



17 August 2021 ©UNICEF Haiti

Earthquake Haiti Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

Highlights

- On August 14th, 8:30am, an earthquake 7.2 of magnitude hit the southwestern region of Haiti with major impact in three departments: South, Nippes and Grand'Anse. A one-month national state of emergency has been declared.
- Official figures put the number of people killed at 1,941 deaths and more than 9,900 wounded (as of 17, August). UNICEF estimates that approximately 1,211,000 people including 540,000 children are affected¹. 579,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- While severe humanitarian access constraints and fragile security continue to complicate the humanitarian response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tropical Storm Grace reached the country hampering relief efforts.
- Under the leadership of The Directorate general of civil protection (DGPC), the National Centre for Emergency Operations (COUN) and Departmental Centres for Emergency Operations (COUD) have been activated in response to the earthquake.
- Working closely with the Government and humanitarian partners, UNICEF has begun operations to assess the impacts of the earthquake on children and their families and jump-started initial distributions of health and WASH supplies, along with mattresses, blankets and tarpaulins.
- UNICEF is appealing for US\$15 million to respond the most urgent, life-saving needs of affected children and families for the first 4-8 weeks.

Situation in Numbers:

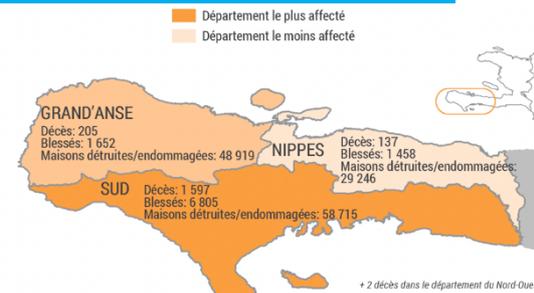
- 1,211,000** affected people (est.)
- 540,000** children affected (est.)
- 579,000** people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- 1,941** deaths
- 9,900** wounded
- Estimated budget needs: US\$ 15M** for the first 4 to 8 weeks

Situation Overview

On Saturday 14 August 2021 at 08:30am EDT, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti with the epicenter near Petit Trou de Nippes (125km to the west of Port-au-Prince). The South, Grand'Anse and Nippes departments, particularly the cities of Les Cayes, Jérémie and Anse à Veaux, were hardest hit, suffering extensive damage and destruction of buildings and homes. Prime Minister Ariel Henry declared a one-month national state of emergency and 3 days national mourning (17-19 Aug).

Official figures of victims are growing fast. As per Tuesday 17, August the country counts 1,941 deaths and 9,900 wounded. Approximately 52,953 houses were completely destroyed and 62,862 severely damaged. 115,815 families are considered affected. Severe damages to infrastructures such as hospital, schools, roads... put basic social services in a dire situation. Tropical storm Grace reached the country on Monday 16th August, triggering mudslides, hampering relief efforts and weakening the already fragile telecommunication system.

The quake could not have come at worst time for Haiti, which is still reeling from the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on 7 July and escalating gang violence which has resulted in the internal displacement of around 19,000 people in the country's southern peninsula, greatly worsening an already precarious humanitarian situation, with some 4.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance prior to the quake, including 2.2 million children.



¹ 66.4% of the total population of the three departments which represents the population below the poverty line

Programme Response

Coordination

The National Centre for Emergency Operations (COUN) and the Departmental Centres for Emergency Operations (COUD) have been activated and coordination meetings are being held with all key stakeholders, including a crisis meeting with the government and the international community based in Port-au-Prince, convened by Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

Government and UN partners are working closely to conduct post-impact damage and needs assessments and to activate rapid response mechanisms. However, severe humanitarian access constraints and fragile security situation greatly complicate the humanitarian response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rapid damage assessment and needs analysis conducted on Sunday August 15th, by DGPC in the South department with UNICEF and other NGOs and agencies' technical support revealed crucial needs in terms of supply and medical assistance. Further assessments with the government partners of WASH and Education sectors will be supported by UNICEF. In addition, U-Report survey on earthquake impact at local community level has been launched.

Sector needs and First Response Activities

UNICEF staff from Les Cayes (South department) sub-office were able to deploy immediately to assess needs providing first reports, and damages and casualties analysis, initiate first response activities in coordination with the government and humanitarian partners. allowing rapid mobilization of emergency response. Additional staff are travelling from Port-au-Prince to the South for emergency coordination and surge deployment of UNICEF support staff is underway.

Key emergency supplies are being sent by UNICEF Global Supply Division including medical equipment and WASH supplies.

Health

With 25 health facilities partially damaged and 5 destroyed in the three departments and 9,900 wounded, the emergency health response is facing challenges to give appropriate care while the three main hospitals in the area (HIC Cayes, OFATMA Hospital, HSA Jeremie) are overwhelmed. The evacuation of the most severely wounded to Port-au-Prince, is expected to further strain the already fragile health system.

UNICEF immediately convoyed a lorry with 6 emergency medical kits containing essentials medicines and renewables (solutions, gloves, analgesics, antibiotics, syringes, among other) to serve approximately 30,000 persons for a period of three months. The three main hospitals involved in victims' emergency care received those medical supplies less than 24 hours from the occurrence of the first earthquake. A 72 m² tent has been installed to OFATMA hospital along with DPC to temporarily hospitalize patients and provide cares to ones under observation as the emergency wards have been damaged. Orthopaedics and other medical supplies are being mobilized to strengthen main health facilities.

With the influx of victims causing congestion in the main hospitals in the 3 departments affected, and the damage suffered by some hospitals, greatly complicated by the current COVID-19 pandemic; the health sector immediate needs include:

- Medical
- Emergency supplies (medicines, renewables, materials, orthopaedic supplies, etc.) for emergency care of victims at health facilities.
- Mobilization of different categories of health staff (orthopaedist, surgeon, nurse, ...) to reinforce the delivery of services at the hospitals.
- Ensure proximity of emergency care to the victims in remote areas.
- Community
- Awareness raising.

Nutrition

As lack of food is already reported, a deterioration of the nutrition status of children, who are already weakened by food insecurity due to the lean period, is expected. Even if therapeutic milk, ready to used therapeutic Food (RUTF) and medicine were sent to all the departments at the beginning of August to cover for nutrition needs, it is now urgent to reinforce the protection and promotion of breastfeeding, the promotion of Infant Young Child feeding practices (IYCF-E) at community level, and the detection and treatment of malnourished children.

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health and the nutrition sector to develop a response plan.

Immediate needs include:

- Plumpy'Doz to prevent malnutrition.
- Therapeutic food: F75, F100 and Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)
- Anthropometric materials
- Capacity building of Implementing partners.
- Production of IYCF materials.
- Nutrition Survey SMART

WASH

The first rapid assessments conducted by the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) with the support of UNICEF reported 25 water supply piped systems were damaged in addition to the urgent needs for safe drinking water for the most affected population, and to the needs for WASH response in healthcare facilities receiving injured patients. The assessments are ongoing with UNICEF WASH staff deployed in the affected departments, in addition to the staff of partner NGOs in support to the Government.

Prepositioned WASH supplies available to target 20,000 to 25,000 people are being mobilized for immediate distribution based on the first assessments and additional supplies were sent to the South as of 17 August 2021.

Immediate needs include:

- Provision of safe drinking water and critical hygiene kits to the households whose houses have collapsed.
- Upgrade water storage capacities and construction/rehabilitation of the sanitation facilities in health centres receiving injured patients and companions.
- Provision of handwashing facilities, and soap and critical hygiene supplies complemented with hygiene promotion activities in health centres receiving injured patients and companions, to reduce the risks of spread of COVID-19.
- Rehabilitation of the damaged water supply systems and provision of chlorine (HTH).

Child Protection

UNICEF continues to closely work with the government division in charge of child protection (IBESR) at national and departmental level to conduct rapid assessment of children needs, identification of vulnerable ones and service provision along with planning of sensitization activities in the community to avoid family separation/ to ensure protection of children, as well as coordination of partners intervention and rapid responses. Rapid assessments are ongoing for children in institutions (orphanages) and prisons to ensure their security and safety. Seventy per cent of the orphanages in the affected area were contacted and reported not being affected.

Follow-up on injured children is also continuing and evaluation to Port-au-Prince hospitals has been ensured when needed along with close follow up to reduce risk of family separation and possible child trafficking. Psychological support remains an essential need that has to be addressed immediately in the first weeks to ensure proper recovery of children and family. UNICEF is closely coordinating with IBESR to look into this aspect and plan related intervention for affected population.

In order to adequately protect children affected by the earthquake, urgent needs include:

- Psychosocial support to children affected by earthquake.
- Assessment of children's protection needs and identification of most vulnerable ones (including separated children/ orphans/ injured children/ traumatized children, etc.).
- Referral and service provision for vulnerable children.
- Community and family sensitization on child protection.
- Provision of blankets, child clothes, and recreational kits
- Support to vulnerable families.
- Implementing partners capacity building on child protection in emergencies.

Education

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education (MENFP) and Direction Départementale de l'Éducation (DDE) to conduct rapid assessment of needs in schools, identification of schools which have been destroyed or damaged, especially to prepare for new school years. Based on the partial information, there are 63 destroyed schools and 39 damaged schools in Grand'Anse, 85 damaged schools in Nippes, and 73 damaged schools in South. They represent approximately 10% of the total number of schools of the three departments and permitted over 50,000 children to access education. As school provides secure environment for

children, protecting them from violence, sexual abuse, there is an urgent need to evaluate damages to ensure rehabilitation of these damaged/destroyed schools.

An official visit to the South with MENFP and UNICEF Representative is organized from August 17-19. As a co-lead of Education in emergency working group, UNICEF organized a sector coordination meeting to better coordinate the interventions by different partners.

Provision of following items are the expected urgent needs:

- Rehabilitation of schools
- WASH in schools.
- School kits, school desks and furniture, hygiene kits.
- Catch up classes.
- Psychosocial support to children at school.
- Temporary learning spaces.

Social protection

For the households affected, a 3-tier combined support will be provided to support immediate recovery (cash transfers to the most affected, parenting package to promote child sensitivity, and C4D to adopt safer habits) mainly focused on improving the living conditions of disadvantaged children through: i) full access to quality maternal, infant and sexual health services, ii) malnutrition care; iii) access to “responsive care giving”; iv) “opportunities for early learning” based on socioeconomic vulnerability of the targeted households. Multipurpose Community Agents will be equipped to provide services related to “nurturing care” and that a multisector governance.

Currently, UNICEF Haiti has mobilized Multipartners Trust Fund (jointly implemented with FAO and WFP) to support for cash transfers in emergencies in response to COVID-19 in Grand’Anse department. These funds will be reprogrammed to support families affected by the earthquake, as this is one of the affected areas. There is a need of additional funds to expand this support up to 6,000 families.

The expected urgent needs include:

- Targeting of beneficiaries
- Cash transfer

Communication & C4D

When the earthquake hit, youths who signed up on U-Report were among the first to bring assistance to their families.

Providing them with training on basic emergency response and support to extend their action, will be critical. U-Report Haiti counts 33,600 U-Reporters, including 8,385 in the three affected departments.

In communes like Pestel and Jeremie in Grand’Anse, U-Report clubs set up by UNICEF have gathered to bring assistance to the injured or help move the rubble in houses. They also continue to inform and advise communities. WUNICEF is preparing to launch a U-Report poll to collect data on impact and extent of the disaster and will also set an information bot about information on the earthquake.

In terms of Communication for Development (C4D), UNICEF developed key messages on the prevention of family separation, hygiene, the use of basic health services, post-earthquake behaviors, including children surveillance... that will be broadcast through the network of community radios (SAKS). A Hotline for better information and support is being put in service with the support of the Ministry of Health (MSPP), as well as “groups of words” activities.

Funding Overview

Based on preliminary analysis of needs in the affected area, UNICEF estimates that US\$15 million are required to ensure immediate support to Government and humanitarian partners, in responding to the most urgent, life-saving needs of children and families in the affected areas, for the first 4-8 weeks. This funding requirement will be adjusted as additional information from the needs assessment (currently ongoing) becomes available and the planning for a 6 months response progresses in collaboration with the government and partners. While UNICEF has drawn on its internal resources and contingency stocks to cover initial needs, urgent support is required to provide life-saving care to the affected children and their families.

Sector	Target population	Estimated Requirements (US\$)*
Health	385,000 people	2,700,000
Nutrition	167,118 children 0-59 months	1,000,000
WASH	200,000 people	4,000,000
Child Protection	180,000 children	3,000,000
Education	75,000 children	3,000,000
Social Protection	6,000 vulnerable families	1,200,000
Communication / C4D	1,000 young people	100,000
Total		15,000,000

*Estimated funding requirements, for 4-8 weeks.

Accountability

A participatory approach will be adopted to ensure affected communities are listened to and informed, and that accessible feedback mechanisms are in place. Staff and partners will be trained on accountability, in addition to refresher training on PSEA, Interagency coordination will allow assessment of PSEA risks across the response, as well as ensuring potential survivors can access available Gender Based Violence and Child Protection services through the established referral pathways.

Next SitRep: 19/08/2021

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