

Haiti Earthquake

Situation Report #1

August 14, 2021

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti at 8:29am local time today 12km Northeast of Saint-Louis du Sud and 150km West of Port-au-Prince at a depth of 10km.
- Significant damage to infrastructure, housing and commercial properties.
- Region's primary hospitals are overwhelmed by sudden needs and may be short staffed due to the earthquake.
- 225 people reported dead by Haitian government, but the death toll is expected to increase dramatically.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

At 8:29a a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti 12km Northeast of Saint-Louis du Sud on the Tiburon Peninsula. The earthquake caused significant damage to the surrounding region and could be felt as far away as Kingston, Jamaica.

The significant shaking is likely to have significantly damaged or destroyed most structures near the epicenter due to local building types. Early reports show **significant damage or destruction of buildings** and homes in the two nearby cities of **Les Cayes and Jeremie** while the city of **Petit Trou de Nippes** remains out of contact due to infrastructure damage. It is unclear how many people are in need of search and recovery but early efforts have revealed significant injuries and loss of life. There is also concern of landslides that are common to the region following earthquakes.

Statistical reporting at this stage remain disjointed, but videos and images on social media show significantly damaged or destroyed buildings as well as reports of **flooding in Les Cayes**, though the source of the flooding is not yet confirmed. A tsunami warning had briefly been issued but was then rescinded.

Local medical officials report that hospitals in the impacted areas are overwhelmed. Early estimates based on earthquake magnitude anticipate significant shaking-related fatalities and injuries. A PAGER report

Quick Facts

- 7.2M earthquake in Haiti at 8:29am on August 14
- Significant damage in Les Cayes and Jeremie
- Local hospitals overwhelmed
- Search and rescue finding significant injuries and fatalities
- 225 reported fatalities

estimates that there is a **72% chance of more than 10,000 fatalities**. There are **137 hospitals in the impacted region** but their operating statuses are uncertain at this time. A building in Les Cayes housing medical students, hospital interns and two doctors is reported to have collapsed, trapping needed health care workers.

The Haitian Government has declared a State of Emergency following the earthquake. The region continues to be impacted by aftershocks as high as 5.1M and warning have been issued not to re-enter damaged facilities. The Haitian Office of Civil Protection reports that at least 225 people have been killed by the earthquake. **More than 822,000 people were exposed to very strong shaking due to the earthquake.**

Haiti is a complex operating environment following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on July 7, 2021. Gang violence has disrupted Port-au-Prince and other parts of Haiti. Additionally, COVID-19 cases have spiked in Haiti though official data is limited. The displacement caused by the earthquake will likely impact individuals' ability to socially distance and reduce the spread of infection.

Tropical Storm Grace is now approaching the Caribbean and Haiti is in the cone of uncertainty for its path. The storm may bring dangerous wind and rainfall to areas already impacted by the earthquake.

PROJECT HOPE'S RESPONSE

Project HOPE is deploying an Emergency Response Team, including a public health and emergency response experts, a WASH specialist and clinicians. The team in coordination with local contacts will conduct a rapid assessment of the situation and needs on the ground will be prepared to offer immediate aid.

Project HOPE is identifying opportunities to distribute critical medicines, medical supplies, hygiene kits, water purification kits and personal protective equipment to reduce the spread of diseases in the aftermath of the earthquake. The Emergency Response Team will develop a more specific needs list.

Contact Information

Chris Skopec
cskopec@projecthope.org
1 (202) 602-8393

Tom Cotter
tcotter@projecthope.org
1 (667) 303-8970

