

ALERT EARTHQUAKE



actalliance

Haiti

San Salvador, 15 Aug 2021

SITUATION

On the early morning of Saturday, the 14th of August 2021 at 8:30am, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the Southern peninsula of Haiti with Petit Trou de Nippes as the epicenter of the earthquake. The vibration was felt all over the country and as far as Jamaica. There were more than 100 aftershocks with more than three registering more than 6.2 magnitude in the Richter scale. As of today, the 15th of August 2021 at 6:45pm, 1,297 deaths have been reported, including 1054 in the Sud, 119 in Grand Anse and 122 in the Nippes and two in the Northwest of Haiti. There are more than 5,000 people injured according to the civil protection direction (DPC). It is reported that 7,369 houses have been destroyed and 4,852 houses damaged in the three departments of the Sud, Grand Anse and Nippes. Several public buildings such as schools, churches, hotels, and private enterprises have also collapsed. More than 14,000 families have been affected in the three departments.

Tropical Storm Grace is predicted to hit the country in the morning of the 17th of August 2021 making the situation worse. The storm may have devastating impact on the people already affected by the earthquake. While last month, Haiti's president was assassinated, causing turmoil in the country.

The number of casualties is predicted to increase as reports from local authorities continue to come in. New York Times reported that the hospitals are already overwhelmed. It is expected that infrastructure providing essential services have been damaged or destroyed. U.S. State Department's internal assessment estimating about 650,000 people experienced very strong tremors, with about 850,000 affected by strong shaking (New York Times, 15 Aug 2021). Some affected areas have lost access to electricity, communication, water, transportation access (by air and land), and in some cases, food sources. The Haitian government has started to deploy rescue and assistance to the affected areas.

NEEDS

The southern departments of Haiti are in a state of crisis. People-affected by the earthquake find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital essential needs such as access to sufficient food, safe shelter, health services, and safe drinking water. The damages caused by the earthquake will also disrupt people's livelihood activities.

This disaster further compounded the situation for vulnerable people, more specifically, for people living with disabilities, elderly, women, and children. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

1.-	National government	Security, clearing and repairing of roads, coordination through the Ministry of Planning, the Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC), the National Emergency Operations Center (COUN), and emergency operations centers at departmental, communal and local level
2.-	UN Agencies	UN, OCHA, WFP are involved in the response process and support the DPC as well.
3.-	INGOs	Many INGO are working in Haiti in collaboration with local organisations as well. Many INGOs and NGOs are part of a network called CLIO which supports in coordination. CLIO is planning to

		have joint to meetings to ensure efficient coordination in the field.
4.-	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Supporting in collecting blood and provide key services to the government and key hospital on different aspects.
5.-	National Police	Thus far, no units have been deployed in the south of Haiti to support the security of the three main departments affected. Thus far, their intervention has not been necessary as no looting or violence has been registered yet.
6.-	National NGOs	Working in collaboration with local authorities and also with INGOs and UN on many capacities. National NGOs, associations and foundations are very present throughout the affected area and have the ability to quickly respond as they are already close to the affected areas.
8.-	Faith based groups	Networks of religious leaders are supporting the appropriate implementation and are providing moral support to the general population. Most of their churches and schools in the greater South have been affected. They are key players to take into consideration in future operations.
9.-	Host communities	Supporting the rescue of people, providing food and water to the people that are in need; helping providing blood for injured people; organising family support in solidarity with neighbours.
10.	Affected communities	Still trying to survive the earthquake and is seeking for the right support to move forward.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by the DPC, with oversight from the prime minister's office and support by OCHA to ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary. The ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Health, Shelter, WASH, Logistics, National Cluster of Protection and IDPs, Cash Voucher Assistance) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

ACT Haiti Forum members are sharing information, produced communication materials, and monitoring of the situation since the 14th of August 2021. Forum members work in areas affected by the earthquake and they are assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand needs and vulnerabilities.

ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is supporting local partners to carry out rapid needs assessments in affected areas. Emergency teams are preparing to be deployed.

After reviewing needs assessment results, the ACT forum in Haiti will decide on Tuesday the 17th of August 2021 whether to draft an appeal. ACT members plan to support the affected communities through a survivor and community-led response (SCLR) approach using a community cash grant mechanism; provision of NFIs (shelter and hygiene kits); emergency cash and voucher assistance; psychosocial support; and provision of safe drinking water. Rehabilitation activities will likely focus on (re)construction or repair of houses, schools, water sources and other critical infrastructure as needed.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Niall O'Rourke (niall.orourke@actalliance.org) and Director of Operations, Nancy Ette (Nancy.ette@actalliance.org), with copy to the Finance Officer, Marjorie Schmidt (Marjorie.schmidt@actalliance.org).

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