KEY MESSAGES ON HAITI

Fourth anniversary of the 2010 Earthquake

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1. Thanks to the collaboration between the Government of Haiti and its international partners over the last four years, remarkable progress has been achieved and the lives of over 1.3 million Haitians has been improved.

Almost four years after the devastating earthquake in 2010 that cost the lives of 217,300 people and left 2.1 million homeless, humanitarian action has accomplished significant tangible results.

89% of the 1.5 million displaced people have left the camps thanks to the return and relocation programs. Since the beginning of the cash grant rental subsidy program in 2011 until the end of 2013, an estimated 63,800 families will have been relocated using this approach.

The battle against cholera is slowly being won. Concerted national and international efforts have resulted in a steady reduction in the number of people affected and killed by cholera over the last three years. The number of suspected cases has been reduced significantly every year, from 352,033 cases in 2011 to 101,722 cases in 2012 to about 58,600 cases in 2013 (as per the latest figures published by the MSPP on 8 January). The number of people perishing due to the disease stands at 1.22%, slightly over the 1% internationally recognized global target for effective cholera control but far below 2.2% observed at the end of December 2010.

Severe food insecurity has been brought down from 1.5 million people in early 2013 to 600,000 by October 2013.

National capacities for preparedness and response to emergencies are also being strengthened. Contingency plans at the departmental and national level have been developed and major infrastructures (emergency operation centers, warehouses …) for civil protection have been constructed nationwide. New tools to measure vulnerabilities had been jointly developed (with both state and non state entities) to better target priorities and areas prone to natural disasters.

The Government of Haiti is taking greater leadership in coordinating humanitarian efforts. The transition process initiated in 2012 that devolved leadership of humanitarian coordination efforts from internationally led clusters to national authorities has yielded results in a number of areas. The National Coordination for Food Security, for example, has led on-going efforts to analyze priorities and define strategies in the food security sector in collaboration with humanitarian actors. Similar efforts have been carried out by the country’s water and sanitation authority.
(DINEPA’s Department for Emergency Response) with regards to WASH interventions. Child protection-related issues are now being addressed as part of the regular agenda of the Child Protection Working Group chaired by the national Welfare and Research Institute (IBESR). The Directorate of Civil Protection is leading all national and international preparedness and emergency response efforts, with humanitarian actors in a supporting role. Other priority areas, however, have faced certain challenges to complete the transition requiring the continuation of some clusters in 2014.

2. Despite these improvements, significant humanitarian needs remain in Haiti, which require a sustained engagement of both humanitarian and development actors.

On the basis of assessments made with national authorities, the humanitarian community in Haiti estimates that **817,000 people in 35 of the country’s 140 communes require humanitarian assistance in 2014**. This compares to an estimated 1 million people in need identified in 2013.

**As of January 2014, it is estimated that 145,000 people will remain in camps facing deteriorating living conditions.**

As of October 2013, 77,564 individuals or 20,671 families living in 103 IDP sites are at risk of forced eviction. Of those, 16,377 families in 52 IDP sites live in sites where there is a high risk of eviction. In addition to forced evictions, the situation in camps raises other protection concerns. Camp residents are affected by violence perpetrated by criminal gangs operating in their neighbourhoods and sometimes in the camps themselves. Gender-based violence and an inadequate access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance for victims continue to be of grave concern.

Since its emergence in October 2010, cholera has affected an estimated 697,715 people and claimed the lives of 8,547 people¹. From January to early December 2013 alone, Haiti reported more than 58,600 cases and 592 deaths. **According to WHO/PAHO, up to 45,000 people could be affected by the epidemic during 2014.**

As a result of structural problems and the remaining impact of last year’s chocks, **600,000 people live in severe food insecurity**: of these, 206,000 live in extreme food insecurity requiring immediate assistance. 100,000 children under 5 years old suffer from Global Acute malnutrition (GAM), of whom 20,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

The Government of Haiti estimates that 600,000 people could be affected by natural hazards, although these numbers will be updated early next year as the country updates its national contingency plan. 60 communes are considered the most vulnerable.

3. As funding for humanitarian assistance declines, it is important that humanitarians work with longer-term development actors to ensure that critical humanitarian needs are addressed at the same time that actions continue to be undertaken to address structural challenges.

¹ Data as of 8 January 2014
From the US$1.1 billion received in 2010; in the aftermath of the earthquake, humanitarian funding for 2013 decreased to $64 million representing less than 50% of the critical humanitarian requirements identified.

**The decline in humanitarian funding puts at risk the important gains achieved** to date and the mechanisms put in place by national actors to efficiently respond to existing priority needs and potential new emergencies.

**This decrease in funding has also led to a gradual withdrawal of humanitarian actors registered by OCHA.** Their number continues to decrease from 515 in 2010 to 177 in 2013. In certain sectors, the resulting capacity gap is felt, particularly with regard to human and financial resources to ensure basic services.

**Haiti cannot afford to become a forgotten crisis.** Important gains have been achieved in the last years but the country ranks at the top for exposure to disaster risks and climate change. Resilience to natural hazards remains low.

The Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) 2014, which requests 168 million USD, aims to ensure that remaining critical humanitarian needs of displaced populations, people affected by cholera and by food insecurity and malnutrition are responded to and minimized. It also seeks to strengthen national capacities to coordinate and respond to actual and future humanitarian needs in case of a crisis. The HAP does not include all humanitarian sectors or clusters of intervention and focuses primarily on the most critical and life saving needs.

**Requirements this year are slightly higher than last year given the need for increased efforts to end displacement.** Half of the requirements are intended to seek solutions and provide basic services for 100% of the remaining IDPs in camps. A further 40 million is required for health and WASH needs related to the cholera epidemic. The remaining needs pertain to food security, nutrition, protection, as well as minimum preparedness activities required to face a potential disaster.

**The 2014 HAP also aims to strengthen national capacities to coordinate the response to actual and future humanitarian needs.** Tackling these critical humanitarian needs in 2014 would make a difference for hundreds of thousands of people and could significantly reduce the need for humanitarian interventions beyond the year.