



# Complex Emergency in Haiti

*Project HOPE's Mobile Medical Unit staff arrive in Les Cayes, Haiti to provide quality health care services and emergency assistance to residents. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*

## Situation Report #2

April 25, 2024

### Key Updates

- Project HOPE is providing urgent health care and emergency humanitarian assistance to communities in the Grand Sud region of Haiti.
- The newly established Presidential Transitional Council seeks to address Haiti's dire challenges, yet gang violence continues to cause casualties, mass displacement, and restricted access to essential goods and health care services.
- In March 2024, Project HOPE reached nearly 13,000 people with health; protection; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

### Situation Overview

Communities in Haiti continue to grapple with a complex humanitarian emergency caused by ongoing gang violence, political and economic turmoil, deepening food insecurity, and limited access to health care.

On April 12, the Haitian government established the Presidential Transitional Council, which will temporarily yield presidential powers now that the prime minister formally resigned on April 25. Council members are required to be free from United Nations sanctions, welcome the deployment of foreign armed forces, and abstain from running in the forthcoming general election.

### March 2024 Impact

**12,970+** participants reached

#### Health:

- **1,889 patients** received medical care and treatment at Project HOPE's Mobile Medical Units (MMUs).

#### Protection:

- Project HOPE provided **2,820 people** across Sud and Nippes departments with mental health and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness activities.
- Psychological support was provided to **395 people** through Problem Management Plus.

#### WASH:

- Project HOPE distributed 735 family hygiene kits, supporting the sanitation and hygiene needs of **4,500 people**.

Although the council has prioritized addressing the security situation, gang violence in Port-au-Prince persists. More than 2,500 people were killed or injured from January to March across Haiti, with Port-au-Prince withstanding the worst of the violence. Gunfire, kidnappings, and fatal shootings occur unpredictably, causing widespread distress and fear.

In response, barricades have been erected across Port-au-Prince as police operations continue under the enforced curfew. As southern Haiti is experiencing lower levels of insecurity, nearly 95,000 people have fled the capital for the region since early March. However, provinces in southern Haiti lack the capacity and resources necessary to manage this massive displacement.



*Community members in Les Cayes, Haiti wait to access health care services provided by Project HOPE's MMUs. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*

Criminal gangs still control key roads, access routes, and ports, making it increasingly difficult to transport food, fuel, and basic supplies across the country. There has been no reception of cargo ships with fuel and basic goods since gangs were able to take control of the capital's main seaport in March and the airport in Port-au-Prince remains closed to international flights.

Health needs across the country are becoming increasingly urgent. Armed groups have raided two health care institutions and looted at least 10 pharmacies in recent weeks. Only one public hospital remains open in the capital and privately-run clinics are closing rapidly. A lack of access to health services and medicine is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis, particularly for pregnant women and older adults.

Project HOPE remains committed to providing essential health care services and emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of Grand'Anse, Grand Sud, and Nippes departments in Haiti and will continue to extend our support to internally displaced populations arriving in these regions.

## **Project HOPE's Response in Haiti**

Project HOPE is responding to emergent health, protection, and WASH needs in Sud, Nippes, and Grand'Anse departments. Our programs prioritize expanding access to primary health care and protection services, addressing sexual and reproductive health needs, training frontline health workers, supplying pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, and promptly responding to extreme weather, disasters, and health crises as they arise.

In March 2024, Project HOPE reached nearly 13,000 community members with primary health care services through health facilities, MMUs, and community-level activities including psychosocial support, GBV awareness activities, and hygiene and dignity kit distributions. Below is an overview of recent activities.

### **Health**

Project HOPE is providing primary health care services at the level of the community through MMU activities and support to local health facilities. This includes ensuring quality health care worker training, medical surge staffing support, and provision of pharmaceuticals and medical commodities.

In March, Project HOPE's MMU activities in the Nippes department provided nearly 1,900 patients with primary health consultations and general treatment.

Project HOPE also provided support to three health facilities across Jeremie, Les Cayes, and Les Anglais, increasing access to primary health care consultations for infectious disease, noncommunicable disease, sexual and reproductive health, clinical mental health, and GBV care services.

Amid supply chain disruptions caused by looting, Project HOPE continues to maintain a supply of pharmaceuticals and medical commodities to support MMU activities and primary health care consultations at the three designated health facilities within the program area. Project HOPE also remains mobilized to provide support to the cholera response mechanism in Haiti as hurricane season approaches.



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



*Project HOPE team members provide medicines to community members in Jeremie, Haiti. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*

Additionally, in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8, Project HOPE supported the Grand'Anse Health Directorate to organize a one-day workshop on GBV. The workshop reached leaders of community-based organizations, local media representatives, members of the national police, students, and other community representatives committed to social change.

## WASH

Project HOPE is working to improve WASH access and standards in communities through hygiene promotion activities and the distribution of hygiene kits. In March, Project HOPE conducted awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices and educated nearly 1,800 people on the importance of handwashing and water treatment.

In total, Project HOPE distributed 735 family hygiene kits, supporting the needs of up to 4,500 people. On World Water Day on March 22, Project HOPE also distributed 240 water filtration kits to help participants with water treatment at home after discussing safe water sources and water conservation.

## Protection

Project HOPE is providing community members with evidence-based mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) services and GBV prevention and care.

In March, Project HOPE distributed 100 dignity kits and reached over 2,800 people with GBV and mental health awareness activities.

To protect the mental health of community members, our team provided 20 survivors of GBV with case management services and 400 people in distress with low-intensity cognitive behavioral therapy through the World Health Organization's Problem Management Plus curriculum.

Project HOPE is currently preparing to support infrastructure repairs and facility rehabilitation to improve sanitation, waste management, and access to clean water at the health facilities our activities support.

## Upcoming Activities

As the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) increases in the program zone, there is a significant need to scale up all activities in the Health, Protection, and WASH sectors to fully support IDPs and established communities affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Project HOPE will continue to provide health services through facility support and MMUs in the departments of Nippes, Sud and Grand'Anse along with community-based Protection and WASH activities.

Our team also continues to lead and participate in coordination mechanisms with other actors at the national and departmental levels to ensure activities are aligned with core priorities and meeting critical needs.



*A Project HOPE team member demonstrates effective handwashing technique to community members as part of Project HOPE's WASH activities in Jeremie, Haiti. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.*

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