

Haiti – Earthquake

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

2,207	12,268	129,929	650,000	2.1 MILLION
Earthquake-Related Deaths Reported in Haiti	Earthquake-Related Injuries Reported in Haiti	Estimated Number of Houses Damaged or Destroyed	People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance	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>UN – August 2021</i>	<i>USGS – August 2021</i>

- USAID/BHA partner IOM distributes nearly 38,000 emergency relief commodities to earthquake-affected households.
- From September 2 to 7, USAID/BHA transports 10,000 plastic sheets and 10,000 shelter repair kits to Port-au-Prince for onward distribution by IOM.
- DART members continue to conduct site visits in southwestern Haiti, observing a CRS distribution of assistance in Nippes on September 3.
- WFP-led humanitarian convoys continue to transport assistance from Port-au-Prince to southwestern Haiti amid security risks and infrastructure damage.



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 USAID/BHA humanitarian assistance to respond to earthquake-related needs

September 2, 2021

JTF-Haiti concludes its deployment of air assets to assist response efforts in coordination with the DART

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

GoH Announces Transition From Rescue to Recovery as DART Continues Assessments

On September 3, Government of Haiti (GoH) officials announced the end of rescue operations in Haiti's Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud departments following the August 14 earthquake. The national response is transitioning to the recovery phase led by the GoH Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, while the GoH continues to carry out damage assessments to better inform ongoing response activities in coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Meanwhile, as USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners continue to mobilize assistance to affected communities, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is conducting assessments and observing distributions of assistance in earthquake-affected areas. On September 3, the DART conducted a site visit to Nippes's Arnaud and Petit-Trou-de-Nippes communes to observe a distribution of relief commodities by USAID/BHA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and meet with earthquake-affected households. During the trip, the DART and CRS identified unmet agriculture, livelihood, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs, including for safe drinking water, among earthquake-affected households, particularly in rural areas.

USAID/BHA Partners Continue Distributions Amid Price Increases and Market Access Challenges

From August 26 to September 1, the REACH Initiative led a market assessment of food and WASH items in coordination with the Cash-Based Transfers Working Group, interviewing nearly 430 key informants in 16 communes across Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud. The assessment indicated that desired items are largely available, but price increases and safety concerns following the earthquake are preventing some consumers from accessing markets. Though 71 percent of consumers reported that products they routinely purchase are available in markets, 97 percent reported that prices of food and WASH items had increased since the earthquake. In addition, 23 and 39 percent of consumers noted that disaster-related factors or safety considerations, respectively, were preventing them from accessing markets.

In response to earthquake-related needs, USAID/BHA continues to support partners, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to distribute assistance to earthquake-affected populations in southwestern Haiti. As of September 4, IOM had distributed nearly 38,000 emergency relief commodities funded by USAID/BHA to affected households in Grand'Anse's Jérémie city; seven communes in Nippes; and seven communes in Sud, including Les Cayes city. In addition, with relief commodities from IOM's stocks in Haiti, CRS and GOAL reached households in Petit-Trou-de-Nippes and Jérémie, respectively, with

hygiene kits, jerry cans, plastic sheets, and shelter repair kits with USAID/BHA support in early September.

10,000 USAID/BHA Plastic Sheets and Shelter Kits Arrive in Haiti

In response to continued shelter needs in Haiti, USAID/BHA transported relief commodities from its warehouse in Miami, Florida, to Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince, with seven flights delivering 10,000 plastic sheets and 10,000 shelter repair kits between September 2 and 7. USAID/BHA is transferring the commodities to IOM for onward distribution to affected populations in the coming days. IOM is currently distributing USAID/BHA commodities that were pre-positioned in Haiti prior to the earthquake, and the newly arrived supplies will enable the UN agency to reach additional households with emergency shelter support.

WFP-Led Convoys Continue Amid Insecurity, Infrastructure Damage

Convoys of trucks facilitated by USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continue to carry humanitarian assistance from Port-au-Prince to earthquake-affected areas in southwestern Haiti, despite periodic security-related disruptions. On September 6, WFP postponed a scheduled humanitarian convoy from Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes due to insecurity, though the UN agency was able to complete convoys to earthquake-affected areas on September 4 and 5, transporting vehicles carrying food commodities for WFP, relief commodities for IOM, and plastic sheets for Samaritan's Purse, among other assistance. The recent postponement follows a September 2 disruption caused by insecurity in a suburb of Port-au-Prince. In total, from August 18 to September 5, WFP had facilitated 15 convoys, escorting 180 vehicles for 36 relief organizations, with the majority of vehicles traveling to Les Cayes as their final destination, as well as other locations throughout Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud.

The convoys are accessing southwestern Haiti despite security and infrastructure challenges along major roads in the region. GOAL recently conducted a security assessment of National Route 2 (RN-2)—which connects Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes—and National Route 7 (RN-7)—which connects Les Cayes and Jérémie—finding areas of earthquake damage and insecurity along the two roads and noting a particular risk of insecurity in Port-au-Prince suburbs. Overall, the main risks along RN-2 include failing telephone networks; resident roadblocks; and insecurity, such as burglary, kidnapping, and looting, GOAL reports. Meanwhile, failing telephone networks, bottlenecks caused by road damage, roadblocks by landslides and residents, river flooding, and insecurity remain the main risks along RN-7.

IMC Treats More Than 150 Patients With USAID/BHA Support

In response to earthquake-related health needs, relief actors continue to support the national health response through nine emergency medical teams (EMTs) and eight mobile clinics in coordination with the GoH Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). For example, USAID/BHA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) treated more than 150 patients during the first three days of its EMT operations in Sud's Aquin town from September 2 to 4. The EMT aims to scale up its caseload capacity in the coming days following the arrival of a pharmacist, an additional doctor, and a pediatric nurse practitioner. USAID/BHA is supporting critical health assistance for communities with limited access to medical care, exacerbated by the earthquake-related damage or destruction of an estimated 79 health care facilities across Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud departments, according to PAHO. As of September 2, at least eight organizations, including IMC, were operating EMTs in areas of Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud, while eight organizations were operating 22 mobile clinics in the region, PAHO reports.

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 14, the GoH declared a one-month state of emergency in Haiti due to the earthquake and activated Civil Protection General Directorate (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.

On August 25, DART USAR staff demobilized and returned to the United States following the completion of rescue efforts in Haiti, while dozens of DART staff remain 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.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

USAID/BHA is providing logistics support in heavily-affected communities in Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud. In addition, on August 16, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) helicopters deployed to Haiti and began transporting DART and USAR personnel to assist assessment and response activities. USAID also requested the unique capabilities of the U.S. Department of Defense (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.



671

Missions completed by JTF-Haiti aircraft supporting relief operations



588,000

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. During its deployment, Joint Task Force (JTF)-Haiti—which included DoD and USCG assets—flew 671 missions, assisting or rescuing 447 people and transporting approximately 200 relief staff and 588,000 pounds of emergency relief commodities to affected areas. JTF-Haiti concluded its final missions in support of DART-led humanitarian operations in Haiti on September 2.

Meanwhile, USAID/BHA is supporting a WFP barge service to facilitate additional humanitarian transport between Port-au-Prince and coastal areas of southwestern Haiti, as well as the operation of WFP-led convoys by road from Port-au-Prince to affected areas.

HCIMA

In response to the earthquake, five members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department 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.



5

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department staff deployed to assist UNDAC

USAID/BHA is supporting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to conduct damage and needs assessments through the Haitian Red Cross in coordination with the GoH. In addition, the Haitian Red Cross is providing first aid and other health care services; providing psychosocial support services 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 health, WASH, and other forms of assistance.

RELIEF COMMODITIES, SHELTER, AND WASH



38,000

Number of USAID/BHA-funded relief commodities dispatched by IOM

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 distributed nearly 38,000 USAID/BHA-funded relief commodities—including blankets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, and shelter fixing kits—to affected households as of September 4. In addition, from September 2 to 7, USAID/BHA transported

10,000 plastic sheets and 10,000 shelter repair kits from its warehouse in Miami, Florida, to Port-au-Prince for transfer to and distribution by IOM.

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.

FOOD SECURITY



1,747

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

As of August 31, USAID/BHA had released more than 1,747 MT of food—including beans, rice, and vegetable oil—from its contingency stock managed by WFP, enabling the UN agency to reach 65,000 beneficiaries with monthly food distributions for two months. 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 approximately 215,000 people in southwestern Haiti in the coming months.

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. Following the earthquake, the USCG flew 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.



381

Medical evacuations conducted via USCG helicopters

On August 30, USAID/BHA delivered emergency medical kits—including bandages, examination gloves, gauze, malaria medicine, stethoscopes, syringes, and thermometers—sufficient to meet the urgent medical needs of approximately 20,000 people for three months. USAID/BHA is providing the items to PAHO for onward distribution in southwestern Haiti. In addition, USAID/BHA is supporting IMC in providing health assistance via an EMT operating in Sud.

The GoH MSPP 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 PAHO country office in Haiti has activated its emergency plan, while PAHO and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) declared a health emergency for Haiti and neighboring Dominican Republic for the duration of 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](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).

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)