

*This report was issued by OCHA Haiti. The next report will be issued on or around 8 November.*

## I HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The DPC reports, 6 deaths and over 18,000 people evacuated their homes preemptively, including over 14,000 people who evacuated to hurricane shelters as of yesterday evening.
- Initial assessments suggest the agriculture sector is the most aggressively affected by Hurricane Tomas, with flooded fields, loss of livestock and crops.
- Populations evacuated to safer shelters or temporary shelters are reportedly returning to their homes.
- With flooding and population movement in many areas across increased cases of cholera remains a key concern of the humanitarian community.

## II. Situation Overview

According to the DPC, Hurricane Tomas left 8 people dead while more than 16,000 people voluntarily evacuated from their homes in anticipation of flooding. They report that of the number of evacuees, 12,291 sought refuge in temporary shelters such as schools, churches and public buildings. The humanitarian community in support of and conjunction with the DPC responded to the needs of the evacuees, responding to needs for food and non-food-items (NFIs) like blankets and hygiene kits.

To assess the impact of Tomas, two UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams and inter-agency missions were carried out this morning, one in the north of the country and another in the southern regions. The teams report that the damage to houses and communities is less than anticipated, with few instances of serious flooding and few roads blocked. Overall, the humanitarian response to Hurricane Tomas will not be considerable.

In both the north and south agricultural sectors are most affected with a number of reports of loss of livestock, crops and flooding of farmland. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has agreed to take over further assessments from Monday 8 November. Initial assessments suggest that banana, coconut, corn and yam production has been severely affected in areas hardest hit by the storm.

Another key concern is the spread of water-borne illness like cholera. WASH and health clusters and partners have been asked to respond

In Port-au-Prince, despite heavy rain no initial damage has been reported as of this morning. The IFRC deployed rapid assessment teams in a number of camps today and found most sites functioning as “normal”, though the camp at Rue de Rouge Tabarre 25c, where the DPC moved 184 people into a hurricane shelter yesterday remains flooded.

In Jacmel two deaths were reported and comprehensive inter-agency assessments are underway along with the DPC. Local authorities have asked to slow assistance distributions and allow the situation to return to normal and for those staying in schools as shelters return to their homes.

In and around Léogane, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)/Red Cross Movement report minor floods in Bassau, Beaussejour, Deslandes, Tamarin, Ça Ira, Binot and Fond D’oie. Agricultural damages were noted by the assessment teams. Due to the heavy rains yesterday in Léogane, the centre of the town is partially flooded. This morning, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster and partners went out to assess the situation in Léogane and Gressier, mainly to visit the IDP camps. Reports from yesterday that 15 IDP camps in Léogane were completely flooded. MINUSTAH started mitigation on the banks of the Rouyome River early this morning after they received 10,000 empty sand bags last night. In Gressier, according to the DPC, Morne a Bateau, Fayette and Mariani were seriously affected.

In Grand/Petit Goave the situation is back to normal according to the MINUSTAH and the IFRC. They are reportedly on high alert for cholera. Local authorities requested that assistance to evacuees be reduced in order to encourage people. In Grand Anse and South departments inter-agency assessments were conducted today and results will be communicated tomorrow or Monday.

### **III. Humanitarian Needs and Response-Hurricane Tomas**

#### **Shelter**

The shelter cluster reports 45 houses have been destroyed and 1,200 damaged; of which 484 were emergency shelters. The cluster plans to distribute emergency shelter material to those with lost or damaged shelter. Assessments continue tomorrow with a more detailed update on Monday. For more information tomorrow please contact: [Shelterhaiti2010comms@gmail.com](mailto:Shelterhaiti2010comms@gmail.com).

#### **Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM)**

CCCM continued to respond today to needs in camps today. In the West department, no major issues have been reported to the CCCM call centre which received information on assessments carried out in 43 camps. Early today, all IDPs that were evacuated from Corail and temporarily sent to safer sites in Croix-des-Bouquets have returned voluntarily to Camp Corail. Even though many IDPs returned by their own means, CCCM partners provided transportation to facilitate the return of the families evacuated. All IDPs, approximately 850 mainly women and children, evacuated with the assistance of CMOs from Camp Marassa, 14 have already returned to the camp. In camps many camps affected the situation has returned to normal.

There was no major issues reported either in 11 camps assessed in Port-au-Prince and in the 57 Camps assessed in Delmas. In Petionville medical case has been reported and IOM's Health Unit is already coordinating the assistance. In Cite Soleil, the CCCM Call Centre which received information on assessments carried out in 17 camps, reported problems of flooding in all the camps. IRC reports minor flooding in some camps of 13 sites of Tabarre.

A total of 260 evacuees from Kan Moafer, Camp Croix des Missions de Duperval and entre de Affuge Butte Boyer were hosted in three shelters. Other people came to the shelters by themselves, which brought the total number of people in the three shelters to 529. IOM provided mattresses, food, water, flashlights.

In the 40 camps assessed in Carrefour, the situation has been reported as normal, as is the situation in 19 assessed camps in Jacmel. The overall impact of the cyclone has been minimal to moderate in certain sites (mainly shelter problems). No major problem has been reported either in Petit Goave and Grand Goave and support is being provided to the affected sites as needed. According to CCCM the impact of the cyclone was not major in Léogane and support is also being provided to the affected sites as needed.

#### **Health**

As the storm has caused flooding and movement of population in many areas across the country, increased cases of cholera remains a key concern of the humanitarian community, which will continue to focus its efforts on this crisis.

Patients evacuated from hospitals have returned to Les Cayes Hospital in the South department, the Hinche Hospital in Centre department and the Rabotteau Hospital in Artibonite. A team from PAHO/WHO has been deployed to Port-au-Prince to support the PROMESS medical warehouse in distributing supplies to hospitals and organizations, in coordination with the DPC. According to a coordination meeting held this morning in Petit Goave, in the West department, it is recommended, that partners take extra measures to prevent the spread of water borne diseases. Multi-sectored assessments will start on 8 Monday.

#### **Education**

The Ministry of Education (MENFP) closed schools for two days on 7- 8 November 2010 to protect children from the approaching hurricane and prevent the separation of children from their families. The message given by the education cluster for the Ministry and all partners was to store all school materials (archives, teaching

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materials, and manuals) safely; urge children to seek shelter in protected areas; monitor weather developments; take down provisory school tents; reinforce doors and windows in permanent schools; and continue the promotion of hygiene practices. At the national level, the Education cluster has reaffirmed to both the DPC and MENFP and other clusters that using schools as a shelter should be taken as a last option and an exit strategy should be in place to ensure that schools are freed when education activities resume.

The education cluster is in the process of collecting the information on the schools damaged and occupied by the IDPs. To date, the numbers of occupied schools confirmed by the partners are: Léogane (7), Jacmel (1), Petit Goave (1), Les Cayes (6), Grand Anse and Jérémie (20), Croix-Des-Bouquets (2), Tabarre (1), and Gonaïves (1). More details from be shared Monday. More detailed joint-needs assessments are being planned with other Clusters for the period of one week starting 7 November.

### **Gaps and Constraints**

There was a lack of specific and precise information on affected schools in the joint rapid assessment which took place today. The evacuation of IDPs in the occupied schools might take a longer time than expected, though inter-agency assessments report that in some areas assistance to evacuees in shelters has been reduced to de-incentivize people to stay in schools and other structures. Already stretched water and sanitation facilities in some of these schools may be degraded further by evacuees.

### **WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)**

WASH sent purification stocks sufficient for 600 families to Léogane today and continues assessments throughout the country. Additional assessments conducted in a more in-depth manner will be conducted on an agency-to-agency basis. The focus will return to cholera in the coming days wherein distributions of water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts and soap will continue.

### **Communication**

In support of the Haitian Government's response to Hurricane Tomas, Internews, in partnership with Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) communications working group, helped organize a press conference in Gonaïves with the Minister of Agriculture, MINUSTAH and local authorities. The subject was damage assessment, in particular with a focus on agriculture which has been affected by the storm.

In Cite Soleil in Port-au-Prince, community mobilization teams worked on hygiene promotion and disseminated Cholera prevention materials in coordination with the IOM Health Unit. This area has a noted deficit of water and sanitation facilities, a lack of which makes it important for cholera prevention sensitization. The IOM/Radio Boukman weekly radio show, *Chimen Lakay* (The Way Home), was recorded in Cite Soleil with participation from the mayor, his deputy, and a DPC representative, broadcast nationwide by Tele Ginen. Close to 100,000 SMS messages on good hygiene were disseminated by IOM via Digicel phone network today. IOM also facilitated distribution of 12,000 Ministry of Health (MSPP) approved flyers on Cholera prevention with CHF International for onward circulation in the Gonaïves area.

MINUSTAH FM broadcast spots on cholera prevention approved by the MSPP and other DPC spots calling for the population to be cautious during the heavy rains tailing Tomas. An information retrospective on the week's news was aired with reports from correspondents in Les Cayes and Jacmel and updates on the post-Tomas situation across the country.

CDAC traveled from Les Cayes to Léogane to support local media, the DPC and the mayor of Léogane who have been giving regularly giving interviews to local and international journalists over the last two days. CDAC also assessed size of the main radio stations in Léogane and found only one non-operational due to the flooding. In Port-au-Prince CDAC continued liaising with the Centre Opérationnel d'Urgence National (COUN) and the Emergency Joint Operation Center (E-joint).

### **Logistics**

The Logistics Cluster coordinated through the E-Joint Operations Centre (E-JOC) and MINUSTAH security for the distribution of WFP food to two sites in Port-au-Prince, benefiting around 500 people today. Yesterday UNHAS delivered 1 metric tonne of MREs and 900 kilograms of NFIs including blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, jerry cans from Les Cayes to Jérémie and Les Irois in the department of Grand Anse. Inter-Agency trucks

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were used to transport cargo to Les Cayes airport. 1,000 hygiene kits on behalf for UNFPA were also transported to Saint Marc by the cluster.

## **Food**

Emergency food distributions are ongoing in several affected communities in the South, the South West of the island, Port-au-Prince and Gonaives. World Food Programme has reached over 9,000 people so far with food distributions.

In Port-au-Prince, to support evacuees in temporary shelters in advance of the storm, meals ready to eat (MREs) were distributed to three temporary shelters managed by IOM and housing about 3,000 people. 2,476 people who have taken refuge in temporary shelters in Jacmel are receiving assistance from WFP. WFP has been providing MREs to close to a 1,000 people in shelters located outside of Jacmel in Marigot, Belle Anse, Baint, and Thiotte. Supplementary Plumpy was also distributed to children in these areas. In Gonaives, 760 people who sought refuge in schools and churches received emergency food assistance from WFP. After a humanitarian coordination meeting and discussions with local authorities, it was decided that WFP would provide assistance for the next three days. A full assessment of needs in the area will take place in the next day or so. Last night, WFP distributed High Energy Biscuits to 320 people. Today, WFP provided 440 people (of which there were 129 children) with a provision of MREs and high energy biscuits (HEB) sufficient for three days. Supplementary Plumpy was also distributed to children. In the South and Nippes departments as Tomas arrived many people fled their homes because of flooding, or pre-emptively because they live close to the coast and were concerned about rising sea levels. A total of 1,394 people received rations of MREs provided by WFP and prepositioned in the area.

UN Humanitarian Air Service helicopter has started flying relief items to affected communities. Today, WFP organized for 1,560 rations of MREs to be sent by helicopter from Les Cayes to Les Irois, a remote and impoverished community in the Grande Anse department. This commune was one of the most severely affected by Tomas. In areas affected by flooding of Tiburon, Les Anglais, Anse-a-Veau, Petit Trou in the department of Nippes over 1,400 evacuees received MREs from WFP.

In Léogane and Gressier, WFP is working in collaboration with the DPC, local authorities, OCHA and humanitarian partners. An assessment mission was conducted to determine needs in the area. Results are expected this evening. Fifteen camps were affected by flooding but suffered only minor damage. Very few people wanted to evacuate their homes or the camps. An assessment mission will determine needs for this population. In agreement with the Directorate for Civil Protection and local authorities, it was determined that emergency distributions would only begin after the assessment determined if they were needed. WFP is part of the assessment team. WFP reports that there were no emergency food distributions today

In Petit Goave and Grand Goave an assessment mission to Petit and Grand Goave took place today which determined that there will be an emergency food distribution tomorrow morning in Petit Goave.

## **Coordination**

UNDAC, along with an inter-agency team led by the Humanitarian Coordinator conducted aerial assessments in the northern and southern parts of the country today. The assessment began in Jérémie where the team met with local authorities, the UN and humanitarian partners. The team flew over Grande Anse and around Les Cayes in the South department, reporting minor damages. According to assessments so far, less than 3,000 people evacuated there. Reports suggest that the DPC and partners in these areas implemented the evacuations well. Around 1,200 houses damaged and 45 destroyed. In the longer-term, the agricultural impact is more disconcerting; further assessments will be conducted. . The threat of cholera and water borne illnesses remains high in these areas, in particular where there is standing water.

The northern assessment began in Port-au-Prince, passing over St Marc, Grand Saline, St Nicholas, Port-de-Paix, Jimmani, Gantier and back to the capital. After observing St Marc, some flooding was noticed; in Grand Saline the axis road was blocked and flooding was more prominent. In the centre of Gonaives there was some flooding, but approx 80 per cent of the city was unaffected. The team noted that in the area between Grand Saline and Gonaives vast areas were flooded, rendering farming or grazing in these areas impossible or difficult. Cite Soleil and Carrefour around the capital were reportedly not severely affected by flooding.

Other assessments conclude that the impact of Tomas was not widely detrimental. In Artibonite, minor flooding in Gonaives has been reported by the Joint Operations Tasking Centre (JOTC) However, Grande Saline remains isolated because of water and the road between Gonaives and Cap Haitian is un-navigable in multiple locations. In the West department, OCHA reports that there was no major damage in the two communes of Petit Goave. Humanitarian organizations who had made preparations for an emergency response in case of major crisis, have decided to return to their normal activities and programs.

In the Southeast department, OCHA reports two deaths in Jacmel and Baintet of people who drowned while trying to cross swollen rivers. In the Vallée de Baintet, banana, millet, corn, citrus, peas and avocado crops have been reportedly damaged. In the department of Nippes two minor landslides on secondary roads south-east of L'Asile commune were cleared and vehicles are passing through, according to the JOTC OCHA reports from Jérémie that inter-agency assessments continue tomorrow.

MINUSTAH peacekeepers and personnel also conducted terrestrial assessments in a number of departments and are expected to publish consolidated assessment information in the coming days.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response-Cholera

#### Health

According to the latest MSPP data released on 3 November, five departments have been directly affected by the cholera: Artibonite, Centre, North, Northwest, and West. As of this date, 442 deaths and 6,742 hospitalizations have been reported by the MSPP. Health partners remain concerned that the rain from Tomas could worsen the cholera outbreak with flooding of contaminated water.

#### Gaps and Challenges

Cholera supplies are needed in Gonaives Hospital in Artibonite while fuel is reportedly running low in Hospital de la Paix in the West department.

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