

# **Haiti –** Complex Emergency

May 4, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

# II.4

Estimated Population of Haiti

UN - March 2021

# 4.4 MILLION

Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

UN – January 2020

# I.5

Estimated People Prioritized for Humanitarian Assistance in 2021

UN – March 2021

# I.3

Estimated People Relief Agencies Aim to Reach with Emergency Food Assistance in 2021

UN - March 2021

- The security situation in Haiti remains volatile with a significant increase in the number of armed attacks, homicides, and kidnappings for ransom in recent months.
- Attacks by non-state actors displaced more than 3,000 people from Tabarre Issa between March 29 and 31.
- USAID/BHA partners continue to deliver food assistance to address acute food insecurity across Haiti.



TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Haiti Complex Emergency in FY 2021	USAID/BHA <sup>I</sup>	\$7,250,000
For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5	Total	\$7,250,000

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

# Violence Displaces Thousands From Tabarre Issa, Amid Continued Insecurity in Haiti

Armed actors attacked the Tabarre Issa displacement site in Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince in late March, prompting approximately 3,000 people to flee to neighboring areas between March 29 and 31, the UN reports. The attacks, which resulted in several civilian deaths, also damaged or destroyed at least 80 percent of housing structures at the settlement, which hosted households originally displaced by the 2010 earthquake. Nearly 70 percent of those displaced reported that they directly experienced violence during the attacks, according to a needs assessment conducted by the USAID/BHA partner International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM has distributed approximately 300 hygiene kits to displaced households and identified protection assistance and psychosocial support, as well as relief commodities, shelter, and access to income-generating activities, as pressing needs.

The violence at Tabarre Issa occurred amid continued insecurity in Haiti, with relief actors reporting a significant increase in the number of armed attacks, homicides, and kidnappings for ransom in recent months, particularly in Port-au-Prince. During the first two weeks of April, local media reported at least one kidnapping case per day. In addition, the resignation of Prime Minister Joseph Jouthe on April 14, tensions surrounding the upcoming June 27 constitutional referendum and September legislative and presidential elections have further exacerbated political instability. Ongoing violence and instability, combined with persistent economic challenges and the socioeconomic impacts of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mitigation measures, continue to affect access to services for vulnerable people in Haiti, where approximately 4.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the UN.

# Heavy Rains and Subsequent Floods in Northern Haiti Affect 2,700 Households

Heavy rains and subsequent floods in Haiti's Nord, Nord-Est, and Nord-Ouest departments in early April affected nearly 2,700 households and resulted in at least three deaths, the Government of Haiti (GoH) General Directorate for Civil Protection reports. In addition, the flooding inundated approximately 640 acres of agricultural land and led to significant losses of livestock, according to rapid assessments by the GoH Ministry of Agriculture and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Local authorities have delivered humanitarian assistance to flood-affected households, including agricultural tools, cash assistance, food assistance, hygiene kits, and safe drinking water.

# Elevated Food Assistance Needs Will Likely Persist Through June

Deteriorating security conditions have disrupted livelihood opportunities and limited access and supply of locally produced agricultural commodities to local markets, further restricting vulnerable households' ability to meet basic food needs. The Haitian gourde appreciated in relation to the U.S. dollar in January and February, contributing to elevated food prices, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Prices for staple food items—including beans, maize, and imported rice—remain between 40 to 55 percent above the five-year average, prompting very poor households to adopt negative coping strategies, such as increasing the sale of charcoal and livestock, making purchases on credit, and reducing the quantity of food consumed. Households in each of Haiti's 10 departments will likely experience Stressed—IPC 2—or Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through at least June, the FEWS NET reports.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

Despite security challenges, the GoH has provided food assistance and distributed cash transfers to help vulnerable households meet basic food needs. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, the UN World Food Program (WFP), and World Vision continue to deliver food assistance and food vouchers to households throughout the country. With USAID/BHA support, WFP distributed emergency food and cash assistance to more than 40,000 vulnerable households in Haiti between October 2020 and April 2021.

#### **KEY FIGURES**

# **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**



In dedicated USAID/BHA support for emergency food assistance in FY 2020

## **FOOD SECURITY**

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$34 million in FY 2020 to WFP and three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reach vulnerable populations across Haiti with emergency assistance. With USAID/BHA funding, NGO partners provide monthly cash transfers for food and food vouchers to food-insecure households. Additionally, WFP distributes U.S.-sourced rice and vegetable oil to vulnerable households, while maintaining a pre-positioned stock of emergency food commodities that can be quickly distributed throughout Haiti in the event of a disaster.



In dedicated FY 2020 USAID/BHA support for life-saving health programming

#### **HEALTH AND WASH**

With approximately \$6.9 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported IOM, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and four NGOs to strengthen the capacity of local health care facilities and conduct community awareness raising activities amid Haiti's COVID-19 outbreak. USAID/BHA partners have provided health facilities with infection prevention and control training, personal protective equipment, and waste management assistance. In addition, USAID/BHA partners have coordinated with local leaders and health care workers across Haiti to conduct handwashing campaigns, disseminate COVID-19 risk and prevention messaging, distribute hygiene kits, strengthen community-level surveillance, and reduce COVID-19-related stigma among affected populations.



In FY 2020 USAID/BHA funding for protection programs

#### **PROTECTION**

With approximately \$2.3 million in FY 2020 funding from USAID/BHA, UNICEF and four NGOs provided protection services such as psychosocial support to children, families, and frontline health care workers affected by COVID-19 through counseling support and referrals via hotlines, small group discussion sessions, radio and social media messaging, and training in psychological first aid. In addition, USAID/BHA partners supported activities at child-friendly spaces where vulnerable children and adolescents can attend vocational trainings, receive informal and formal education, and socialize. USAID/BHA partners have also organized awareness campaigns for the reduction of gender-based violence and providing safe spaces for vulnerable girls and women.



In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for logistics support and relief commodities in FY 2020

## LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

To address persistent logistical challenges in Haiti that can hinder effective implementation of humanitarian programs, USAID/BHA supports WFP to conduct critical logistics activities in the country. With USAID/BHA support, WFP has bolstered humanitarian supply chains and manages three warehouses in Haiti; the UN agency also maintains overland and maritime transport capabilities to facilitate safe and timely provision of relief commodities to vulnerable populations across the country.

## **CONTEXT IN BRIEF**

- Civil unrest and economic instability—combined with recurring shocks from natural disasters, including
  droughts, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes—have resulted in food insecurity and other humanitarian
  needs throughout Haiti, with an estimated 4.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. In
  response, USAID/BHA funds humanitarian programs in Haiti that aim to build resilience, enhance food
  security, and strengthen livelihoods. USAID/BHA also funds additional programming to reduce disaster
  risk in Haiti and bolster national self-sufficiency in emergency preparedness and management.
- On March 24, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Michele J. Sison declared a disaster for Haiti due to the complex emergency.

## USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN HAITI FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Countrywide	\$7,250,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2021 \$7,250,0			\$7,250,000

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 3, 2021.

## **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.
- 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

o Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work