

Voices from the Field

Evaluation of UNICEF Response to Hurricane Matthew

By [Antine Legrand](#), Chief Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation at UNICEF Haiti



Evaluation de la Réponse d'UNICEF à l'Ouragan Matthew en Haïti

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After cutting a deadly swath across the Caribbean region, Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 235 km/h, violently struck south-western Haiti on 4 October 2016, causing widespread damage, flooding and displacement. Hurricane Matthew has caused the largest humanitarian crisis witnessed in the country since the 2010's earthquake. The most pressing needs included: shelter; food; access to safe drinking water and sanitation; health and nutritional services; education services; protection services, psychosocial assistance and access to critical lifesaving messages and information services. Women and girls have become vulnerable to gender-based violence due to temporary living arrangements. UNICEF response, based on the guiding principles laid down in its Core Commitments for Children (CCC), included

providing clean and safe water (Water trucking in shelters, repairs of damaged water systems; potabilization, aquatabs, rehabilitation and equipment of affected schools to allow safe return to schools, health services (mobile clinics) in order to identify health and nutrition needs; protection services in order to minimize negative coping mechanisms; etc. UNICEF estimated to 42.5 million USD the amount necessary to cover the needs of 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF received close to 31 million USD from traditional and new donors in order to respond to the Emergency. UNICEF was also co-leading 4 emergency working groups (Nut, Edu, Protection and WASH).

The evaluation, formative in nature, primarily aims at identifying strengths and weaknesses in UNICEF response, while also strengthening accountability and transparency to UNICEF's partners and donors.

The specific objectives were to:

- i) Assess the extent to which the preparedness activities have fed into the Hurricane Matthew emergency response,
- ii) Take stock of the emergency response for the onset of the crisis to transition and recovery, highlighting the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the response,
- iii) Assess both the positive and negative sides of UNICEF response and identify what are the long lasting effect of UNICEF's response,
- iv) Identify lessons learned and develop recommendations on each separate phase of the response (preparedness, emergency, transition/recovery).

The three main expected audience are:

1. UNICEF staff who are directly or indirectly involved in this emergency – including those at the field, national, regional and headquarters levels – who will use the results of this evaluation to fine-tune and calibrate UNICEF's humanitarian efforts.
2. UNICEF staff faced with similar emergencies in the future who may choose to use this evaluation as a reference document and use the results to inform their own strategies.
3. UNICEF donors and implementing partners, both governmental and non-governmental, and beneficiaries, as a mechanism to strengthen accountability and transparency.

The comprehensive report can be [accessed here](#), and you can watch the [15-minute video here](#).