

# HOPE

*worldwide*

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT



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### HAITI DISASTER RESPONSE

On October 3, 2016, Hurricane Matthew made a landfall near Las Anglais in the southwestern region of Haiti. The category 4 storm brought with it wind gusts up to 185mph and an estimated rainfall of 40 inches. Matthew also impacted other countries in the Caribbean and the southeastern coastline of the U.S.

# Needs Assessment Report

## HAITI DISASTER RESPONSE

### IMPACT

- Total of 546 fatalities, 438 injured and 128 missing (UN)
- 1,000 died as reported by Reuters
- 2.1 million were impacted by Hurricane Matthew
- 1.4 million people need life-saving assistance
- 146,735 houses were destroyed, heavily damaged or flooded
- 592,581 children are at high risk and need assistance
- 175,509 persons are displaced
- 116,100 students are unable to attend school



HOPE *worldwide* began monitoring Hurricane Matthew when the early warnings indicated this storm was a potential threat to those in its path. After the storm, HOPE *worldwide* Haiti quickly responded by bringing food, medicine and water purifying tablets to the severely affected port city of Les Cayes in the South Department of Haiti. In an effort to support local partners in delivering efficient and effective relief and recovery supplies, HOPE *worldwide* sent Wade Cook, Vice President for U.S. and Caribbean Operations, and Charles Ham, Global Disaster Response Coordinator, to join the team on the ground. They assisted in assessing the needs and coordinating efforts with Government of Haiti as well as the United Nations' agencies.

## HOUSING

- It is estimated that as many as 97% of the houses in Les Cayes, 82% in Port Salut, and 72% in Jeremie were damaged. Houses in other areas experienced less damage as low as 0.05%.
- 146,735 houses were destroyed, heavily damaged, or flooded (UN OCHA).
- Assessments were limited since several small towns and remote villages were not accessible.
- As we traveled through Les Cayes and the surrounding areas, the damage estimates of 97% of houses appears accurate. Damages ranged from minor roof damage to complete destruction.
- Most older, poorly constructed houses did not withstand the storm. Many were destroyed but a number remain standing but in poor condition.
- Haitians often build their houses as they have the financial resources. Numerous unfinished houses sustained damage. Some were poorly constructed due to the families' limited financial resources and made them vulnerable to storm damage.
- The Government of Haiti does not want tents distributed to avoid the creation of tent cities, such as those created after the 2010 earthquake. Tarpaulins are recommended at this time. To speed up recovery, a long-term solution is needed.
- HOPE worldwide distributed some tarpaulins to families affected, and plans to help families replace their roofs with stronger corrugated zinc sheets for quick recovery.



*Pictured above: Houses destroyed or damaged in the South Department of Haiti*

## FOOD

- The World Food Program (WFP) and the Government of Haiti estimates that 806,000 people are suffering from extreme food insecurity.
- Most of these families are poor with very little food at home before the hurricane. Many have lost their food supplies and their crops, which they depend on for food
- WFP, along with other NGOs, are bringing food supplies. However, due to poor road access and import-reliance mobilizing help will take time.
- HOPE worldwide initiated food distribution to Les Cayes on Saturday, October 8. Additional distributions were conducted between October 12 and October 15. Food distribution to Les Irois, a hard to reach area, is also being planned. At this time, a possible route is by sea.
- There is a strong need for food and nutrition support.



*Emergency cooking kit of a family (top), a woman in a makeshift kitchen (bottom)*

## HEALTH

- Before Hurricane Matthew, a health alert was issued due to a high cholera incidence rate. This prompted the World Health Organization (WHO) to initiate an effort against cholera in Haiti.
- Poor drainage systems, waste management, health knowledge, and nutrition understanding puts the population at a greater risk.



Cholera cases as reported by PDC

- WHO reported that the essential cholera medicines are currently available. However, the current poor living conditions in emergency tents/huts with less nutritious food intake are affecting the population's health. In addition, debris and fallen trees can become breeding ground for insects, if not cleared properly.
- On October 8, HOPE worldwide Haiti brought a small medical team to help provide health care for children in Les Cayes.
- First aid kits are needed in homes and neighborhoods to prevent a secondary public health disaster. Over-the-counter medicines and supplies are crucial to help in the recovery of those who become ill.
- As a member of Global Health Cluster, HOPE worldwide continues to communicate and coordinate at the global level, and with the local Health Cluster in Haiti.



Status of Impacted Hospitals by PAHO

## PROTECTION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In Haiti, 175,509 persons have been displaced by Hurricane Matthew. They are spread out in various locations. Schools sheltered 16,000 families, but the displaced had to leave the classrooms so that schools could reopen on October 17, 2016. This created an additional burden on those who had no place to go. In addition, the Haiti government is against creating tent cities due to issues with they created following the 2010 quake. Instead, displaced people are being encouraged to take shelter where their damaged or destroyed houses once stood using tarpaulins. The protection of affected families is a concern, especially since there have been reports of gender-based-violence. After a disaster, women are often at risk, especially in Haiti where gender-based violence was high before and after the 2010 earthquake. (Human Right Watch) Women need to be protected from potential harm following a disaster.

UNICEF reports that 592,581 children are at high risk and need assistance. The issues of health, nutrition, trafficking, and many other dangers are a concern. Plus, the unsafe grounds of destroyed or damaged houses pose safety threats for children in the affected area. Children need safe places where they can play in a protected environment.

## WATER AND SANITATION

- Only 24% of Haiti's population had access to toilets before the hurricane. With the hurricane and the government's discouragement of camps, this problem will negatively affect many more people.
- The majority of Haitians do not have access to clean piped water. People use whatever they can, including rivers or small streams that are often contaminated due to poor waste management. This causes the rapid spread of diseases, including cholera.
- At this time, water purifying tablets are important. HOPE worldwide managed to distribute some water purifying tablets, but many more are needed.



*Water purifying tablets and water buckets distributed to families*

## EDUCATION

- Hurricane Matthew has interrupted the education of 116,100 students. Additionally, 16,000 families have taken shelter in schools. They will be forced to leave with no place to go when the schools re-open on October 17, 2016.
- Official numbers of schools affected are still unknown, but many schools that we saw had sustained damage.
- HOPE worldwide is supporting a school in Les Cayes that lost its roof and needs to repair four classrooms before they can reopen classes.
- Numerous schools will need roofing repairs and/or structural repair.



*A classroom that lost its roof (top), HOPEww distributing roofing in Les Cayes (bottom)*

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In the nation of Haiti, where earthquakes and hurricanes are real threats along with a depleting environment, residents have had very little disaster risk reduction education. This plus Haiti's economic difficulties, creates the potential for the catastrophic impact of disasters as experienced following the 2010 earthquake and now Hurricane Matthew. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is needed, even during the relief period, to reduce the risk to people now and to help them rebuild better structures to withstand future storms.

- A range of DRR activities include planning strong structural designs to behavior changes in preparedness and health practices.
- HOPE worldwide is committed to promoting DRR among the people during relief and recovery.



*HOPE worldwide Relief Team bringing food, water kit, and tarpaulins to families*

## RELIEF NEEDS (UNTIL DECEMBER 2016)

The relief needs, as identified by HOPE worldwide, is based on various reports and field visits that identifies needs. We feel strongly that in the first three months, the people affected by Hurricane Matthew need:

- Food support to affected families, especially staples including: rice, beans, pasta and cooking oil.
- Clean water made possible by providing water filters and water purifying tablets, and ensuring families have a clean water storage system.
- Emergency shelter, in the forms of tarpaulins. If possible, corrugated zinc sheets are very helpful for quick recovery.
- Livelihood support through farming, livestock and small businesses.
- Disease prevention through distribution of hygiene kits, health promotion and first aid provisions.
- Psychosocial interventions for women and children, who need a place to turn to for trauma recovery, a place to talk or to find solutions for their issues.

## RECOVERY NEEDS (JANUARY 2017 AND BEYOND)

The communities affected need to recover and rise out of their current situations quickly. To help them, HOPE *worldwide* has identified several activities these communities need:

- House rebuilding/repairing
- Disaster preparedness for schools and communities
- Job skills training for economic development
- Community-based educational facilities/centers that can also serve as shelters in disasters

## IN SUMMARY

In conclusion, we understand that the communities of Haiti have so many needs - even before the hurricane. This disaster exposed the need to rebuild in better ways and help Haiti overcome the label as “the poorest country in the western hemisphere”. The economy must be developed and proper health practices need to be taught and implemented. Better education is needed for the children of Haiti – its future leaders. And, vulnerable individuals need our support to nurture a strong country.

The people of Haiti need us to stand with them. Haitians are in need of a hand up to help them "build-back-better". Of course, they need basic life-saving support now, but programs should be designed to build a stronger future.

HOPE *worldwide* is appealing to individuals and organizations, including private sector companies and corporations to take part in our efforts to bring hope to Haiti, so that the people can build a better foundation that will withstand future storms. Without your involvement, we can only provide minimal change. But together, we can make a true impact on the nation.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW WE CAN REBUILD HAITI TOGETHER  
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