

# Haiti Emergency

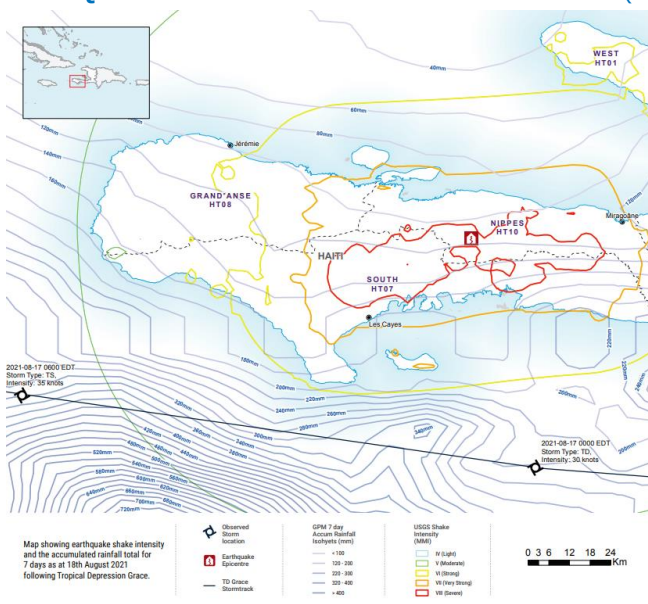
August 2021

**Thousands of people** have been displaced after a magnitude **7.2 earthquake** struck southwest Haiti on 14 August 2021. More than **650,000 people** are estimated to require emergency **humanitarian assistance**.

As of 20 August, the toll from the quake stands at **2,189 dead** and **12,268 injured**. This latest earthquake took place 11 years after the one in 2010 which killed more than 250,000 people in the country.

According to the Haitian Civil Protection Agency, some **53,000 homes have been destroyed** and another **77,000 damaged**, leaving thousands homeless and creating pressing shelter as well as water and sanitation needs.

## EARTHQUAKE INTENSITY AND ACCUMULATED RAINFALL (as of 18 August 2021)



## Haitians with specific needs

Among those affected so far at least 1,475 people living with disabilities, including 720 women and children, who are at risk of gender-based violence, discrimination and exclusion from assistance.

Thousands have been forced to flee their homes in the last year by growing violence from armed criminal gangs. Even before the quake hit, 17,000 people were internally displaced by gang violence in Port-au-Prince alone, according to the [report produced by OCHA Haiti](#) with contributions from United Nations Agencies, including UNHCR, Funds and Programmes, non-governmental organizations and humanitarian partners.

UNHCR is on the ground to identify the most urgent needs and support those affected, as well as prepare for possible further aftershocks.

## Situation Overview

Floods and landslides have been also reported in affected areas due to **Tropical Storm Grace**, which lashed Haiti with torrential rains just days after the deadly tremor.

**Rescue teams continue picking through rubble in search for survivors.** Homes, churches and schools are among buildings flattened in the quake. While needs assessments continue, an as-yet unknown number of families have been displaced and will be in urgent need of shelter, clean water, medical care and protection.

**Limited humanitarian access and the fragile security situation** in the country are also complicating the emergency response. Earthquake-displaced people are being hosted in 79 sites registered by civil protection authorities in the three affected departments (Grand'Anse, Sud, and Nippes). These sites are made of makeshift tents constructed of wood and tarpaulin to protect the IDPs from driving rains, many of which were torn down by the strong winds of tropical storm Grace.

**The dire health situation remains the most pressing concern** as several hospitals have been damaged or destroyed, while those still operating are completely overwhelmed, lacking sufficient personnel and medical supplies. The most critical needs include water, tarpaulin, food, medical care, kitchen supplies and hygiene kits.



Haiti was struck by a deadly 7.2-magnitude earthquake that left hundreds dead and thousands of others injured. A woman shelters from the rain under a tarp in a makeshift camp after tropical depression Grace passed through the area following Saturday's 7.2 magnitude quake, in Les Cayes, Haiti August 17, 2021. REUTERS/Ricardo Arduengo

## UNHCR Response

Since the onset of the emergency, UNHCR, together with the UN Country Team and in close coordination with the national authorities, is assessing the damages and needs of affected families. The National Centre for Emergency Operations (COUN) has been activated and coordination meetings are being held with all key stakeholders, including an emergency meeting convened by Prime Minister Ariel Henry with the Director of Civil Protection and humanitarian partners.



### Registration

UNHCR will support local partners in five communes, in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, to issue birth certificates to affected populations who lost everything due to the earthquake, with priority given to persons with specific needs who are at high risk.



### Core relief items

UNHCR is supporting those affected by the earthquake with soap, housing units, tents, jerry cans, blankets, buckets, tarpaulins, portable solar lamps and mosquito nets, to restore people's dignity and help them cover their basic needs. Providing buckets, jerry cans and soap – especially important in areas where access to clean water is difficult – to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other health risks as much as possible.



### Shelter

UNHCR is donating Refugee House Units and tents for operational use to the General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC). The refugee housing units (RHU) will be used to provide assistance and services to vulnerable persons with specific needs in affected communes, while the tents, at the request of the Government, will be used for operational/storage purposes. Supporting emergency shelter needs through the provision of tents, Refugee Housing Units and tarpaulins to ensure families have a safe place to rest and recover and can access lifesaving services.



### Partners and local communities

Working together with our partners and local communities, UNHCR is rushing to urgent support. Identifying the most urgent vulnerable cases in need of protection and specific support including survivors of gender-based violence, LGBTI, and elderly people on their own. In collaboration with the Haitian Red Cross, UNHCR will donate and distribute core relief items to assist up to 25,000 individuals (including 400 jerry cans, 16,560 blankets, 3,840 buckets, 6,228 tarps, 7,360 solar lamps, 168,950 soaps and 5 tented warehouses).



### Inter-agency coordination

UNHCR is mobilizing as part of an inter-agency effort to provide protection to those affected by the earthquake, through participation within the Protection Cluster as well as through delivery of humanitarian assistance, including for persons with specific needs such as survivors of gender-based violence, the elderly, and LGBTI individuals.

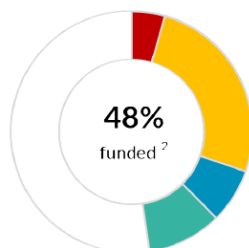
UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have provided generous support to countries in the **Americas**, as well as those who have contributed with **flexible funding** to UNHCR's global operations:

#### THE AMERICAS as of 24 August 2021

**\$ 728.3 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021<sup>1</sup>

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)



Notes:  
1. The financial requirements for The Americas are for the operations in Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela.  
2. The percentage funded (48%) and total funding amount (\$349,379,332) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$378,970,288 representing 52% of the financial requirements.

Thanks to **donors in 2021**. Argentina | Belgium | Brazil | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Guyana | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Latvia | Luxembourg Mexico | Norway | Netherlands Qatar | Republic of Korea | Slovakia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States of America | International Organization for Migration | Migration MPTF | UN Children Fund | UN Covid-19 MPTF | United Nations Environment Programme | UNESCO | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme On HIV/AIDS | UN Trust Fund Human Security |

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