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HIGHLIGHTS

- Important cholera outbreaks registered all over the country. About 10 towns in red alert.
- With the start of the hurricane season, sporadic floods were registered in some regions of the country following the rains of May that affected hundreds of families.
- The NGO community calls for a new collaboration approach between humanitarian and development actors to improve the response to multiple crises that affect the vulnerable populations.
- The most vulnerable families have difficulties to access food due to the strong increase in the prices of basic items.



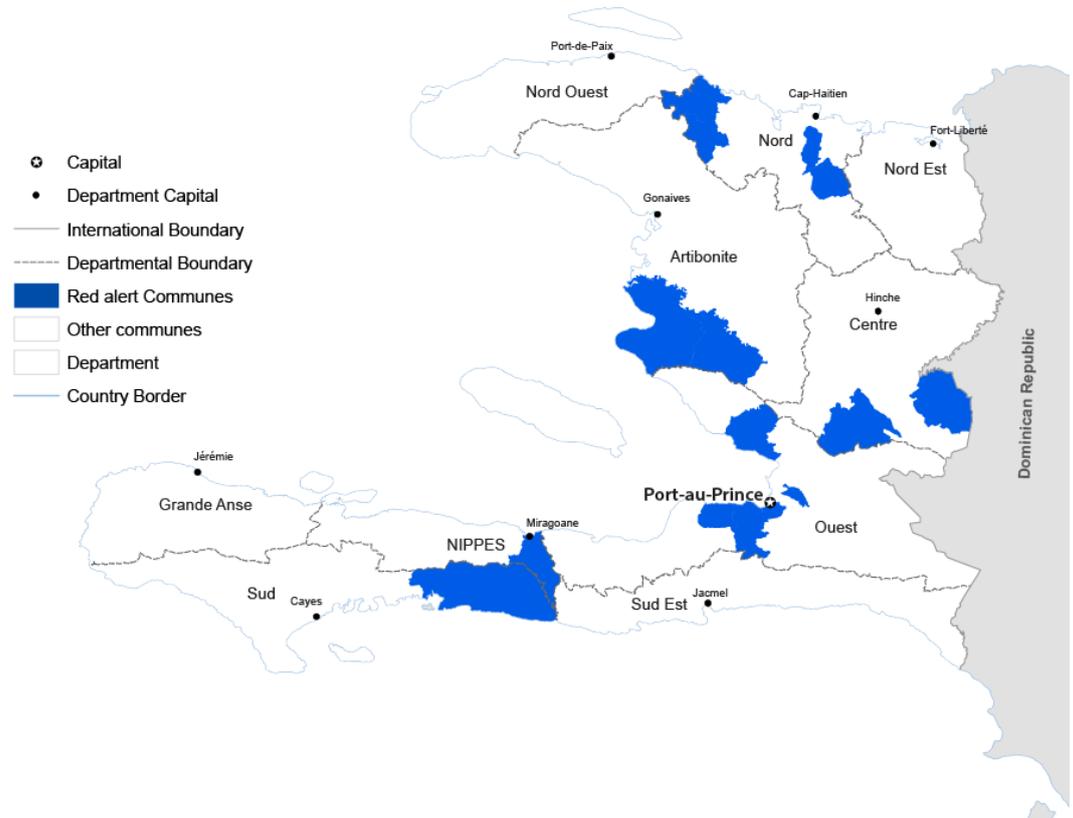
Cholera continues to make victims: approximately 10 towns on red alert

Significant outbreaks recorded, particularly in the West department

Health officials have observed in the last months a resurgence of cholera cases in several towns, especially in Center, North, West and South departments. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in the alert situation report from May 22 to 28 affirms that more than 300 alerts were recorded. The document indicates that about a dozen towns are on red alert. The situation is most critical in the West department, including Port-au-Prince (70 cases), Tabarre (66 cases), Carrefour (38 cases), and Centre department particularly Hinche (67 cases) and Mirebalais (39 cases).

KEY FIGURES

Number of IDPs in camps	62,600
Source: DTM, January 2016	
Cumulative cholera cases (1st Jan. to 30 April 2016)	16,822
Source: MSPP	
Fatality cases (1 st Jan. to 28 May 2016)	168
Source: MSPP	
Number of people in food insecurity	3,6M
Source: CNSA	
Number of people in severely food insecurity	1,5M
Source: CNSA	
Number of children suffering from Global Acute Malnutrition	131,405
Source: UNICEF	



Since the beginning of the year (January 1st to May 28), the Health Ministry has already registered 16,822 cases of cholera and 168 deaths. Humanitarian actors consider untreated water consumption and poor hygiene practices as major causes of disease transmission. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), 42% of Haiti's population still does not have access to drinking water and 7.6 million Haitians lack sanitation installation to avoid water-borne diseases.

The NGO coordination committee estimates that a reduction in funding towards cholera projects in 2016 could compromise all the community and institutional response made so far and thus lead to the resurgence of cholera outbreaks

In this sense, the humanitarian community continues to recommend vigilance to the population, particularly those living in areas where access to clean water and sanitation is difficult. It also calls for the maintenance of epidemiological surveillance to prevent further spread of cases, especially during the rainy season - considered a period of high risk for the propagation of the epidemic.

Continuous mobilization of stakeholders and response strengthening

All stakeholders are mobilized in support of local authorities to respond to alerts since the beginning of the year. UN system agencies, through the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO / WHO), UNICEF, and the health authorities of the affected departments have intensified rapid response to cholera alerts.



Haiti, Cap Haitien, 30 March 2016, Gerda and Getson at the Cholera Treatment centre, 72 hours after the boy was admitted she can smile anew. Credit : UNICEF Haiti

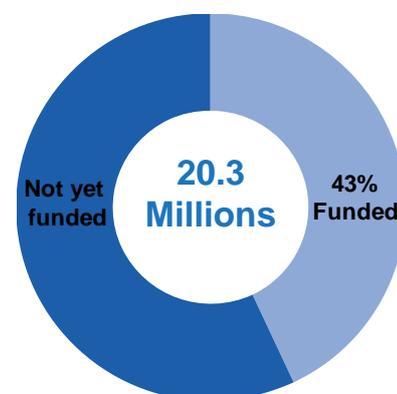
UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health (MSPP) aim to keep the number of cholera cases under 25,000 this year and control contamination in each affected household. In affected communities, the health teams have distributed chlorine products and oral serum, developed community awareness activities, and decontaminated houses and sanitary units. More specifically, about 75,000 houses were disinfected by EMIRA teams and more than 31,000 households received at least water treatment products since January 2016.

As part of the response strategy revision in 2016, UNICEF will also strengthen the capacity of local actors, particularly the monitoring and intervention mechanism, as well as the community care practices over the next two years, in collaboration with the MSPP. Moreover, UNICEF, in coordination with PAHO-WHO, will strengthen national capacities to confirm cases of cholera in laboratories.

Funding cholera response projects is a priority for Haiti

The Haitian government, United Nations agencies and their partners have made the elimination of cholera a priority in the process of reducing the vulnerability of the populations. Therefore, the continued mobilization of donors remains essential to support the efforts of the Government and humanitarian partners to maintain a rapid response capability at community level.

As of 3 June 2016, only 8.7 million has been received through the Humanitarian Response Plan. This represents the 43 percent of 20.3 million requested. Therefore, about 11.6 million dollars are necessary to fill the funding gap. To bridge this gap, humanitarian actors have proposed the reduction of mobile teams in order to face the underfunding. However, according to UNICEF, this strategy may risk that localized epidemics may be ignored.



Haiti prepares to face a more active hurricane season than the previous two years

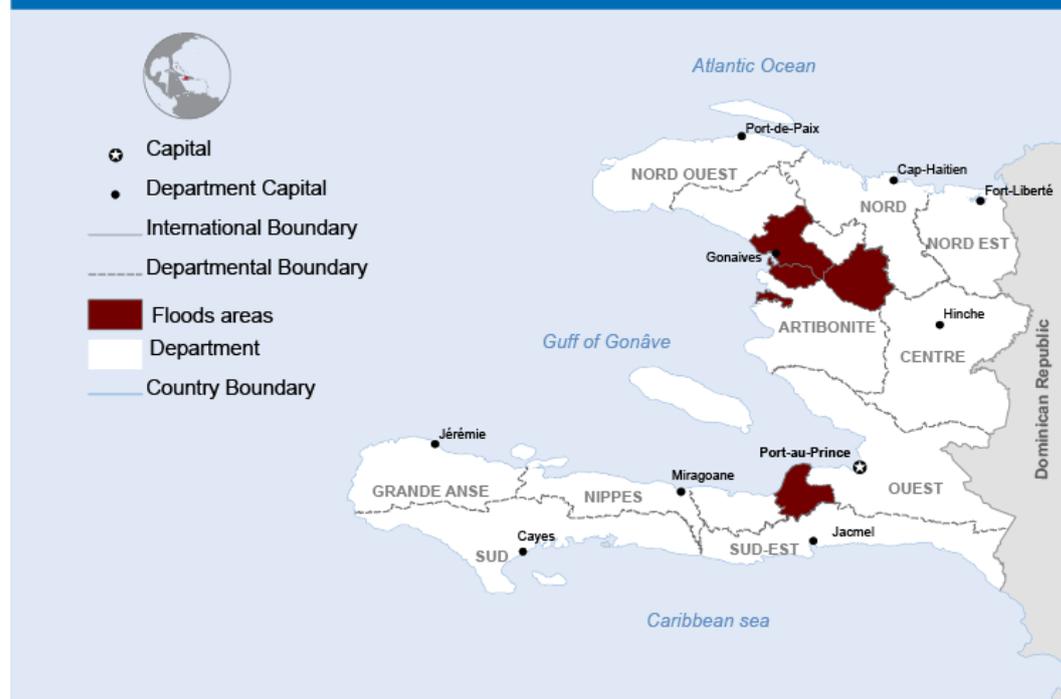
The humanitarian partners are mobilizing to minimize the damages that may cause the passage of floods

The weather forecasts for this year impose the need for more vigilance due to the high vulnerability of the country to natural hazards. The recent floods reinforced the preoccupations of the partners that work in risk and disaster management in Haiti.

The first day of June marks the official opening of the hurricane season. Haiti should expect a more active hurricane season than the previous two years. A total of 12 storms and 5 hurricanes, of which 2 are expected to be major, may occur during this season, according to forecasts from the University of Colorado in the United States.

Since the beginning of the year, several regions have experienced heavy flooding affecting thousands of families. At the end of May, torrential rains that hit the country caused flooding, especially in the West department. About 2,900 homes were flooded and 3674 families affected in the towns of Leogane, Arcahaie, Carrefour and Cite Soleil.

HAITI: floods areas during the rains of May



Leogane was the most affected by the floods. All of the municipal sections and highly inhabited neighborhoods were flooded. As a consequence, numerous houses were destroyed or damaged. Local authorities have been sensitizing inhabitants through the local press and calling for the evacuation of people living in areas at high risk.

Faced with the extent of the damage, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) conducted an assessment in the town of Leogane on Friday 27 May. The assessment mission found that the authorities had the situation under control. However, the mission recommended mitigation measures be taken by MTPTC to clear the blocked areas and also the replenishment of emergency stocks.

At the beginning of June, more floods were recorded in the Artibonite and Center Departments particularly in St Michel, Gonaives, L'Estere and Grande Saline where more than 350 homes were flooded. In the center department, in the town of Cerca Carvajal, at least 19 families were affected.

Faced with this situation, the humanitarian community, under the leadership of UNDP and OCHA, continues to support the DPC to finalize the contingency plan, update emergency stocks and continue the awareness activities. Faced with the constant threat of an active season, the Directorate of Civil Protection called everyone to prepare for the worst and to work for the best, reminding one major cyclone could be enough to affect 500,000

people. In addition, Humanitarian agencies have started the repositioning of stocks across the country.

This year, the hurricane season coincides, among others, with the political instability caused by the postponement of the elections and the worsening of the overall humanitarian situation in the country: with food insecurity hitting more than 1.5 million people, over 62,000 persons still living in IDP camps, cholera outbreak and the binational mixed migration crisis between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Poor sanitation in the vulnerable areas of the country, as well as in the 36 camps where displaced people still live, combined with the contamination of water wells are likely to accelerate the spread of the cholera epidemic.

For a new collaborative approach between national NGOs, government, humanitarian and development organizations

The NGO community calls for the strengthening of local capacity and significant involvement of local communities in the humanitarian response and development activities

National NGOs underline the need for a major participation of local communities in the humanitarian response

The NGO Coordination Committee in Haiti (CCO-Haiti), along with about 10 local organizations members have organized a two-day national conference on the cooperation between international organizations, civil society and the Haitian Government from 2 to 3 June 2016.



Representatives of MINUSTAH, USAID and OCHA Haiti at the national conference organized by the CCO. Photo Credit: CCO Haiti

The theme of this national conference was 'better together to better meet the needs of populations'. It aimed at strengthening the role of Haitian civil society in the response to the immediate and long terms needs of the population as well as in the definition of strategic development orientations for Haiti.

During this event, Ernest Mathurin, from the Group of Research and Support for Rural Zones (GRAMIR), reported three great moments of the relations between international and local organizations: from 1950 to 1980; 1990 to 2000; 2000 to present. He made clear that the second period coincides with the decline in development assistance leaving a gap to be filled by the humanitarian organizations.

Colette Lespinasse, former director of GARR and representative of KORAL (*Konbit pou Ranfose Aksyon lakay*), stressed that the relations between international organizations and local organizations have not really helped strengthening the social fabric. At the same time, she recognized that some NGOs were only able to take action thanks to the work of local organizations.

Following discussions, local NGOs have identified several problems that influenced the framework of cooperation. For example: the weakness of the state in regulating the work of NGOs, low appreciation of local resources, lack of consideration for the cultural and identity aspects of the local communities, weakness in the identification of actual needs with the inclusion of organizations and communities.

Challenges for local organizations

Along the same lines, a study of the French Development Agency (AFD) titled “The French Foundation and the funding of NGOs in Haiti following the earthquake”, recently demonstrated the existence of an initial solidarity followed by a tension between international and Haitian NGOs. Once the huge wave of solidarity passes, the relations between international and Haitians actors are strained. There is a lack of a space of exchange between national and international NGOs. Moreover, Haitian NGOs rarely had access to direct funding.

The study also highlights that the participation of NGOs in the post-earthquake response has not contributed to strengthen them and many came out weakened from the period of 2010-2014. National NGOs emphasize an evolution to partnerships that restricts them to a subcontractor position unable to progress. Support to the strengthening of Haitian civil society seems to decline both in practice and in principles. The response to the crisis has not helped to bring national NGOs and the State together. The quake exacerbated the competitiveness and hardened the relationship between national NGOs and Haitian state.

The findings in relation to the objectives of the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

These problems observed in Haiti are not totally different from what happens worldwide in the context of humanitarian action. Thus, the report of the Secretary General for the World Humanitarian Summit, Ban Ki-Moon, aims to reform the humanitarian system to follow new methods, to be more effective, to be able to respond to current and future humanitarian crises and to meet the priority needs of millions of people affected.



The Haitian delegation to the World Humanitarian Summit. Photo: OCHA

During the World Humanitarian Summit, national and international humanitarian organizations have pledged to carry out actions that take into account local communities and strengthen their capacities. The recommendations focused on the resilience of communities, with a focus on people with special needs; the promotion of local expertise in the context of emergency preparedness, the engagement of the private sector; the establishment of a more systematic approach focused on gender as a critical component in terms of humanitarian leadership.

It should be noted that efforts are being made to carry out actions supporting the commitments that were made during the summit to address the weaknesses of humanitarian assistance, particularly in Haiti.

The significant increase in product prices have hampered access to food for vulnerable families

The high prices have compromised food access for families affected by the drought. Food items represent up to two thirds of the households' expenses.

According to a report of the National Food Security Coordination (CNSA), food access has critically deteriorated in 2015 due to a significant increase in prices, caused by losses of crops and the depreciation of the gourd against the US dollar.

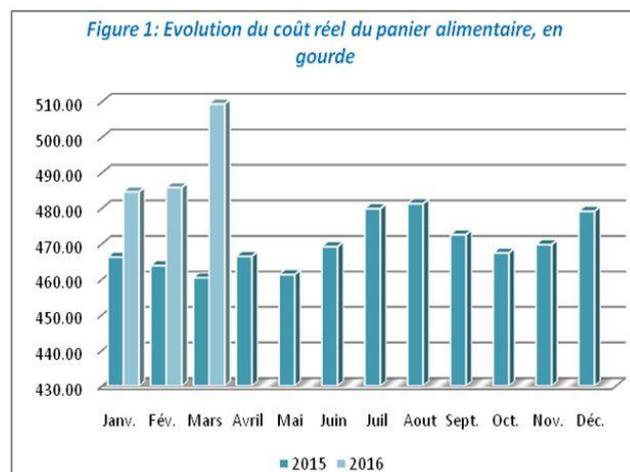
The trend seems to continue in the first quarter of 2016 where the impact of shocks from last year is still felt both on the agricultural sector and on the national macroeconomic environment. On the various markets, the price of imported food and local products continue to increase or remain at a high level.

The nominal cost of the basic food basket increased approximately 16% on average compared to 2015, approximately 9 more points between January-March 2015 and

January-March 2016. Access to food items and other basic services for the vast majority has significantly deteriorated.

State of the availability of food and Recommendations

In order to know the availability of products on the market, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducted jointly with several partners including the CNSA and the Ministry of Agriculture, an assessment "FAO/GIEWS Food Availability and Market Assessment Mission to Haiti" between 12 February and 2 March, 2016. The results of this assessment, show that the production of grains, legumes and starchy roots is estimated to have decreased by 28, 18 and 16 percent respectively compared to 2014. With the sharp decline in domestic production of food crops in 2015, food availability was driven by imports, particularly rice and wheat.



In addition, the weak macroeconomic environment, including a drastic depreciation of the Haitian gourde, high inflation rates and higher budget deficits could make it difficult to maintain current levels of imports in 2016, continues the report. It should be emphasized that high prices have affected the access to food by the most drought-affected households with food purchases representing almost two thirds of consumer spending. To cope with high prices, local people replace these products with roots and tubers.

In terms of recommendations, the report proposes to consider the short and medium term sustained assistance sector, not limited to the most affected areas. The areas that were most impacted by the drought in 2014 and 2015, also tend to have the lowest level of agricultural productivity. In the most affected areas, there should be support for increasing the resilience of agriculture to drought. Other climate actions should also be pursued. While in the most productive areas, assistance should focus on building or reconstructing the agricultural production capacity.

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