Fuel crisis and social unrest: Impact on the humanitarian situation

as of 29 September 2022

Haiti is experiencing a serious fuel crisis which, combined with the insecurity generated by the activity of armed gangs and the rising cost of living, has triggered significant social unrest across country since 12 September, worsening the plight of the most vulnerable populations. With nearly 86 per cent of the country’s electricity generation dependent on petroleum products, fuel supply has always been a major challenge in Haiti. A coalition of armed gangs has completely blocked off access to the Varreux terminal, the country’s main point of entry for fuel, making the situation increasingly critical. The national power grid is now providing only a few hours of electricity per day and fuel reserves for backup systems, mainly supported by diesel-powered generators, are running out. As a result, access to essential services, like water and telecommunications, is severely restricted. Some parts of Haiti are no longer covered by service networks and DINEPA¹ says that soon it will no longer be able to operate its pumping stations or make deliveries via tanker trucks to supply the country with water. The fuel crisis, along with rising tensions and insecurity across the country, is directly affecting humanitarian activities and access to basic services, including health, nutrition and education.

**IMPACT ON BASIC SERVICES**

- 17 OUT OF 22 HEALTH FACILITIES AT RISK OF CLOSURE due to fuel shortages (23 Sept 2022)
- 50K CHILDREN AND NEWBORNs AT RISK OF NOT RECEIVING CARE in the next few weeks

**OPERATION OF SERVICES IN 22 HEALTH FACILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Partial</th>
<th>Closed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrical</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HEALTH**

- Considerable impact on the supply of water and electricity to health centres and hospitals.
- Ambulance services significantly reduced.
- Participation of health care personnel face difficulties in accessing hospitals.
- Increased risk of disease outbreaks due to difficulties in monitoring alerts.
- Difficulties to respond to issues (sarcoidosis) outbreaks in Cité Soleil and Bas Delmas.
- 71 per cent of PLHIV² in the Ouest Department out of 72,500 across three departments (Ouest, Sud and Grand’Anse) are at risk of discontinuing antiretroviral treatment.
- 7,000 victims of sexual violence may not receive care by the end of the year (UNFPA³ projections).

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

- Significant reduction in pediatric, obstetric and maternal health services.
- Some 3,000 obstetric complications that require major procedures, such as caesarean sections, may remain unaddressed by the end of the year.
- Some 22,100 children under age 5 and more than 28,000 newborns are in risk of not receiving essential health services during the year.

**NUTRITION**

- Suspension of outpatient nutrition services in the Ouest, Sud and Artibonite departments.
- Suspension of nutritional surveys (SMART, Bas-Delmas assessment).

**EDUCATION**

- Postponement of the start of the school year from 5 September to 3 October.
- Looting of schools across the country (school materials, operational equipment and food for school cafeteria), including 24 looted schools in Artibonite, which are expected to receive some 13,600 students.

**IMPACTS ON LOGISTICS**

- Restrictions on the movement of humanitarian organizations, including staff.
- Unstable and/or reduced access to telecommunications services.
- Difficulties for suppliers to provide transportation and equipment.
- Difficulties accessing cash due to reduced operations of the banking system.
- Prioritization of fuel supplies for operational activities and emergency response.
- Ongoing blockade of national roads 1 and 2 which connect the capital to the northern and southern parts of the country.
- Looting of humanitarian stocks and warehouses is hampering emergency response preparedness efforts.

**LOOTING OF WAREHOUSES AND HUMANITARIAN OFFICES**

- 6.8M ESTIMATED LOOTED HUMANITARIAN STOCKS ($US)
- 150K PEOPLE WHO COULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM NFIs⁴
- 250K PEOPLE WHO COULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM FOOD RATIONS

**IMPACT ON IDPs AND MIGRANTS**

- 24.2K IDPs IN PAPMA⁵ AND SOUTHERN DEPARTMENTS (12 Sept 2022)
- 6.8M NUMBER OF IDPs IN DISPLACEMENT SITES

**WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION**

- Lack of drinking water and irregularity in the supply of water services.
- Significant difficulties in ensuring the emptying of latrines and proper waste management.
- Lack of general and feminine hygiene products.

**FOOD SECURITY**

- Insufficient and poorly diversified diet.
- Adoption of negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing the number of meals, prioritizing children and begging.

**PROTECTION AND SGBV**

- Increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Difficulties in providing care to several dozen women victims of gang rape.
- Challenges in performing prenatal consultations for more than 200 pregnant women in IDP sites in PAPMA.

**MIGRANTS**

- Voluntary repatriation halted.
- Suspension of the cash-for-work program for the reintegation of migrants repatriated from the U.S. to Cap-Haitian.