

# Haiti – Earthquake

AUGUST 24, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>2,207</b>	<b>12,268</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>129,929</b>	<b>2.1 MILLION</b>
Earthquake-Related Deaths Reported in Haiti	Estimated Number of Earthquake-Related Injuries in Haiti	Number of People Missing as a Result of the Earthquake	Estimated Number of Houses Damaged or Destroyed	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>GoH – August 2021</i>	<i>USGS – August 2021</i>

- More than 119,000 people urgently require safe drinking water due to damage to water infrastructure, according to the GoH and UNICEF.
- More than 8,300 people displaced by the earthquake are sheltering in 26 sites in Nippes and Sud, according to IOM.
- JTF-Haiti—including the USCG—conducts 311 missions, performing nearly 425 medical evacuations and transporting more than 136,000 pounds of relief commodities to affected areas.
- USAID/BHA releases an additional 720 MT of contingency food stocks to WFP to support earthquake-affected populations.



## 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 18, 2021

USAID/BHA releases an additional 100 MT of contingency food commodities to WFP

### 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 23, 2021

USAID/BHA releases an additional 720 MT of contingency food stocks to WFP

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Earthquake Displaces More Than 8,300 People, Generates WASH Needs Among 119,000 People

The August 14 earthquake in Haiti continues to generate and exacerbate humanitarian needs among populations in Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud departments, according to the Government of Haiti (GoH) and UN. As of August 20, the earthquake had displaced more than 8,300 people in Nippes and Sud, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Displaced individuals were sheltering in at least 26 displacement locations identified by IOM, including 11 in Nippes and 15 in Sud, which were primarily clustered in and around the department's Les Cayes commune.

In addition, more than 119,000 people in earthquake-affected areas urgently require safe drinking water as a result of damage to water systems, according to the GoH National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Displaced individuals and those with inadequate shelter also need other water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support, while health facilities require hygiene supplies to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and waterborne diseases such as cholera, the UN reports.

In response to identified needs in southwestern Haiti, humanitarian actors—including USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners—are mobilizing assistance to reach affected areas. Meanwhile, USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) members and other relief actors continue to conduct assessments and engage the GoH Civil Protection General Directorate (DGPC) to determine priority needs. On August 23, DART, Joint Task Force (JTF)-Haiti, and UN agency personnel met with DGPC Director Jerry Chandler to coordinate the scale-up of assistance to affected individuals, including those in remote or underserved areas. DGPC Director Chandler underscored emergency shelter items as a primary need, as well as food, health, and WASH assistance.

### DART and USAR Teams Conduct Assessments in 10 Earthquake-Affected Communities on August 22 and 23

USAID/BHA disaster experts and DART urban search-and-rescue (USAR) teams continue to conduct assessment and response activities in Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud, visiting four earthquake-affected communes across the three departments on August 22 and six on August 23. On August 23, one DART team traveled to Grand'Anse's Beaumont and Pestel communes and Les Cayes to assess health needs and damage to health facilities with international non-governmental organization (NGO) Project Hope, reporting some earthquake damage as well as inadequate stocks of medical supplies. Meanwhile, DART USAR teams assessed structural damage and other needs in Nippes's Anse-à-Veau and Baradères communes and Sud's Port-à-Piment commune, supporting communities to feel safe returning to their houses, as some aftershocks continue in the area.

As of August 24, DART USAR teams had conducted response activities in 15 communes across Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud.

### **JTF-Haiti Completes 311 Missions for DART-Led Relief Operations**

In coordination with the DART, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)'s U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) continue to support the DART and humanitarian efforts in Haiti with logistics and transportation support. As of August 23, JTF-Haiti had conducted 311 missions, assisting 425 people and transporting more than 136,000 pounds of relief commodities via helicopter from Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince to affected areas in southwestern Haiti. JTF-Haiti aerial assets also facilitate the movement of DART personnel to conduct assessments in earthquake-affected areas and aerial surveys of landslides and damage to buildings and infrastructure.

### **USAID/BHA Releases an Additional 720 MT of Food to WFP**

USAID/BHA continues to support the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide emergency food assistance to earthquake-affected populations in Haiti, recently approving the release of approximately 720 metric tons (MT) of USAID/BHA-funded contingency food commodities, sufficient to meet the food needs of 54,400 people for one month. WFP plans to transport the stocks from Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes for onward distribution in affected areas in the coming days, including to the most heavily-affected areas in Sud, such as Maniche commune. In total, USAID/BHA had released approximately 830 MT of contingency food stocks—sufficient to feed more than 62,000 people for one month—to WFP, and the UN agency had distributed more than 100 MT of USAID/BHA-funded food as of August 23.

In addition to food, WFP-organized convoys of trucks are carrying shelter and WASH supplies, light vehicles for use in earthquake affected areas, and other relief commodities from Port-au-Prince to southwestern Haiti. As of August 23, with USAID/BHA support, WFP had dispatched 25 trucks—including two on behalf of the DGPC—to earthquake affected areas. In some locations, WFP is conducting joint distributions with IOM and UNICEF to meet communities' multi-sector needs.

### **Humanitarian Actors Address Challenges to Assistance Delivery, Including Damaged Infrastructure and Security Risks**

Amid rising community tensions related to the perceived pace of aid delivery, the GoH is working to enhance security measures and increase the frequency of humanitarian convoys delivering assistance to earthquake-affected populations, the UN reports. All WFP convoys to affected areas are travelling under escort from the Haitian National Police (PNH) as of August 23, to minimize the risk of looting or aid diversion. WFP is also engaging the PNH and DGPC to ensure distribution sites remain secure.

Meanwhile, GoH authorities have declared the main bridge into Grand'Anse's Jérémie city unsafe to cross with cars and heavy vehicles, including trucks carrying humanitarian assistance, due to earthquake-related structural damage. The bridge is the only way to reach Jérémie—the primarily site where aid deliveries arrive for onward distribution within Grand'Anse—by road from Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes. Though the GoH is working to establish a temporary detour route into Jérémie, air and sea assets remain the primary mode of transportation for aid deliveries to the city. Relief actors are also working to identify alternative locations in Grand'Anse to store relief commodities, and WFP is planning to expand its barge service to reach Jérémie. USAID/BHA currently supports WFP to operate a barge from Port-au-Prince to locations in Grand'Anse and Nippes, which had completed eight shipments of relief commodities as of August 23.

## 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 USAR support. A USAR team from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, including 65 search-and-rescue personnel and four canines, 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.

Sites reached or assessed by DART USAR experts include Grand'Anse's Beaumont, Corail, Dame Marie, Jérémie, Pestel, and Roseaux communes; Nippes's Anse-à-Veau, Baradères, and Petit-Trou-de-Nippes communes; and Sud's Camp-Perrin, Île-à-Vache, Les Cayes, Maniche, Port-à-Piment, and Saint-Louis-du-Sud communes as of August 23.

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.

Several governments across the Latin America and Caribbean region mobilized personnel and supplies to support USAR operations. In addition, ISAR Germany and BRH Bundesverband Rettungshunde deployed teams including doctors and experts in disaster assistance, field medicine, and USAR to Haiti.

## LOGISTICS SUPPORT

On August 16, two USCG helicopters deployed to Haiti and began transporting DART and USAR personnel to assist assessment and response activities. In addition, USAID requested the unique capabilities of DoD's 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.

USSOUTHCOM deployed numerous aircraft to support humanitarian operations, including three UH-60 Black Hawks, three CH-47 Chinooks, and



311

Missions completed by JTF-Haiti aircraft supporting relief operations

two HH-60 Pave Hawks. Furthermore, the USS Arlington, carrying two MH-60 Seahawk helicopters and approximately 600 members of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, arrived off the coast of Haiti on August 21 to assist with ongoing relief efforts. The USS Billings is also supporting efforts in Haiti with one MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter. USSOUTHCOM is also providing aerial imagery to support damage assessments, while the Puerto Rico Army National Guard has deployed three helicopters—two UH-60 Black Hawks and one UH-72 Lakota—to Haiti to support JTF-Haiti’s mission. Furthermore, four MV-22 Osprey aircraft and several fixed-wing aircraft are supporting humanitarian efforts.

In addition, USAID/BHA is supporting a WFP barge service to facilitate additional humanitarian transport between Port-au-Prince and coastal areas of Grand’Anse and Nippes, as well as the operation of WFP-led convoys by road from Port-au-Prince to affected areas.

On August 14, in response to a GoH request, the Government of the Dominican Republic (GoDR) provided a fixed-wing aircraft and two helicopters to support logistics and transportation efforts, including medical evacuations. Furthermore, the Government of the United Kingdom has deployed the UK Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight off the coast of Haiti to support response efforts.

### **HCIMA**



**5**

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department staff deployed to assist UNDAC

USAID/BHA is providing logistics support in heavily-affected communities in Grand’Anse, Nippes, and Sud. In addition, five members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have 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 non-governmental organizations. As of August 21, the AST is supporting a 10-member UNDAC team in facilitating coordination and information management in concert with the GoH DGPC and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In addition, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency activated its Regional Response Mechanism and has deployed a Caribbean Community Operational Support Team to provide coordination and operational support to the GoH.

### **RELIEF COMMODITIES, SHELTER, AND WASH**

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. IOM had dispatched 5,000 hygiene kits, 2,000 jerry cans,



Number of hygiene kits dispatched by IOM with USAID/BHA support

2,500 plastic sheets, 2,400 shelter repair kits, and 2,500 blankets for onward distribution to affected communities as of August 18. 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 has also activated a DART shelter advisor to support the provision of shelter assistance in affected areas.

In addition, UNICEF is mobilizing pre-positioned WASH supplies for distribution to at least 20,000 people. Meanwhile, NGO Water Mission is delivering emergency water treatment systems, generators, and water treatment packets to provide safe drinking water to more than 60,000 displaced people in affected areas.

Regional governments are also mobilizing shipments of relief commodities to support response efforts in Haiti. On August 16, the Government of Chile dispatched a flight to Haiti carrying 16 MT of food commodities and medical and WASH supplies. Additionally, the Government of Mexico dispatched two military aircraft carrying 60 personnel with specialized USAR and medical skills, in addition to approximately 20 MT of relief commodities, including medical supplies, food assistance, and USAR equipment.

The UN allocated \$8 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund on August 15 to support the provision of relief items and health care services, safe drinking water, shelter items, and WASH assistance to affected households. The European Commission's Department for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and the Government of the Republic of Korea have also announced nearly \$3.5 and \$1 million in emergency funding, respectively, to help address immediate needs.

## FOOD SECURITY



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

As of August 23, USAID/BHA had released more than 830 MT of food—including beans, rice, and vegetable oil—from its contingency stock managed by WFP. 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 an additional 62,000 people in affected areas in the coming months, bringing the UN agency's target caseload in southwestern Haiti to approximately 200,000 people.

## HEALTH

On August 15, the USCG deployed two 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. As of August 23, the USCG had flown 213 sorties, performed medical evacuations for 358 people, and transported relief personnel, including members of the DART, and approximately 11,600 pounds of



358

Medical evacuations  
conducted via two USCG  
helicopters

emergency relief supplies to affected areas.

The GoH Ministry of Public Health and Population activated an emergency health crisis cell to coordinate information on needs and response efforts with health partners, according to the UN. In addition, specialized medical personnel deployed with supplies to treat trauma and orthopedic needs among earthquake-affected populations.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) country office in Haiti has activated its emergency plan, while PAHO and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) declared an emergency for Haiti and neighboring Dominican Republic for the duration of 2021. PAHO and WHO are coordinating with the DGPC, local authorities and health officials, and other UN agencies. In addition, the GoDR is delivering medical supplies and non-food items. Meanwhile, the Red Cross and hospitals in unaffected areas are providing surge assistance, while Médecins Sans Frontières has deployed teams to Grand'Anse and Sud.

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## 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).