

Haiti Earthquake

Situation Report #2

August 19, 2021

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 500,000+ people in Haiti in need of humanitarian assistance following a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.
- Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is on the ground in Haiti.
- Medicine and supply shortages, including wound care supplies and antibiotics, reported at impacted hospitals and health clinics.
- Ongoing risk of infectious diseases, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, malaria, and COVID-19

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Four days after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula the scale of need is becoming clear. The Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate reports that at least 500,000 people are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance in the departments of Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes, representing nearly 40% of the local population. The Haitian Government has requested aid in the form of emergency medical teams, water health and sanitation (WASH) needs and shelter items.

The earthquake destroyed 61,000 homes and damaged 76,000, leaving many homeless. Official shelters in the region also sustained damage, leaving many sleeping outdoors or in makeshift tents as Tropical Depression Grace moved through the area on August 16 and 17. Grace caused limited flooding and additional landslides, as well as temporarily delayed search and rescue efforts. Population displacement has raised the need for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, with some local water sources contaminated due to damage from the earthquake. COVID-19, despite decreasing rates over the last two weeks, is an increasing threat as populations may congregate for shelter.

Hospitals and health clinics are reporting significant shortages of medicines and supplies, including antibiotics, surgical supplies, and rehabilitation supplies. Some of the smaller communities remain cut-off from hospitals in major cities, limiting access to health care services.

Quick Facts

- 7.2M earthquake in Haiti on August 14
- 500K+ people in need of humanitarian assistance
- 2,189 earthquake related deaths
- 12,268+ injuries
- 29 health facilities damaged or destroyed
- 137K houses damaged or destroyed

Hospitals in the Les Cayes area including OFATMA and Hospital Immaculée Conception have damaged facilities and have moved patient care outside of their buildings. The hospitals have been overwhelmed by local need and have airlifted some patients to health facilities in Port-au-Prince. At least 25 health facilities in have sustained damage and 4 were destroyed. Reported needs around immediate injuries are slowly stabilizing while needs around the provision of primary care and management of chronic diseases is anticipated to grow. Additional medical risks include infectious diseases, with particular concern regarding cholera, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases and malaria.

PROJECT HOPE'S RESPONSE

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is on the ground in the Sud department, delivering critical medicines and medical supplies, including bandages, sutures, and antibiotics, to health facilities in Les Cayes and the surrounding area. Supplies are matched to identified needs at the two largest hospitals, and include air-drops of supplies to rural areas with health clinics experiencing critical supply shortages.

The Emergency Response Team now includes Haitian clinical staff to provide immediate surge support at health facilities in response to the increased patient demand. Rapid assessments are being conducted to determine needs in more isolated rural communities.

Project HOPE's short-term aim will be to provide medical resupply to health facilities in the impacted region, including regional hospitals and primary health care centers outside of the major cities. The team will also aim to address gaps in health care coverage caused by the earthquake with a Haitian clinical team focused on primary care needs.

Longer term, Project HOPE is assessing WASH needs, ensuring access to primary care services and other essential needs including mental health services and health systems support. Project HOPE also has available trainings on COVID-19 and mental health for healthcare workers that can be localized for the Haitian context.

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