

21 October 2016

Haiti: Hurricane Matthew

Department Profile: Nippes



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About this report

This thematic report is the third in a series of profiles on the worst affected departments in Haiti following Hurricane Matthew. It compiles and analyses existing pre-crisis data at the departmental level across a range of sectors and is intended to serve as a reference point for understanding the current humanitarian crisis. The lack of departmental level baseline information in Haiti is a major information gap.



Summary indicators

Summary table

Indicator	Value	Year
Population number (last census)	266,379	2003
Population number (projection)	342,525	2015
Population density	270 habitants/square km	2015
Average household size (nationally)	4.4	2012
Age distribution (nationally)	36.1% under 15	2012
Under-five mortality rate	78/1,000 live births	2012
Malnutrition prevalence (severe wasting)	0.9%	2012
People in bottom two quintiles (40%) of socio-economic well-being	64%	2012
Literacy rate (men/women)	73.1% /70.3%	2012

Sources: MSPP 2012

Overview

Nippes is located along the northern coast of Haiti's southern peninsula, east of Grand'Anse and west of Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince. It covers 1,267 square km. Until 2003, Nippes was part of a larger Grande'Anse department, before becoming its own administrative unit. The capital city is Miragoâne. Nippes has 11 communes, and a total estimated population of 343,000. Most people live in rural areas, approximately 89.5% (IHSI 2009; Geohive).

Hazard Profile: Nippes experiences regular natural disasters, has an elevated risk compared to the rest of the country, and has limited disaster risk reduction mechanisms.

Economy: Nippes is one of Haiti's poorest departments; 64% of the population live in the bottom two quintiles of socio-economic well-being. The most important economic activities include agriculture, petty trade, and fishing.

Infrastructure: Nippes has one of Haiti's largest ports in Miragoane. Transport infrastructure is limited and prone to blockage during disasters.

Humanitarian stakeholders: The humanitarian presence in Nippes was relatively small prior to the hurricane, with only 12 organisations present.

Food: Nippes was facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions before hurricane Matthew struck. 19% of people in Nippes miss meals regularly.

Health: Cholera fatality rate is 3.3%, higher than most departments. Females have more difficulty accessing healthcare than they do nationally.

Nutrition: 8.3% of children are underweight and 0.9% experience severe wasting.

WASH: There is no waste treatment centre in Nippes.

Shelter and NFIs: Housing in Nippes, like much of Haiti, is made of materials prone to damage in natural disasters.

Education: Nippes is below average for most education indicators. 16% of women and 12% of men have received no education.

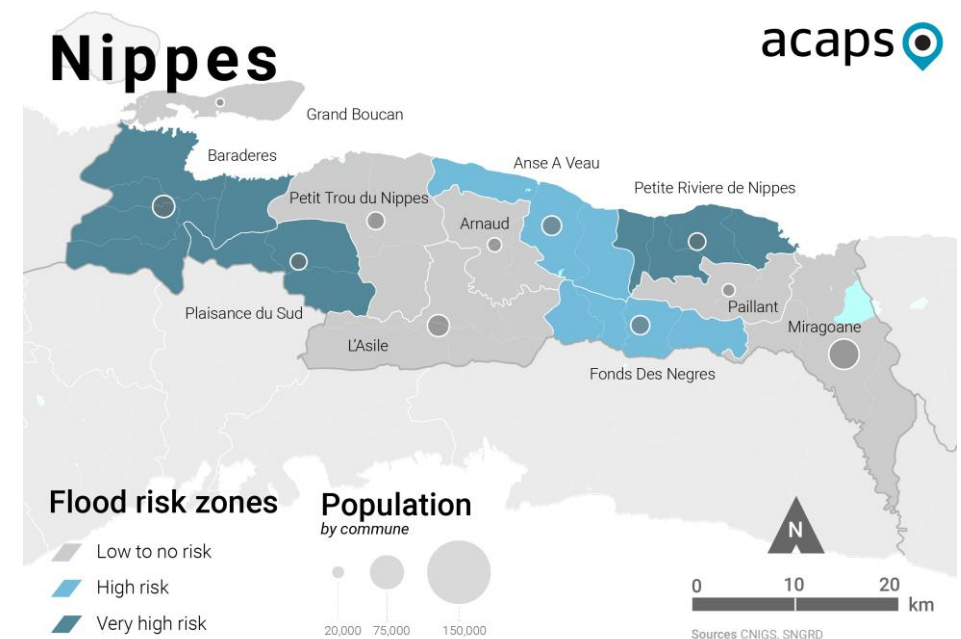
Protection: Nippes has a slightly lower prevalence of sexual and physical violence (10.8% and 27.4% of women have experienced it) than the national average.

Hazard profile

Exposure and vulnerability to hurricanes, floods, droughts, earthquakes are elevated in Nippes and the southern peninsula compared to the rest of Haiti (IFAD 03/08/2012; PreventionWeb/INFORM 2015). Nippes has very limited disaster risk reduction mechanisms (OCHA 12/2012).

There are 84 rivers and ravines that are susceptible to flash flooding in Nippes. Landslides are also a risk in the rainy and hurricane seasons. Three communes (Baradères, Petite Rivière des Nippes and Miragoâne) are particularly prone to flooding. Plaisance du Sud commune has a high risk of landslides (OCHA 12/2012). It is estimated that 8,380 people live in very high risk flood zones (DPC 20/07/2016).

Communes at risk of flooding and landslides, Nippes

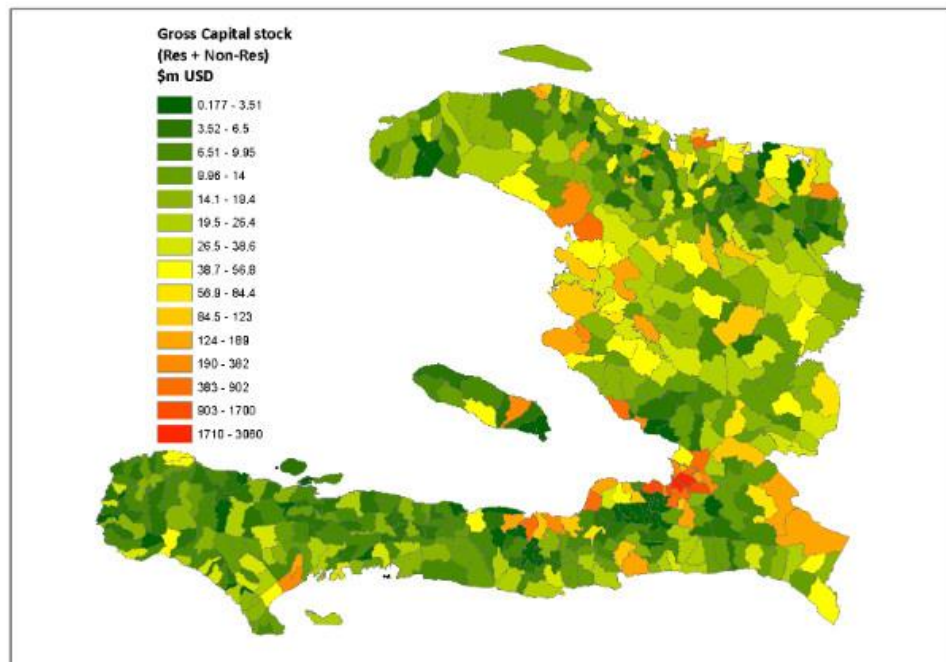


Economy

For more in-depth economic and market analysis of Haiti at the national level, please refer to ACAPS' Multi-sector market environment analysis of 13 October.

The most affected areas by Hurricane Matthew also among the poorest in the country (CEDIM 14/10/2016). In Nippes, 64% of the population are in the bottom two quintiles of socio-economic well-being as measured by the EMMUS study (MSPP 2012).

Map of gross capital stock values, Haiti



Source: CEDIM 14/10/2016

Agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing are the main industries in Nippes department, like in much of Haiti's southern peninsula. Men dominate the agricultural sector (73%), whereas women work more commonly in small business or at home. High proportions of young adults report being students. Only 3% of the population has a full-time salaried job (UNEP 2013)

Although Nippes has strong agricultural potential in several of its communes, its capacity to exploit this potential has been impacted by poor market access, fishing

and farming techniques, and environmental management. Limited infrastructure, sanitation and education also hamper Nippes' economic potential (MPCE 2010). A strategy to promote green growth in the southern peninsula was released in mid-2016, focusing on sustainable development of honey, cocoa, cashew, castor oil, and mango sectors. The region was declared a World Biosphere Reserve in 2016 (UNEP 12/07/2016).

Gender: In much of southern Haiti, women depend- principally on incomes generated by engaging in agricultural production, fishing and petty trade as sources of revenue – much of which has been lost in the Hurricane (UN 15/10/2016).

Informal economy: 35% of Haitians work in the informal economy, where earnings are less than half of those in the formal sector (World Bank 2015).

Remittances: Remittances from abroad play a large part in extreme poverty reduction to people in Nippes, nearly two thirds of the total provided by domestic transfers (World Bank 2015).

Infrastructure

Transportation and energy

Most infrastructure is concentrated in Port-au-Prince the capital, including the country's main port and only international airport. Infrastructure is extremely limited in the southern peninsula. Most earthquake reconstruction projects have focused on short-term interventions, rather than enhancing core infrastructure (PRI 28/06/2012).

Airports: There are no airports in Nippes (MPCE 2010). There are nine helipads in the department; three are around Miragoane, four in Grand-Boucan as well as one in Fonds des Negres and one in Anse-a-Veau communes (PDC 08/10/2016).

Roadway: No national roads pass through Nippes; only a departmental road passes from Miragoane along to coast until Petit-Trou-de-Nippes. Some coastal parts beyond Petit-Trou-de-Nippes are only accessible by sea (MPCE 2010). Seasonal rains and flooding place heavy stress on existing roads. Roadbuilding and upgrades are ad hoc and haphazard (CIA 2013; Global Security).

Ports: Nippes has one of Haiti's largest ports in Miragoâne. Coastal towns possess some basic port facilities but are not capable of handling heavy volumes (Global Security).

Electricity and fuel: Only 15% of rural areas nationwide are electrified, and rural areas in the southern peninsula are similarly poorly connected. By comparison, 72% of urban areas are electrified (CIA 2013;MSPP 2012). 47.2% of Haitians use wood as their main cooking fuel and 45.4% use charcoal (MSPP 2012).

Media and communication

Telecommunications: Telecommunications in Nippes is more limited than most Haitian departments (MPCE 2010). Nationally, 70% of people have access to a mobile phone, and access is growing (CIA 2015). Digicel is the dominant service provider (UNEP 2013).

Internet is available on cellular networks, but is not otherwise widely available in rural areas (UNEP 2013).

Print, television and radio: Traditional forms of media is the most common type in Nippes. Radio is the most widely accessed form of media, and most people listen to it at least once per week, particularly men (MSPP 2012).

Form of media	Nippes	
	(male)	(fem)
Newspaper once a week	14.3%	12.1%
Television once a week	18.1%	15.2%
Radio once a week	80.7%	62.5%
All once a week	5.3%	2.3%
No form of media	18.8%	34.4%

Source: MSPP 2012

Humanitarian and development stakeholders

As of January 2015, 12 international organisations were carrying out developmental and humanitarian activities in Nippes, focused on preparedness, health, protection, and food security and nutrition. Activities focused on Miragoâne, but also took place in rural areas. Médecins du Monde was the organisation with the largest presence (OCHA 22/01/2015). No military presence was stationed in Nippes as of 2014 (DPC 2014). Nippes is covered under the 2016 national contingency plan, but a specific plan at the departmental level is not available (DPC 20/07/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

Nippes was facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions for August and September before Hurricane Matthew hit. Food security was expected to improve with the passing of El Niño, except in the coastal areas. Political instability and return of school was also expected to negatively impact affect food security across Haiti (CNSA 07/2016; FEWSNET 2014).

	Nippes	National Average
Percentage of families often missing meals	19.4%	23.2%
Severely food Insecure ¹	2%	2%
Moderately food insecure ¹	30%	28%
Marginally food insecure ¹	35%	38%

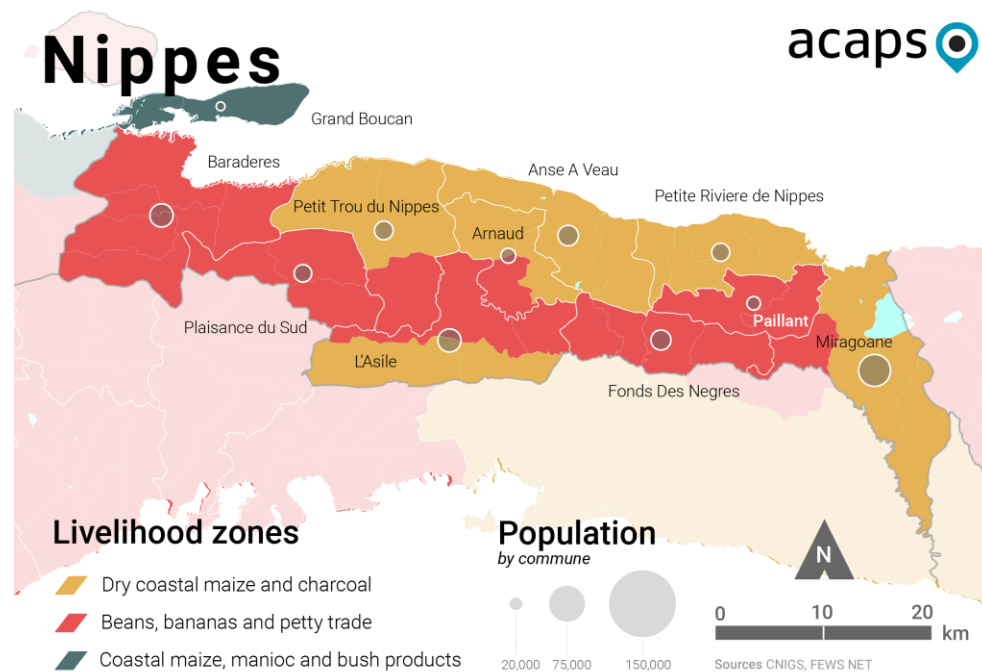
Sources: WFP 08/2016, MSPP 2012

¹Based on an August survey by WFP of Nippes' capital city, Miragoane.

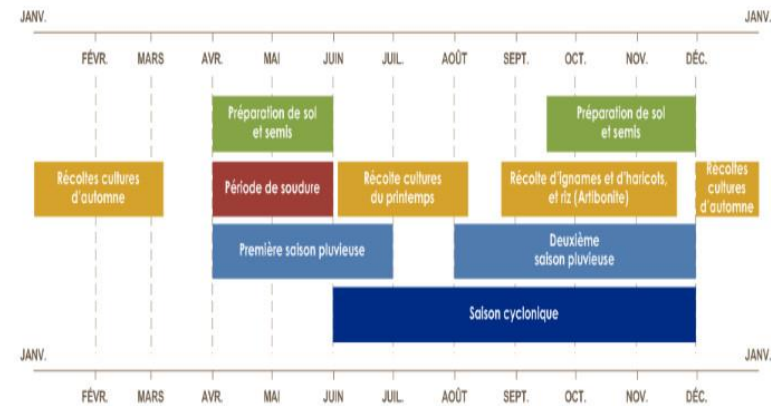
Nippes is physically isolated by poor road infrastructure and rough terrain, which translates into high marketing and importing costs, impacting food access and availability. While crop production as a contribution to household food source is larger Nippes than in many other departments, purchasing at market is still a major source of food (FEWSNET 2005). Fonds des Negres is the most important market in the department, particularly for the sale of local produce. Miragoane is also an important trading centre. In 2013, food availability was best in Petite Rivière des Nippes, Fonds des Nègres, Miragoane communes, and worst in L'Asile and Arnaud. Sorghum and root crops are the staples most commonly in surplus (FEWSNET 2014).

Livelihoods: Livelihoods vary by region in Nippes, with beans and banana cultivation as well as petty trade the most widespread type of livelihood activity in the central band of Nippes department. The second largest livelihood zone in Nippes is the dry coastal maize and charcoal zone. Agriculture, livestock farming and charcoal and wood production are the base the economy in this region. Reduced land access and low investment are the major causes of poverty in this zone. In order to compensate, the poorest in Nippes diversify their activities. They are highly vulnerable to market price increases; they buy the majority of their food from markets as they produce little from their own (FEWSNET 2005; FEWSNET 2014). Middle-income households trade larger livestock and agricultural products, engage in commerce, and often have access to remittances (FEWSNET 2014).

Map of livelihoods zones, population size, Sud department



Seasonal Calendar



Source: DPC 2014

The secondary sowing season for beans is from July to August and the secondary growing season is in September, meaning hurricane Matthew will impact these seasons severely. Vegetation coverage was considered between average and healthy in June (FAO 05/07/2016).

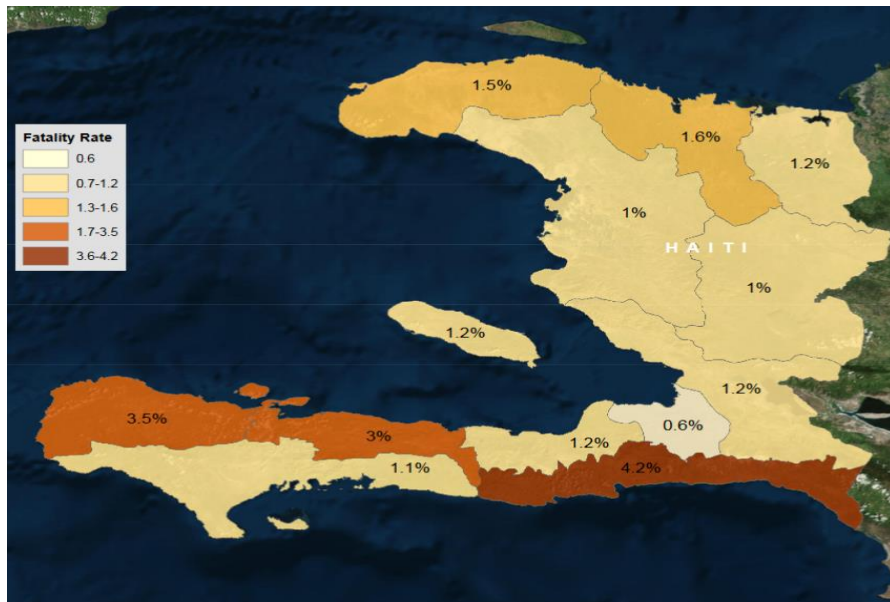
Health

There are six health facilities in Nippes with one major hospital, L'hopital Sainte-Therese de Miragoâne (Omisc Group 17/10/2016). Challenges with access to reproductive health, including distance, money and fear of going alone, affect 86% of the female population in Nippes, compared with 82% nationally (MSPP 2012). In 2012, 28% of women had given birth to their children in a health centre (OCHA 12/2012).

Cholera: There were 138 suspected cholera cases reported in August in Nippes, out of 3,183 cases in the entire country (OCHA 08/2016). The case fatality rate over the last six years is 3% in Nippes, the third highest in the country (PDC 2016).

Cholera fatality rate in Haiti, October 2010–August 2016

Source: Pacific Disaster Center 2016



Chikungunya: There were 2,365 cases of chikungunya fever up to 30 July (Red Cross 30/07/2016).

Immunisation rates in Nippes are well above the national average.

Child vaccine rates in Nippes vs National, 2012

Vaccine	Nippes	National Average
DiTePer (Diphtheria, Petussis, Tetanus) ¹	86.1%	62.5%
Polio ¹	79.1%	58.6%
Measles	79.8%	65.1%
Tuberculosis (BCG)	93.4%	82.7%
All	65.1%	45.2%
No Vaccines	0.6%	6.9%

Source: MSPP 2012

¹three doses

Nutrition

8.3% of children under five in Nippes are underweight, compared to 11.4% across Haiti. 0.9% of children in Nippes suffer from severe wasting (MSPP 2012). In terms of chronic undernutrition, Nippes had an estimated rate of 17% in 2014, which was one of the lowest rates in the country (USAID 06/2014).

WASH

60% of households can regularly access a water point (MSPP 2012). There is no waste treatment centre in the department (OCHA 12/2012). In the past MINUSTAH has had to provide potable water to private and public institutions such as hospitals, schools, and police stations due to the high level of water scarcity in Nippes (UN 12/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

In Nippes, there were 130 emergency shelters with a capacity for 26,000 people (Haiti DRR 20/06/2016).

Across the country, the majority of both rural and urban housing consists of two-room houses made of mud walls and floors. Roofs are often thatched with grasses or palm

leaves but may also be made of plastic or corrugated metal. Windows are panel-less and covered with wooden shutters. Housing in slums is makeshift. Professionally constructed buildings suffer from lax enforcement of zoning and safety rules (Encyclopaedia Britannica 09/2016). For flooring, 5% of Haitian homes use sand, 55% use cement and 3.5% use mud (MSPP 2012).

Education

Nippes is below the national average in most educational indicators.

Education indicators Nippes vs National, 2012

	Nippes	National Average
Primary school attendance	80.5%	77.2%
Secondary school attendance	18.7%	25.4%
Women with no education	16%	14.8%
Men with no education	11.8%	13.0%
Literacy (women)	70.3%	73.6%
Literacy (men)	73.1%	78.7%

Source: MSPP 2012

Protection

Child labour rates in Nippes are concerning, but it fares better on physical and gender violence than the rest of Haiti.

Protection issues in Nippes vs National, 2012

	Nippes	National Average
Gender Based Violence Prevalence ¹	27.4%	28.2%
Sexual Violence Prevalence ²	10.8%	13.1%
Child Labour Rates ³	80.8%	65.3%
Violence against children ⁴	84%	86%

Source: MSPP 2012

¹Percentage of women who have experienced physical violence at least once since the age of 15

²Percentage of women who have experienced sexual violence at least once since the age of 15

³Children aged between 5 and 11 who have work for one hour per month on economic activity or 28 hours per month on domestic

⁴Percentage of parents who use violent disciplinary sanctions against children from 2 to 14 years old.

Key documents

Famine Early Warning Systems Network, 2014, *Haiti Sécurité Alimentaire en Bref*, USAID,

http://www.fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Ha%C3%Afti_FS_Brief_2014_final_0.pdf

Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP), 2013, *Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services EMMUS-V*,

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United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2012, *Profil Humanitaire Départemental Haïti – Nippes*,

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/fr/operations/haiti/infographic/haiti-profil-humanitaire-d%C3%A9partement-des-nippes>

World Food Programme, 2016, *Haiti Urban Food Security Assessment Preliminary Findings*, <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/wfp286374.pdf>

Map

Reference Map, Southern Haiti, 2016



Source: Map Action 06/10/2016