



UNFPA'S HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN BRIEF: TWO MONTHS AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW HIT HAITI

December 2016

HURRICANE MATTHEW: BACKGROUND

1. Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti on October 4, leaving about 1.4 million people in urgent need of humanitarian aid, particularly in the Departments of the South and of the Grand'Anse.

2. According to estimates based on projections by the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Informatics (*Institut Haitien de Statistiques et d'Informatique – IHSI*), over 10,600 women and girls could become victims of violence, including gender based violence, against a background of lack of healthcare services to the survivors at both medical and psychosocial levels.



3. In addition, some 13,650 pregnant women should be giving birth during the three months following the hurricane, in an environment deprived of reproductive health services. Their high level of vulnerability exposes them even more, as well as their future newborns, to the transmission of Zika and of Cholera.

4. Finally, in the four Departments affected by Hurricane Matthew, there are some 436,322 boys and girls aged 15 to 26, with the 10 to 24 years old representing an estimated 20.5% of the total population in these four Departments, and of which 220,000 are in need of emergency assistance.

5. At the same time, there is a 2.2% prevalence of HIV/AIDS, predominantly among women and youth, particularly the young girls (2.7% among women 15 to 49 years old, 1.7% among men the same age, and the 15-24 years old girls are three times more at risk of being infected than young boys the same age).



THE INTERVENTIONS BY THE UNFPA AND ITS PARTNERS

To better assess the impact of the damages on the health system and better direct the interventions towards the affected vulnerable populations, the UNFPA took the initiative of a joint evaluation mission by the Health Services Organization Directorate and the United Nations System, which took place from October 12 to 19, 2016.

The results indicate that in the five Departments, only 89 out of 188 institutions were physically visited by the evaluators. In total, 26% of the institutions are intact, with non-structural damages, and remain operational. 68% have both structural and non-structural damages but remain operational. And only 26% of the institutions were completely destroyed and are not operational. These numbers present disparities based on the hurricane's magnitude.

Hence, in the Department of the South only 25 out of 42 institutions were physically visited, of which 59% have completely destroyed CTC tents, 24% are intact with non-structural damages and 68% have both structural and non-structural damages.

In the Department of the Grand'Anse, of the 52 institutions only 21 were physically visited and 25% of the institutions are intact, with non-structural damages, and remain operational while 70% have both structural and non-structural damages but remain operational, and 5% of the institutions are completely destroyed and are not operational.

In the Department of Nippes, only 11 out of 27 institutions were physically visited. It was observed that the CTC tents are completely destroyed and 45% of the structures are intact, with non-structural damages, and 54% have both structural and non-structural damages.

In the Department of the South-east, only 21 out of 38 institutions were physically visited. It was observed that 38% of the institutions are intact, with non-structural damages, and remain operational; 52% have both structural and non-structural damages but remain operational; and 9% were completely destroyed and are not operational.

In the Department of the North-west, only 11 out of 29 institutions were physically visited by the evaluators. It was observed that 91% of the institutions have both structural and non-structural damages but remain functional and 9% of the institutions were completely destroyed and are not operational.

It is in this context that the UNFPA has been working since then together with the Government and the humanitarian community to address the most urgent needs of 546,000 women and girls of reproductive age, and those of 500,000 youth and adolescents 10 to 24 years old.



The sexual and reproductive health sector

The availability of Reproductive Health emergency kits and of additional medical devices that were purchased and delivered to the health structures in the affected Departments to meet the significant demand that the mobile clinics were faced with made the interventions possible.

Quick deployment of midwives to assist pregnant women and newborns in the Grand'Anse and the Nippes: a response to real needs.

It is now two months since the UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Public Health and Population (*Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP*) with the deployment of two teams of midwives in the Departments of Grand'Anse and of Nippes. Five midwives were sent to the Grand'Anse to strengthen the Department's maternities' capacity to provide care. Five others were sent to Communes of Paillant, Miragoâne, L'Asile, Anse-à-Veau and Baradères, in the Nippes. They joined the maternal healthcare units' teams, to lead mobile clinics in remote areas with very limited access to healthcare for women and girls.

During this 15 days intervention, 957 women, among them 322 pregnant ones, had a medical consultation at the mobile clinics. This integral healthcare service contributed in attending the birth of 200 babies and



vaccinating more than 130 pregnant women at these strengthened structures. In addition, more than 60 obstetric complications (pre-eclampsia, eclampsia and hemorrhage cases) were managed. The human-centered approach for the provision of care is at the core of the UNFPA's humanitarian response, consisting in reaching the women and listen to what they have to say about the care they receive from the midwives and the strengthened teams.

The women and girls received diversified healthcare services, and education and information on health, family planning, treatment for sexually transmissible diseases, HIV testing, as well as services related to gender based violence.



The availability and presence of healthcare professionals rebuilt the populations' confidence and, according to the maternity unit's teams, the number of visits to these units significantly increased.

The Violence Against Women and Girls Sector

The UNFPA puts its efforts in this area to strengthen the operational capacities of the actors present and the availability of the healthcare, psychosocial and legal services. There is an emphasis on the prevention of GBV, because young girls are exposed to violence and may be trapped in sexual exploitation or drug trafficking networks. The risk of illegal expatriation to Caribbean, Latin American or North American neighbor countries in search of improved living conditions will increase.

Humanitarian Coordination: Structure of the GBV sub-sector:

In the context of the coordination of the response to Gender Based Violence (GBV), the UNFPA supports the Ministry of Women Affairs (*Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes* – MCFDF), to strengthen the operational capacities of its departmental structures in the Grand'Anse and the South.

In the Departments of the Grand'Anse and of the South, the GBV sub-sector was boosted with the proposal of terms of reference for the two sub-groups. Two GBV consultants were contracted and sent on the field to support the departmental structures.

For a good coordination, the GBV sub-sector is working on the mapping of the services for the prevention of and response to GBV.

A strategic planning workshop took place from December 12 to 14 in the Grand'Anse to fuel the humanitarian response to GBV.



FOCUS GROUPS WORK SESSION FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND THE DEFINITION OF THE OBJECTIVES





Filling the gaps: Organization of the Protection sector in the Grand'Anse

In addition to the coordination of the GBV sub-sector, the UNFPA represents the Protection sector in the Grand'Anse. In this context, the UNFPA organized, together with the Ministry of Social Affairs (*Ministère des Affaires Sociales – MAST*), two meetings at the COUD to boost protection in the humanitarian response. The Protection group made recommendations ensuring the taking into account of and follow-up on the vulnerable persons at the collective centers that were selected for evacuation. A questionnaire was validated and a total of 105 families were identified as being very vulnerable. The follow-up on the vulnerable persons in the communities is undergoing, but the lack of actors to do the follow-up is a challenge for the Protection sector in the Grand'Anse.

Promoting Rights, Empowering Women and Preventing Violence

Considering the high level of economic vulnerability of women and girls, the UNFPA contracted a national consultant to launch the collection of data that may feed a document analyzing the vulnerability of women and girls, and elements of an early recovery for women and girls.

Under its emergency operational responses framework, the UNFPA distributed 6850 "dignity" kits, and cooking and food kits to the vulnerable populations in the areas affected by the hurricane, to women and girls in particular, through national structures involved in the response operations.





The youth and the adolescents

The youth is one of the most vulnerable targets in Haiti. After Hurricane Matthew hit, their living environment became more fragile, with decreased livelihoods.

At the advocacy and support to the Government's levels, the UNFPA Haiti Office worked in partnership with the Haitian government for the taking into account of the needs of the youth and adolescents affected by the consequences of Hurricane Matthew, specifically the needs related to protection and livelihoods, in the national post-hurricane recovery strategy (Post-Disaster Needs Assessment – PDNA). Hence, specific youth and adolescents recovery goals were included in the PDNA, such as a recovery strategy to compensate for the job and livelihood losses for the youth and adolescents, to avoid the development by them of negative adaptation mechanisms (such as prostitution, criminality, etc.). Among the specific youth and adolescents goals included in the PDNA, there is the development and implementation of a youth entrepreneurship program with an emphasis on young women, strengthened by vocational training or internship programs, credit access facilitation for the youth, and support to income generating activities programs.





The needs of women, girls and youth in the planning and coordination of humanitarian operations.

The UNFPA is a member of the Country Humanitarian Team. It therefore participates in all the meetings and makes sure that the issues linked to maternal health, adolescents, youth and GBV are strategically positioned in the humanitarian response. UNFPA's advocacy efforts brought the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations' System (UNS) and the independent expert on human rights to recognize that pregnant women are a preferred target for the emergency response. The United Nations' emergency call and the status reports issued by OCHA highlight the key elements of the response directed to women, particularly the pregnant ones, by the coordination and response to GBV, as well as the youth problem after the hurricane hit Haiti.

The evaluation of the post-disaster response (PDNA) by the Government, the UNDP and the World Bank is undergoing to identify the economic costs and to implement the post-disaster recovery plan. The UNFPA is deeply involved in the PDNA development process, under the leadership of the Haitian Government, in coordination with its national and international partners. The UNFPA is particularly



involved in the PDNA strategy development in the sectors of Health, Gender, and jobs and livelihoods, for the youth to be effectively taken into account.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA TO THE CAUSE OF WOMEN, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS.

The UNFPA's work raised the keen interest of the national and international media. The UNFPA arranged interviews for our Representative, Marielle Sander, with: USA Today, the Independent, BBC World Service, Danish National Radio Devex and the UN radio. Interviews were also arranged for Nurse Casimir (the midwife who attended the birth of several babies at the height of the hurricane at Hospital St-Antoine in Jérémie) with the Guardian and several national media. Our footages were also broadcasted by Reuters, Euronews and several US televisions. The two key highlights for the media were the beginning of the humanitarian response and the one month anniversary following the hurricane. The communication teams at the UNFPA's Headquarters and Regional Office supported the Haiti Office by posting several articles on their internet sites and on the social media.

The interest of the media in the UNFPA's work in the (post-Matthew) humanitarian response remains high, although the burning topic of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Haiti lately kind of overshadowed, during the past few weeks, the social and development topics.

At the national media level, Télé Kiskeya continuously broadcasted during two days our footages on the Grand'Anse and the Nippes, as well as the video telling the story of Nurse Casimir, the midwife at the Hospital St-Antoine in Jérémie who attended the birth of six babies during the night the hurricane hit. Nurse Casimir was interviewed by several other major radio stations, among them Radio Métropole, Radio Vision 2000, Radio Kiskeya and Scoop FM. In addition, Radio Signal FM and Scoop mentioned, during several news broadcasts, the UNFPA's concerns related to the victims of Hurricane Matthew, recalling our data on the number of pregnancies expected during the next three months. As for the newspapers and the online media, Le Nouvelliste, the country's oldest daily, published an awareness article on maternal health with regards to Hurricane Matthew, while Alterpresse (an online media) published on its site one of our articles on the impact of the hurricane on the health structures and the UNFPA's response.

The following are some of the articles published by international media:

- **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**



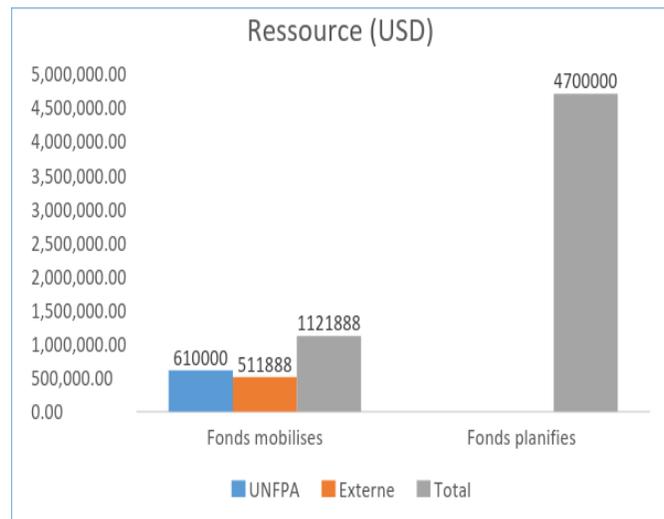
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/haiti-women-girls-serious-risk-sexual-assault-violence-birth-labour-emergency-funding-a7392086.html>

- **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
- **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#.WBuyYvkrKM8>

THE CHALLENGES

Financing the response

The six months emergency Plan, which was completed less than three days after the Hurricane hit, calls for a total budget in the amount of **US\$4,701,002**. For the first three months that are characterized by the extreme emergency, the amount requested under the Flash Appeal was of **US\$2,56,222**. An amount of **US\$1,944,781** is desired for the first quarter of 2017 to cover the six emergency months before going to the post-crisis phase. Only 24% of the financing requested for the six months were obtained from NU/CERF, OFDA, UNFPA, J&J, DFID, and Emergency Response Funds from our Headquarters.



The NFPA was asked to serve as facilitator at the workshop for the preparation of the Haiti Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017. The participation was active and three projects were approved and posted:

- 1) Saving the lives of pregnant women and their newborns, and the GBV survivors: a human-oriented response that takes into account the context of the humanitarian crisis (Grand'Anse, Nippes, South), in an amount of US\$3.500.000.



- 2) The coordination of the “Gender Based Violence” sub-sector, and support to GBV survivors and to vulnerable women in three departments hit by Hurricane Matthew (Grand’Anse, South, Nippes), in an amount of US\$3,000,000.
- 3) Stop aggressions and sex trafficking of women and girls (communities, evicted, internally displaced) along the border with the Dominican Republic, in an amount of US\$1,750,000.

Reframing of the Gender and Youth Program

It would be appropriate to work on a strategy for the early recovery of women and girls who became even more vulnerable after Hurricane Matthew. This Community Protection and Resilience project could reach the fifteen thousand (15,000) individuals who were evacuated from the collective centers in the Grand’Anse, in addition to those in the two other departments (Nippes, South). This project would aim at:

- Preventing negative survival mechanisms or avoiding the adoption of negative sexual survival strategies;
- Strengthening community involvement (training of local grassroots and religious actors);
- Raising awareness among State authorities, including the local authorities (CASEC, ASEC, mayors) together with the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities (*Ministère de l’Intérieur et des Collectivités territoriales* – MICT);
- Preventing domestic violence, for a response targeting men, registered in the evacuated collective centers, together with other agencies such as FAO, UNDP...; Structuring and consolidating the community reference for prevention and providing services to GBV victims in the communes and communal sections in the three departments.