El Niño and health
HAITI overview - January 2016

EL NIÑO FORECAST AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

- Extremely warm and dry conditions are expected to continue until May 2016, and poor households in Sud, Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord-Est and Artibonite provinces are expected to be affected by food insecurity. 37 communes have been reported in severe food insecurity (IPC phase 3).

CURRENT AND PROJECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS

- Prolonged drought may cause increased food insecurity and malnutrition in many parts of the country.
- The return of thousands of Haitians from the Dominican Republic has increased pressure on scarce water and food supply along the border. Water scarcity and lack of sanitation may lead to renewed cholera outbreaks and other water-borne diseases.

HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

- Early warning systems have been led by CNSA/Ministry of Agriculture, FEWSNET and FAO/GIEWS. Initiatives are in place for the reinforcement of monitoring and surveillance mechanisms and for the improvement of coordination among stakeholders.
- The humanitarian community, with the aid of technical agencies (national and departmental), has targeted rural communities and focused on food and water distribution, rehabilitation of water supply systems, and cash for work activities.
- PAHO/WHO, with UN agencies, is coordinating actions needed to manage the health effects of droughts and malnutrition, and the development of a proposal for the surveillance of quality water sources and aquifers.

*INFORM (Index for Risk Management) is a global risk assessment index for humanitarian crises and disasters: [http://www.inform-index.org/](http://www.inform-index.org/)