



Fonds des Nations Unies  
pour la Population

## FOUR MONTHS AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW STRUCK IN HAITI

### Facts & Figures

- 2.1 million people affected
- 1.4 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including nearly 220 000 young girls and boys (aged 15 – 24) in all 4 four affected departments
- Over 89 healthcare institutions assessed (in 5 departments) after the Hurricane, 68% sustained structural damages while 2% were destroyed
- 546 000 women and young girls in reproductive age and more than 50 000 youth and teenagers from 10 to 24 years old are in urgent needs that must be addressed.



### Person assisted

- Tens of thousands of people, women and young girls in particular, by supplying 261 reproductive health kits likely to cover the needs of 390 000 persons in the most affected departments of the Hurricane, and the deployment of mid-wives' teams for support to the affected institutions and communities

### Funding

- The emergency humanitarian response plan of 6 months finalized in less than 3 days after the Hurricane struck covers a total budget of 4, 701 002 USD for a period of 6 months. 4 months after, only 29% of the funding, over the 6 months required, were gathered from NU/CERF,
- OFDA, UNFPA, J&J, DFID and the emergency funds from the Headquarters

## Update on the situation

On October the 4th, Haiti has been hit by a category 4 Hurricane (on the Saffir-Simpson scale). It has affected various departments of the country, in particular Grand'Anse, the South, Nippes, West, Southeast and Northwest, leaving thus 546 persons dead and many homeless.



A joint assessment by the UNFPA and the Direction of Health Service Organization of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) has shown the effect on the operation of healthcare system, across the 5 departments. (See figures at alinea 3)

## UNFPA and partners' response

### Maternal and Reproductive Health

Four months after the passage of the Hurricane Matthew in the South, the departmental directorates of the South and Nippes, with the support of UNFPA, continue to carry out actions that will make maternal and reproductive care more accessible, including in the most remote areas. The conditions of vulnerability

generated by the Hurricane has exposed women and young girls of these departments to multiple risks of unsafe deliveries,

unintended pregnancies, spread of sexually transmitted infections, or worst, gender-based violence affecting significantly their rights (rights to health, rights to human dignity etc.), in a weakened health care system.



In this respect, the mid-wives' teams deployed in these departments via mobile clinics and the support of healthcare institutions, constituted an important tool for better access to maternal and reproductive health services in these affected areas. They have thus consulted in 3 months more than 1197 women including 522 pregnant women, who have received complete antenatal consultations on different clinic expeditions of mobile clinics. No fewer than some 40 home visits have brought health services closer to the most disadvantaged women. These services were completed by a growing availability of contraceptives of various types, which have allowed the distribution of 161 condoms, 194 injections of hormonal contraceptives and made possible to propose long term methods such

as the hormonal implant to 12 new recipients.



In the maternity hospitals, the mid-wives have helped to assist in 3 months 589 deliveries. More than 1719 consultations have been offered to women of which 320 vaccinated and 187 taken into care in terms of obstetric complications in the cases of eclampsia, pre-eclampsia and hemorrhage requiring surgery via caesarean section for approximately 18% of them.

#### INPUTS IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: VITAL LINK IN THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

UNFPA, as a partner of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, has provided a direct support to the departmental directorates in the South, Grand'Anse, Northwest and the Nippes, by supplying the health institutions with Reproductive Health (RH) kits. These include drugs, contraceptives and all the medical equipment needed to cover safe deliveries and obstetric complications. The provided kits will also ensure the clinical management of Survivors of Rape, while giving to health institutions the ability to properly address all issues relating to sexual, maternal and reproductive health generated by the post-disaster crisis. Thus via the 245 kits distributed, a population of more than 14

000 people will directly benefit the health care originating from these SR kits.



#### MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CRISIS: TRAINING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE PREVENTION

In the wake of the Hurricane, the health professionals had displayed a considerably limited capacity to react and organize an informed and structured response. In this context, UNFPA has carried out training sessions in support to the departmental directorates of health for the health-care providers and also coordination sessions to comply with the operational and organizational requirements originating from the humanitarian situation. The first two sessions were held to the benefit of the Department of South and Nippes, in January, in which 20 persons have participated and have received training about Minimum Initial Service Package and clinical management of rape. Stakeholders from several localities such as Torbeck, l'Asile, Port Salut, Fond-des-Nègres, Tiburon among others, have improved knowledge and skills regarding reproductive health in humanitarian situation, care that must ensure and prioritize in such context and the role they must play in cooperation with the departmental health authorities in order to complete humanitarian situation

mapping and organize medical equipment supply emergencies for the institutions, in partnership with UNFPA and other actors working in this area.

#### REHABILITATION OF HEALTH-CARE INSTITUTIONS: UNFPA SUPPORT TO DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORATES VIA DOOS



The restoration of maternal and reproductive health services also include the recovery and rehabilitation of health-care institutions structurally damaged by the Hurricane. For this purpose, through synergistic collaboration, the Ministry of Public Health and Population has been able to complete a preliminary technical phase aimed to identify the nature of rehabilitation needs in the Department of South and Grand’Anse, thanks to the engineers of DOSS (Direction of Health Services Organization) and the humanitarian coordination of UNFPA.

The actions are targeted and produced significant results. However there are still challenges related to human resources, especially the replacement of the deployed mid-wives and the extension of these interventions in departments where the needs of the most vulnerable women and girls require a response on time.

#### Prevention and response to GBV: tentative launch in the South, glaring needs in Grand-Anse

In order to structure actions on gender-based violence, UNFPA co-chairs with the Ministry of Status of Women and Women Rights the Working Group on GBV in the departments of the South and Grand-Anse.

The greatest challenge of the GBV coordination lies also in the fact the GBV humanitarian actors are not that many in the departments affected by the Hurricane Matthew. Thus the response was slow in implementing, particularly via the involving of not only the health Directions of the South and Grand’Anse but also the local associations working in the prevention area, identification and referencing of the survivors.



In Grand’Anse, a department where the number of GBV actors is very low, even if it was the most severely affected in terms of damages ( see DTM report number 3), the GBV projects have started only by the end of December 2016. It is still lacking a trained staff in the hospitals to ensure a medical care for victims of rape in the department.

In the South, the training of health staff began early January 2017, enabling the launch of discussions regarding the

implementation of a system of referencement of the survivors of sexual violence.

In order to strengthen the actors working in this area, UNFPA has organized two workshops of strategic planning, one at Jeremie and the other in Les Cayes with the aim to:

- Build capacity within the institutional and humanitarian actors in the field of strategic planning for the prevention and response to GBV ;
- Get these actors to agree on a common definition of the GBV and acknowledge the need of a multisectoral approach ;
- Promote the application of guiding principles that govern the GBV actions, especially regarding confidentiality, respect, security and non-discrimination ;
- Promote the idea of informed consent as part of the GBV and bring thus certain institutional actors to review their approach of rape and its definition.

The challenge remains to develop the care services, while implementing awareness-raising and prevention of violence campaigns, especially in areas most affected by the Hurricane.

### **Media's commitment to the cause of women, girls and adolescents**

The work of UNFPA aroused keen interest among international and national Medias. UNFPA has organized interviews for our Representative Marielle Sander with USA Today, the Independent, BBC World Service, Danish national radio Devex and UN Radio. The interviews of Miss Casimir

(a mid-wife that made possible the births of several babies at the height of the Hurricane, at the Hospital Saint-Antoine de Jérémie) were held with the Guardian and several other national Medias. The images that we have taken were broadcast on Reuters, Euronews, and lots of television channels in the USA. The most interesting moments for the media occurred at the beginning of the international response and a month after the Hurricane. The communication teams of the Headquarters of UNFPA and at the Regional Bureau have supported the Bureau in Haiti via the publication of many articles on their website and social media.

The interest of the Medias for the work of UNFPA as part of its humanitarian response (post-Matthew) remains important, although the political tension and current events (since the presidential and legislative elections in Haiti) overshadowed social and sustainable development issues.

In the local and national press, Télé Kiskeya broadcasted repeatedly our images about Grand-Anse and Nippes, as well as the video telling the story of this mid-wife at the Hospital St-Antoine of Jérémie, who has assist the births of six babies in the night of the Hurricane. Miss Casimir has been interviewed by several other radio stations with very high frequency such as Radio Métropole, Radio Vision 2000, Radio Kiskeya and Scoop FM. In addition, Radio Signal FM and Scoop have reiterated UNFPA significant concern about victims of the Hurricane Matthew, while recalling our data on the number of expected pregnancies for the upcoming months. In the written press and online media, Le Nouvelliste, the eldest Leading daily of the country, has published an article about maternal health awareness related to the Hurricane and Alterpresse has reproduced on its own website our articles on the impacts of the

Hurricane on the health structures and the response of UNFPA.

Below a few articles published on the international press:

- **In hurricane-battered Haiti, small steps to recovery 3 weeks after Matthew**  
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/10/26/hurricane-battered-haiti-matthew-recovery/92678570/>
- **Midwife in Haiti tells of delivering babies knee-deep in water by torchlight**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/oct/25/midwife-haiti-hurricane-matthew-delivering-babies-knee-deep-in-floodwater>
- **Women and girls in Haiti at risk of being beaten, sexually assaulted or dying during childbirth after Hurricane Matthew, says agency**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/haiti-women-girls-serious-risk-sexual-assault-violence-birth-labour-emergency-funding-a7392086.html>
- **DEVEX: UNFPA to run out of Haiti relief money**  
<https://www.devex.com/news/unfpa-to-run-out-of-haiti-relief-money-89039>
- Video made by euronews with UNFPA footage  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=66&v=48cxcSR61ig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=66&v=48cxcSR61ig)

- **UN agency working to address women's health and protection needs in storm-hit Haiti**  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55470#.WBuvYvkrKM8>