

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The powerful 7.2-magnitude earthquake which struck south-western Haiti on 14 August affected at least 800,000 people, including 340,000 children, and resulted in the death of more than 2,240 people. According to the [Haitian General Directorate of Civil Protection \(DGPC\)](#) and IOM, as of 20 September, an estimated 38,777 displaced people have been identified in 89 displacement locations across the three most affected departments – Grand’Anse, Nippes and Sud – with more than half of these people located in 44 locations in the Sud Department.

For the more than 12,700 injured people, access to adequate healthcare remains a challenge, as the quake damaged or destroyed approximately 90 health centres, with 60 per cent of affected people stating that health services close to them have been interrupted, according to UNICEF’s U-Report survey.

The rollout of the new school year has been severely hindered by the earthquake’s multifaceted impacts, with more than 900 schools – around 70 per cent of all schools in south-western Haiti – damaged or destroyed. The majority of schools have been unable to reopen their doors to students just as 300,000 children were set to gradually resume classes in the three quake-affected departments on 4 October. UNICEF estimates that if classrooms remain closed, following a one-month delay in school reopening in affected departments, more than 230,000 children are at risk of dropping out of school.



Photo Credit: Véronique Durroux/UNOCHA

The earthquake has triggered a spike in international migration from Haiti, compounding the existing migration crisis of Haitians in the Americas, with increasing numbers of Haitian nationals arriving on the shores of neighbouring countries. At the same time, the Government of the United States has launched an operation to repatriate around 14,000 Haitian migration from Del Rio, Texas, with an average of 400 people expected to be returned to Haiti every day over the coming months.

Following the United States’ recent decision to forcibly return Haitian migrants, the Government of Mexico announced that it had reached a formal agreement with Haiti to restart deportation processes, while The Bahamas and Cuba indicated they had received several Haitians seeking to enter the United States, who will soon be returned to Haiti. With thousands of Haitians being returned to a country facing a multi-dimensional crisis, including women and children, many of whom were born outside Haiti, families sent back face increasing levels of violence, poverty and displacement, factors that originally drove them to flee the island.

In response, UN entities, including UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and OHCHR, released a joint statement urging for a comprehensive regional approach in responding to Haitian migrants’ protection needs, calling on states to cease the forcible return of Haitians without adequate assessment of their specific protection needs, as the situation is bound to worsen following the earthquake’s impact on already-limited capacities to receive returning Haitians.

On 25 September, Prime Minister Ariel Henry addressed the UN General Assembly, where he lauded the international solidarity received in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and encouraged the international community to continue supporting Haiti in addressing the most pressing humanitarian needs and post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction efforts.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The first phase of the emergency response is now well underway. The Government of Haiti, through the DGPC, continues to display robust leadership and coordination together with relevant line ministries and humanitarian partners.

The Government aims to strengthen intersectoral activities to ensure an even more effective operational response by all national and international partners and, above all, an efficient transition to the recovery and reconstruction phase.

As such, the DGPC has been working on a framework for strengthening the emergency response and transition to recovery to ensure the continuation of a well-coordinated response that involves all national and international partners. In addition, the framework considers the effective integration of the recommendations made in the emergency response progress report, confirming the status of the various operations, into the transition towards the recovery and reconstruction process.



Photo Credit: Marcel Velásquez/UNOCHA

During the transition to the recovery phase, the Government of Haiti intends to strengthen and complete, without delay, the distribution of assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected by the earthquake, particularly in remote communities and those isolated from urban centres. The objective is to get as close as possible to the beneficiaries, especially women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, by ensuring a coordinated response at the place of origin and thus, avoiding the displacement of populations and movement towards urban or peri-urban distribution centres.

FUNDING

On 25 August, UN agencies and humanitarian partners launched a US\$187.3 million [Flash Appeal](#), targeting 500,000 of the most vulnerable quake-affected people. According to the [Financial Tracking Service \(FTS\)](#), as of 7 October, the appeal has only received \$21.6 million. However, more funding has been received that is yet to be reflected on FTS, with an estimated 30 per cent of funding needs covered.

Despite the continued generosity of donors and multilateral institutions, the dire humanitarian needs emerging from overlapping crises continue to stretch the response capacities of the Government, international humanitarian partners and local organizations. The forced return of thousands of Haitians over the coming months will generate new humanitarian needs and further stretch already-limited capacities to respond to existing unmet needs. As such, donors must step up their financial support for response and recovery efforts in order to avoid a deepening humanitarian crisis.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Cash and Voucher Assistance

Response:

- At least 18 partners plan to distribute multipurpose cash grants to 103,358 households, with the average transfer amounting to \$100 over two transfer cycles.
- Temporary work opportunities will be provided to 30,000 individuals through cash-for-work programs.
- A new safety net program is being rolled out by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MAST) and WFP in the Grand'Anse Department. Information System of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

103.3K+

households targeted for
multipurpose cash
assistance

(SIMAST) surveys are ongoing to target households whose homes were destroyed or damaged with three \$100 cash transfers.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of comprehensive social protection package to ensure the next phase of emergency assistance (except in the Grand'Anse Department).
- Inflation continues to be a response constraint. A Rapid Market Assessment conducted by REACH found that 96 per cent of consumers indicate that the prices of products have increased in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Education

Needs:

- Of the 906 schools damaged or destroyed, the majority have not been able to reopen for the 2021-2022 school year due to the slow start of temporary learning space construction.

Response:

- On 4 October, the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP) officially launched the start of the 2021-2022 school year in the three affected departments. The opening will be gradual in order to allow children to find suitable learning spaces.
- As part of the school reopening, initial interventions will focus on psychosocial and pedagogical support to affected students and teachers, the establishment of temporary learning spaces, the distribution of school kits and furniture, and cash transfers for students and teachers.
- Construction of semi-permanent learning spaces is being prepared and will soon be launched. Additionally, 100 tents will soon be made available to interested schools to facilitate the organization of psychosocial and pedagogical support activities while semi-permanent structures are being constructed.

300K

children affected by
damaged and destroyed
schools

Gaps & Constraints:

- Several schools are still being used as temporary shelters (10 in Sud, 6 in Nippes and 6 in Grand'Anse). Partners are in contact with DGPC and the CCCM Sector to discuss hosting students in alternative structures.
- Debris clearing operations at damaged schools have come to a halt at some sites due to fuel shortages.
- Humanitarian access challenges in affected areas and the lack of financial resources among households is creating vulnerabilities and gaps in child education.

Food Security

Needs:

- A new prioritization and targeting strategy has been developed for early recovery activities and will be shared with partners for validation.

Response:

- To date, Food Security Sector partners have assisted 245,150 people through food and cash transfers and served more than 220,000 hot meals to affected people.
- Food Security Sector meetings were held in Jérémie on 28 September and in Les Cayes on 29 September. The sectoral prioritization and emergency target have been validated at the district level.
- Save the Children will co-facilitate coordination of the sector in Les Cayes along with the National Coordination of Food Security (CNSA) and the sector team from lead agencies.

245K+

people have received
cash and food assistance
from Food Security
partners

Gaps & Constraints:

- Based on the sector target of beneficiaries requiring assistance, there is a gap of 54 per cent in the Grand Sud region, of which 63 per cent is in the Grand'Anse Department, 53 per cent in Nippes and 46 per cent in Sud.

Health

Needs:

- Repair or rebuild health facilities damaged by the earthquake to ensure continuation of services.
- Hygiene kits and temporary shelters in semi-permanent structures to address the immediate needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV), tuberculosis patients, key populations and healthcare providers.

1.6M

people will benefit from 169 medical kits, including PPE, donated by PAHO/WHO

Response:

- UNAIDS, in coordination with partners, continues to support the Infectious and Transmissible Diseases Coordination Unit (UCMIT), as well as the National AIDS Control Program (PNLS) and the National Tuberculosis Control Program (PNLT), in the mobilisation of funds to address the humanitarian needs of PLHIV and people affected by tuberculosis. Additionally, coordinated efforts are ongoing to raise awareness and financial support for community interventions targeting LGBTIQ+ people, with a focus on addressing increased stigmatization.
- Mobile psychosocial support clinics were conducted by the Health Directorate of the Sud Department (DSS), together with PAHO/WHO, in the Cavaillon and Nova health centres.
- WASH evaluations in health facilities have been conducted in the Sud Department at HIC, the Torbeck health centre and Sainte Rose de Lima health centre in Maniche. However, the latter was severely damaged by the earthquake, with MSF and UNICEF providing two tents to help continue treating patients.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Persistent insecurity continues to delay response activities and the distribution of aid.
- Damaged bridge in Jérémie (Grand'Anse) has created logistics challenges, including for the distribution of medical supplies.
- As mobile clinics are concluded, it is important that health structures damaged by the earthquake be rebuilt as soon as possible.
- PLHIV and people affected by tuberculosis have been significantly affected, including experiencing heightened discrimination, and are in need of increased support to address their differentiated needs.

Nutrition

Needs:

- According to initial estimates from the Nutrition Sector, 33,908 pregnant and lactating women and 167,118 children under 5, including 62,730 children under 2 (18,771 less than 6 months), are at risk and need urgent nutrition interventions in quake-affected areas.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) interventions, including Point de Conseil Nutrition Pour Bébé (PCNB) as safe spaces for mothers to breastfeed and for support to non-breastfed infants, as well as active mass screening to identify and treat children under age 5 with acute malnutrition in the affected communes, has not yet started due to a lack of funding.
- Reinforcement of sector coordination at the departmental level is needed in order to ensure an effective response.

201K+

Pregnant and lactating women and children under age 5 are at risk and need urgent nutrition interventions

Response:

- UNICEF continues to support the MSPP in coordinating sector meetings at the national level. At the departmental level, UNICEF is in the process of recruiting sub-cluster coordinators to support the health directorates to coordinate sector-based activities.
- An expert on IYCF has been deployed through the Global Nutrition Cluster to develop training materials, conduct the training of the national pool of trainers, and revise operational guidance on the establishment of safe spaces for mothers to breastfeed (Point Conseil Nutrition pour Bébé).
- UNICEF, together with the MSPP, is elaborating a distribution plan to replenish the nutrition supply within affected departments. Additionally, anthropometric materials will be distributed to equip affected health centres.
- The Nutrition Sector, supported by an Information Management Officer deployed through the Global Nutrition Cluster, will soon launch a dashboard to visualize response activities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is limited funding available to implement the response plan. A supply pipeline for treatment products has been temporarily secured, but not for the implementation of the IYCF-E interventions, or for strengthening the treatment system.
- There is a limited number of nutrition implementing partners in some areas, especially in Nippes.
- Damaged or destroyed health structures affect the delivery of nutrition interventions.


Protection
Needs:

- Post-traumatic care and follow-up for affected children as well as sensitization on child protection among communities and families is needed.
- Capacity building for partners (IBESR, MCFDF and BSEIPH, among others) on child protection in emergencies.
- Rural women and girls need protection, housing and shelter, as well as guidance on their rights. They continue to face increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV) due to limited prevention actions.

Response:**General Protection**

- The Departmental Emergency Operations Centre (COUD) in Les Cayes is launching a pilot project to receive feedback directly from quake-affected people on the assistance received in assembly sites and on what is required in order for them to return to their homes. The perception survey, which is set to begin the week of 4 October in Les Cayes, will be carried out through focus groups in 16 assembly points located in the commune.
- Between 26 September and 5 October, an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) delegation conducted an external review mission of the country approach to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (PSEAH). The objective of the mission was to validate global review findings to date, better understand processes on PSEAH, and discuss opportunities and barriers encountered. The delegation travelled to Port-Au-Prince, Les Cayes, Beaumont and Jérémie where they met with various PSEA partners.
- UNICEF co-chaired the Child Protection Working Group (GTPE) with the Institute for Social Welfare and Research (IBESR) in the three departments of the Grand Sud region. A mapping of the sites identified for psychosocial activities and child friendly spaces (CFS) is in progress, which will allow greater coverage and better coordination among the various partners of the GTPE.

Child Protection

- Save The Children organized psychosocial support sessions for 30 children, including 11 girls and 19 boys, in the commune of Camp-Perrin in the Sud Department. Planning for the establishment of 14 CFS continues, and the assessment of location sites as well as the process of recruiting staff for the operation of CFS and case management is underway in the municipalities of Pestel and Corail in the Grand'Anse Department.
- Civil society organizations (CSOs) working in child protection within community spaces organized 54 psychosocial support and awareness sessions in the communes of Les Cayes, Torbeck, Chantal, Camp-Perrin in the Sud Department as well as in l'Asile (Nippes) and Plaisance (Nord). A total of 1,062 children, including 503 girls and 559 boys, participated.
- The Psychosocial Support Training and Research Centre (FRAPS) visited the prison in Les Cayes to follow-up on cases of incarcerated children. In order to strengthen medical care, UNICEF's Mobile Clinic will support the prison infirmary over the course of the week with consultations and the provision of medications.

Gender-Based Violence

- Activities for the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls are underway in the communes of Camp-Perrin (Sud) and Anse-à-Veau (Nippes) under the leadership of the Haitian Centre for Leadership and Solidarity (CHES).
- Awareness sessions on GBV-related issues, which saw the participation of 258 people (99 women and 159 men), were conducted in the commune of Maniche (Sud) by CSOs under the leadership of UNICEF.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The lack of logistical and financial capacity, in addition to the deteriorating security situation in the Grand Sud region, continues to significantly affect the capability of local partners to carry out training sessions and offer legal assistance to earthquake victims.
- Women are particularly vulnerable to GBV at assembly points and lack the financial resources to receive medical care. Hospitals and health centres lack gynaecologists and specialists, and their lack of capacity does not allow them to follow the 72-hour evidence protocol in GBV cases.
- The harmonization of tools used by different actors involved in child protection is needed. Additionally, there is a need to implement a capacity building process for case management, referral, reporting and facilitation of CFS for partners of the child protection group in the Grand Sud region.

Shelter

Needs:

- With the reopening of schools on 4 October, it is necessary to speed up the relocation of displaced people from schools and return education facilities to their original use.
- Improve the collection of data disaggregated by age, sex and vulnerability, especially in remote communities.
- Prioritization and distribution operations should be planned and carried out in collaboration with community groups and leaders, including women and women's organizations.
- Emergency shelter solutions and essential household items are urgently needed. Additionally, as the response enters a new phase, a reassessment of the shelter materials used is needed in order to provide a more resilient response.
- The Government maintains that tarpaulins should be distributed to the affected population, adding that tents should only be used if families have the land or space to set them up, in order to avoid a pull factor emerging from the creation of spontaneous settlement sites.
- Facilitating the removal of debris from private homes through cash-for-work programs to enable people to return to their communities as quickly as possible.
- Increase the number of activities reported in the Who does What, Where, When and for Whom (345W) platform, as the lack of information will affect the sector's strategy.

59.4K+

families benefited from
NFIs/shelter kit
distributions

Response:

- To date, the Shelter/NFI sector has assisted 59,442 families through the distribution of 199,700 NFIs carried out over 204 distributions.
- Coordination is ongoing with the WASH Sector to analyse potential duplication in data and gaps in the provision of hygiene kits at the communal section level.
- Under the direction of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications (MTPTC), with support from IOM and UNOPS, the assessment of public and residential buildings, hospitals and schools at risk of damage or collapse continues in the Sud, Nippes and Grand'Anse departments.
- To date, 2,768 rapid assessments of critical public buildings have been carried out by engineers deployed in the affected departments, with the general assessment campaign for all buildings launched last week in the Sud Department.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- At least 303,280 people need access to safe drinking while 500,000 require immediate and long-term support to access water supply services.

303K+

people have received safe drinking water from DINEPA and partners

Response:

- UNICEF and partners continue to support DINEPA in providing safe water, sanitation facilities, hygiene materials and hygiene promotion to affected families, targeting 500,000 people in the earthquake-affected departments.
- Through the DINEPA and sector-based response, more than 303,000 people have received safe water using water treatment units (UTE), water storage and water trucking.
- Hygiene promotion activities have been undertaken to prevent public health risks, including the spread of infectious diseases such as diarrheal diseases, malaria and COVID-19.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The sanitation response for people in displacement sites slowed following requests from the Government to limit interventions in sites in order to limit pull factors for the construction of spontaneous sites. However, this could increase the practice of open defecation and the risks of fecal contamination and GBV. This should be closely coordinated with the Shelter Sector in line with the IDP relocation strategy.
- Fuel shortages remain a major constraint for the functioning of water treatment units, reducing the production capacity of safe water, and for water trucking.
- The weakness of the national market and accessibility issues delay the availability and distribution of hygiene kits.
- The current funding situation of the sector is highly oriented toward emergency response with funding gaps for the repair of heavily damaged water supply systems.

Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) has concluded its coordination activities in Haiti. Coordination of services initiated as well as support provided through the ETS will be transferred to the WFP Haiti Country Office, including the transition of security communications and coordination of internet connectivity services established by ETS partners.
- Prior to departing, emergency.lu established VSAT connectivity at a field hospital in L'Asile set up by the Norwegian Emergency Medical Team and conducted further maintenance on the VSAT providing connectivity for the French Civil Protection Unit at the water treatment plant in Cavaillon. Emergency.lu will continue monitoring these services until the two operations are closed and will rely on operations of ICT staff to execute required maintenance.

Logistics

Response:

- DGPC, together with WFP, continues to organize convoys to deliver relief supplies to affected departments. As of 1 October, 37 convoys comprised of 412 vehicles have been organized to Les Cayes, supporting 53 partners.
- The Logistics Sector has established a coordination mechanism which covers both the national and departmental level in Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes and Jérémie. Based on partners' request, the Sector is assessing the plan to establish a coordination cell in Nippes.
- WFP is launching a barge service with a capacity of 650 MT on roll-on/roll-off operations from Port-au-Prince to Miragoâne.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) increased its number of flights, especially to destinations in the southern departments, to support emergency response efforts. Since the beginning of the response, UNHAS has transported 1,929 passengers from 76 organizations and 36 MT of cargo to affected areas.
- On 27 September, UNHAS launched a 20-seater aircraft for free-to-users passenger transport to boost response capacity.

36MT

cargo transported via UNHAS to affected areas

Gaps & Constraints:

- Fuel shortage remains a major logistics gap for the humanitarian response. The Logistics Sector is monitoring the situation as well as bridge information for fuel transport possibilities.
- The Jérémie Bridge is still impassable by vehicles, representing one of the main challenges for aid to reach cut-off and hard-to-reach communities. The Government plans to build a floating bridge, expected to be completed by December, as a solution to this problem.
- The security situation remains a key access constraint affecting the viability of roads to the south.

USEFUL LINKS

- Haiti Flash Appeal – Earthquake (August 2021): <https://bit.ly/3yiSswg>
- UN Business Guide: <https://bit.ly/3yhH0RM>
- ReliefWeb – 2021 Haiti Earthquake: <https://bit.ly/3zlpY6x>
- IOM Displacement Tracking Data: <https://dtm.iom.int/haiti>
- DGPC webpage: <https://bit.ly/3jpHtxf>
- HumanitarianResponse.info page for Haiti: <https://bit.ly/3gx0M5U>
- Sector webpages: Logistics: <https://bit.ly/38aY4yc>; Shelter/CCCM: <https://bit.ly/2XM9Z3t>; WASH: <https://bit.ly/3DIlm2y>
- Operational Presence Map: <https://bit.ly/3kKllrn>
- CDAC's Haiti resource portal: <https://bit.ly/2Wqgk3Q>

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