

Haiti – Earthquake

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

2,248	12,763	137,585	650,000	2.1 MILLION
Earthquake-Related Deaths Reported in Haiti	Earthquake-Related Injuries Reported in Haiti	Estimated Number of Houses Damaged or Destroyed	People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance	People Exposed to Strong—MMI Level VI—or Above Shaking
<i>GoH – August 2021</i>	<i>GoH – August 2021</i>	<i>GoH – August 2021</i>	<i>UN – August 2021</i>	<i>USGS – August 2021</i>

- The August 14 earthquake results in at least 2,248 deaths, injures 12,763 people, and damages or destroys nearly 137,600 houses.
- Relief actors overcome access challenges to reach approximately 350,000 earthquake-affected people with humanitarian assistance.
- USAID/BHA partner WFP reaches 100,000 people with emergency food assistance following the earthquake.
- IOM distributes nearly 53,000 USAID/BHA-funded relief items to earthquake-affected households.



TIMELINE

August 14, 2021

At 8:29 a.m. local time, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake strikes southwestern Haiti at a depth of 6.2 miles

August 14, 2021

U.S. Ambassador Sison declares a disaster; USAID/BHA activates a DART and RMT

August 15, 2021

USAID/BHA deploys additional DART staff to Haiti, including 65 USAR personnel

August 16, 2021

Tropical Depression Grace makes landfall over southwestern Haiti, generating heavy rains and strong winds

August 21, 2021

DART Leader Tim Callaghan, JTF-Haiti Commander Keith Davids, and GoH DGPC Director Jerry Chandler visit affected areas in Grand'Anse and Sud

August 25, 2021

DART USAR experts demobilize, as DART continues to scale up humanitarian response efforts

August 26, 2021

Administrator Power visits affected areas in Haiti, announces \$32 million in USAID/BHA humanitarian assistance to respond to earthquake-related needs

September 2, 2021

JTF-Haiti concludes its deployment of air assets to assist response efforts in coordination with the DART

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USAID/BHA Partners Respond to Elevated Humanitarian Needs in Southwestern Haiti

The Government of Haiti (GoH) and relief actors continue to conduct assessments identifying urgent humanitarian needs in areas of the country impacted by the August 14 earthquake. As of September 4, the earthquake had resulted in the deaths of 2,248 people and injured nearly 12,800 individuals, with 329 people still missing, according to the GoH Civil Protection General Directorate (DGPC). The earthquake had also damaged or destroyed nearly 137,600 houses and 1,060 schools, with the number of damaged structures in rural, hard-to-reach areas more than fivefold that in urban areas. Furthermore, the DGPC had recorded more than 900 aftershocks as of September 7, including approximately 400 magnitude 3.0 or stronger tremors, likely compounding psychosocial support (PSS) needs and fears of additional building collapse among affected populations.

Relief actors—including USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners—continue to scale up operations and overcome significant logistical and security challenges to meet earthquake-related needs, reaching approximately 350,000 people with assistance as of September 3, the UN reports. To date, USAID/BHA is supporting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN World Food Program (WFP), and three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide life-saving interventions—such as food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance—to vulnerable households across southwestern Haiti. Meanwhile, USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) members continue to conduct site visits to observe partner activities and meet with affected households. On September 8, the DART visited Sud Department's Cavaillon commune to observe post-distribution monitoring efforts by USAID/BHA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) staff, who had recently provided relief commodities to 1,000 households in the area. DART members also met with community members who indicated shelter repairs were among their highest priority needs, while the commune's mayor reported that 7,000 of 12,000 households in the area required humanitarian assistance.

IOM Distributes 53,000 USAID/BHA-Funded Relief Commodities to Households in Southwestern Haiti

Displacement and damage to health and WASH systems caused by the earthquake continue to result in heightened humanitarian needs in Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud departments, the UN reports. As of September 3, an estimated 26,200 people remained displaced by the earthquake across 65 sites in southwestern Haiti, according to IOM. Humanitarian needs associated with displacement are greatest in Sud, where an estimated 18,800 people are sheltering in 40 sites, primarily in Camp-Perrin and Les Cayes communes. In addition, the UN Children's Fund

(UNICEF) has expressed concern regarding the potential for a surge in vector-borne and waterborne disease—including acute respiratory infections, cholera, and malaria—and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases due to the disruption of health and WASH systems, congestion at displacement sites, and limited use of personal protective equipment in affected areas. As of September 7, an estimated 60 percent of the population of southwestern Haiti lacked access to safe drinking water, while more than 70 percent of assessed households reported damage to nearby health facilities, UNICEF reports. Furthermore, at least 60 percent of assessed households lacked access to health care services due to earthquake-related damage and shortages of medical commodities and personnel.

In response, USAID/BHA continues to support partners to provide emergency shelter and WASH commodities and health care services across southwestern Haiti. As of September 6, IOM had distributed nearly 53,000 USAID/BHA-funded emergency relief commodities—including blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting for shelter, shelter repair kits, and water containers—to displaced people and other earthquake-affected households in Grand’Anse, Nippes, and Sud. USAID/BHA also delivered emergency medical kits—which include bandages, examination gloves, gauze, malaria medicine, stethoscopes, syringes, and thermometers—sufficient to meet the urgent health needs of approximately 20,000 people for three months to Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, on August 30. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA partners IFRC, International Medical Corps (IMC), and UNFPA are providing life-saving health care services to people in need in Grand’Anse, Nippes, and Sud.

GoH Estimates 980,000 People Face Severe Acute Food Insecurity in Earthquake- and Storm-Affected Areas, as WFP Continues Response Efforts

An estimated 980,000 people will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or higher levels of acute food insecurity through February 2022 across the earthquake-affected departments of Grand’Anse, Nippes, and Sud, as well as Sud-Est Department, which was heavily affected by Tropical Depression Grace, according to a recent assessment by the GoH National Coordination Agency for Food Security and partners.¹ Before the earthquake, southern Haiti already faced high levels of food insecurity; the earthquake and tropical storm have compounded emergency food assistance needs. The figure represents approximately 46 percent of the nearly 2.2 million people residing in the four departments and includes an estimated 320,000 people likely facing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity. In addition, the assessment estimates that approximately 991,000 people will likely face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity from March to June 2022, as key drivers of food insecurity persist.

Food security actors report that key new factors exacerbating food insecurity in the region include damage to agricultural assets, markets, and infrastructure and the disruption of supply chains due to the earthquake and subsequent tropical depression. Other preexisting factors undermining food security in assessed areas include security-related disruptions in the delivery of assistance, elevated transportation costs, a reduction in household purchasing power caused by inflation, and low agricultural production due to below-average rainfall between April and May.

In response to heightened food insecurity, USAID/BHA continues to support WFP to deliver emergency food assistance to vulnerable households in southwestern Haiti. From August 14 to September 6, WFP reached approximately 100,000 people in Grand’Anse, Nippes, and Sud with food assistance through USAID/BHA and other donor support. With USAID/BHA support alone, WFP reached more than 47,000 people with approximately 628 metric tons (MT) of food commodities and distributed nearly 9,800 hot meals to hospital patients and displaced people in temporary shelters during the period.

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

KEY FIGURES



65

USAR personnel deployed to Haiti with the DART

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

URBAN SEARCH-AND-RESCUE

Following the earthquake, the GoH requested international assistance for urban search-and-rescue (USAR) support. A USAR team from Fairfax County, Virginia, Fire and Rescue Department—including 65 search-and-rescue personnel and four dogs—subsequently deployed alongside DART members, arriving in Haiti on August 15. The USAR team traveled with 52,000 pounds of specialized tools and medical equipment, with additional supplies arriving on August 17.

USAID/BHA USAR teams consist of 19 functional positions, staffed by experienced emergency managers, construction riggers, hazardous materials technicians, licensed engineers and emergency medicine physicians, logisticians, paramedics, planners, search-and-rescue specialists, and search-and-rescue dogs with handlers. USAR teams perform life-saving technical activities, including specialized search-and-rescue operations to recover individuals trapped in damaged or destroyed buildings.

On August 14, the GoH declared a one-month state of emergency in Haiti due to the earthquake and activated DGPC personnel, mobilizing search-and-rescue brigades to earthquake-affected areas. The GoH also activated the National Emergency Operations Center to coordinate assessment and response activities. Meanwhile, several governments across the Latin America and Caribbean region mobilized personnel and supplies to support USAR operations.

On August 25, DART USAR staff demobilized and returned to the United States following the completion of rescue efforts in Haiti, while dozens of DART staff remain in country to continue scaling up humanitarian assistance for affected communities. DART USAR experts reached communities in 15 communes while in Haiti, including Beaumont, Corail, Dame Marie, Jérémie, Pestel, and Roseaux in Grand'Anse; Anse-à-Veau, Baradères, and Petit-Trou-de-Nippes in Nippes; and Camp-Perrin, Île-à-Vache, Les Cayes, Maniche, Port-à-Piment, and Saint-Louis-du-Sud in Sud.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

On August 16, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) helicopters deployed to Haiti and began transporting DART and USAR personnel to assist assessment and response activities. USAID also requested the unique capabilities of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)'s U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) to support USAID's response efforts with air transport of relief commodities, staff, and USAR team members within Haiti, as well as assessment efforts in earthquake-affected areas.



671

Missions completed by JTF-Haiti aircraft supporting relief operations



588,000

Pounds of relief commodities transported to affected areas by JTF-Haiti

USSOUTHCOM deployed numerous aircraft to support humanitarian operations and provided aerial imagery to support damage assessments. During its deployment, Joint Task Force (JTF)-Haiti—which included DoD and USCG assets—flew 671 missions, assisting or rescuing 447 people and transporting approximately 200 relief staff and 588,000 pounds of emergency relief commodities to affected areas. JTF-Haiti concluded its final missions in support of DART-led humanitarian operations in Haiti on September 2.

Meanwhile, USAID/BHA is supporting a WFP barge service to facilitate additional humanitarian transport between Port-au-Prince and coastal areas of southwestern Haiti, as well as the operation of WFP-led convoys by road from Port-au-Prince to affected areas.

HCIMA



5

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department staff deployed to assist UNDAC

In response to the earthquake, five members of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Fire and Rescue Department deployed as part of the Americas Support Team (AST) to provide technical support to UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) personnel, assisting with humanitarian coordination, information management, and assessment (HCIMA) efforts. The AST is a module supported through USAID/BHA to assist with disaster response operations and coordination efforts between the UN, local emergency management agencies, and other relief actors, including donor governments and NGOs. USAID/BHA is also supporting IFRC to conduct damage and needs assessments through the Haitian Red Cross, as well as IOM and WFP to bolster HCIMA efforts for the humanitarian response.

On August 26, the UN launched a flash funding appeal in response to the Haiti earthquake, requesting more than \$187 million to provide humanitarian assistance to approximately 500,000 people in southwestern Haiti. In addition, the UN allocated \$8 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund on August 15 to support health, WASH, and other forms of assistance.

RELIEF COMMODITIES, SHELTER, AND WASH



53,000

Number of USAID/BHA-funded relief commodities distributed by IOM

USAID/BHA funds IOM to maintain pre-positioned emergency relief supplies—sufficient to support nearly 50,000 individuals—in Haiti for distribution in response to sudden-onset disasters, such as earthquakes and other shocks. In addition, from September 2 to 7, USAID/BHA transported 10,000 plastic sheets for shelter and 10,000 shelter repair kits from its warehouse in Miami, Florida, to Port-au-Prince for transfer to and distribution by IOM. The UN agency had distributed nearly 53,000 USAID/BHA-funded relief items—including blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting for shelter, shelter fixing kits, and water containers—to affected households as of September 6.

USAID/BHA is also supporting CRS, IFRC, and Mercy Corps to provide critical shelter and WASH interventions, such as distributing relief

commodities and conducting hygiene awareness campaigns, to improve shelter conditions and reduce the transmission risk of communicable diseases in affected areas. Separately, a USAID/BHA-funded Global WASH Sector Field Support Team Coordinator arrived in Haiti on August 19 to support coordination of the WASH response through national-level platforms, and USAID/BHA activated a DART shelter advisor to support the provision of shelter assistance in southwestern Haiti.

FOOD SECURITY



1,747

MT of contingency food commodities released by USAID/BHA to WFP for food assistance operations

As of August 31, USAID/BHA had released more than 1,747 MT of food—including beans, rice, and vegetable oil—from its contingency stock managed by WFP, enabling the UN agency to reach 65,000 beneficiaries with monthly food distributions for two months. In addition to conducting food distributions in affected areas, WFP is providing daily meals to several thousand people injured by the earthquake during their hospitalization. WFP plans to further scale up food assistance operations to reach approximately 215,000 people in southwestern Haiti in the coming months.

HEALTH AND PROTECTION



381

Medical evacuations conducted via USCG helicopters

On August 15, the USCG deployed helicopters with medical staff and supplies to Haiti. Alongside supporting USAR and logistics efforts, the helicopters also transported injured patients from affected areas to Port-au-Prince. Following the earthquake, the USCG flew 262 sorties, performed medical evacuations for 381 people, and transported relief personnel, including members of the DART, and approximately 34,600 pounds of emergency relief supplies to affected areas.

On August 30, USAID/BHA delivered emergency medical kits—including bandages, examination gloves, gauze, malaria medicine, stethoscopes, syringes, and thermometers—sufficient to meet the urgent medical needs of approximately 20,000 people for three months. USAID/BHA is providing the items to the Pan American Health Organization for onward distribution in southwestern Haiti. In addition, USAID/BHA is supporting IMC to provide health assistance via an emergency medical team operating in Sud, as well as to IFRC and UNFPA to provide primary and other health care interventions in affected areas.



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USAID/BHA partners providing critical protection interventions

Meanwhile, USAID/BHA is supporting CRS, IFRC, IMC, and UNFPA to provide critical protection services—such as gender-based violence prevention and response and PSS interventions—across Grand’Anse, Nippes, and Sud in response to the heightened protection risks facing vulnerable individuals following the earthquake.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).