



## UNFPA'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FOR HAITI

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### WOMEN, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS: ONE MONTH AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW STRUCK

#### UNFPA IN A NUTSHELL: 1 MONTH LATER

- ✚ 261 reproductive health kits provided, to cover the needs of 390,000 individuals in the 4 departments most affected by the hurricane.
- ✚ Deployment of 10 midwives in the departments of Grand'Anse and Nippes, to enhance healthcare services to pregnant women and girls.
- ✚ These midwives will work in mobile clinics devoted to the provision of reproductive health services to the affected population.
- ✚ Acquisition of delivery tables and cribs, and deployment of obstetricians at the reference hospitals, for the management of caesarean section cases.
- ✚ Undergoing acquisition of 2,000 "newborn kits" for the most vulnerable mothers and girls.
- ✚ Acquisition of more than 2,000 Zika prevention kits for pregnant women.
- ✚ Distribution of several thousands of hygiene, kitchen and food kits to the most vulnerable women and girls.
- ✚ Undergoing distribution of kits for the provision of healthcare to GBV/Sexual abuse survivors.
- ✚ Only 24% of the US\$4,701,002 amount needed for the 6 months Emergency Plan was financed one month after Hurricane Matthew.

*«To support UNFPA's humanitarian initiatives in Haiti is to save the lives of over 546 000 women/girls and their families in the departments of Grande Anse, Nippes, South and North-west»*



## HURRICANE MATTHEW: THE FIGURES SPEAK

1. One (1) month ago, Hurricane Matthew hit the Haitian coasts, negatively impacting the population and the infrastructure, livelihoods included. Over 2.1 million individuals, of whom 1.4 million in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, were affected in the country with a high concentration in the departments of the South and the Grande Anse.
2. Since one month, UNFPA has been working with the Government and the humanitarian community to meet the urgent needs of more than **546 women and girls of reproductive age** after the Hurricane, with emphasis on:
  - Some **13,650 pregnant women** who will give birth during the next three months in an environment lacking of reproductive health services. Their high level of vulnerability increases the exposure of these women and of their future new-born babies to the transmission of Zika and Cholera;
  - Over **10,600 women and girls are potential victims of violence against women and girls**, including sexual abuse, in a context that is already characterized by a lack of services of health care and of survivors' case management at both community and psycho-medical levels.

UNFPA is fully committed to enhance the potential and meet the urgent needs of more than **500,000 youth and adolescents aged 10 to 24** at risk of being victims of violence and of being recruited by prostitution rings and/or drug trafficking networks. The risk of illegal migration to neighboring countries of the Caribbean, of Latin American and of North America in search of improved living conditions will become even greater if nothing is done to explore their potential.







## UNFPA IN ACTION AND IN IMAGES.....

### **Saving the life of pregnant women and of their new-born babies: a response focused on the human being in humanitarian crisis.**

Ten (10) days after Hurricane Matthew struck, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (*Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP*) undertook a rapid assessment of the functional operational and infrastructure post-disaster conditions of the health infrastructure, with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, in the departments of Nippes, Grande Anse and South. The conclusions are that the hurricane increased the level of insecurity of the health infrastructure in terms of equipment, inputs and even human resources. Only 9 of the 26 visited structures, meaning 35% of them, provide maternity services on a 24/24 basis, making access to emergency obstetrical care difficult for pregnant women. The equipment needed to provide maternal and neonatal care (19%) and reproductive health inputs is available only at a very low number of structures, and in very limited quantities, to meet the needs of over 13,650 pregnant women and girls in these communities. Fees are charged for most of these services, to a population whose livelihoods are reduced, not to say destroyed, while less than 35% of the health structures provide new-born resuscitation services.



Because of the destruction of the social networks and of the livelihoods, the MSPP fears that the maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality rates will increase, while the number of institutional deliveries will decrease. These were already concerning issues before the hurricane.

In line with the MSPP's response plans, the UNFPA acquired and delivered to Haiti, in emergency, over 261 reproductive health kits to cover the needs of more than 390,000 individuals in the four departments hardest hit by the hurricane. This should cover the needs of 8,795 pregnant



women, provide assistance to 8,795 new-born babies, provide sexual health care to 11,454 individuals, namely in terms of family planning needs for the youth, and care to 2,268 men and women for the prevention of STIs, and clinical care for 1,200 sexual violence survivors. Together with the MSPP and the departmental directorates, a distribution plan was developed to supply all the public and mixed health structures that provide reproductive health services to women.

UNFPA and the MSPP enhanced the health services to pregnant women and girls through the urgent deployment of 10 midwives in 10 communities in the departments of Nippes and Grande Anse. With the support of 30 health workers, these midwives will be in charge of maternal health mobile clinics and will increase community awareness for pre and post-natal follow-up and for free-of charge institutional deliveries at the health structures. The undergoing acquisition of 18 delivery tables and of 10 cribs for the new-born babies will increase the midwives' work capacity. 2 obstetricians were also be deployed in the reference hospitals, to increase the capacity to provide healthcare with adapted material for C-sections.

**Box 1: THE STORY OF NURSE CASIMIR, THE HERO OF THE SAINT-ANTOINE HOSPITAL IN JEREMIE**

*On the night when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, Marie-Lynette Casimir, 46 years old, was the only midwife on duty at the maternity at Hospital Saint-Antoine in Jérémie. The maternity was to become the only building that was not destroyed by the hurricane.*

*The storm strengthened at around midnight, says Nurse Casimir. Wind gusts of over 200 kilometers per hour shook the hospital, blowing off parts of the roof. Torrential rain broke window glasses and caused an electricity cut. In the delivery room, flood waters were up to my knees. Screams coming from other areas of the hospital were terrifying the patients.*

*"I tried to reassure them although me too I was very worried", she said. And, she added: "however, I had to stay at the hospital to work. My work ethics would not allow me to leave. I could not let them die". That night, Nurse Casimir attended the birth of six babies, working with a torch. She was relieved that no death occurred at the maternity during this evening full of danger.*

*Marie-Lynette, 46 years old, feared for her life during the hurricane. But this did not stop her from working all night.*

Aware of the deterioration of the living conditions of pregnant women and girls, UNFPA is currently acquiring 2000 new kits for new-born babies, for the most vulnerable mothers and unwed mothers.

Zika, particularly among pregnant women, shall also constitute a key concern due to the degradation of the environment. In fact, Hurricane Matthew increases stagnant water and unsanitary conditions, and, therefore, the exposure of pregnant women to maternal and foetal infectious diseases such as Zika, and to all the other vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria and Chikungunya. To this end, UNFPA and its partner J&J ordered over 2000 Zika



prevention kits to be graciously provided to less than six months pregnant women during prenatal visits.

**Violence against women and girls in a situation of emergency: double victimization when everything collapses.**

In a context of destabilization of the social networks and of the communities, after Hurricane Matthew, gender based violence (GBV) shall be the object of increased attention as it violates fundamental rights. The international humanitarian law provides for the protection of civilians, women and children included, in times of conflict. In view of the implementation of an adapted response, October 12 to 16, 2016, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Women Rights (*Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes – MCFDF*) and UNFPA organized a rapid assessment of the situation of violence against women and girls and of the mechanisms that exist for the provision of healthcare to the victims. The members of the committees to combat GBV of Petite Rivière de Nippes reported three recent cases of sexual violence against two girls aged 13 and one woman aged 20, after the Hurricane. They also expressed their concerns that these crimes would increase, due to the loss of bearings and of livelihoods. In the meantime, the level of healthcare services provision remains very low because of the lack of equipment, drugs and human resources. To illustrate this, the fact is that only one health institution out of the 14 visited ones in the two departments had a capacity to provide medical care. Psychosocial care services remain very limited and weak in the visited communities: only 4 psychologists were identified.



The first UNFPA emergency operational responses consisted in providing 5450 dignity, kitchen and food kits. Some 2000 food kits covered the needs of 20,000 women and girls and their





families for two days; over 1000 kitchen kits contributed to the social reconstruction of families, through the provision of basic equipment; over 2450 dignity kits were also distributed to women and girls, with a focus on the most vulnerable ones, in inaccessible areas.

True to its mandate in the area of humanitarian responses, UNFPA supports the Government's efforts to implement GBV sub-groups at both central and departmental levels, within the Protection Group. UNFPA and the MCFDF put the emphasis on the coordination of the actors and actions for healthcare related to GBV and the prevention of it.

The first meeting of the GBV sub-group in Jérémie was held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, with over 15 participants. A departmental response plan and the identification of the actors are undergoing in the three intervention departments (Nippes, Grande Anse and South). Psychosocial and medical care for the survivors of GBV/Sexual abuse is increasing. In the area of medical care provision, UNFPA has kits for rape cases, which are being distributed at the health institutions selected to provide both psychosocial and medical care. The capacities of the Committees to Combat GBV, of the service providers and of Civil

#### **Girls raped in Nippes after the Hurricane**

*M's story. During the mission, the UNFPA team met a young survivor who sought shelter against the hurricane at her aunt's house. At her arrival in her aunt's neighborhood, she could not recognize the house and was greeted by a man who battered and raped her. She received medical help thanks to the volunteering work of the Committee to Combat GBV in her community. After receiving healthcare, M. found out that she was pregnant before she was raped. With no capital and not psychological or economic support, the pregnant survivor was temporarily housed by a religious leader, but no holistic care could be coordinated due to the lack of providers and of services.*



Society's actors will be developed through a series of training sessions to be conducted by the end of November.

Given the high level of economic vulnerability of women and girls, UNFPA and the MCFDF are identifying future beneficiaries of economic assistance; mobile kiosks and provisions to restart the initial economic activity are also being considered.

**Youth and adolescents: the forgotten ones in humanitarian crisis situations, although they are the most exposed ones.**

The youth is one of the most vulnerable targets in Haiti. As their living environment and



livelihoods are becoming more fragile, after Hurricane Matthew, the youth will once again constitute vulnerable targets, to involve them in illegal activities and clandestine migration, with even greater sex related risks. There is a 2.2% prevalence of HIV/AIDS, particularly among women and youth, namely young girls (2.7% among women 15 to 49 years old, and 1.7% among men of the same age, and the girls 15 to 24 years old are three times more at risk of infection than the boys of the same age). In the four departments impacted by Hurricane





Matthew, there are some 436,322 boys and girls aged 15 to 24, with the 10 to 24 years old representing an estimated 20.5% of the global population of these four departments, some 220,000 of them with urgent needs. It is necessary to implement emergency initiatives addressed to them, particularly in the areas of information and of reproductive and sexual health services, and for the acquisition of livelihoods.







## **The needs of women, girls and youth, when planning and coordinating humanitarian assistance.**

UNFPA is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team. As such, it attends all the meetings and makes sure that all issues related to maternal, adolescents and youth health as well as GBV, are strategically positioned in the humanitarian response. Thanks to the UNFPA's advocacy efforts, the Resident Coordinator of the SNU and the independent expert on human rights both acknowledged that pregnant women are a priority target for emergency responses. The Urgency call of the United Nations, and reports on the situation by OCHA, highlight the key elements of the response addressed to women, specifically the pregnant ones, in the coordination and response to GBV as well as the youth issue in the post-hurricane context in Haiti.



The evaluation of the post-disaster response (PDNA) launched by the Government, the UNDP and the World Bank, is being conducted to determine the economic costs and to implement the post-disaster recovery plan (PDNA). The UNFPA is deeply involved in the PDNA development process under the leadership of the Haitian government in the sectors of health, gender and employment, and the livelihoods, making sure that the youth is effectively taken into account.



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

UNFPA's work raised considerable interest among the international and national media. During the first month, UNFPA organized interviews for our Representative in Haiti, Marielle Sander, with: USA Today, the Independent, BBC World Services, the Danish National Radio Devex, and the UN Radio. Interviews were also organized for Nurse Casimir with the Guardian and several national media stations. Images shot by us were also broadcasted by Reuters (and, then, by several US TV stations) and euronews. The two most interesting moments for the media were the initial international response and the situation one month later. The communication teams at the UNFPA Headquarters and at the Regional Office provided support to the Haiti Office, broadcasting several articles through their internal sites and social media.

Here are some of the articles published by the 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](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>

At national level, during two days Télé Kiskeya played looped images of the Grand'Anse and the Nippes, as well as the video reporting the story of Nurse Casimir, the midwife at the Saint-Antoine Hospital in Jérémie who attended the birth of six babies during the night of the Hurricane. Nurse Casimir was interviewed by several other large radio stations, among them Radio Métropole, Radio Vision 2000, Radio Kiskeya and Scoop FM. In addition, Signal FM and Scoop FM reported, during several news broadcasts, UNFPA's concerns related to the number of pregnancies expected during the next three months among the victims of Hurricane Matthew,



while reminding of the data on the number of expected pregnancies during the next three months. As for the newspapers and online media, Le Nouvelliste, the oldest daily newspaper of the country, published an awareness article on maternal health related to the Hurricane, while Alterpresse (an online news agency) posted on its site on of our articles on the impact of the hurricane on the health structure and UNFPA's response.

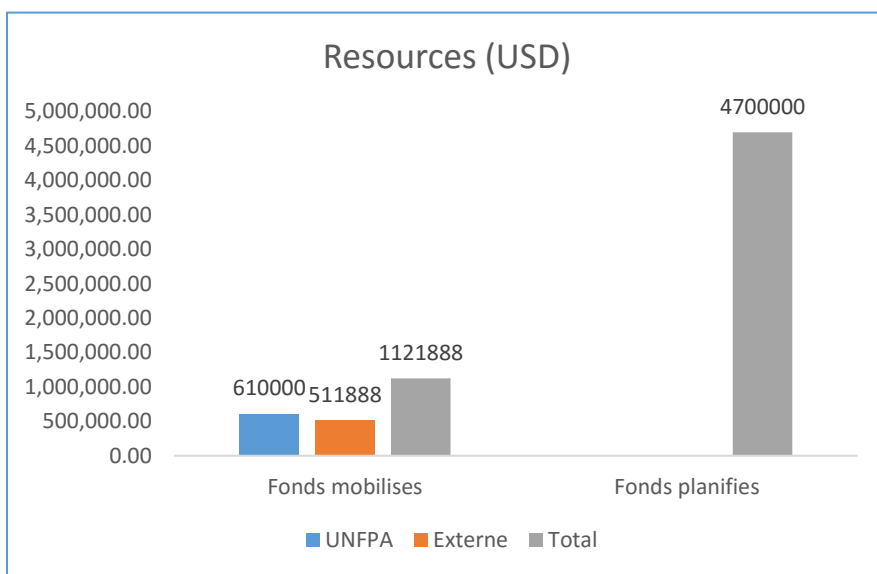
## COORDINATION AND FINANCING OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

Because of the existence of humanitarian skills and with the support of the Regional Office, UNFPA could very quickly engage in preparation activities before the Hurricane struck, anticipating and rapidly reacting to assist the population. Technical assistance from the humanitarian branch of the UNFPA and of the Regional Office (LACRO) helped to improve the coordination of the response at national, regional and international levels. Just two days before the hurricane, a technical assistance team of 3 international experts was made available for the Country Office. Two SURGE specialists are being deployed. One of them will work on the coordination of the GBV sub-group, under the responsibility of the DFID; and the second one, in charge of the humanitarian coordination, is financed by the organization's funds.

The total budget for the six months Emergency Plan that was completed less than 3 days after the Hurricane is in the amount of **US\$4,701,002**. For the first three months, under the flash appeal, the requested amount was **US\$256,221**. An amount of **US\$1,944,781** is needed for the first quarter of 2017 to cover the six months emergency period before entering the post-crisis phase. Only 24% of the financing requested for the six months period were obtained from NU/CERF, OFDA, UNFPA, J&J and DFID.

UNFPA makes a plea to financial partners to secure financial means. These funds will make it possible to improve the six

months emergency response, for the ***"Urgent rehabilitation of maternal health and gender based violence/sexual abuse related services, including the response to Zika, in the departments impacted by Hurricane Matthew"***.







### **Summary of the priority actions under the UNFPA's six months response plan:**

- 1- Acquisition of 261 reproductive health/clinical care for rape cases kits, and their distribution to the 36 health structures in the four departments;
- 2- Rehabilitation of 15 health structures, namely the maternities, including the rehabilitation of the residences of some 500 pregnant women and their families;
- 3- Provision of healthcare services to 17 000 pregnant women and girls, including awareness efforts on Zika and the training of 200 healthcare services providers/caregivers, and the strengthening of their skills in the area of gender based violence/sexual abuse;
- 4- Provision of healthcare to 4000 GBV/rape survivors, through units within health structures and the mobilization of the communities, and safe shelters for the women;
- 5- More than 50,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries of the units providing healthcare related to cases of rape, and awareness activities at community level on gender base violence, including the distribution of 8000 dignity and kitchen kits;
- 6- Over 20 000 youth and adolescents reached and aware of the issue, in youth-friendly spaces;
- 7- Activation of the GBV sub-groups in the departments and at central level, for the harmonization of the response addressed to survivors.