

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian actors have already started the process of resettlement of returnees from the Dominican Republic. 374 of the 580 families living on six temporary sites have already received their rent subsidy;
- Preparation activities for the next hurricane season are underway : simulation exercises for evacuation and a priority setting workshop took place ;
- Access to clean water and sanitation at the heart of the response to the cholera epidemic;
- The humanitarian community will step up food aid programs to address the most critical and immediate needs of 1 million people affected by drought.

KEY FIGURES

Number of IDPs in camps Source: DTM, January 2016	62,600
Cumulative cholera cases (1st Jan. to 28 February 2016) Source: MSPP	7,782
Fatality cases (1 st Jan. to 28 February 2016) Source: MSPP	96
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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The Binational situation: The relocation of displaced persons in Anse-à-Pitres is underway

About 374 of the 587 families living in six temporary sites have already received their grant for the relocation

Some 2,300 returnees from the Dominican Republic who lived in precarious conditions in six makeshift camps in Anse-a-Pitres have received assistance for their relocation in areas of their choice.

Implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Delegation of the Southeast Department, OCHA and the whole community, this relocation program aims to close the 6 temporary sites where populations returning from the Dominican Republic have settled since July 2015.



One of the families installed in Parc Cado site. Photo credit : OCHA Haiti

This program is inspired on the relocation program of internally displaced people that the IOM developed following the 2010 earthquake. It is executed in accordance with the Government policy to avoid developing sites and camps on Haitian territory for returnees and deported people, without losing sight of the protection and dignity of those affected by the binational mixed migration crisis.

The relocated families will receive assistance to rent for one year a home fulfilling the minimum standards established by IOM in the return location of their choice. The enrollment process and the search of the houses started a few weeks ago and, as of March 31st, 580 families were enrolled. Thus, as of 1 April 2016, IOM has made the payment of relocation fees to 374 families. The rest of families will receive their grants during the month of April. The criteria for the assignment of funds for the relocation are based on the distance from the final destination, size and vulnerability of the family. The relocation operations officially started on 28 March 2016. The 374 families moved to four cities: Anse-à-Pitres, Belle Anse, Fonds des Nègres and Thiotte. Of the 587 families concerned by the program, about 268 families will remain in the town of Anse-a-Pitres and the surrounding area.

Faced with the phenomenon and the risk of emergence of new tents on the sites (Fond Jeannette, Parc Cado 1 and 2), the authorities will conduct awareness sessions on all

In support of the relocation program, the Haitian Red Cross will provide hygiene kits and 2,200 kitchen kits to 200 families still present on the sites of Parc Cado 1 and 2

sites to discourage the construction of new tents and to facilitate the closure of the sites. The landowners will be involved in the post relocation management process.

For the site of Fond Jeannette, 78 families left the site and there are only 3 families remaining to relocate. Of these 78 families, 66 were relocated in the communal sub-section of Bois d'Ormes. This represents a significant population that departmental and local authorities will have to integrate into the community development plans. The Secretary General (SG) of the Southeast delegation, Mr. Frantz Pierre Louis, on behalf of the delegation, appealed to the international to continue providing all kind of support to integrate the new population. Indeed, despite the support of the humanitarian community, the needs are still many in the basic sectors, particularly health, education, water and sanitation and protection. For some government members, the State should also be committed to improve access to these towns, by improving the roads, and deploying qualified personnel to keep social infrastructure, including police, health center, schools, etc.

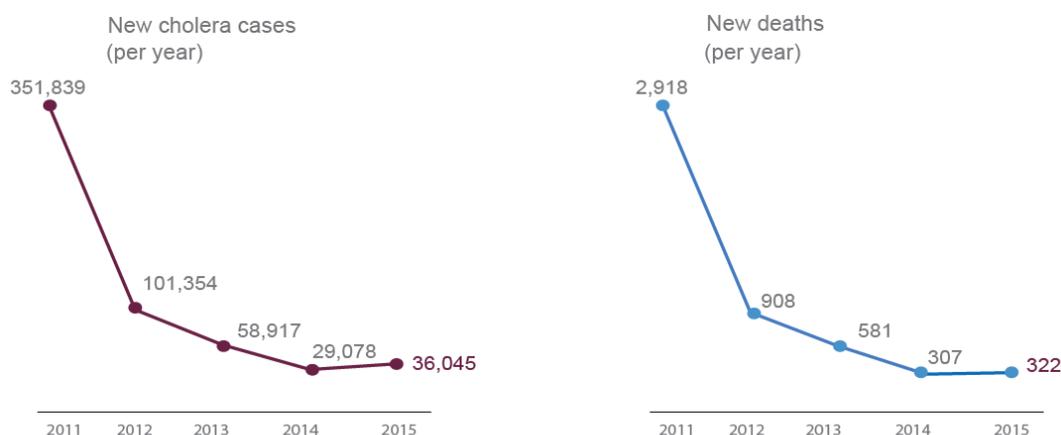
Improving access to clean water and sanitation: a priority in the fight against cholera

42% of Haitians do not have access to clean water and 72% lack adequate sanitation, according to WHO and UNICEF

Cholera and diarrheal diseases propagate easily, when 3 million Haitians drink water from rivers or unprotected sources

Although the number of people affected by the cholera epidemic has declined significantly since the beginning of the epidemic (350,000 cases in 2011 to 36,000 in 2015), the fight against the epidemic is far from being won. In 2015, health authorities reported 36,045 suspected cases of cholera and 322 deaths. PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health and Population estimate that up to 25,000 people could be infected in 2016 requiring the continuity of the response activities.

Number of cholera cases and death
2011 - 2015



Source: Cholera Statistical Profil, March 2016, Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP)

Apart from the strengthening of medical facilities, improving sanitation and drinking water is a priority for the elimination of the epidemic in Haiti. For Example, the recurrent difficulties of access to these services in vulnerable communities contribute to the expansion of the epidemic of cholera and other diarrheal diseases.

The UN in Haiti alerts to the fact that 42% of the Haitian population still lack access to safe drinking water and 7.6 million still have no access to sanitation installations, which are essential for good health and to prevent waterborne diseases.



People living in the camps for displaced live in poor sanitary conditions.
Photo credit: OCHA Haiti

Furthermore, the universal access to drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental right according to the United Nations General Assembly since 2010 and is a priority of the agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, in particular as reflected in the SDG number 6 "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all". In this regard, the United Nations estimates that it is essential to continue to support Haiti in its efforts to increase access to clean water and sanitation, especially for women, children, people living

in IDP camps and in remote areas, and those returned / deported from the Dominican Republic.

The United Nations continues to implement activities in support to the government, to ensure a rapid and effective response to the cholera outbreak by improving access to WASH and health services. Over USD \$ 20 million are required to take action in this direction as indicated in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in 2016.

However, DINEPA believes that the country will have to mobilize between US \$ 800 to 900 million to meet the demand of drinking water by the population. Currently, the public institution can only offer 100,000 m³ of water from the 300,000 m³ needed (3 times lower than the demand). In this sense, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has a budget of US \$ 160 million to support the government's efforts to improve access to clean water.

Humanitarian actors intensify the preparation efforts for the next hurricane season

The Civil Protection Directorate evaluates the actions carried out in 2015 to better guide the response in 2016

Actors shall remain vigilant, enhance the prevention activities and reinforce the awareness among people living in the areas most at risk.

While the hurricane season will officially begin on June 1, the Haitian government and its partners already started preparedness activities. Thus, the Civil Protection Directorate (DPC), the government body that coordinates preparedness activities, organized two workshops to assess the actions carried out during the previous season and one workshop to define priority actions to reduce the number of potential victims in the 2016 hurricane season.

Indeed, the hurricane season 2015, alike the two (2) previous two ones, was not a very active season. The only hurricane that crossed the Caribbean, ERIKA, in the end of August, did not hit Haiti directly. At the time, the DPC reported one death, one missing and two injured, all registered in the West Department.

National authorities estimate that 500,000 people are still highly vulnerable to climate hazards (particularly cyclones, hurricanes and floods) and could be affected during the cyclone season of 2016. Thereby, with the support of international partners, the civil protection directorate (DPC) continues to implement actions to reduce the vulnerability of communities. These actions include updating contingency plans, conducting public awareness actions, strengthening the early warning system and training brigadiers.

Community resilience: an essential step for disaster risk preparedness and management

For instance, the Tabarre municipal Committee for Civil Protection (CCPC), with the support of the NGO Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), completed on March 16 a workshop entitled "Sharing experiences on the implementation of evacuation exercises at

community level and multi-hazard ". The objective of this workshop was to allow CCPC and COOPI to improve the implementation of multi-hazard drills at the community level by sharing their experiences and having constructive debates with participating organizations.

During the exchanges, stakeholders noted that the implementation of drills is a mean to verify multiple dynamics: the participation and behavior of vulnerable populations; the relationship among communities, CIS (Community Response Teams) and CLPCs (local Civil Protection Committee); the ability of members of the EIC, the CLCS and the NCCC and local stakeholders to coordinate; and the capacity of communities to take initiatives (e.g. EIC Carradeux developed a play in the field of disaster risk reduction).



Participants prepare to start the simulation for evacuation. Photo: COOPI

The evacuation exercise conducted in the municipality of Tabarre fall within the scope of the Operational Plan of Civil Protection in Haiti for 2014/2015. The exercise was funded by OFDA / USAID and ECHO in the context of the projects "Strengthening the physical and social capital in neighborhoods for disaster preparedness, emergency response capability and preventive management of the territory of Port-au-Prince" and "Strengthening preparedness capacities, mitigation and response to disasters", respectively.

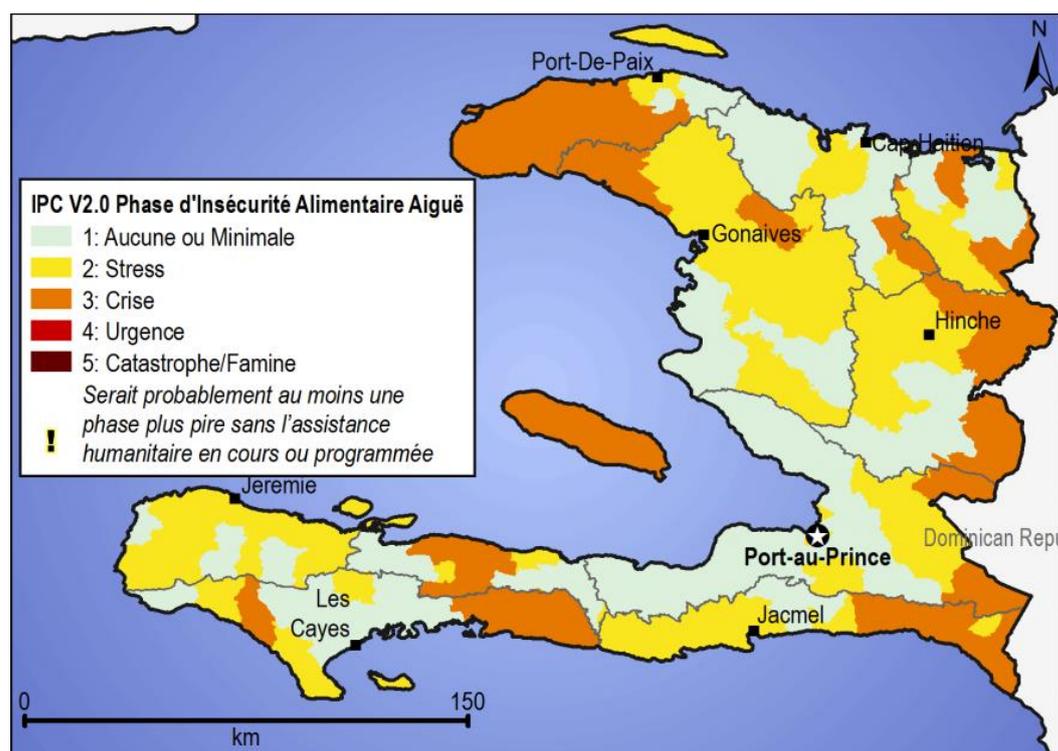
It was an opportunity for the community to participate in an evacuation drill in case of cyclone at Sainte-Philomène (next to the Grise River), a community highly vulnerable to floods. The participants expressed their interest in becoming familiar with the types of alerts, developing a family emergency plan, preparing an emergency kit and understanding their own vulnerabilities and tools to enhance the response in case of emergency.

Humanitarian partners are working hard to mitigate the consequences of the drought that is hitting the vulnerable populations

The increase in prices of essential commodities has increased the vulnerability of poor people already affected by drought .

According to a recent study by the Haitian government and the World Food Programme (WFP), the number of people in food insecurity situation in the country has doubled in less than 6 months totaling 1.5 million. The spring harvest of 2015 resulted in up to 70 per cent loss in some areas. Add to this the increase in the consumer price index (CPI). According to the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Informatics, in the month of February 2016 the index raised to 258.7, against 255.5 in January. This represents a monthly increase of 1.3% and an annual inflation of 14.4% against 1.1% and 13.3% in the previous month, respectively. The rubric "food, drinks and tobacco" for local products rose from 281.3 to 284.7. All this contributes to deepen the vulnerability of people and especially farmers.

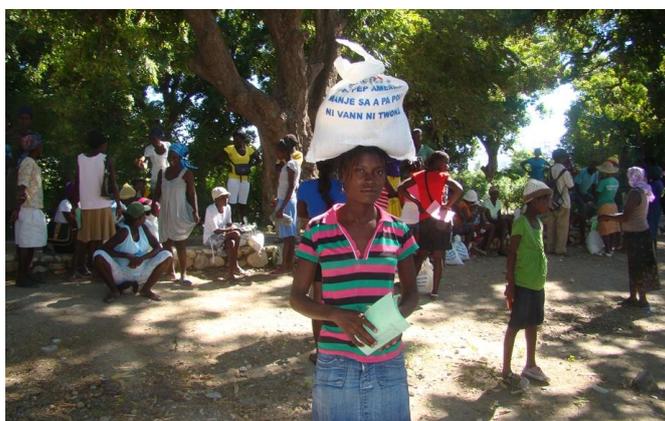
Based on the results of a recent study, WFP will increase its food aid programs to address the most critical and immediate needs of 1 million people, from de 1.5 million affected by drought. The WFP operation will follow the two-step approach proposed by the government in response to drought. The first phase of emergency response will happen during the lean period, between April and June, when cash transfers to the most affected populations is planned. For the second phase of the response that will run from July to September, WFP and partners will focus on creating assets for the conservation of watersheds and agricultural production through cash for work programs.



Map of current results of food security, February 2016. Source: FEWS NET

In addition, WFP will provide food support to nearly 500 000 children under its school feeding program in areas particularly affected by the drought. WFP assistance to families is essential, at least until the next harvest, expected in July 2016.

According to the latest Food Security Outlook from FEWS Net, development projects, such as Feed the Future Haiti in the West department, RESEPAG (Strengthening Agricultural Public Services) and AVANSE (Support for the Popularization of Agricultural Potential of the North for the Economic and Environmental Security) in the North department, continue to provide services to farmers in their respective areas of intervention. However, the possible cancellation of the PetroCaribe agreement could have a negative impact on the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR), which is responsible for the implementation of this program. The document also points out that the amount of chemical fertilizers available to date for the spring campaign is about 5 500 tons against approximately 30 000 tons normally available.



As part of the project "Kore Lavi", WFP, CARE, ACF and the Government of Haiti have targeted the most vulnerable households. More than 18,000 households have access to monthly food stamps. Photo credit: WFP / Elio Rujano

The same report indicates that FAO will intervene in ten municipalities from three different departments. Some 13 000 households will benefit from distribution of seeds tolerant to drought for the spring campaign, which starts in March / April. These beneficiaries will receive 58.5 tons of beans, 36.5 tons of pigeon peas, 30 tons of strain peas, dwarf variety, 6 750 000 potato cuttings and 3.9 million cassava cuttings. Given the scarcity and high cost of seeds in the distribution areas, the

availability of seeds from the start of the season will allow beneficiaries to start the spring campaign with less stress. In the southern town of Aquin, in the south, AVSI, an Italian NGO, will assist 2,300 rural households with agricultural inputs and access to drinking

water for 16 months, with funds received from ECHO. A “Cash for work” program will also be executed in this town.

The increase in the number of beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance programs in progress, like "Kore Lavi", contributes to improving the food security of recipient households in the Central Plateau, the Southeast and the Northwest. International organizations are taking steps to initiate new interventions and to strengthen the ones that are already ongoing. All these measures combined would help to improve the nutritional status and livelihoods of beneficiary households in the affected areas of South, Southeast, the Central Plateau and Northwest.

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