

Monthly Tdh highlights in Haiti

Project support in health, nutrition, water, hygiene, sanitation and child protection for children and their family in the western and southern departments of Haiti

Terre des hommes commits itself to the disasters and risks reduction in the Southern and Grande Anse departments of Haïti

Haiti is a country which is extremely vulnerable to natural hazards, mainly due to its geographical position and its geological features. More specifically, the country is regularly hit by hurricanes, storms, floods, mudslides and landslides, drought and earthquakes. In the past, Haiti has also had tidal waves. The consequences of these natural disasters are accentuated by other factors such as the poor living conditions, the cholera epidemic, the deterioration of the environment and a fragile political situation, not to mention the repercussions of the earthquake of January 12, 2010 that the people of Haiti are still facing.

Reduction of the consequences on the victims

To give warning and be able to act quickly after disasters, in July 2011, Terre des hommes and UNICEF drew up a set of measures for risk reduction; humanitarian standby, and tools of warning and response to such disasters. For a period of 10 months, Tdh will support the national contingency plan of the Civil Protection Directorate (DPC). The competencies of the communities and state bodies will thus be strengthened so as to be capable of anticipating, preventing, and acting fast when faced with catastrophes. As a last resort, Tdh can carry out an emergency intervention.

In this project, Tdh participates in a national plan and is allied with emergency organizations which act in other regions of the country, as well as with the state institutions (Civil Protection Directorate, National System of Risk and Disaster Management, Center for Emergency Operations, etc.). Together they will draw up or consolidate the procedures for alerts and interventions to be valid for the whole country, to allow their gradual assimilation into the national policy.



Protect the most vulnerable regions

The Southern Department is particularly vulnerable owing to its coastal position. The plain of Les Cayes is especially exposed to flooding, due to landslides from the deforested mountains and its lying below sea level. Like this, the waste water management is insufficient and a few hours of light rain is enough to cause serious flooding.

The department of Grande Anse has an additional factor of vulnerability: its iso-

lation. The current lack of road infrastructure and its development characterize most of the people in this department. Moreover, in the event of a cyclone, the roads become completely impracticable and the department is very likely to be cut off from the rest of the country.

These two departments were not spared by the cholera epidemic, for which the response of the local health structure was inadequate.



Health-nutrition

Terre des hommes continues to look after children with severe, complicated acute malnutrition in the two units for nutritional stabilization (USN) in Petit Goave and Les Cayes. The nutritional situation is relatively stable, but we must mention an increase in the number of admissions during the month of August.

In the Southern department, four outpatient therapeutic care programs are supported by Terre des hommes and host severe acute malnourished children without complications. 24 staff members from health centers run by the Ministry of Health were given training on the screening and management of acute malnutrition.

The health of children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition is monitored by eight professionals (5 in rural areas and 3 in urban districts) every month.

In rural areas where Tdh works, 100% of the expectant mothers attend the centers for pregnant women, a sign of the recognition of Terre des hommes' projects on the part of the communities.



501 children with severe acute malnutrition have been supported
 466 children with moderate acute malnutrition were followed
 5,995 have been screened for malnutrition
 1,630 were vaccinated
 1,155 pregnant women receive regular monitoring



The protection team followed 1,185 children since the beginning of the project
 1,909 children from residential centers have been registered
 406 children have benefited for family mediation and 361 children have been reunified with their families
 10 community social centers are working
 231 adults participate into sensitization on child protection and parenting education

Protection

The identification of young mothers is increasing and requires special attention for these adolescents and their children. Individual and collective activities offer personalized support and create supportive relationships in order to avoid their isolation.

A Tdh nurse, in collaboration with groups of women, provides support for young mothers and young girls. Particularly to prevent them abandoning their babies, they get advice on pregnancy, childbirth, family planning, breastfeeding and nutrition for small children, childish ailments, and the rights of children and women. These young women can also meet up, exchange experiences and give advice to one another.

In Grand Goave, 26 young girls aged 14 to 18, mothers or pregnant, took part in a training course so they could access small income generating activities. 76 young girls and women registered for the awareness-making activities run by Tdh, taking part in 5 sessions on average. Mixed discussion groups of boys and girls also gave them a chance to talk about adolescence and sexual education.

Water and sanitation

In addition to the shortage of latrines in Haiti, the lack of space to dump human excreta poses a major problem and increases the epidemiological risk of contamination. The manual sewage collectors, known in Haiti as "bayakous" have no other solution than to throw excreta into the rivers of the towns or into the sea, risking their own health and exposing the population to water-transmitted diseases. To overcome this problem, Terre des hommes has given training to the bayakous as well as material to make it possible for them to carry out their job with decency and in safety. People in the districts where Tdh is active have also been made aware of the risks of badly handled human excreta, to encourage them to use the services of the trained bayakous.

Tdh has also signed a draft agreement with the orphanage ESPWA for the construction of a composting site there. This site is currently under construction and should be operational in the fall. The orphanage plans to use the compost as part of a project for fruit and cereal growing for the children in the orphanage and for the local population, and it will also avoid their having to buy chemical fertilizer.

447 latrines have been constructed for 3815 people
 63 hygiene promotion sessions have been done for 2766 people
 49 masons were trained
 6 sanitation and drinkable water committees are functional