



**HAITI:
SITUATION REPORT # 26
Tropical Storm Hanna, Gustav, Ike update
28 October 2008**

OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

Urgent action is required to respond to the "worst disaster in the last 100 years" to strike Haiti, said the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, warning that aid agencies remain far short of the millions they need to help the country recover from four hurricanes.

Mr. Holmes described the situation in Gonaives as "dramatic and grim". Water had receded from most of the city, but people still had to deal with large amounts of mud. The main streets had been cleared, but thousands of people were still in shelters, mainly schools. The conditions in those shelters were not good. People were returning to the city, but could not live in their houses.

He said that of the initial Flash Appeal of \$107 million USD, 40 per cent had been pledged. That is not enough. A revised appeal would be submitted in the coming weeks, and a post-disaster needs assessment was underway. The most urgent needs at the moment are food, clean water and sanitation, and shelters. Because local authorities were anxious to reopen the schools, people sheltered there should be moved elsewhere. The response in medical care had been reasonably good, and there had not been any epidemics, he added.

Mr. Holmes said that an additional allocation from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) would be released for Haiti on top of the \$5.1 million USD allocated over a month ago, bringing CERF funding to \$9 million USD.

The hurricanes in Haiti had provided a clear "disaster risk reduction message", Mr. Holmes said, stressing the need for an early warning system, watershed management, reinforcement of river banks and reforestation. One should also look at relocating those people who lived below sea level in Gonaives. All of that would necessitate hundreds of millions of dollars, but such a major investment would be worthwhile, as it would reduce the need for money in future disasters. Such an injection of money for labor-intensive projects would also boost Haiti's economy and prevent the country from sliding further into poverty.

Update on relief efforts:

Shelter and Non-Food Items: As pressure mounts for re-opening of schools in Gonaives, a rapid assessment has taken place in schools being used as shelters, to assess the shelter needs of the displaced. A distribution of shelter repair kits is planned to take place.

Agriculture: The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has announced an agreement to provide Haiti with a \$10 million USD package to help boost the country's agricultural sector, whose harvest was decimated by the recent hurricanes.

Food: WFP has distributed over one million food rations to 572,119 direct beneficiaries affected by the disaster in nine departments of the country. WFP continues to airlift food commodities with its three helicopters to beneficiaries in locations inaccessible by road.

Logistics: The Norwegian Red Cross has donated 6x6 trucks to WFP to strengthen its logistic capacity in the country. A total of 23 trucks have reached Port-au-Prince and some 23 additional trucks are expected to arrive soon. The deployment of these trucks will increase WFP transport capacity tremendously.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Shelter situation in Gonaives

As pressure mounts for re-opening of schools, more families are being evicted from school structures that are being used as shelters and in some places, displaced are becoming the target of attacks from angry students.

A quick assessment was conducted over the weekend by the Gonaives Shelter Cluster members (Oxfam, Care, Save the Children, AMURT, HRC, OCHA and IOM) in schools that are being used as shelters in order to determine the shelter needs of the displaced who are being pressurized to leave the shelters. Results are being processed and will be made available to all those concerned as soon as possible.

Distribution of shelter repair kits

Based on assessment results (see above), there is a planned distribution of shelter repair kits to families whose houses have been damaged and are able to return to their locality of origin. IOM will be sending an initial number of 3,000 shelter kits and the IFRC/French Red Cross will be provided 500 shelter kits. UNFPA will also provide hygiene kits to targeted beneficiaries (number to be confirmed). The distribution plan is being finalized by the Shelter Cluster and with authorities.

TRANSITIONAL SHELTER – RELOCATION SITE

Praville Camp

IOM and CARE has been conducting renovation works at the Praville camp to increase the space area between tents and to build a cooking area.

Other possible sites identified for possible relocation of displaced families

1. The site of the Marché Biennac which could accommodate 50 families.
2. The site located near the high school Bicentenaire (a visit is needed to assess the area).
3. The site of the Hatte-Rocher (25ha), which is located near the new port.

Authorities are in the process of sorting out ownership issues and according to the DPC, the decision to use the land must be taken at the COUD level.

The Civil Protection has informed that all management issues linked to the setting up of transitional shelter sites will be administered by the Civil Protection and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Creation of shelter technical groups

In order to address shelter needs across affected areas, the Shelter Cluster partners have decided to set up two technical groups: one specific to Gonaives and one for the rest of the country based in Port-au-Prince. The purpose of the technical groups is to review lessons learned from past hurricane seasons in Haiti and from the experiences of emergency actors gained in other countries, in order to set standardized guidance for the shelter assistance package. The first meeting of the Port-au-Prince technical group will take place on Monday, 3 November at 9:00 am at the IOM office.

Representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNFPA, CWWH, Handicap International, IFRC, IOM and the Protection Cluster will be present. The Shelter Cluster invites other organizations with technical shelter expertise to participate in this working group.

Field visits in South and South East

According to the Shelter Cluster Environment Advisor, more damage appears to have occurred in the South-East than in the South region - this correlates with the Civil Protection's information on damaged and destroyed houses. In the South, around les Cayes, Les Anglais and Cavaillon, wind resulted in no or minimal damage to roofs. Observed damage to shelters is localized and mostly near rivers due to flooding. Most flood damage sites are at high risk of recurrence. If housing sites cannot be moved, then warning and evacuation plans and procedures are needed. In the South-

East, it seems that the damage to shelters is mostly a combination of wind and flooding. Local capacity exists: the HRC, UNFPA, IOM/GRAP/BND/GARR/Concern have already distributed NFIs while PADF and Plan International are planning to distribute hygiene and cooking kits.

AGRICULTURE

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has announced an agreement to provide Haiti with a \$10 million USD package to help boost the country's agricultural sector, whose harvest was decimated by the recent hurricanes.

Haiti is facing the double challenge of recovering from the series of hurricanes, which left an estimated \$500 million USD in losses, and feeding its people who were already facing food shortages before the latest natural disasters hit the country, according to an FAO press release.

An average 18 per cent annual increase in food prices over each of the past four years – affecting staples such as rice, maize, beans and oil – has resulted in widespread hunger and economic crises, as well as social and political unrest.

FAO has agreed on a rescue package with the Government to boost farming output in the current and upcoming agricultural season by supporting hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers – 80 per cent of the agricultural workforce – many of whom are severely under-nourished.

More than 240,000 farmers will receive an agricultural parcel consisting of vegetable seeds, cereal seeds, manioc, sweet potato and banana plants among other planting inputs.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN agency dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries, is funding the \$10.2 million USD agreement as part of FAO's recently established Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP).

FOOD

As of 27 October, WFP has distributed 5,804 metric tons of food items to 572,119 direct beneficiaries. This includes 3,687 metric tons of food assistance to Gonaives, which corresponds to 707,086 fortnightly rations distributed to 266,670 beneficiaries.

The Norwegian Red Cross has donated 6x6 trucks to WFP to strengthen its logistic capacity in the country. A total of 23 trucks have reached Port-au-Prince and some 23 additional trucks are expected to arrive soon. The deployment of these trucks will increase WFP transport capacity tremendously as currently the fleet consists of only fifteen 6x6 trucks. Following an enhanced transport capacity, WFP will set up four maintenance centers for trucks in Cap-Haitian, Gonaives, Jacmel and Les Cayes in addition to the operational workshop located in Port-au-Prince.

On 25 and 27 October, Caritas distributed some 88.6 metric tons of food in the communities of Passereine and Savanne Carree in Ennery, two communes located outside Gonaives.

On 25 October, some 6,000 new beneficiaries received food assistance in La Montagne and Marbial, in the South-East. Additionally, food distributions were also carried out in Bainet. Some 24,350 metric tons of food assistance were distributed by CROSE to 11,000 beneficiaries in the above-mentioned localities.

Also on 25 October, some 22 metric tons of food was distributed to beneficiaries in Passe Catabois, in the North-West department, by WFP partner Union des Eglises Baptistes d'Haiti (UEBH).

On 28 October, WFP delivered 7MT food assistance to Ile de la Torture where a total of some 39MT have been airlifted. Distributions in collaboration with Caritas are being organized for this week.

In addition, WFP continued to airlift food assistance to l'Asile and Plaisance today for distributions to targeted beneficiaries with WFP staff to coordinate with partner and local authorities.

Distributions of some 13MT of food assistance to 2,500 beneficiaries were carried out by CROSE today in the community of Troumaro in Bainet. CROSE is WFP's major partner in the department of Sud-est.

Furthermore, additional 500 beneficiaries received 1.5MT of food assistance in Passe Catabois, distributed by UEBH.

WFP-contracted CITA II vessel left Port-au-Prince on 26 October with a cargo of 113 metric tons towards the southern coast. Food commodities were dispatched along the coast to Tiburon, Les Anglais, Port a Piment, Chardonnières, Coteaux and Roche a Bateaux and distributions to targeted beneficiaries will be carried out by Caritas. Nevertheless, due to bad weather conditions will accost only on 29 October.

WFP continues its helicopter assistance to inaccessible areas, such as the island Ile de la Tortue located in the North-West department. Staff participated in airlifts and coordination of future distributions with partners and local authorities. Several helicopter rotations were carried out to Ile de la Tortue, Seguin and Plaisance.

Gonaives

The data analysis following the rapid family census exercise has been completed. The census was carried out by WFP, Direction de Protection Civile, community leaders and partner NGOs. Final results are shown below:

Total Gonaives Population:	294,881
Pregnant women:	10,178
Under five children:	59,357
Under eighteen:	119,358
Total of families:	69,639
Houses visited:	26,731
Families of 1 person:	5,988
Families of 2 persons:	11,318
Families of 3 persons:	14,118
Families of 4 persons:	12,567
Families of 5 persons and more:	25,648

The total number of families in Gonaives (69,639) is being used to issue new WFP ration cards. Current distributions of food rations are done against the ration cards.

The first large scale distribution of 103MT of food commodities using the new rations cards was carried out today in collaboration with CARE to some 17,250 beneficiaries in the community of Trou Coulevre.

To date, WFP has distributed some 3,790MT of food assistance to Gonaives.

LOGISTICS/EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A meeting was held with an important vehicle hire company, which resulted in obtaining uniform prices for United Nations agencies and NGOs who rent vehicles over the coming three months.

A partnership with Handicap International – Atlas Logistique is being finalized for the management of a float of 6 x 6 lorries. This collaboration with WFP will start on 1 November 2008 for six months. The lorries will be available for the inter-agency service and will be based in five zones: Les Cayes, PAP, Gonaives, Cap Haitian and Jacmel. Operations can take place within a 60 km radius.

Road conditions continue to improve, although the Logistics Cluster remains available to provide transport to isolated areas and for cargo which is urgent or fragile. An evaluation of logistics capacities has restarted with data collection on the port and a fuel provider possessing 6 x 6 lorries. As a result, the customs dossier has been identified as a priority.

The Logistics Cluster is no longer represented in Gonaives and requests its partners to find a focal point to ensure inter-agency liaison.

Sea transport

The CITA II (unloading barge of 150 metric tons) continues its trips to Nippes and the South. The ship MV Grace (650 metric tons) will serve Gonaives for the next two weeks.

Air transport

Three helicopters continue their service until 20 November. MINUSTAH can progressively assist with air service to those destinations traditionally served.

One daily passenger flight to Gonaives at 14 h, returns at 15 h. Plus special flights.

Road transport

The map/road condition services have been taken over by the National Center of Geo Spatial Information (CNIGS Haiti). The partnership with CNIGS covers data exchange and updating of the road conditions map for the rest of the cyclone period. For development of any specific products, the contact at CNIGS is: Boby Emmanuel PIARD, Tel. 3455-3761 Email: bepiard@yahoo.fr

Partners are still requested, however, to inform the Logistics Cluster of changing road conditions.

Roads conditions update

- SOUTH: The road from Port Salut to Les Anglais is accessible for all vehicles;
- SOUTH: The road between Tiburon and Les Anglais is still inaccessible;
- NIPPES: Anse a Veau : access is still very difficult although some vehicles have passed;
- NIPPES: The bypass from Miragoane is accessible but traffic can be blocked for 2-3 hours;
- NIPPES: Miragoane - Cote de Fer by Fonds des Blancs is accessible for all vehicles;
- NIPPES: The road between Gris-Gris and Petit-Goave passing by Boucan Belier is accessible;
- SOUTH-EAST: Road between Marigot and Belle Anse passing by Seguin is not accessible;
- WEST: Road between PAP and Jimani is flooded at Malpasse;
- NORTH: Road between Cap Haitian and Pignon is accessible for all vehicles;
- NORTH-WEST: Jean Rabel and Anse Rouge are accessible.

Latest updates relating to ICT in Haiti are now published on Logistics Cluster website with a special folder for the Inter-Agency Emergency Telecommunications (IAET). The link is:

<http://www.logcluster.org/ht08a/iaet-telecom>

The ICT cluster inter-agency cyber cafe remains in the MINUSTAH compound in Gonaives and will be open for the next three months, at least up to mid-January 2009. A radio room has been installed at the port with the possibility of a common channel if requested by partners in the field.

II. COORDINATION/ASSESSMENTS

PROTECTION

The Senior Protection Officer is to coordinate the Protection Cluster until the end of December 2008. She is based in the OCHA office but has an inter-agency mandate to strengthen the cluster in collaboration with all partners. She will work closely with UNICEF and MINUSTAH's Human Rights section in the management and organization of the clusters in Port-au-Prince and Gonaives and to develop a medium and long-term Protection Strategy for Haiti.

A member of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group in Geneva, is currently in Haiti with UNFPA and will participate in the next Protection Cluster meeting on 29 October to exchange ideas with cluster members.

A meeting of the Protection Cluster was held in Port-au-Prince on 22 October. Until now, the Protection Cluster concentrated especially on the protection of women and children in a vulnerable situation after the storms. Questions of gender-based violence as well as the needs of displaced persons and handicapped persons were also addressed.

However, it is also necessary to address other Protection issues such as legal protection against violence and abuse, the rights of the host community, ownership and land rights, rights to documentation, returning assistance for the displaced population as well as legal and economic support.

According to the definition adopted by the IASC in 1999, Protection is described as "all activities which aim to obtain complete respect for the rights of individuals as expressed in human rights, in humanitarian law and in refugee law". Protection is the sector which addresses all aspects of rights in a humanitarian situation and must maintain close links with all the other sectors.

An inventory of Protection problems in the hurricane-affected areas of Haiti has been established by the cluster. There are numerous problems and the solutions must be developed in a coordinated way. The Protection Cluster must reinforce its links with the other clusters in order to obtain more information and to influence decisions. A first draft of the cluster strategy has been developed. There is a need to make on-the-ground protection actions more concrete.

The Protection issues have been identified as follows:

- The situation of children in institutions or centers.
- The situation of children in shelters, programs for child friendly spaces and the need for parental support.
- Expulsions of the displaced from schools, churches and other public sites. Problems with the proposal to increase the number of tents and also the need to improve the situation in the shelters which remain open. The possibility of importing prefabricated houses.
- Reports of sexual violence in shelters, "sex for food" and other forms of exploitation. Increase in domestic violence and training of a subgroup coordinated by UNFPA to collect and analyze information from medical NGOs and others.
- Reports of violence caused by problems linked to the distribution of humanitarian assistance.
- The situation of vulnerable groups, such as handicapped persons.
- Possibility of problems after floods with the loss of identity cards and land conflicts.
- Problems with the unequal distribution of humanitarian assistance and the need to obtain concrete reports.
- Shelter management. The need to establish different responsibilities, the need for continuous monitoring and the development of common tools.
- The absence of a complete registration in shelters. The difference between official and non official shelters. The absence of concrete information on the situation of displaced who have left the shelters, voluntarily or by force.
- Legal and judicial problems in general, which are aggravated by natural disaster.
- The rights of prisoners particularly in the affected zones.
- Weak participation and consultation of the affected population in the management of their displacement and return.
- Lack of a budget allocation for the Ministry of Social Affairs. An advocacy letter has been written by the Protection sector and is being validated by the Humanitarian Coordinator with the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation.

PROTECTION: Gonaives

A meeting of the Protection Cluster was held in Gonaives on 23 October. Issues related to shelters were discussed and the actions to be taken were identified.

It is important for the Protection Cluster to monitor expulsions from shelters and to report on any violations that may take place. The sector will keep in close contact with the Shelter Cluster and the Coordinator will develop a form for reporting and monitoring of violations and abuse. Such a form already exists for registration of cases of violence.

Medecins du Monde (MdM) has reported an increase in domestic violence in shelters, particularly at Praville. Some children who were beaten by their parents were referred to MdM

for medical treatment. This violence is due to lack of services, activities and general organization of the shelters. Some situations of violence were reported during last week's distribution of mosquito nets by PAHO/WHO.

A lot of partners already implement programs aimed at reducing violence in the shelters, such as providing psychosocial assistance: MDM, MSF; child-friendly spaces: Save the Children; improving parenting skills: UNICEF and CARE; and improving shelter management: Shelter Cluster. It was agreed to contact the Haitian National Police to obtain more information on their capacity to monitor. More information should be provided to beneficiaries regarding the organization of distributions and their participation should be sought in order to reduce the risk of violence.

There was no information regarding cases of rape or sexual violence, however the members of the sexual violence sub-cluster have developed a form for reporting any such cases. A nurse from UNFPA will visit the shelters during a 10 day period, and members agreed that it is necessary to maintain a medical presence in shelters. The cluster will continue to monitor violations including "sex for food" reports and other forms of exploitation.

It was agreed that ICRC would obtain further information on the number of missing persons in Gonaives, and that human rights NGOs be contacted to provide judicial assistance to families of missing persons.

Regarding lost identity cards, birth certificates and land title documents, more information on the extent of this problem is being collected as part of the current IOM shelter survey. It was agreed to undertake advocacy with local and national authorities to facilitate the procedures for replacing lost identity cards and other documentation.

Inputs for the situation report can be sent to:

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For further information, please contact:

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Reports and maps about the situation in Haiti can be found on <http://ochaonline.un.org/haiti>
http://www.mapaction.org/component/option,com_docman/task,cat_view/gid,164/Itemid,53/

Regular updates on Road transport, Road Conditions as well as Road Condition Matrix can be found at <http://www.logcluster.org/ht08a/road-transport/roads-condition-map>