

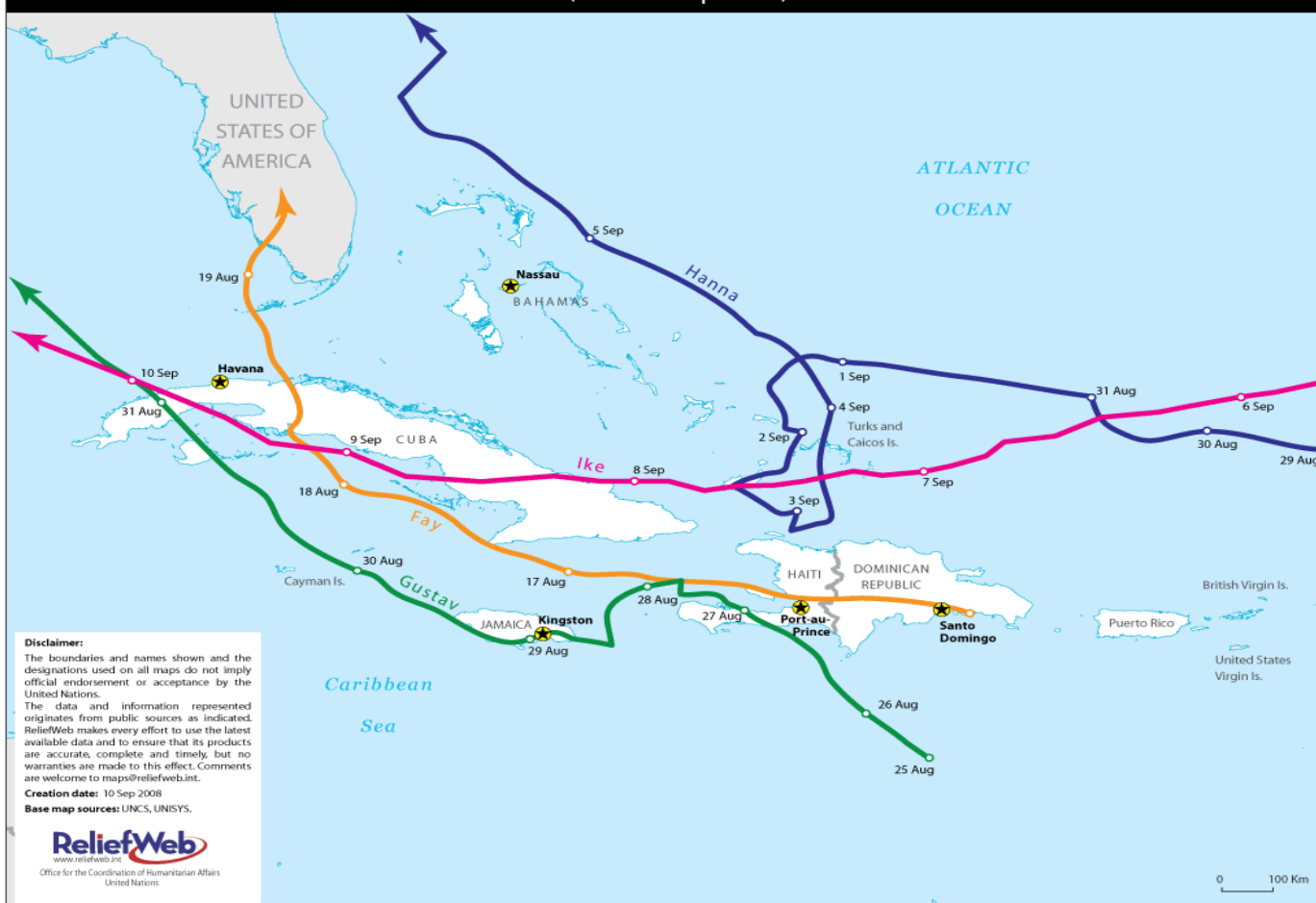
Situation Report 15 – Caribbean Hurricane Season 15 September 2008

This situation report is based on information received from, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) in the affected countries, the Regional Office in Panama and the National Hurricane Centre. This situation report covers the effects of Hurricanes “Gustav”, “Hanna” and “Ike” in the Caribbean.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Gonaives, Haiti, the water continues to recede in the central parts of town, enabling more people to return to their houses and more assistance to be delivered. Assessments are ongoing with increasing attention in the southern departments.
- However, cases of malaria are increasing and the living conditions in shelters need to be improved.
- In Cuba, housing, agriculture and the national electricity grid have sustained significant damage.
- Some 6,950 people are affected in Grand Turk, South Caicos and Salt Cay.

Caribbean Hurricane Season (as of 10 Sep 2008)





SITUATION

1. After tropical storms and hurricanes “Fay”, “Gustav”, “Hanna” and “Ike” have affected the Caribbean region and the United States, an area of disturbed weather, including some of the remnants of tropical storm Josephine, is located a few hundred miles north of the Leeward Islands and is associated with a westward moving tropical wave. However a tropical cyclone formation is not likely, but may still impact Hispaniola.

2. The vulnerability throughout the Caribbean countries has increased dramatically with another 3 months left before the end of the hurricane season. Only little rain can have serious consequences. The region has been affected since 15 August successively by tropical storm Fay, hurricanes “Gustav”, “Hanna” and “Ike” that claimed in the Caribbean more than 350 lives so far, affecting more than 2.8 million persons and damaging more than 200,000 houses-while assessments are still on going.

HAITI

3. The death toll according to the national civilian protection unit (DPC) stands at 337 and 170,000 families affected as a result of tropical storms Fay, Hanna, Gustav and Ike. Some areas in the Southern Departments have still not been accessed but are receiving increasing attention from humanitarian partners with assessment plans and distributions ongoing. In Gonaives, the water continues to recede in the central parts of town, enabling more people to return to their houses. The general situation in central parts of town is returning to normal and the tension seems to be calming down. One concern regarding the situation in town is the rising prices on general supplies, which could lead to protests or hamper the relief distribution.

4. In Gonaives, the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, together with the Prime Minister and four ministers visited Gonaives on 13 September and met with the local authorities. The security situation in the city has improved. Most parts of town have been assessed and people are being reached with relief supplies. However, cases of malaria are increasing and there are concerns that the situation could potentially deteriorate. It is vital at this stage to carry out reconstruction, initiate programs to support the clean-up of the town and secure waste management. There is still no electricity in town as the old power plant is not working and the new plant has yet to be installed. Electricity is available through generators. The situation outside Gonaives is still to be further assessed.

5. Living conditions in shelters need to be improved. Two cases of deaths in shelters have been reported in Grande Anse and Gonaives but this information should be taken with caution as there is no indication of the cause of death.

6. Assessments are ongoing, with increasing efforts made in the southern part of the country. Joint missions of the Haitian Red Cross, DPC, UNDAC and FACT are planned for Nippes and Artibonite (outside Gonaives). Hinche still needs to be assessed. Concerns have been expressed about the fact that emergency teams are bringing their own staff instead of recruiting local staff to reinforce the local economy. It would be important to allocate more resources to highly-intensive labour projects.

7. UNHAS should be operational in the field between September 17th and 20th. DSS is considering revising the security measures to again allow un-escorted movement outside the MINUSTAH base camp, but final recommendations are to be made by the Security advisor to the DO. Clusters are preparing geographic priorities and cluster leads will ensure that all members participating in the prioritization exercise present their findings to the RC/HC by Wednesday 17. The emphasis is also being placed on Early Recovery. A Cluster meeting will take place on the 15th of September at 16:00 pm Haiti time.

8. Since the beginning of the emergency, the Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC) has been providing response and coordination throughout the country. At a central level, the DPC is coordinating with international actors and civil society groups, and the private sector to identify priorities and provide an overview of the current response. At local level, DPC coordinators are organizing assessments and response in the affected areas.



9. The DPC continues providing services to the population through alerts (64 bulletins were issued so far), the evacuation of some 25,000 persons in Gonaives, and search and rescue operations. In addition, authorities have so far provided shelter for some 70,000 people for the last 10 days. The DPC also reported that the Government has provided dry rations, drinking water in areas accessible and distributed some 100,000 hot meals. Assistance is also being provided in the health sector, water and sanitation, road rehabilitation/cleaning and agriculture repairs.

10. In close collaboration with the DPC and MINUSTAH, the Haitian National Police (HNP) is supporting actions towards securing roads (fixed patrols on national highway 1, assistance to convoys) and providing support to distributions.

11. On 12 September, the Government informed the international community of its current priorities:

- Restoring channels of communication: roads, bridges;
- Removing embankments;
- Ensuring mass distribution of food in affected areas (baby food);
- Procuring sanitation including waste and body management;
- Ensuring water drainage in plantations;
- Strategizing for socio-economic rehabilitation and recapitalization;
- Strengthening sectoral interventions.

Food

12. Some 167,301 persons were reached with the distribution of 775 MT of food. Up to the 12th, the World Food Program has distributed food to provided 85,000 people in Gonaives. The food is comprising of 30 tons HEB (Ration 5 days), 100 tons of rice (Ration of 15 days), 8 tons of oil (Ration of 15 days) and 13 tons of peas (Ration of 15 days), which have been distributed with support from partners: MINUSTAH – WFP, Protection Civile - communal NECK, CARE, CARITAS, CRS, MSF, Oxfam, ACF, Haitian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, IOM and Pharmacists without Borders. Additional food has been provided by PNCS and Food for the Poor for some 16,000 people.

Shelter and Non-food Items

13. According to the DPC, the distribution of shelters throughout the country as of 13 September is the following:

Artibonite	172 shelters
Centre	5 shelters
Grand Anse	0 shelters
Nippes	3 shelters
North	0 shelters
North East	0 shelters
North West	0 shelters
West	No information
South	0 shelters
South East	3 shelters

14. The IFRC FACT Team reports that an assessment was carried out in the South East, particularly along the coast. Basic needs in terms of shelter and food were identified. A distribution of NFIs is planned for the 16 in Jacmel through the Haitian Red Cross. A water and sanitation report is being prepared for Desdunes, with details of damage on water sources. In the Plain (*Plateau Central*), there is a lack of income-generating activities. In general, people in shelters tend to move, leaving the shelters during the day and returning at night, making the counting difficult.

15. At the Cluster meeting on the 12th, partners emphasized the difficulties that they face for the distributions of kits due to the bad conditions of roads. UNFPA is working jointly with the Ministry of Women’s affairs in order to improve

the living conditions of women and children in shelters. Collaboration should be established with Handicap International to make shelters more accessible to disabled people.

16. Special attention should be given to the South and South-East (Tiburón, Coteaux, Port à Piment) where little assistance has been received, and water and food needs are important. Access to Artibonite is still difficult. Some shelters in Gonaïves have apparently been destroyed by the heavy rains of the past week. In dry areas, a very high percentage of the population is living in the streets, in front of what is left from their houses. The situation in the North West is critical due to the flooding of the river “Trois Rivières”.

17. In the Plateau central, the entire infrastructure has been destroyed. Caritas is conducting an assessment in the Ile de la Tortue. World Vision has conducted a mission to St Marc by sea, bringing 500 packs of 12 bottles of water as well as 20 boxes of cloths. All partners agree on the necessity to rehabilitate destroyed homes in order to enable the return of the population and facilitate the reinsertion of the affected populations. Save the Children has established several strategies to facilitate the return to school of children in the most affected zones. Caritas is looking into the possibility of rehabilitating destroyed houses.

18. Cluster members have finalized a general assessment of shelter requirements needs in the affected areas of Gonaïves. To date some 1,900 hygiene kits and 3,800 jerry cans have been distributed and further distribution of 5,000 hygiene kits, 10,000 jerry cans, 9,000 plastic sheeting and 2,000 kitchen sets are planned for the coming days. The general assessment to determine the overall requirement of provision of reconstruction material will continue as the decreasing water levels provide access to the affected areas.

Agriculture

19. According to the local authorities in Gonaïves, the agriculture has suffered the following damages:
- 7,775 ha of land (onion, pearl millet, fig bananas, and rice) were flooded;
 - 202 basins distribution of irrigation water have been damaged;
 - 68 heads of irrigation canals serving the areas of Andrew, Bayaonnais, Dubédou, Badon Marchand, Bassin Maignat and Branle were heavily damaged;
 - 50 km of agricultural roads established in 5 districts are cut off;
 - Shelters of 24 pumping stations in the plain of Gonaïves have been washed away or severely damaged;
 - The drains serving primary and secondary homes in Marotte, Chatelain, Bois Marchand, Bellanger, Souvenance, Dolan, Desfontaines were severely affected by floodwaters.

Early Recovery

20. The Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER) at the global level has deployed one Early Recovery advisor to support the UNCT. An additional advisor and three UNVs will also be deployed to support coordination of early recovery in the field. UNDP/BCPR has approved an emergency grant of USD 68,000 to cover the immediate early recovery coordination costs; an additional USD 100,000 will be requested in the coming days.

Health

21. IFRC reports that two health units have arrived. One will be sent to Bas-Artibonite. In Gonaïves, several organizations are reporting high of cases of diarrhoea and infections. There are reports of an increase in cases of malaria (145 reported cases) and other vector born diseases. To date some 19 medical kits for 10,000 persons have been distributed to 4 health centers. One surgical kit was distributed for St. Marc hospital. The health facilities operated by the local authorities, CARE international and MSF have been visited by some 6,700 persons with 35% cases for injuries, 25% for infectious diseases, 10% for respiratory related diseases and 30% for general healthcare). Additional health care centers are planned to be opened in the central part of town, while the number of new patients is steady.

Protection

22. In Gonaïves, UNICEF, with the support from local authorities, is planning the re-opening of two orphanages in the city with the support of IOM though the provision of shelter materials. The MINUSTAH Human Rights



representatives raised concern about the general situation in the local prison, which is overcrowded and without adequate hygiene facilities. Request for additional support has been passed on to relief partners.

Logistics

23. Since the beginning of the operation, a total of 433 MT Food WFP (386 by sea and 48 by air) have been shipped to Gonaives comprising of 10 MT of medicines (PSF), over 2,500 hygiene kits, 2,000 kitchen kits, 150 of rolls of plastic sheeting, tents, WATSAN equipment (bladders, 300,000 water purification tablets, 2 purification plants, light vehicles, trucks, 75,000 liters of water (UNICEF) and 15,000 liters Water (Oxfam GB), over 10,000 jerry cans) and 3,000 liters of fuel. WFP is continuing assessment of the warehouse capacity for the establishment of more permanent facilities.

Water and Sanitation

24. On 12 September, the WASH cluster partners managed to produce and deliver 125,000 liters of portable water in the North and the South parts of the Gonaives. This capacity will be increased to 500,000 liters by the middle of the week.

The water and sanitation projects are implemented by a number of partners; DPC, CNE, Spanish Red Cross, ACF, MSF, UNICEF, IOM and Pompiers Humanitaires Français.

Road Conditions

25. MINUSTAH reports that there is an extensive need for road repairs. In Artibonite, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTPTC) has a significant amount of equipment available for cleaning the streets of Gonaives. Fuel for the machinery remains a concern.

Environment

26. Treatment of waste is a challenge. In Gonaives, an assessment of the environmental situation has been undertaken to investigate fuel installations and power plants. This assessment will continue in the new harbour and the old power plant. Expertise is needed in terms of management of mud and debris.

CUBA

27. Since the end of August, Cuba has suffered in a very short period of time the direct or indirect impact of three hurricanes: “Gustav”, the most devastating in the past 50 years; “Hanna”, which, although did not strike the Island directly, caused flooding in the Eastern part of the country; and “Ike” that advanced through all the national territory. Over 2.6 million out of a total population of 11.2 million or 23% of the population was evacuated. Seven fatalities and some injured were reported. Housing – with 300,000 homes damaged and 30,000 others destroyed - the national electricity grid and agriculture have sustained significant damage. The September 5 joint Government and UN field visit to Pinar del Rio Province allowed the Team to follow up on the impact of Hurricane “Gustav”. Another visit to eastern Cuba is planned to follow-up on the damage caused by “Ike”.

28. Cuba held on Sunday 14 September a nation-wide clean-up effort to clear streets and roads of fallen trees and other debris caused by “Gustav” and “Ike”. Along with this cleanup, the Health authorities have called to reinforce community and home hygiene measures to avoid the outbreak of diseases. Special attention is given to the eradication of rats and mosquitoes. Medical teams are working to protect thousands of persons that are still evacuated. The teams also monitor the catering services to ensure the highest sanitary quality of food. In turn, two important domestic productive sectors have restarted operations. These are the nickel industry, with plants located in the Eastern province of Holguin, and the petrochemical industry in Cienfuegos. The national authorities mobilized 236 directive bodies; 1,500 food preparation centres; 2,300 shelters, 158,000 persons; 9,600 transportation vehicles, and 1,500 machinery engineering. The National Housing Institute is planning to offer advisory and quality control support to those interested in restoring their home—many of them without technical building knowledge – since the population itself provides 70% of the work force for reconstruction. This technical advice would prevent bigger building damage in the future



29. In the agricultural sector, emphasis is placed on the recovery of products for human and animal consumption, clearing up the coffee fields of thousands of trees and planting crops of a short cycle. Special attention is given to carefully attending and properly feeding all persons who remain protected in official shelters. Affected educational centers will introduce different strategies for the resumption of the school year, such as moving classrooms, regrouping students, applying only one session of classes and the using other sites, such as private homes and/or state-owned buildings. All provinces are working on the restoration of electricity service in the affected areas. The situation of water reservoirs is closely monitored.

30. Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela have already offered their support. In close conjunction with the Cuban authorities, the UN System is extending its support to Cuba. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has approved already USD 2.5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which will be disbursed through UN agencies on the ground. Individual agencies have also accessed their available funds and in total, the UN has mobilized USD 3.567 million in response to the damages caused by “Gustav”. These funds will be distributed as follows: OCHA has earmarked USD USD100,000 for emergency inputs, primarily essentials tools. WFP is delivering USD 1.2 million worth of emergency food assistance to the country and has already airlifted 45 tons of high energy biscuits from its regional depot in El Salvador and 9 Tons of canned fish from Ecuador aboard an aircraft supplied by the Ecuadorian Government. UNICEF has mobilized USD 663,000 to combat risks for children associated with water, sanitation and environmental hygiene. PAHO/WHO has confirmed that two containers of beds, mattresses and hospital equipment will be shipped to Cuba and that the USD \$574,000 mobilized will help reestablish local health care capacity in the devastated territories of Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth. FAO has confirmed a USD 439,000 to help reactivate the urban and peri-urban agriculture network to ensure food security during the recovery period. With USD 406,000, UNDP will assist with the restoration of basic living and sanitation conditions in the temporary shelter system in Pinar del Rio. UNFPA will be administering USD 181,000 to support personal hygiene and restore emergency reproductive health services throughout the local health system in affected communities such as San Cristobal, Los Palacios, La Palma and the Isle of Youth. The UN system issues a daily situation report available at: www.onu.org.cu.

31. Cash donations can be made at:

Account Number: 033473

Banco Financiero Internacional

Account name: MINVEC huracanes restauración de daños

TURKS AND CAICOS (TCI)

32. The Government of Turks and Caicos declared the state of emergency in 3 districts, Grand Turk Island, South Caicos Island and Salt Cay. The local Red Cross Society supported by the British Red Cross continues the delivery of relief items to affected persons in Grand Turks. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) completed initial damage assessment. Increased tensions are being reported in distribution centers in Grand Turk.

33. Some 6,950 people are affected in Grand Turk, South Caicos and Salt Cay of which 2,800 are vulnerable (children under 5, pregnant or lactating mothers, elderly, persons living below the poverty line and migrant populations). A total of 768 houses were affected.

34. Waste management has been identified as a concern. Private sector groups are planning on sending garbage trucks to Grand Turk on 15 September to support waste management activities. Foods needs in Grand Turk and South Caicos are being met through the TCI Government, Red Cross and Private Sector Channels. Needs are being identified by the protection sector and include the psychosocial support for children and youth. The Red Cross is paying particular attention to migrant workers in Grand Turks, ensuring equity of aid distribution. UNICEF is working with through the Ministry of Education on education. Schools were damaged in Grand Turk and South Caicos. Efforts are underway to restart schools in Providenciales and Grand Turk with some classes already resuming. Of concern is the accommodation for many of the teachers particularly in Grand Turk.



35. Partners are reporting that there are identified needs for water and sanitation. Assessments continue to be conducted but due to access difficulties, it is still not possible to provide the exact figure of requirements. Priorities include the restoration of the desalination plant in Grand Turk, while it should be noted that the plant was not operational prior to the hurricane. Shelter information is currently being validated with local authorities and the exact quantity of families residing in government shelters is still unclear, however it is known that many families are presently staying with host families.

36. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has been supporting the activities of the TCI Ministry of Health and health personnel on the ground. A list of insecticides and personal protective equipment for vector control activities has been identified. PAHO is arranging the deployment of the following health services personnel over the next few days: (2) nurses from Barbados; an epidemiological surveillance specialist; a health services/disaster management advisor; and a communicable disease specialist.

37. The national response is being coordinated by the TCI Disaster Office under the Minister for Home Affairs and Public and Public Safety which, under the state of emergency, is reporting to the Governor of TCI. The TCI Government has appointed a Rebuilding Coordinator responsible for coordinating all reconstruction efforts and complimenting the work of the National Disaster Management Team. UNDAC team will be travelling to Grand Turks on 15 September to support national coordination efforts. The following contributions were made: an emergency relief grant of US \$100,000 through CDERA; up to US \$500,000 for an Immediate Response Loan for the clearing and cleaning of affected areas and for emergency restoration of services; the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility is set to make a payout of approximately US\$6.3million to boost recovery efforts. These funds have been channeled through the Government of TCI; the IFRC allocated CHF 1.8M; the British Red Cross Society has allocated GBP140 000 from its Disaster Fund and issued a Hurricane Appeal for GBP 30 000. DFID has contributed 30 000 GBP through the British Red Cross Society.

REGIONAL RESPONSE

38. The OCHA Regional Office in Panama is closely monitoring the situation and is in close contact with the RCs and UNETEs of the affected countries in the region. More information can be found on Reliefweb at www.reliefweb.int and REDHUM at www.redhum.org. More information on the hurricanes and storms can be found at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. Humanitarian organisations and donors are encouraged to report all contributions (cash and in-kind) to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service at fts@reliefweb.int or through the on-line contribution form at www.reliefweb.int/fts, where a list of already made contributions is available.



TABLE I: FOOD AND RELIEF ITEMS DISTRIBUTED (as of 10 September 2008)



Cluster	Cluster Lead	Organization providing aid	Department	Community	Type of Aid	Quantity /Beneficiaries			
FOOD	WFP	WFP	OUEST	<i>Port-au-Prince</i>	HEB/Dry rations	0.2 MT/ 150			
				<i>Grand Goave</i>	HEB/Dry rations	1.1 MT/675			
				<i>Petit Goave</i>	HEB/Dry rations	1.2 MT/1,450			
			NORD OUEST	<i>Port-de-Paix</i>	HEB/Dry rations	9.7 MT/3,901			
				<i>Chansolme</i>	HEB/Dry rations	0.6 MT/569			
			ARTIBONITE	<i>Gonaïves</i>	HEB/Dry rations	49.6 MT/30,645			
			SUD	<i>Les Cayes</i>	HEB/Dry rations	16.8 MT/2,500			
			SUD EST	<i>Jacmel</i>	HEB/Dry rations	197.7 MT/15,373			
				<i>Cayes Jacmel</i>	HEB/Dry rations	1.5 MT/257			
				<i>Bainet</i>	HEB/Dry rations	5.0 MT/ 335			
			GRANDE ANSE	<i>Jeremie</i>	HEB/Dry rations	14.8MT/2,408			
			NIPPES	<i>Miragoane</i>	HEB/Dry rations	23.8 M/4,000			
			TOTAL					318 MT/42,263	
					UNICEF	OUEST	Gonaïves	Nutritional supplies to support MSF-B	10 boxes of therapeutic milk F-100 5 boxes of therapeutic milk F-50 10 boxes of Plumpy Nut 1 Oxfam Kit 4 1 scale
WATSAN	UNICEF	UNICEF	ARTIBONITE	Gonaïves	Emergency supplies	15,000 blankets, 12 waters tanks 5,000 hygiene kit 20,000 purification tabs			
					WATSAN Supplies	15,000 liters 1 water pump 6 Lay-flat rapid fitting hoses 2 collapsible Water tank of 10 000 L 4 Water distribution kit, 6 taps 1 Water purification unit			



NFI	IOM	UNICEF	ARTIBONITE	Gonaives	Jerri cans	300 Jerri cans
		ICRC/MSF B	ARIBONITE /NORD OUEST		Body bags	100
		PAHO	ARTIBONITE	Gonaives	Medical kit	Medical kit for 10,000 persons
		PAHO	ARTIBONITE	Gonaives	Surgical kit for St Marc hospital	1 Surgical kit
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Petit Goave	Hygiene kit DISTRIBUTED	839 Hygiene kit
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD	Les Cayes	Hygiene kit PREPOSITIONE D	500 Hygiene kit
NFI	IOM	USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Grande Goave	Hygiene kit DISTRIBUTED	100 Hygiene kit
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	ARTIBONITE	Saint Marc	Hygiene kit PREPOSITIONE D	300 Hygiene kit
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	ARTIBONITE	Gonaives	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	2000 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Port au Prince (Martissant)	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
NFI	IOM	USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	GRANDE ANSE	Jeremie	Family kit PREPOSITIONE D	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD	Ile a vache	Family kit PREPOSITIONE D	100 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	OUEST	Grande Goave	Family kit PREPOSITIONE D	100 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD EST	Cote de Fer	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
NFI	IOM	USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	CENTRE	Hinche	Family kit PREPOSITIONE D	500 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	SUD EST	Bainet, La Vallé	Family kit DISTRIBUTED	400 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster	ARTIBONITE	Grande Saline	Family kit	200 Kit



					D	jerrycan, plastic sheeting)
		USAID/IOM/ Cluster partner	NORD OUEST	Port de Paix	Family kit PREPOSITIONE D	200 Kit (Hygiene kit, jerrycan, plastic sheeting)

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