

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The Dominican Republic decided to extend for one year the residence permit of Haitian migrants who had been registered as part of the National Program of Regularization of Foreigners (PNRE)
- The food security situation tends to improve in the coming months
- Recent showers occurred during July caused flooding in the municipalities of West department, affecting more than 5,000 families
- Cholera outbreaks recorded in several communes. About 20 municipalities are on red alert

### KEY FIGURES

Number of IDPs in camps Source: DTM, June 2016	61,000
Cumulative cholera cases (17 to 23 July 2016) Source: MSPP	23,072
Fatality cases (17 to 23 July 2016) Source: MSPP	211
Number of people in food insecurity Source: CNSA	3,6M
Number of people in severely food insecurity Source: CNSA	1,5M
Number of children suffering from Global Acute Malnutrition Source: UNICEF	131,405



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## Binational situation: humanitarian actors maintain border response activities

### The situation at the border remains fragile

The authorities of the Dominican Republic (DR) had given the deadline of 18th July for people of Haitian origin, who benefited from a residence permit for one year as part of the National Program of Regularization of Foreigners (PNRE), to regularize their status. To renew this permit, they must pay the equivalent to 300 US dollars and have a valid Haitian passport. With the deadline closing by, it was evident that the majority of the more than 130 thousand people that had initially been registered were not able to regularize their status. Faced with the growing concern of massive return movements towards Haiti, the Dominican authorities have decided for the automatic extension of all temporary residence permits for one year.

Therefore, the movements along the border with DR did not increased substantially as it was feared by the humanitarian actors engaged in the response. However, returns continue at a rate of 600 per month, in average, on all official ports of entry and unofficial monitored by IOM staff and partners, including UN agencies and NGOs. So far, more than 131,000 people, who were interviewed on a voluntary basis, were registered crossing the border towards Haiti.

### There are still protection issues

Despite the absence of a sudden increase in arrivals, the situation of returnees and deportees or continues to present significant protection risks. For example, the number of unaccompanied minors remains worrying. 1,805 allegedly unaccompanied minors were registered since the beginning of the border surveillance in July 2015, until 28 July 2016. In addition, 34.8 percent of the registered returnees are women and girls. Steps have been taken by some partners, such as UNICEF, to accommodate these people at best.



Returnees of Dominican Republic relocated by IOM in Anse a Pitres.  
Photo Credit: OCHA Haiti

The status of returnees and deportees also remains a concern for humanitarian actors. Thus, IOM continues the referrals of those born in the Dominican Republic to UNHCR to

*Despite the absence of a sudden increase in arrivals, the situation of returnees and deportees or continues to present significant protection risks. It is necessary to find durable solutions for these people.*

check their status and to determine whether they are of concern for the mandate of this UN agency. So far, UNHCR has received IOM 6,029 families with one or more persons born in the Dominican Republic and has already conducted the interview and screening of 1,272 families, including 961 families that fall under the mandate of UNHCR.

### **Towards better coordination**

Alongside protection issues, cross-cutting issues (health, immigration, education, economic opportunity) remain along the border and have a significant impact on binational migration crisis. To address them, it is essential to have a better coordination between state actors in both countries, NGOs, UN agencies and civil society. The involvement of the authorities is necessary to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the various state entities and structures at the border.

The consideration of community responses that exist in some areas also need to be capitalized and strengthened. To do this, humanitarian actors are encouraged to support local initiatives that can help to solve these cross-cutting issues, engage people in Haiti with job opportunities and facilitating access to internal documentation (identity card, extract of act of birth).

It is in this context that the United Nations country teams from Dominican Republic and Haiti met in early July 2016 to improve the coordination of their actions on the binational issue. Both teams used the opportunity to find joint solutions to humanitarian issues, protection, land use, health, education and possible barriers to rights of people living in border areas. In addition, they pledged to follow jointly the situation and to organize missions and regular consultations on the issue.

## **Food security: the emergency continues but the response begins to give results**

### **The World Food Programme (WFP) provides the lead of the United Nations system in response to food emergency**

The emergency response to the food crisis, in which Haiti is plunged since 2015, planned for the period of March to September is beginning to show some positive results. The program developed by WFP envisaged benefiting one million people who would receive emergency food assistance through direct distribution, cash for work or food for work activities. Half-way, 24 percent of those in need were already reached, that means 359,000 people on 1.5 million people. This figure represents 28 percent of the target in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 (HRP), which was 1.3 million.

The main needs identified in the HRP were improving access to food for the most vulnerable people living in areas affected by drought, development of urgent actions to support children suffering from acute malnutrition and ensure the recovery local food production in areas affected by drought.

### **A new IPC survey to determine current trends**

Drought, aggravated by the El Niño phenomenon, caused crop losses exceeding 50 percent compared to the average over the last 5 years across the country. Although El Niño is still present, it is on the wane. This suggests there will be more rains, which will contribute to improve the farming conditions. Meanwhile, preliminary nutritional data from the National Coordination of Food Security (CNSA) show a slight improvement in food access.

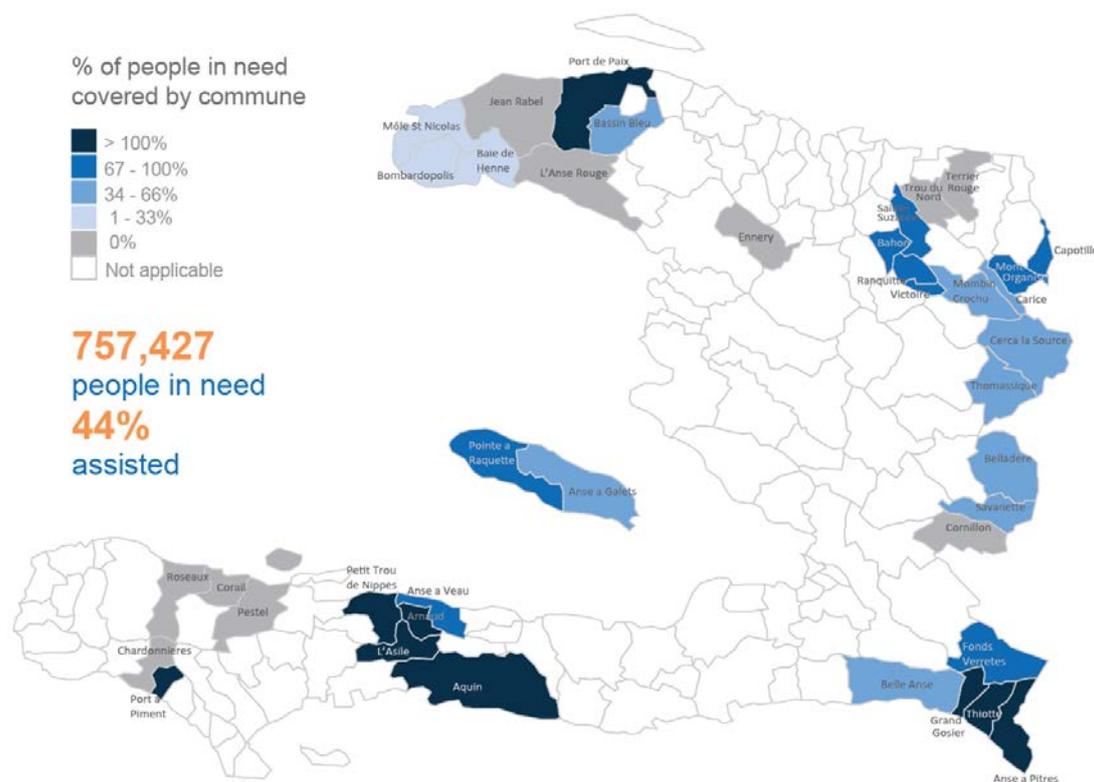
For a better analysis of trends, an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) survey is being finalized by the different stakeholders in food security. As a reminder, the IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity of food insecurity for decision making based on data and evidence available, such as: agricultural production, food availability, drought and rainfall observed, among others.

### **Maintaining support activities for agricultural recovery**

Although a slight improvement is observed, the actors in food security are of the opinion that the humanitarian community must remain cautious. Limited access to agricultural inputs is still a constraint to sustained improvement on food access in the country. Support to farmers for an effective resilience remains valid. FAO estimates that the

situation will not change before the end of the year and recommends continuing the efforts in to recover the means of production so the farmers can rebuild stocks to get out of the crisis they experienced in the last two years.

*A new IPC survey is being finalized by food security stakeholders and should be published in the coming days.*



Drought emergency response in 2016  
Food assistance – July 2016-September 2016.

The context is the same goes for nutrition; it will take a few more months to end up the crisis. Nevertheless, there is a glimmer of hope and a new assessment of the nutritional situation that may help to redirect efforts of the response to the areas that still have more need than others. UNICEF is currently finalizing this assessment on the 23 most affected municipalities and the results will be available soon.

## Sporadic floods recorded particularly in the West

**Recent showers occurred during July caused flooding in the country, particularly in the municipalities of West department, affecting more than 5,000 families, making 5 injured and causing extensive damage in the transport and communication sector**

Three communes of West Department (Carrefour, Delmas and Cité Soleil) were particularly affected. Dozens of houses were also damaged in these municipalities and traffic was almost impossible because of the tons of mud and trickling water that washed into several roads of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince.

Assessments by the Haitian government through communal civil protection committees have highlighted the urgent need for further mitigation work, including cleaning gullies. The Ministry of Public Work (MTPTC) has also made the restoration of circulation, especially at the national road number 2 to Carrefour.

No damage was recorded in livestock areas or at health facilities. However, the humanitarian community recommends continuing awareness activities on good hygiene practices in the context of the fight against the spread of diarrheal diseases. Also, vigilance, preparedness and mitigation activities are recommended to minimize the damage that can be caused by flooding during the hurricane season. At least 12 storms,

including five hurricanes including 2 major, are forecasted for hurricane season 2016, according to forecasts from the University of Colorado in the United States.

The humanitarian community is particularly concerned about the low level of emergency stocks for the hurricane season. It is possible that all strategic emergency stocks may be used early in the rainy season, and it is unlikely they would be quickly replenished. This could lead to critical emergency aid shortages, which would prevent the government and its humanitarian partners to respond effectively to future shocks.

Thus, it is necessary to continue to mobilize resources to replenish the emergency stocks and to continue to support the interventions of Civil Protection (DPC) and the National Risk and Disaster Management System (SNGRD) to reduce disaster risk and strengthening resilience to disasters.

### The community is active on disaster prevention and preparedness

With the start of cyclonic season 2016, the actors are working actively in the prevention of natural disasters and preparation. In this context, multiple events were organized in Haiti during the month of July, including a Workshop by the Ministry of Plan and External Cooperation (MPCE) and UNDP on the resiliency in urban areas. Moreover, Following the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), Action Aid has organized a workshop on the leadership of women on humanitarian emergencies. Also, CPD is a prepaid Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) is meteorological hazards in cooperation with OCHA, ECHO and UNDP--other partners.



Workshop on the leadership of women on humanitarian emergencies.  
Photo Credit: OCHA Haiti

*The humanitarian community is concerned by the insufficient emergency stocks available for the cyclone season.*

## The cholera epidemic resurfaced

### 20 towns on red alert

While the hurricane season has just started, health officials have observed a resurgence of cholera cases in several towns, including in the departments of Artibonite, Center, Nippes, North and West. In a report of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), it is reported that more than 823 alerts were recorded during the week of 17 to 23 July 2016. The document also indicates that about twenty towns are on red alert. The situation is reported to be more critical in the towns of Carrefour (109 cases), Port-au-Prince (83 cases), Tabarre (75 cases), Mirebalais (45 cases) and Verrettes (39 cases). MSPP recommends that the population continue to observe principles of hygiene such as hand washing, the use of treated water and chlorine products to cope with a possible increase in cholera cases during the season hurricanes.

Despite declining financial resources, the agencies of the UN system through the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO / WHO), UNICEF and the Health Boards affected departments strengthen rapid response initiatives to alerts. For example, they have set up sanitary cordons and distributed chlorine products and oral serum in affected communities. Also, they performed community outreach activities and decontamination of houses, dormitories and sanitary blocks.

### Nearly 23 000 cases already registered in 2016

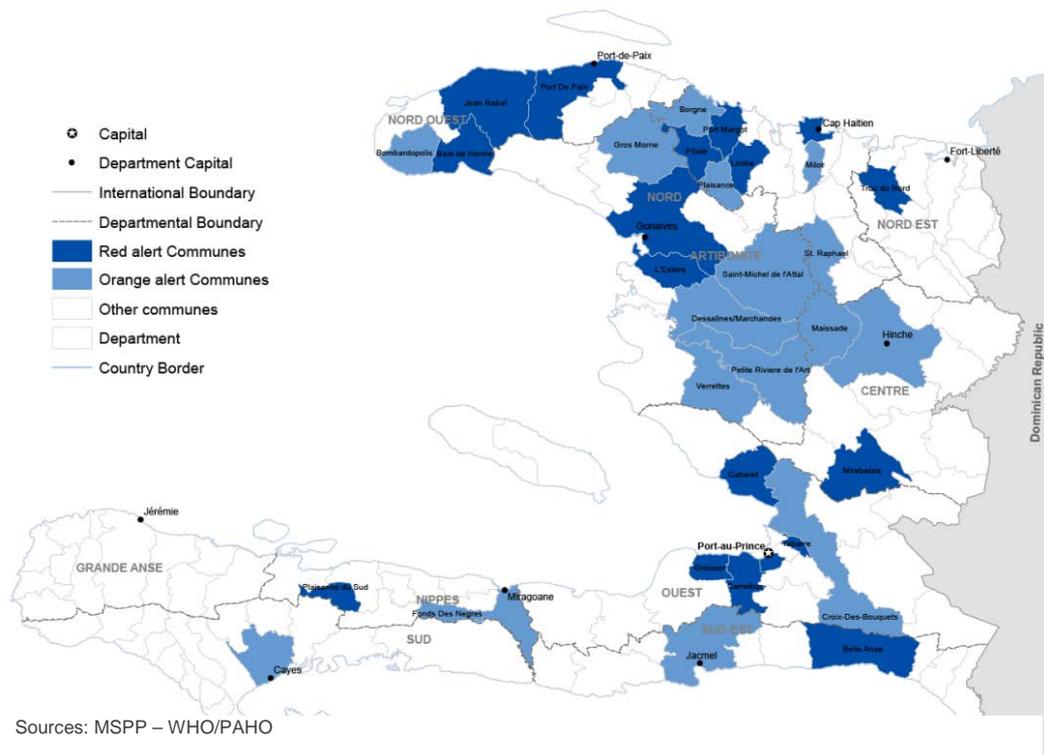
The United Nations family in Haiti has supported the Government of Haiti in mobilizing some \$ 307 million for its national plan to eliminate cholera. Of the 307 million, the UN has directly delivered more than 59 million, of which about 30 million originated from the Central Emergency Recovery Fund (CERF) managed by OCHA. These funds were used to implement 291 quick responses and longer term initiatives to address the root causes of the epidemic. These measures include strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene

facilities, access to quality health services, and capacity building in the preventive health sector.

However, cholera remains a humanitarian issue in Haiti. In 2016, the Ministry of Health reported 23,072 suspected cases of cholera and 211 deaths from 1 January to 23 July. Throughout 2015, the country recorded 36,644 cases and 321 deaths. In the opinion of experts this figure could be exceeded and reach over 45 000 cases until the end of the year if nothing is done to change the situation.

Since the cholera outbreak began in October 2010, more than 776,000 cases and 9,000 deaths were recorded, with more than 350,000 cases being recorded in 2011. These figures indicate that, although the situation remains critical, response efforts have helped to significantly reduce the number of cases compared to the beginning of the epidemic.

*If nothing is done to control the cholera epidemics, the number of cases can surpass 45,000 in 2016, according to specialists.*



## Uniting as One Humanity

Every year, the global community commemorates World Humanitarian Day (WHD) on 19 August to rally support for humanitarian action and to recognize the humanitarians who risk their lives providing assistance to people in need. This year, the United Nations and its partners will come together under the banner of 'One Humanity' and call for global solidarity people world who are affected by conflict and disaster.

The 2016 WHD follows on one of the pivotal moments in the history of humanitarian action: the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul on 23-24 May. The 'One Humanity' campaign will build on this momentum by raising awareness of the Agenda for Humanity and advocating for turning commitments made during the Summit into concrete action.

In Haiti the campaign will be held under the banner of “Yon sèl Ayiti, Yon sèl imanite” and will call attention to the humanitarian issues in the country as well as to the commitments made during the Summit that concern Haiti the most. In the week of 15th to 19th August, MINUSTAH radio will broadcast a series of radio talk shows that will discuss the outcomes of WHS in link with the local context. Meanwhile, a series of web stories about humanitarian actors and beneficiaries will be presented in our social media.



OCHA encourages all partners to share messages on their social media using the hashtag #ShareHumanity in the days before and after the WHD.

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