

Haiti – Earthquake

AUGUST 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

2,207	12,268	129,929	650,000	2.1 MILLION
Earthquake-Related Deaths Reported in Haiti <i>GoH – August 2021</i>	Estimated Number of Earthquake-Related Injuries in Haiti <i>GoH – August 2021</i>	Estimated Number of Houses Damaged or Destroyed <i>GoH – August 2021</i>	People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance <i>UN – August 2021</i>	People Exposed to Strong—MMI Level VI—or Above Shaking <i>USGS – August 2021</i>

- More than 24,400 people displaced by the earthquake are sheltering at 58 sites across Grand’Anse, Nippes, and Sud, according to IOM.
- DART members conduct assessments and observe distributions of assistance in Camp-Perrin and Maniche, identifying key shelter and multi-sector needs among affected populations.
- JTF-Haiti conducts 560 missions, assisting nearly 480 people and transporting approximately 348,000 pounds of relief commodities to affected areas.
- USAID/BHA partner WFP provides emergency food assistance to nearly 51,000 people and distributes hot meals to nearly 16,800 people in hospitals in southwestern Haiti.



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 humanitarian assistance to respond to earthquake-related needs

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

IOM Identifies More Than 24,000 People Displaced by the Earthquake at 58 Sites in Southwestern Haiti

The August 14 earthquake in Haiti had resulted in at least 2,207 deaths and injured approximately 12,270 people, while an additional 320 people remained missing, as of August 26, according to the Government of Haiti (GoH). In addition, the earthquake had displaced at least 24,400 people to 58 sites across Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud departments, the most heavily affected areas of southwestern Haiti, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. The UN agency's assessments indicate that nearly 17,000 people remain displaced in Sud alone, with nearly 6,000 and 1,500 individuals displaced in Nippes and Grand'Anse, respectively. Displacement sites in Grand'Anse and Sud are clustered in Jérémie and Les Cayes communes, while sites in Nippes are located in Anse-à-Veau, Baradères, L'Asile, Petit-Trou-de-Nippes, and Plaisance-du-Sud communes; many of these locations sustained significant building damage during the earthquake.

The earthquake-related displacements underscores the urgent shelter needs of earthquake-affected populations in southwestern Haiti, and the GoH and relief actors are advocating for shelter assistance that also addresses health and protection concerns among displaced people. The GoH is requesting that shelter assistance include plastic sheeting, rather than tents, to limit the development of large-scale displacement camps, wherein people shelter in close quarters and are therefore more susceptible to the spread of communicable diseases such as coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In addition, large displacement camps are associated with elevated protection risks, particularly gender-based violence (GBV).

USAID/BHA Partners Scale Up Multi-Sector Response to Address Food, Shelter, WASH Needs

The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) continues to conduct assessments in affected areas and support partners to provide life-saving assistance to those in need. On August 28, DART members conducted a shelter assessment in Sud's Camp-Perrin commune, observing a cash-for-work rubble removal program and noting shelter, livelihood, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs among individuals whose dwellings were damaged or destroyed during the earthquake. In response, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) continues to support partners to conduct multi-sector interventions and distribute relief items—such as hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and shelter repair kits—and is providing technical assistance to relief actors to ensure beneficiaries receive SPHERE-compliant shelter assistance in their home communities.¹

¹ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

In addition, on August 29, DART and other USAID staff conducted site visits at several locations in Sud's Maniche commune with USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP), observing a joint distribution of WFP food assistance and relief commodities provided by USAID/BHA partner IOM and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Through the distribution, approximately 5,000 people received rice, beans, and vegetable oil, as well as hygiene kits and other relief commodities, such as plastic sheeting. A previous distribution in the area reached another 5,000 people on August 23, and WFP continues to coordinate with the GoH Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC) and field teams to identify households in need of assistance. Meanwhile, IOM continues to provide shelter and other assistance to earthquake-affected households, reaching more than 10,400 earthquake-affected households with relief commodities from August 25 to 27 with support from USAID/BHA and other donors.

WFP Food Assistance Reaches 51,000 People, as Convoys Continue

In response to earthquake-related food needs, WFP continues to distribute assistance, providing 453 metric tons (MT) of food commodities—including 96 MT of USAID/BHA-funded food—and cash transfers reaching nearly 51,000 people, as well as nearly 16,800 hot meals to people in hospitals, in Grande'Anse, Nippes, and Sud as of August 26. The UN agency is scaling up its distributions, planning to reach 215,000 people in heavily-affected communes in coordination with local authorities, implementing partners, and the Haitian National Police, which provides security for humanitarian convoys.

While Joint Task Force (JTF)-Haiti air assets offer the ability to deliver assistance by air to remote locations in coordination with the DART, humanitarian actors are also prioritizing commercial road, sea, and air transport, as available, to reach earthquake-affected areas. Since August 18, WFP-facilitated humanitarian convoys have comprised 137 trucks carrying approximately 479 MT of food; several shipments of medical supplies; and thousands of relief commodities, including hygiene kits, jerry cans, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, and shelter fixing kits, to affected areas with USAID/BHA and other donor support. On August 29, WFP facilitated a humanitarian convoy comprising nine vehicles transporting 25 MT of food; IOM shelter supplies and relief commodities; and International Medical Corps medical supplies from Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes. Previously, on August 27 and 28, WFP facilitated humanitarian convoys of 13 and 12 vehicles, respectively, transporting WFP food assistance, DGPC equipment and operational supplies, and additional food, shelter, and WASH assistance on behalf of several NGOs.

JTF-Haiti Completes 560 Missions and Supports Structural Assessment of Critical Bridge in Jérémie Amid Logistics Challenges

JTF-Haiti continues to support relief efforts in Haiti in coordination with the DART, completing 560 missions, assisting 477 people, and transporting more than 348,000 pounds of emergency relief commodities to affected areas, as of August 29. In addition to supporting DART assessments and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to remote areas, JTF-Haiti also transported a structural assessment team—including DART members, GoH Minister of Public Works Wilson Edouard, other GoH officials, and a U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) engineer—to Jérémie on August 28. The group assessed the bridge into Jérémie city, concurring with local authorities' decision to close it to vehicle traffic due to earthquake-related damage that exacerbated pre-existing structural issues. As the bridge is sole road entry point into Jérémie from Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes, authorities have created a temporary river fording site allowing vehicles carrying aid to reach the city and onward distribution points within Grand'Anse; however, the JTF-Haiti and GoH assessment group determined that the crossing is unsustainable and that additional solutions are required. Meanwhile, the Logistics Sector—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—is also working to establish alternative routes to Jérémie.

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 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.

On August 25, DART USAR staff demobilized and returned to the United States following the completion of rescue efforts in Haiti, while 33 DART staff remained in country to continue scaling up humanitarian assistance for affected communities. DART USAR experts reached communities in 15 communes while in Haiti, including Grand'Anse's Beaumont, Corail, Dame Marie, Jérémie, Pestel, and Roseaux; Nippes's Anse-à-Veau, Baradères, and Petit-Trou-de-Nippes; and Sud's Camp-Perrin, Île-à-Vache, Les Cayes, Maniche, Port-à-Piment, and Saint-Louis-du-Sud.



560

Missions completed by JTF-Haiti aircraft supporting relief operations

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.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

On August 16, 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 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.



348,000

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

USSOUTHCOM deployed numerous aircraft to support humanitarian operations and is providing aerial imagery to support damage assessments.

Meanwhile, 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.



5

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department staff deployed to assist UNDAC

HCIMA

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) and continue 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 supporting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to conduct damage and needs assessments through the Haitian Red Cross in coordination with the GoH. In addition, the Haitian Red Cross is transporting injured people from affected areas for specialized care; providing first aid and other health care services; providing psychosocial support and family reunification interventions; and conducting hygiene awareness campaigns in earthquake-affected communities in Sud.

On August 26, the UN launched a Flash 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 the provision of relief items and health care services, safe drinking water, and WASH assistance to affected households.

RELIEF COMMODITIES, SHELTER, AND WASH



5,000

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

USAID/BHA funds the 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, 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.



830

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

FOOD SECURITY

As of August 26, USAID/BHA had released more than 830 MT of food—including beans, rice, and vegetable oil—from its contingency stock managed by WFP, sufficient to meet the monthly food needs of approximately 62,000 people. 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 215,000 people.



375

Medical evacuations conducted via two USCG helicopters

HEALTH

On August 15, the U.S. Coast Guard (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 26, the USCG had flown 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.

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. Meanwhile, 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.

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).