

Complex Emergency in Haiti

Project HOPE is providing quality health care services and emergency assistance that is reaching thousands of people across southern Haiti.

Photo by Project HOPE staff, December 2023.

Situation Report #1

March 26, 2024

Key Updates

- Project HOPE is providing health and humanitarian assistance to communities in the the Grand Sud region of Haiti.
- Increasing levels of insecurity and violence across the country are displacing families, increasing health needs, and exacerbating food, water, and fuel shortages.
- In February 2024, Project HOPE reached more than 4,300 people with health; protection; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

Situation Overview

Haiti is in the midst of a complex emergency, with widespread insecurity and escalations of violence deepening the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

On February 29, armed gunmen launched attacks in Port-au-Prince to overthrow the acting Prime Minister. Since then, gangs have launched coordinated attacks on government buildings, police stations, and key infrastructure, including the international airport and main seaport.

February 2024 Impact

Health:

- **1,106 patients** received primary health care services at one of the three health facilities Project HOPE is supporting in the Sud and Grand'Anse departments.
- **168 patients** received medical care and treatment at Project HOPE's Mobile Medical Units (MMUs).

Protection:

- Project HOPE provided mental health and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and care services to **422 people** across the Sud and Nippes departments.

WASH:

- Project HOPE distributed 400 family hygiene kits, which will support the sanitation and hygiene needs of **2,118 people**.

Dozens of people have been killed and over 17,000 have been left homeless since the gang attacks began last month. Port-au-Prince and the surrounding region are under a month-long state of emergency, with the curfew extended due to the elevated risk of kidnappings and violent political protests.

More than 33,000 people have fled Haiti's capital in the span of two weeks, weakening the capacity of rural provinces in Haiti's southern region that lack the infrastructure or resources to manage this massive displacement.

Shortages of food, water, and fuel have driven up prices in nearby regions, while road blockages hamper transportation and hinder efforts to provide timely emergency assistance. Gangs have also targeted hospitals and labs, leading to facility closures, staff shortages, and reduced medicine supplies. Gang violence and lawlessness are now expanding into previously secure areas. Haitian police are active in Les Cayes and are aiming to extend their operativity amidst significant challenges posed by gang control and disruption.

Despite the ongoing turmoil and challenges in Haiti, Project HOPE continues to provide quality health care and emergency humanitarian assistance to communities with limited support and access to services in the Grand Sud region of Haiti.

Project HOPE's Response in Haiti

Project HOPE is responding to urgent health, protection, and WASH needs at the health facility and community levels in the Sud, Nippes, and Grand'Anse departments. Our programs focus on increasing access to primary health care and protection services; addressing sexual and reproductive health needs; building the capacity of frontline health care workers through training; providing pharmaceuticals and medical commodities; and responding to natural disasters and health crises as they arise.

In February 2024, Project HOPE reached more than 4,300 community members with primary health care services through health facilities, MMUs, and community-level activities including psychosocial support, GBV awareness activities, and hygiene kit distributions. Below is an overview of recent activities per sector.

Health

Project HOPE is increasing access to primary health care services through medical surge staffing support, the provision of pharmaceuticals and medical commodities, and health care worker training. At the end of February, Project HOPE launched MMU activities in the Nippes department,



*A Project HOPE team member provides primary health care services at a mobile medical clinic in Jeremie.
Photo by Project HOPE staff, December 2023.*

reaching nearly 170 patients through consultations and general treatment. Project HOPE also provided targeted support to three health facilities across the Sud and Grand'Anse departments, reaching over 1,000 patients with the full package of basic primary health care including consultations for communicable and noncommunicable disease; reproductive health, including GBV services; and clinical mental health.

Pharmaceutical shortages in Haiti continue to be a growing concern as local supply chains are disrupted and importation processes are further complicated by the ongoing crisis. Project HOPE continues to maintain a stock of pharmaceuticals and medical commodities to support MMU activities as well as consultations provided at three health facilities in the program geographic area.



Project HOPE team members provide medicines to community members at an MMU. Photo by Project HOPE staff, December 2023.

Protection

Project HOPE is responding to the heightened need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and GBV prevention and treatment in the current context. In February, Project HOPE organized three mass awareness-raising activities on the themes of GBV and mental health across the Sud and Nippes departments, reaching nearly 400 people with GBV awareness-raising activities and providing case management to survivors. Project HOPE also provided low-intensity cognitive behavioral therapy through the World Health Organization's Problem Management Plus (PM+) curriculum to individuals and groups at the community level in coordination with MMU activities.

WASH

In the WASH sector, Project HOPE is working to increase access to clean water, improve sanitation and waste management, and promote health and hygiene throughout supported catchment areas and communities. In February, Project HOPE conducted awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices for nearly 500 people on the importance of handwashing and water treatment. To complement hygiene promotion, Project HOPE distributed 400 family hygiene kits, reaching over 2,000 people.



A Project HOPE team member demonstrates proper handwashing technique as part of our WASH activities at a mobile medical clinic in Jeremie. Photo by Project HOPE staff, December 2023.

Upcoming Activities

Project HOPE continues to monitor the situation in Haiti as it evolves to ensure the safety of staff and community members reached through program activities. While the operating environment remains complex, Project HOPE is continuing to implement. Planned activities for the coming months include the scale up of MMU activities; PM+ and GBV case management; providing health care worker trainings in core topics including Clinical Management of Rape and Infection, Prevention, and Control (IPC); and continued community-based health and hygiene promotion along with distribution of hygiene and water filtration kits.

For further information, contact media@projecthope.org.

