

Snapshot of Human Rights in Haiti Following the Earthquake

Prepared for March 23, 2010 hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Housing

- 1.3 million people are living in spontaneous settlement sites.¹
- 56% of the need for emergency shelter has been met through the distribution of over 35,000 family size tents and over 259,266 tarps.²
- 157 of the 326 settlements risk flooding and landslides in the coming rainy season.³
- 200,000 people in high-risk settlement camps need 600 hectares of land for resettlement.
*The Government has so far identified 220 hectares.*⁴
- 604,215 people have left Port-au-Prince for outlying communities.
*Displacement to rural areas has caused increases in household size, ranging from 40% (in the Sud-Est, Centre and Artibonite departments) to over 120% (in the Nippes and Grand Anse departments).*⁵
- Approximately 160,000 displaced persons are living with families near the Dominican boarder.⁶

Water and Sanitation

- 1.2 million people are receiving daily water distributions.⁷
- In mid-February 52% of 133 settlement camps surveyed had no excreta disposal system in place.⁸
*Humanitarian responders hope to provide 12,950 latrines before end of March and 21,000 before the end of June.⁹ If this goal is met, settlement camps will be equipped with 1 latrine for every 50 people.*¹⁰
- In mid-February, approximately 54% of displaced families had not received hygiene kits.
*Humanitarian responders have distributed 88,000 hygiene kits, reaching 510,000 people meeting approximately 46% of the target¹¹ of providing 1 hygiene kit for each family.*¹²
- UNDP's cash-for-work programme is employing 70,610 people to clear garbage and refuse.¹³

¹ OCHA, HAITI: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION REPORT #27 2 (March 9, 2010)

http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&shortid=SVAN-83DQWU&file=Full_Report.pdf.

² OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #29 (March 15, 2010)

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDUnidFilename/AMMF-83GM8C-full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDUnidFilename/AMMF-83GM8C-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf).

³ WFP, EXTERNAL SITUATION REPORT 1 (March 6, 2010)

http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&shortid=SKEA-83DH7Q&file=Full_Report.pdf.

⁴ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #28 2 (March 11, 2010).

⁵ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 2 (March 2, 2010)

http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&shortid=EGUA-836R39&file=Full_Report.pdf.

⁶ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #27 1 (March 9, 2010)

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDUnidFilename/SVAN-83DQWU-full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDUnidFilename/SVAN-83DQWU-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf).

⁷ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #28 1 (March 11, 2010).

⁸ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 2 (March 2, 2010).

⁹ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #28 2 (March 11, 2010).

¹⁰ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised* ¶ 35, 1 (Feb. 18, 2010).

¹¹ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #28 2 (March 11, 2010).

¹² OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal, Revised* ¶ 35, 1 (Feb. 18, 2010).

¹³ UNDP, *Haiti Recover Update*, ¶ 2, 1 (March 5, 2010).

Food

- 4.3 million people have received food aid from the World Food Programme (“WFP”),¹⁴ 350,000 of whom are living outside of Port-au-Prince.¹⁵
- Approximately 13,000 people in Port-au-Prince have not received any food assistance.¹⁶
- Malnutrition levels are below emergency thresholds¹⁷ but distribution efforts must double to meet current need.
*Current resources can meet approximately 60% of the acute malnutrition treatment need.*¹⁸
- There is a need for a sustainable cooking fuel alternative to charcoal and wood.¹⁹
- Imported rice and wheat flour prices increased 25% and 65% respectively since the earthquake.²⁰
- President Préval has asked international partners to stop food assistance and focus on agriculture production because food assistance is interfering with and competing with Haitian markets.²¹

Agriculture

- The agriculture sector was severely under-funded through the UN Flash Appeal.
*By mid-February, the appeal was fully funded for \$562 million but sector allocations did not meet the need identified by the appeal.*²²
- The March planting season provides 60% of local food production.²³
- Commercial agricultural suppliers suffered damages or have stopped selling their products, causing a shortage of needed inputs for the March planting season.²⁴
- Stress on host communities from displacement is reducing the ability of households to purchase agricultural inputs leading to collapse of agricultural markets.
*Displacement is leading to extreme coping strategies including the consumption of food reserves, eating seeds, use of household cash savings and assets stripping.*²⁵
- The Ministry of Agriculture recommends shipping in certified and locally adapted seed varieties as part of immediate relief efforts for March.
*The Ministry produced a list of available certified seed varieties.*²⁶
- Sufficient quantities of local seeds may still be available in local markets.²⁷
- Reduced demand in traditional markets is damaging agricultural household income.
*Farmers reported that they were unable to sell their produce in local markets.*²⁸

¹⁴ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 4 (March 2, 2010).

¹⁵ WFP, EXTERNAL SITUATION REPORT 1 (Mar. 6, 2010).

¹⁶ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #27 1 (Mar. 9, 2010).

¹⁷ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 5 (Mar. 2, 2010).

¹⁸ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 17)(Feb. 18, 2010).

¹⁹ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 16)(Feb. 18, 2010).

²⁰ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 16)(Feb. 18, 2010).

²¹ Relief Web, *Long-term food aid risk to Haiti economy – Préval* (Mar. 8, 2010)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/AMMF-83CR46?OpenDocument&cc=hti>.

²² OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 1)(Feb. 18, 2010).

²³ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 6 (Mar. 2, 2010).

²⁴ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 17 (Mar. 2, 2010).

²⁵ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 25-26)(Feb. 18, 2010).

²⁶ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 6 (Mar. 2, 2010).

²⁷ O OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 69)(Feb. 18, 2010).

²⁸ O OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 69)(Feb. 18, 2010).

Women

- There were 35,000 pregnant women at the time of the quake.²⁹
- Approximately 197,480 pregnant or lactating women were affected by the quake.³⁰
- Women are victims of coercive transactional sex, trafficking, and sexual exploitation and abuse.
 - 7 hospitals and 2 NGOs are working with trafficking and abuse victims.³¹ Women's safety when traveling to and from food distribution sites is a concern.³²*
- Women have been reluctant to report rapes.³³
- The poor sanitary conditions are causing women to suffer urinary tract and vaginal infections.³⁴
 - Humanitarian responders are meeting with women's groups to determine needs concerning women's right to water, hygiene, health, food, education, and adequate standard of living.³⁵*
- A consultation was held on March 9th with 50 women's organizations and the Ministry of Women in Port-au-Prince.³⁶

Children

- 1.26 million children have been directly or indirectly affected by the earthquake, 700,000 of whom are 6 to 12 years old.³⁷
- 450,000 children have been displaced.³⁸
- 250 separated children have been confirmed; 15 are benefitting from interim family care arrangements.³⁹
- As of mid-February, community mobilization and education had provided counseling for 7,828 caregivers.⁴⁰
- At least 1,165 mothers and infants have participated in baby-friendly feeding tents within the camps in Port-au-Prince.⁴¹
- As of mid-February 2.9 million children were not attending classes.
 - Unaffected schools outside Port-au-Prince reopened on February 1st. Within Port-au-Prince, schools have not reopened due to concerns over structural integrity, but classes are scheduled to begin in temporary structures if necessary in April.⁴²*

²⁹ Voice of Haitian Women, UNIFEM, 1 UN Plaza, New York, NY (Mar. 3, 2010).

³⁰ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #28 4 (Mar. 11, 2010).

³¹ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #28 6 (Mar. 11, 2010).

³² OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 22)(Feb. 18, 2010).

³³ Voice of Haitian Women, UNIFEM, 1 UN Plaza, New York, NY (Mar. 3, 2010).

³⁴ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #26 5 (March 4, 2010).

³⁵ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #27 6 (March 9, 2010).

³⁶ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #28 6 (March 11, 2010).

³⁷ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 26)(Feb. 18, 2010).

³⁸ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 22)(Feb. 18, 2010).

³⁹ OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #25 6 (Mar. 2, 2010).

⁴⁰ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 17)(Feb. 18, 2010).

⁴¹ OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 17)(Feb. 18, 2010).

⁴² OCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Appeal Revised*, ¶ __, __ (p 19)(Feb. 18, 2010), OCHA, HAITI SITUATION REPORT #29 4 (March 15, 2010).