The Humanitarian Feedback Bulletin contributes to keeping humanitarian actors informed of key issues concerning the affected population, as expressed by Haitian communities in their own words. By providing a synthesis of the feedback collected by Internews and partners, Internews aims to support the humanitarian community's effort to put the concerns and feedback of the affected and at-risk populations at the forefront of the response.

Contact: Rose Foran, Humanitarian Liaison Officer, rforan@internews.org

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Feedback reflects concern over a loss of resources and income among the affected population, especially relating to agriculture. Communities have expressed their worry that because of their reliance on crops in order to survive, hurricane damage and a lack of financial resources to compensate are greatly affecting their food security. Without savings to rely on, many people expressed that they have had to take out loans – sometimes several – in order to purchase tools and supplies for their livelihood, as well as basic subsistence items. There were many requests for cash-for-work programs so people could support themselves.

**LIVELIHOOD & FOOD SECURITY:**

**WE WANT TO HAVE CONTROL OVER OUR OWN LIVES**

“There are people who have taken out loans from the bank, but they have lost everything. It is important to create new activities so people can rebuild their livelihoods.”

30-50 years, Chantal

“We want to have control over our own lives, but we need work because the aid will finish in 6 months.”

30-50 years, Coteaux

“Our agriculture isn’t able to feed us yet, because the soil doesn’t produce anymore.”

30-50 years, Arniquet

**HEALTH:**

7% OF FEEDBACK

“Cholera has reduced here, but it’s cholerine and malaria that are giving us problems right now.”

20-30 years, Les Anglais

“When people have cholera we have to take them all the way to Les Cayes. Until now we haven’t been able to get the cholera vaccine.”

30-50 years, Chantal

“There’s an epidemic of fever and flu that is spreading in this area. I know that it’s the mosquitos that are causing it.”

30-50 years, Jérémie

**GROWING CONCERNS SURROUNDING CHOLERINE**

Those among the affected population who gave feedback expressed general awareness of cholera vaccination campaigns, and many remarked that they perceived instances of cholera contraction within their communities to be diminishing. However, cholerine was widely cited as a source of distress within feedback, and there appears to be confusion about its causes, as well as how best to treat it. Mosquito-borne illnesses such as malaria were referenced as being an issue of concern by affected communities. Access to medical care, especially in more remote areas was expressed as a prominent issue.
REQUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE SHELTER AID

Many people from affected communities have expressed a need for materials and other assistance to help in the long-term reconstruction of their houses. Some expressed that the emergency shelter items they received in aid distributions have already not been able to withstand some recent extreme weather. Shelter kits, including nails and cement, were widely requested among those who gave feedback. Frustration was expressed by some who are not receiving shelter materials because they are living in highly vulnerable areas (proximity to the sea and other unsafe to build areas).

RECURRING THEMES:

Expressed needs

“Last Sunday the wind was so strong in this area that it blew away the roofs of our homes which we had just repaired.”
30-50 years, Arniquet

“Even if people knew this area is dangerous, they would still stay here because they have nowhere else to go.”
30-50 years, Coteaux

“I need sheet metal and cement to repair my house.”
> 50 years, Jérémie

SHELTER & NFI:

18% OF FEEDBACK

67% 33%

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

9% OF FEEDBACK

39% 61%

LATRINES STILL NEEDED

Some people expressed concern about a resurgence of open defecation practices within their communities, as many latrines were destroyed during the hurricane and have not yet been rebuilt. Access to safe potable water remains a concern among affected communities as well. Feedback collected reflects some lack of knowledge regarding how to best use AquaTabs to treat water, as there have been some rumours circulating about their effect on health, as well as some confusion expressed regarding proper use and dosage of the tablets.

Expressed needs

“Since Hurricane Matthew, people are defecating outside. Can’t they set up a project to install public toilets for us?”
30-50 years, Tiburon

“Cholera is endemic here, it’s because we drink non-treated water from the tap.”
30-50 years, Chantal

“If you put an AquaTab on a piece of clothing it will make a hole on it, no need to tell you what it can do to your intestines.”
30-50 years, Chantal

Access to basic subsistence items

Basic subsistence items: Safe water, latrines. Sud.
Reconstruction items: Irrigation systems.
Cayes, Sud.

Basic social services: Waste management. Tiburon, Sud.

Access to zones

Access to basic social services

Expressed needs


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Three months after the Hurricane Matthew humanitarian response, some members of the affected population have expressed worry about what will happen when aid interventions cease and humanitarian projects come to a close. The feedback collected reflects an overarching need for information regarding how people can most effectively convey their needs, complaints, and general feedback to responsible authorities and relevant actors. Some also expressed that a vulnerability factor – whether it be disability or age – had prevented them from participating in aid distributions.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AID STOPS?**

An expressed lack of access to basic services and aid – especially for those in remote zones – increases vulnerability of members of the affected population. According to feedback from some parents, due to the disruption of schooling, some children are being sent elsewhere to resume their studies.

Impediments such as damage to infrastructure were highlighted as reasons for inability to access aid by some affected communities. Those in remote areas say that roads still need significant repair and that access to electricity also remains a significant issue.

Because of general financial hardship after Hurricane Matthew and competing household priorities, many people expressed that they no longer have the funds needed to send their children to school, or cannot afford supplementary expenses such as uniforms, school supplies, or school books.