

# HAITI CHOLERA AND INSECURITY

project  
**HOPE**

## Situation Report #9

June 22, 2023

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- On June 3, widespread flooding in Haiti impacted almost 40,000 households and damaged health facilities in the Ouest and Sud-Est departments.
- Within days of the flooding, on June 6, a 4.9-magnitude earthquake struck southern Haiti near Jérémie, resulting in four deaths and more than 51 injuries.
- Project HOPE's assessments of the flooded regions of Haiti showed that Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and nutritional services were the highest immediate needs followed by shelter, the provision of basic health care, and livelihood support.
- Assessments also showed limited access to Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) and supplies in areas impacted by flooding.



*Flooding in Les Cayes and across southern Haiti in early June impacted thousands of families. Photo by Nadia Todres for Project Hope, June 2023.*

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The complex humanitarian crisis in Haiti was complicated by climate events over the last two weeks. On June 3, intense rainstorms caused severe flooding across the country, including in areas already saturated by heavy rain from the preceding weeks. The flooding has resulted in 51 deaths and 140 injuries, and impacted 39,458 households. At least five health facilities experienced flooding across the Ouest and Sud-Est departments. Three facilities across Léogâne and Gressier – where heavy damage has been reported – temporarily closed due to damage to their facilities and medical supply.

On June 6 at 5:11 a.m. EDT, a 4.9-magnitude earthquake struck about nine kilometers northeast of Les Abricots, Haiti in the Grand'Anse, leaving four dead and more than 51 injured in Jérémie. Health facilities in the area have maintained continued operations but are in need of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. The flooding in Léogâne earlier in the week has been impacting response efforts in the earthquake-impacted areas, as the flooded city is a major transport hub on the route between Port-au-Prince and Jérémie. Together, these climate events have increased the demand for humanitarian services, including the distribution of hygiene and non-food item kits, as well as water point decontamination and pharmaceutical and medical supplies for health facilities.

# PROJECT HOPE'S ASSESSMENT

Project HOPE organized a rapid needs assessment on June 5 in several areas affected by the floods in the South, Nippes, and Grand'Anse departments, including Savane, Fort Îlet, Beaulieu, Deye Fo, Lavale, Rena, La Plaine, Miragoâne, and Charrier. **Out of 94 households** surveyed, key findings include:

- Sixty-five percent of participants reported not having access to food post-flooding.
- Thirty-two percent of participants reported having their homes flooded.
- 10 out of 94 households surveyed were left without housing and could not return to their homes due to flood damage.
- Eighty-one percent reported having no access to clean water.
- Eighty-nine percent reported that the flooding has impacted their financial income and livelihood.
- Sixty-six percent reported not having access to basic sanitation needs, with clean water and latrines being the highest priority.
- More than half of the participants reported that food and clean water were the top immediate needs in their community.

A previous assessment of Project HOPE's areas of operations in Grand Sud in April had already indicated significant needs around access to health care and food. The recent disasters have further exacerbated the living situations of thousands of families across Haiti.

Project HOPE conducted a more detailed assessment of health services on June 11. Key findings include:

- Many wells in the impacted region have been blocked by silt, restricting community access to safe drinking water.
- Three health centers – CS L'Acul, CS de CADA, and CS de Belval – were flooded and destroyed.
- Three hospitals – Hôpital Sainte Croix, Hôpital Hosanna Belval, and Centre Materno-Infantile – were flooded.
- Unité Communale de Santé (UCS) Anacaona, which covers the communes of Léogâne and Gressier, is in need of emergency supplies.
- Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) in Brache and Gressier, and the Cholera Treatment Unit (CTU) in Chatulet are not operational. Léogâne and Delande both lack CTCs.
- Psychosocial support access is limited in an environment that is at a higher risk for the development of mental health disorders.
- Gender based violence (GBV) is regularly recorded, including reports of violence against members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Urgent needs in the regions covered by Unité Communale de Santé (UCS) Anacaona include:

- The opening and/or reopening of CTCs in Gressier and Delande
- Medical resupply for health clinics and the repositioning of cholera response supplies
- The mobilization of Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) to provide basic health services to underserved populations
- Water trucking to ensure access to fresh water in communities that use well water

## PROJECT HOPE'S RESPONSE

In early 2023, Project HOPE began implementing a multi-sectoral response to Haiti's complex humanitarian crisis driven by the recent cholera epidemic and compounding instability. In May, Project HOPE teams distributed seven cholera kits to communities, which were each capable of providing hydration and immediate care to up to 100 individuals with either mild or moderate cases of cholera. A further 315 hygiene kits were distributed to families in Grand'Anse in conjunction with training sessions on water hygiene, reducing the risk of cholera, and the importance of hand washing.

The recent flooding and earthquake have shifted the immediate health and medical needs of the population in impacted regions, causing a surge in demand for hygiene kits, non-food item kits, water point decontamination supplies, as well as pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. Additionally, flooding has increased the risk of contaminated water supplies in areas with insufficient access to cholera care services.

In Jérémie, Project HOPE conducted a rapid needs assessment and will be supporting the Saint Antoine hospital with medical supplies, enabling the hospital to see up to 300 individuals impacted by the earthquake over the next two to three weeks. During the assessment effort, Project HOPE provided medical staff to support the hospital's emergency operations. Project HOPE will also facilitate the medical resupply of the hospital given the high demand for medical supplies in the Grand'Anse department.

Project HOPE's response is expanding to focus on the shifting needs of the region's population. Our response team will continue to strengthen the provision of community health and protection services, and to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) capacities at health facilities and the community level across the governorates of Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes.