Highlights

UNICEF is scaling up delivery of assistance to women and children in parts of Haiti most affected by the Hurricane Matthew. Children are receiving clean water and school supplies, while damaged schools and health facilities that can be quickly put back in use are being repaired and reopened.

- UNICEF is responding in four departments of Haiti: Grand’Anse, South, Nippes and North-West. It is estimated that at least 590,000 children are in need of assistance.

- UNICEF and its partners are providing 100,000 people with clean water daily and improved sanitation along with distributions of water purifying tablets and hygiene kits.

- UNICEF is working with Ministry of Health and PAHO to organize vaccination of 900,000 people in the most affected areas. The first round of the Cholera immunization campaign is scheduled for 8 November, 2016.

- UNICEF is reaching 3,552 children with basic needs assistance including hygiene kits, blankets and food as well as assistance for documents lost in the hurricane.

- UNICEF has distributed emergency medical supplies to 18 health centers (5 in Grande’Anse, 5 in Nippes and 8 in the South.

- UNICEF opened Field Office in Les Cayes ensuring expanded field presence of its teams in the area as well as in Jeremie.

- The current funding gap for UNICEF is 46% of total funding needs for 2016.

01 November 2016

2,128,708 people affected including
894,057 children
(UNICEF estimate based on UN Haiti assessments)

1,410,907 people including
592,581 children in need of assistance
(UNICEF estimate based on UN Haiti assessments)

112,500 children under age five are at risk of acute malnutrition
(OCHA)

546 people dead
(DCP)

3,500 suspected cholera cases
(cases reported from 4 to 24 October - OCHA)

175,509 Displaced people in shelters
Source: Civil Protection Department (DPC)

UNICEF revised funding needs for 2016 are US$36.6 million, including funding to cover immediate life-saving interventions in response to devastating impact of Hurricane Matthew.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

UNICEF is working with partners on delivering humanitarian assistance to affected populations, while continuously assessing the situation on the ground. UNICEF is prioritizing interventions to address the most pressing needs, including access to a sufficient supply of quality water, education, shelter, child protection, health and nutrition.

There is evident progress with provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene to the affected populations, albeit persisting problems and still existing needs for clean water and adequate sanitation in the most affected areas. At the current stage of its response UNICEF and partners are focusing on improving sanitation in the affected areas and particularly in temporary shelters. UNICEF continues to assess water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in institutions of residential care. 3,552 children in institutions have been identified as requiring assistance with regards to WASH and nutrition.

There is a growing concern of further spread of Cholera in Haiti, including the areas impacted by Hurricane Matthew, due to prevailing poor water supply and sanitary conditions. This situation is further complicated by reported movements of people to urban areas where humanitarian aid is more accessible, which is adding pressure to weak and inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure. Of concern is also reported increase in numbers of acute diarrhea cases and all humanitarian actors are maintaining strict surveillance and vigilence.

Schools in the Department Sud have started to open as of 18 October. The Ministry of Education reported that 215 schools in 4 out of 6 districts in Sud have resumed classes with attendance of approximately 50,000 students. In the Grand Anse Department, the official reopening of the schools is planned for 7 November. The official list of affected schools shared by the MoE has increased from the initial 230 schools to 733. Partners in the Education sector, including UNICEF, World Bank, IADB, Save the Children, Care and Finn Aid Church are planning to support repairs of at least 330 schools. The goal is to ensure rapid resumption of education and learning for children and deployment of teachers. For this purpose UNICEF is providing supplies of School-in-a-Box and Early Childhood Development kits for immediate distribution.

There are increased concerns with safety of children and their families as well as their vulnerability to violence, including sex- and gender-based violence (SGBV) and exploitation as individuals cope with the harsh realities of life after Matthew. UNICEF and its partners are estimating that 125,000 children are in need of protection from violence, exploitation and abuse. This represents a revised and increased target taking into account the findings of most recent assessments and expanded set of needs.

UNICEF is strengthening its response to the protection needs of women and children in temporary shelters as well as to the families moving out from the shelters. UNICEF and partners are advocating for ensuring availability of sustainable solutions and adequate accommodation alternatives for people currently in temporary shelters.

Latest assessments are revealing a significant impact to the system of healthcare provision in the most affected Departments. At least 34 of the 212 Health institutions, some of which hosting Cholera Treatment Centres, have been severely damaged or destroyed and are in urgent need of being rehabilitated. Many hospitals are lacking basic supplies and medicines and are with significantly limited capacity to provide treatment to patients.

It is estimated that 806,000 people are food insecure due to nearly a total destruction of crops and livestock as well as severe impact on fishery as basic tools, including boats and nets, have been destroyed in the hurricane.
Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Coordination structures include Humanitarian Country Team HCT and sectorial groups with government ministry or department leadership and UNICEF is taking active part in coordination efforts at national and departmental levels. Sector coordination meetings are organized at least once per week.

- UNICEF is working closely with PAHO/OPS and Ministry of Health on supporting the coordination in the Health sector.

Summary Analysis of Programme response: 19-30 October.

Priorities for UNICEF’s immediate response are unchanged, and the priority sectors of intervention include WASH, health and nutrition, education and child protection, with focus on:

- Providing safe water and adequate sanitation to help prevent the spread of water and vector borne diseases with particular attention to cholera - targeting 1,250,000 people / 500,000 children;
- Ensuring restoration of sanitation and water in schools and health centers along with the distribution of WASH supplies, including water purification tablets and hygiene kits.
- Providing support to repairs of damaged Cholera treatment centers along with conducting preventive education for cholera for children and affected communities.
- Providing support to organization of the first round of Cholera vaccination campaign expected to start on 8 November.
- Increased efforts on screening of children malnutrition in the affected communities along with provision of cholera prevention education activities.
- Ensuring early return to school for children, by repairing schools and providing equipment for both teachers and pupils
- Supporting child protection services to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse.

WASH

UNICEF and its partners are continuing with delivery of water-bladders, water-treatments plants, and truckloads of safe clean water to affected areas with focus on Grande Anse and Sud Departments. Provision of adequate hygiene and sanitation is an ongoing priority, especially with the rapid increase in the number of cases of acute diarrhea in affected areas. Cholera testing and treatment centers are being restored to ensure incidents of the disease are detected and contained as quickly as possible.

- UNICEF and its partners are reaching 100,000 people per day with safe water, organizing also distributions of water purification tablets (Aquatabs) and hygiene kits.
- The water treatment plant installed by UNICEF partners in Jeremie is providing 100,000 liters of water a day, which benefits 12,500 people every day.
- UNICEF continues to assess water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in institutions of residential care. 3,552 children in institutions have been identified as requiring assistance with regards to WASH and nutrition.
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• 3 partners from WASH sector are delivering between 100-200 cholera prevention ‘kits’ per day, which include AquaTabs for water purification (10L/tab), soap, and oral rehydration salts (ORS), as part of the WASH interventions aimed at Cholera prevention.

Cholera response

Reducing the spread of cholera is of utmost importance within the framework of the current response. Within the overall strategy of response to the impact of Hurricane Matthew, UNICEF is integrating activities to prevent cholera in all sectors of its priority interventions including Education, Child Protection, Nutrition, Health and WASH.

• First round of Cholera vaccination will take place from 8-15 November, targeting 900,000 people in Grande Anse and South Departments. The second round of vaccination is planned in February 2017.
• UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Health and Population, and with WHO/PAHO on planning the vaccination and ensuring adequate cold-chain and social mobilization activities.
• There are currently 17 Cholera Rapid Response teams active in the Grande Anse, South, and Nippes departments.
• 13 mobile medical teams from UNICEF partner MdM are providing cholera vaccination in addition to providing primary health care services to affected communities in Grande Anse.

Child Protection

Child protection partners in Haiti are having increased concerns about safety of children and families as well as their exposure and vulnerability to violence, including sex- and gender-based violence (SGBV), and exploitation as individuals cope with the harsh realities of life after Matthew. This situation is further aggravated by increasing food insecurity and malnutrition arising from significant damage to crops, loss of livestock and heavily impacted fishery. UNICEF and its partners have revised the number of children in need of protection from violence, exploitation and abuse to a new target of 125,000 children, taking into account findings of most recent assessments and expanded set of needs.

• In collaboration with the IBESR (Ministry of Social Affairs) UNICEF is reaching 3,552 children with distribution of basic needs assistance including hygiene kits, blankets and food as well as assistance for documents lost in the hurricane.
• UNICEF continues to coordinate protection assistance with relevant partners, including IBESR and BPM, aiming to prevent family separation amongst children affected by the hurricane.
• 15% of children in residential care affected are under 5 years old and UNICEF and its partners continue with assessments and monitoring of nutritional status of children in shelters and their other basic needs.
• In collaboration with IBESR, and UNICEF partners Terre des Hommes, IDETTE and AVSI, UNICEF is establishing child friendly spaces (CFS) in the South and in Grand’ Anse. These spaces will provide psycho-social assistance to vulnerable children and families as well as provide basic assistance and referral to humanitarian actors.

Education

The Directorate for the Ministry of Education shared a plan of school repairs to guide humanitarian partners, including UNICEF, in prioritizing their assistance aiming at initially targeting schools that have sustained less-significant damage. UNICEF immediate response strategy in education sector is based on the following key elements: refurbishment of damaged schools, including repairs of WASH facilities, provision of school furniture (desks and blackboards) provision of school supplies for children and teaching kits for teachers. Some of these supplies arrived 20th October from UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen, in cooperation with UPS Foundation, which provided free air-shipment.
UNICEF has initiated repairs in 10 schools that sustained only roof damage so to ensure rapid resumption of education activities in these schools.

UNICEF is organizing distribution of school supplies to 8 schools reaching 1,096 children in Les Cayes (South Department) including 10 Early Childhood Development kits for 400 pre-schools children.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has issued a new calendar for the current school year, and will revise the accelerated learning program aiming that children currently out of school catch up on their education program.

Approximately 86 schools have been used as temporary shelters. UNICEF and partners are working with national counterparts to find sustainable alternatives for people temporarily accommodated in schools, while working on ensuring repairs of water and sanitation infrastructure in anticipation of resumption of education activities.

Another challenge related to this situation is that 144 schools in hurricane affected areas are planned to be used as voting stations in the upcoming elections, mounting further pressure on displaced people sheltering in those schools. UNICEF and partners are advocating for finding appropriate alternative solutions for these people.

Health and Nutrition

The needs assessment, conducted jointly by UNICEF Health and Nutrition program sections, has been completed in three departments affected by Hurricane Matthew. In light of upcoming cholera vaccination campaign, social mobilisation efforts are underway, supporting the Ministry of Health and Populations and PAHO/WHO to ensure maximum awareness and coverage.

According to recent assessments conducted by UNICEF and its partners, 80% of hospitals and medical institutions in Grand’Anse have lost their roofs. 7 health institutions in Grand’Anse are no longer functional whereas in South this number is 4 and in Nippes 3.

UNICEF has distributed emergency medical supplies to 18 health centers (5 in Grande Anse, 5 in Nippes and 8 in the South.

Cold-chain systems, including equipment and immunization materials, have been severely impacted in most of the healthcare facilities in the hurricane affected areas. UNICEF is working to restore the cold chain systems and is collaborating with PAHO/WHO on ensuring the replenishment of vaccines. UNICEF is also providing urgent supplies and equipment (cold boxes, refrigerators) to ensure continued implementation of routine immunization program.

Assessment of the nutrition response capacity identified the need to rehabilitate 93 outpatient care centres and 6 inpatient facilities to enable resumed provision of quality nutrition services. The most critical needs include structural repair, replenishment of supply stocks, provision of tools and organization of refresher trainings for staff to absorb expected increase in caseloads.

Mobile clinics are planned for delivery of essential nutrition services until restoration of regular health and nutrition services.

UNICEF is partnering with AVSI to deliver integrated package of malnutrition prevention and treatment targeting children under five and pregnant and lactating women in 8 affected districts of Sud UNICEF is also collaborating with ‘Partners of the Americas’ to provide these services in 4 affected districts of Nippes department.
Supply and Logistics
UNICEF is strengthening the storage capacity for supply distribution in Jeremie logistics base by installing a 240m$^3$ Mobile Storage Unit (MSU). Additional MSU of the same size will also be installed in Les Cayes.

Security of delivery of humanitarian supplies remains to be problematic in the hurricane affected areas as looting of supplies en route to affected people continues to take place. Humanitarian actors on the ground are collaborating with MINUSTAH and the Haitian Police to secure escorts for humanitarian convoys.

Human Resources
UNICEF continues to surge its human resource capacity for scaling up the response to the crisis in Haiti, while working on finalizing a comprehensive human resource plan for the next twelve months, included expanded presence of personnel in the Les Cayes Field Office and satellite office in Jeremie.

Media and External Communication
UNICEF continues its work on communication products aiming to ensure visibility of impact Hurricane Matthew had on children and their families as well as humanitarian action in response to their needs. Within the reporting period the following activities have been completed:

- A News Note on the crisis via open-source media bringing latest updates on the situation and humanitarian action on the ground.
- In coordination with the UN Communication group UNICEF responded to several media requests for interviews.
- Joint press release with Minister of Health and WHO has been released on 27 October.
- UNICEF continues with regular posting its blog on the situation in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew and regularly provides updates on social media, including its Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Funding
Based on detailed needs assessments in the affected areas UNICEF has revised its 2016 funding requirements to US$ 36.6 million, of which US$23 million is needed to meet urgent needs in response to Hurricane Matthew and worsened Cholera situation in Haiti. The current funding gap is 46%