

# Haiti – Complex Emergency

MARCH 15, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>11.7</b> MILLION	<b>5.5</b> MILLION	<b>3.6</b> MILLION	<b>4.4</b> MILLION	<b>362,000</b>
Estimated Population of Haiti	Estimated Number of People in Need in Haiti	People Targeted for Humanitarian Assistance	Estimated Population Facing Acute Food Insecurity Between March and June	Estimated Number of IDPs in Haiti
<i>UNFPA – September 2023</i>	<i>UN – January 2024</i>	<i>UN – January 2024</i>	<i>IPC – September 2023</i>	<i>OCHA – March 2024</i>

- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and USAID Administrator Samantha Power announce an additional \$33 million and \$25 million, respectively, in humanitarian assistance for Haiti in March.
- The GoH declared a state of emergency on March 3 following several coordinated OCG attacks across the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Surges in hostilities in late-February exacerbate existing poor humanitarian conditions.
- Insecurity displaces tens of thousands of people in early 2024, bringing the total number of IDPs across Haiti to 362,000 individuals.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Haiti Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup>

\$29,034,259

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6*

**Total**

**\$29,034,259**

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### USG Announces \$58 Million in Humanitarian Assistance for Haiti

On March 11, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced \$33 million in humanitarian aid for Haiti. On March 15, USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced an additional \$25 million in humanitarian assistance for the country. The additional funding through USAID/BHA will support the UN and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners to provide in-kind food assistance, nutrition support for infants and young children, essential health services, and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities. The funding will also bolster assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) through relocation support, psychosocial support (PSS) services, and the delivery of potable drinking water. The announcement brings the total USAID/BHA emergency assistance in Haiti to nearly \$171 million, targeting more than 1.5 million people with lifesaving assistance since October 2022.

### Coordinated OCG Violence Surges in February, Severely Restricting Access to Essential Goods and Services

Insecurity continues to escalate across the Port-au-Prince metropolitan, severely constraining availability of and access to essential goods and services and contributing to deteriorating food security across the country. Following a series of coordinated organized criminal group (OCG) attacks on government facilities—including hospitals, penitentiaries, police stations, and ports—that began on February 29, the Government of Haiti (GoH) declared a month-long state of emergency and imposed a nighttime curfew beginning on March 3, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). During the attacks, OCG members attempted to seize control of the city's general hospital, prompting the facility's closure on March 3, and targeted two penitentiaries and police stations in Ouest Department's Croix-des-Bouquets commune March 2–3, resulting in the escape of at least 4,000 prisoners and the deaths of an unconfirmed number of Haitian National Police (HNP) officers. OCGs also targeted Haiti's main port, looting containers and periodically disrupting access to the Varreux Fuel Terminal, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's fuel storage, limiting access to fuel. Following the surge in OCG violence, Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced on March 11 that he will resign upon the establishment of a new Transitional Presidential Council, according to international media.

The surge in hostilities, alongside market closures, supply chain disruptions, and the reduced capacity of households to meet expenses will lead to a gradual increase of people facing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity throughout the country until May, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>2</sup> Overall, OCG violence continues to cause increased casualties and displacement year over year; relief actors recorded 4,789 deaths, including 167 children, and the displacement of nearly 184,000 people during 2023, an approximately 120 percent and 100 percent increase, respectively, compared to 2022, the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC) reports.

In addition, insecurity and OCG-related movement restrictions—including barricades—have also reduced access to essential services and humanitarian assistance. OCG violence prevented USAID/BHA partner Concern Worldwide from conducting nutrition support activities, including cooking demonstrations in metropolitan Port-au-Prince's Cité Soleil commune, while protests and roadblocks prevented relief actors from reaching community members in Grand'Anse and Nippes departments during January and early February. Hostilities also resulted in a spike in food prices and disrupted

<sup>2</sup> 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, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5) for acute food insecurity.

markets between early January and mid-February, according to WFP and FEWS NET, with WFP estimating that price hikes have affected approximately 90,000 people across the country, further limiting their ability to afford basic commodities, with markets in Artibonite, Centre, Nippes, Nord, and Sud departments the most affected. Insecurity and poor roadways also prevent commercial drivers from transporting stockpiles of medicine and medical supplies to hospitals in Nippes, Sud, and Sud-Est departments, leading hospitals to strategically reallocate available medicine to nearby communities; several medical facilities were forced to suspend or significantly reduce services between January and early February due to a lack of supplies, resulting in severe overcrowding, challenges referring patients, staffing shortages, and resource limitations in health centers across Haiti.

### **More Than 362,000 People Displaced Across Haiti, IOM Reports**

OCG-related violence displaced tens of thousands of people during the first few months of 2024, increasing the total number of IDPs in Haiti from 314,000 in December 2023 to more than 362,000 as of early March, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and OCHA. In addition, forced evictions secondarily displaced nearly 15,000 IDPs from 12 informal displacement sites—including health centers, hospitals, and schools—across metropolitan Port-au-Prince to host community and other overcrowded displacement sites in the area on February 29, according to IOM.

Amid the surge in IDPs, humanitarian conditions and services within IDP sites also continue to deteriorate. As of March 8, several relief organizations had either temporarily reduced or intermittently suspended gender-based violence (GBV) services in IDP sites across the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. In addition, insecurity prevented UNICEF from delivering safe drinking water to IDP sites in the area between January 31 and March 9, exacerbating poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in IDP sites, where IDPs oftentimes are forced to resort to open defecation, increasing the likelihood of waterborne disease outbreaks, such as cholera. A separate commercial water distributor had also paused water distributions as of March 8. In response to the recent surge in displacement, WFP delivered approximately 19,000 hot meals to IDPs between March 7 and 8, and IOM distributed relief commodities—including blankets and hygiene kits—to an estimated 1,600 IDPs in early March. Although the uptick in violence since late February has caused humanitarian organizations to pause activities intermittently, USAID's humanitarian partners remain operational in Haiti and continue to provide assistance across all funded sectors. USAID has intentionally designed programs that are agile and able to pivot to address new displacement and new needs as they arise.

### **2024 HNRP Targets 3.6 Million People with Humanitarian Assistance in Haiti**

The UN released the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for Haiti on January 19, requesting nearly \$674 million to reach 3.6 million people with humanitarian assistance during the year, compared to \$720 million to reach 3.2 million people in 2023. An estimated 5.5 million people—or nearly half of Haiti's population of more than 11 million people—are expected to need humanitarian assistance during 2024, according to the HNRP. Notably, approximately 125,000 children are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition during the year, UNICEF reports. The HNRP aims to reach 2.5 million people with food assistance, 1.9 million people with health assistance, nearly 760,000 people with protection assistance, and 430,000 people with shelter assistance and other emergency relief commodities. During 2023, relief actors reached approximately 2.6 million people of the 3.2 million people targeted by the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.

## KEY FIGURES



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USAID/BHA partners providing food assistance in Haiti



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USAID/BHA partners providing protection services in Haiti



450 MT

Of USAID/BHA-facilitated relief commodities transported to Haiti to respond to the cholera outbreak

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

While security conditions and fuel shortages pose logistical challenges for humanitarian operations, USAID/BHA food security partners continue to work to overcome access constraints and reach populations in need. USAID/BHA continues to support 12 partners in FY 2024 to provide emergency food assistance in Haiti, including cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food aid. During December 2023 and January 2024, WFP provided 25,000 hot meals to violence-affected individuals, including IDPs residing at displacement sites, and distributed cash transfers for food to more than 45,000 people. Moreover, USAID/BHA partner Concern Worldwide distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to approximately 4,000 households across Cité Soleil in December 2023, while GOAL provided food vouchers to an estimated 1,700 individuals in Carrefour, Delmas, and Port-au-Prince communes during the same period.

### PROTECTION

USAID/BHA supports ten partners to provide critical protection assistance—such as GBV prevention and response services, medical referrals, and PSS services—across Haiti to address heightened protection needs resulting from persistent insecurity. During December 2023, Concern Worldwide organized an intensive community-based awareness campaign on available protection-related health services, reaching more than 16,600 people; the partner also supported nearly 600 survivors of GBV with PSS services in Port-au-Prince during January. In addition, with USAID/BHA support, the GOAL-led NGO consortium—comprising ASVI, CESVI, and GOAL—reached nearly 1,200 individuals with PSS support, including support for survivors of armed attacks and GBV in January. USAID/BHA requires all partners to incorporate protection principles into each supported activity in Haiti while promoting meaningful access, dignity, and safety for all participants.

### LOGISTICS AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA continues to mobilize supplies to support cholera treatment and response efforts amid ongoing fuel shortages in Haiti. In partnership with the logistics nonprofit Airlink, USAID/BHA established a humanitarian air bridge to deliver critical health and WASH supplies to relief organizations combating cholera in Haiti, transporting nearly 290 metric tons (MT) of assistance to eight humanitarian organizations as of August. USAID/BHA also supports WFP to provide critical transportation and logistics services to support the broader humanitarian response.

USAID/BHA also funds IOM to maintain pre-positioned emergency relief supplies—sufficient to support nearly 75,000 individuals—in Haiti for distribution in response to sudden-onset disasters. IOM continues to distribute relief items from its contingency stocks—including critical hygiene kits and cholera prevention supplies—to support approximately 60,000 people in need throughout Haiti, including individuals affected by the cholera epidemic.



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USAID/BHA-supported partners conducting WASH activities in Haiti

## HEALTH AND WASH

USAID/BHA-supported programming for health and WASH in Haiti is working to prevent and address the spread of cholera and other communicable diseases, as well as provide access to safe drinking water for people in need. USAID/BHA currently supports 11 partners implementing WASH activities to conduct awareness campaigns on hygiene best practices to reduce the spread of disease, provide hygiene kits and safe drinking water to vulnerable households, and repair WASH infrastructure. During January, USAID/BHA partner IOM reached approximately 15,000 individuals in metropolitan Port-au-Prince with WASH assistance.



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USAID/BHA partners providing health services in Haiti

USAID/BHA health partners also work to strengthen the capacity of health care centers across Haiti, adjusting existing programming to meet emerging cholera response needs, while also working to overcome security related access constraints. With USAID/BHA support, Doctors of the World reached more than 3,000 households in Nord-Ouest and approximately 200 households in Ouest with cholera screening and awareness raising activities during December 2023. During the same reporting period, the NGO also distributed 220 hygiene kits to households in Ouest. In January, Concern Worldwide distributed 800 cholera prevention and hygiene kits to approximately 330 households in several neighborhoods across Cité Soleil.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Civil unrest, disease, economic instability, and insecurity—combined with recurring shocks from natural disasters, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes—have resulted in essential commodity shortages, food insecurity, and other humanitarian needs throughout Haiti in recent years. In response, USAID/BHA funds humanitarian programs in Haiti that aim to save lives, alleviate suffering, build resilience, enhance food security, strengthen livelihoods, and respond to disease outbreaks. USAID/BHA also funds programming to reduce disaster risk in Haiti and bolster national self-sufficiency through emergency preparedness and management.
- Amid the continued deterioration of the security situation in Haiti, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Eric W. Stromayer issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need on October 13, 2023, in anticipation of continued humanitarian needs in FY 2024.
- In response to the worsening humanitarian crisis and cholera epidemic in Haiti, USAID/BHA activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) on October 14, 2022, to identify, verify, and address the immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Haitians, with a particular focus on alleviating food

insecurity; addressing acute protection needs; and supporting cholera prevention and response. The DART is actively coordinating with humanitarian partners and the U.S. Embassy in Haiti to lead the U.S. Government's (USG) humanitarian response efforts. USAID/BHA also activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team on October 14, 2022, to support the DART.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2024<sup>3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Concern Worldwide	Food assistance—food vouchers, U.S. In-kind food aid, Nutrition, WASH	Ouest	\$2,382,986
Fonkoze	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Food assistance—cash transfers for food, Nutrition	Sud	\$2,000,000
Humanity and Inclusion	Logistics, Food Assistance—cash transfers for food, WASH, Protection	Ouest, Nord, Nort-Est	\$2,500,000
IMPACT Initiatives	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IICA	Food Assistance—food vouchers, Agriculture	Artibonite	\$1,500,000
Project Hope	HCIMA, Health, Protection, WASH	Grand'Anse, Nippes, Sud	\$2,000,000
SCF	Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection	Sud	\$2,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$14,988,135
	Program Support		\$163,138
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2024</b>			<b>\$29,034,259</b>

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change. Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 15, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Total value of food assistance and associated costs adjusted from estimated to actual values.

## 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://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://cidi.org).
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)