel, 1 hammer, 1 saw, 1 bucket, 1 hygiene kit, 1 kitchen kit, 2 mats and 36 bars of laundry soap.



houses in rural areas during the next 6 months. A Concern Worldwide pilot project in Saut-d'eau (Centre) targeting 33 families is ongoing and technical training will take place by 15 December 2008.

3. In Gonaïves, about 1,965 basic shelter kits were distributed within the first week of November. Following last week's assessments on the last 34 non-school shelters in Gonaïves and its immediate surroundings, efforts are ongoing to assist the return of 2,167 families still living in collective shelters. Following an assessment and physical verification of houses, 1,000 families will receive repair kits for damaged and destroyed houses in the next 4 days. The full kit for destroyed houses will enable families to build a transitional shelter. A 4 days distribution will start soon, targeting 350 families.

4. Results of the assessment of non-school shelters carried out by ACF, CRS, MDM, UNFPA, OXFAM, OCHA, CARE, Hands on Disaster and IOM, indicated that 2,167 families are still living in temporary shelters and collective sites (this includes tent sites). On 5 December, the Civil Protection Unit (DPC) confirmed the availability of five tent sites: Praville, Marché Bienac, Lycée Bicentenaire, Elim/UPAG and Eben Ezer, could to be used as transit sites. Families that are unable to find alternative shelter solutions with the assistance being offered; will be temporarily relocated to the above mentioned transit sites. However, families that are not home owners will not be relocated into transit tent sites as such tent sites could become long-term settlements in increase the vulnerability of those families during the next hurricane season. Actual long term shelter solutions should be identified in coordination with the authorities for this particular caseload.

5. In order to avoid land ownership disputes, a decision was made to adopt different strategies for families that lived in rented houses and homeowners. Homeowners are being offered repair kits while tenants receive financial support sufficient enough to cover the costs of a new 1-year lease. Out of the 2,176 families assessed, 45% are tenants and 55% are owners.

6. On 9 December IOM facilitated a meeting between the DPC, the Haitian Red Cross and Care in order to further discuss a shelter/camp management training program to be undertaken in Gonaïves before the end of the year. The training modules intend to strengthen the management capacity of local authorities.

7. As agreed by cluster members in Gonaïves, repair kit distribution was preceded by an information campaign and coupon distribution. IOM and cluster member's resources were mobilized to ensure a smooth logistics coordination. Approximately 1,000 repair kits for damaged and destroyed houses are being distributed this week at two different sites within the city. Beneficiaries are requested to claim cement bags at selected distribution points within 48 hours. The first two days of distribution will target families with partially damaged houses and the last two, families that have sustained more extensive damage. Technical guidance leaflets are being distributed alongside repair kits. In addition, IOM is contracting students that were trained by Habitat for Humanity in masonry and wood framing; to assist families with repair works and guide them towards making long-lasting improvements to their housing situation. These students were selected by "district committees" in the 13 districts of Gonaïves.

NFI

8. Save the Children faced difficulties with bedding items distribution in two communes in Artibonite where DPC representatives were not able to coordinate distribution. Hence, distribution stopped until appropriate solutions are identified.

9. IFRC indicated that they were still waiting for a shipment of 500 shelter kits (consisting of a tool kit and two tarpaulins) to launch a distribution operation targeting 1,000 beneficiaries in the South and Nippes regions.

10. Despite the intense mobilization of the international community towards relief efforts over the last six weeks in Marigot (South-East department), the population held a demonstration to express their dissatisfaction with the assistance received in response to the tropical storms. Roads have been blocked for the past two days. As a result, IOM had to cancel the transportation and distribution of 550 basic shelter kits which were scheduled for distribution on December 12 and 13.



11. In coordination with distributing partners, IOM has launched the distribution of basic shelter kits (tool kit, tarpaulin, CGI) where needs were identified by distributing partners in cooperation with local DPC representatives and the municipality. Shelter materials have been given to APCOUD in Marmelade (Artibonite department) 75 shelter kits and 120 hygiene and kitchen kits; and Petit-Goave, (West department) 500 shelter kits with an increased number of CGIs. The distribution of 52 shelter kits and 10 CGI is planned in the commune of Borgne (North department). In the rural areas of Cazale and Fond Blanc, commune of Cabaret (West department) 115 shelter kits and 8 CGI will be distributed. Proposals are still under review for the distribution of shelter material in urban Cabaret and Plaisance (North department).

WATER AND SANITATION

12. Basic water treatment and distribution continues in Gonaïves, and in parts of the South-East department, though the minimum standards for quantity have not yet been achieved in many parts.

13. The WASH cluster reports the following achievements to date:

- Basic water treatment and distribution continues in Gonaïves, and in parts of the South-East department, though the minimum standards for quantity have not yet been achieved in many parts.
- In Desdunes and L'Estere (Artibonite department) rehabilitation of the water network and 19 water kiosks has been completed. An agreement with SNEP is yet to be completed.
- The provision of latrines and bathing cubicles in the temporary shelters in Gonaïves has been completed and hygiene promotion activities continue in those shelters.

14. The following gaps have been identified:

- There is little hope of re-establishing distribution through the main water network under emergency phase activities.
- Rehabilitation, cleaning, and decontamination of many private and community wells have only recently begun.
- The vast majority of the small community water supplies still require attention and commitment of funds.

15. Identified priorities for the cluster:

- Fund and facilitate the repair of small community water supplies.
- Support additional assessments as further vulnerable and isolated communities are being identified.
- Rehabilitate toilets, wash basins, and water sources of health posts and schools.

16. The WASH cluster is facing a number of constraints such as the non-participation of SNEP staff in coordination meetings in Port au Prince. The lack of funding agreements for partners to conduct new assessments in isolated zones or to conduct other assessments to confirm some of the water networks evaluations made by water committees is problematic. Shortage of funds needed to repair damages to small water supplies as identified by water committees. Need for SNEP engineers to be permanently based in Gonaïves for the next 2-3 months. Identification of local wells for rehabilitation has not been achieved and partners are proceeding without it. The repair of 130 disabled water networks urgently requires the release of approximately US\$ 1.6 million from the second flash appeal (In addition, 260 partially disabled networks which must be repaired in the medium term will depend on approximately US\$ 1.8 million of future funding.).

FOOD

17. WFP has distributed 12,173 metric tons of food to 646,926 direct beneficiaries. Food assistance delivery continues to be ensured by helicopter rotations to the remote areas of Portino and Baie d'Orange in the departments of West and South-East respectively, where malnutrition has been identified as a serious problem. CARITAS is responsible for the distribution on the ground to targeted beneficiaries.

18. A joint World Bank/WFP mission on food security is ongoing from 9 to 12 December. The mission is currently visiting Gonaïves and Baie d'Orange.

Gonaïves

19. Between 6 and 9 December, WFP distributed 407MT of food assistance to some 49,975 beneficiaries through general food distributions and to participants involved in labour-intensive food-for-work activities, being implemented in partnership with ILO.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

20. In Baie d'Orange (South-East department), two children have died out of the sixty severely malnourished children who were hospitalized in November. Most of the others have now returned home. The imminent opening of a school canteen (UNICEF, WHO and WFP activity in partnership with CROSE) would help in curbing the situation of malnutrition in the region.

21. Several assessment missions by partners (Save the Children, UNICEF, MSF-Belgique, WHO) have been carried out the past weeks to review the nutritional status of the population in the area and identify strategies for the nutritional follow-up of malnourished children and the implementation of further maternal health and nutrition-related activities.

PROTECTION

22. Recent incidents in Gonaïves highlighted the need for an information campaign targeting affected populations. There are persistent rumours about the closure of some camps by 15 December. Although these rumours have been denied by the DPC, the fear of an imminent eviction still reigns amongst the camp population. There is therefore an urgent need to convey the correct information to the people with regards to their stay in the camps and to involve them in the planning process for durable solutions is necessary.

23. Protection cluster members have indicated the need to focus more on provision of assistance and identification of gaps in rural areas. If assistance continues to be focus on people staying in shelters in urban areas, host families and those who remained in rural areas will keep on receiving less. This could imply that in future emergencies, more people will prefer to flock to the towns and settle in "bidonvilles" (urban shanty towns).

LOGISTICS

24. The contract of the remaining WFP helicopter which was due to end in mid-December has been extended until 31 January 2009 in view of the continuous food assistance needs and malnutrition in remote areas.

COORDINATION

25. Following information received from the MINUSTAH Humanitarian and Development Coordination Section (HDCS) about prevailing humanitarian needs Cazale (West department), a joint humanitarian fact-finding mission (MSPP/UNICEF/WFP) is scheduled for 12 December. Some humanitarian partners are already in the region.

26. More information can be found on Reliefweb at www.reliefweb.int.



Contact Details

OCHA team in Haiti	Ms. Manuela Gonzalez Head of Office	Mobile: +509 3478-6151 E-mail: gonzalez8@un.org
	Mr. Jean-Marc Cordaro OCHA / HC office Gonaives	Mobile: +509 3458-0009 E-mail: ocha.rcoffice.gonaives@gmail.com
Desk Officer (New York)	Ms. Severine Rey	Office Tel: +1 917 367-5336 Office Fax: +1 212 963-36 30 E-mail: rey@un.org
GCMS (Geneva)	Mr. Peter Neussl	Office Tel: +41 22 917 1511 E-mail: neussl@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