



HIGHLIGHTS

Haitian families affected by August 14th, 2021 earthquake in Saint-Louis du Sud

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- A **7.2-magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Haiti at 8:30am on 14th August 2021**. The epicentre was recorded around 12km northeast of Saint Louis-du-Sud, about 125km west of the capital Port-au-Prince.
- Haiti's Civil Protection reports over **1,419 deaths and over 6,900 injured**, more than **37,312** collapsed buildings, including hospitals and schools, at least **46,913** damaged buildings, **75,000 families affected**, and significant damages to infrastructure and roads.
- Severe **humanitarian access constraints** and fragile security situation greatly complicate the humanitarian response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SITUATION OVERVIEW


At 8:30am (GMT-4) on 14 August, a **deadly, shallow earthquake rocked southwestern Haiti** just 12km northeast of Saint-Louis du Sud, about 125 kilometers west of the capital Port-au-Prince. The quake severely affected buildings and homes and damaged critical infrastructure and roads, cutting off access to some areas in the southwest, such as national road 7 (RN#7) which connects Les Cayes and Jeremie, and forcing many to flee their homes in fear that they may collapse, and seek refuge in evacuation shelters and host families.

As of August 17th, the **Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate (DGPC)** reports **37,312 collapsed buildings and 46,913 damaged buildings**, including hospitals, schools and churches, with 17,841 destroyed houses in the department of the South, 13,711 in Grand'Anse, and 5'760 in the Nippes, affecting at least 75,000 families. DGPC also reports at least **1,419 death and around 6,900 more injured**, figures likely to increase over the coming days as more people are still missing. **The Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes departments**, particularly the cities of Les Cayes, Jeremie and Anse-à-Veaux, were hardest hit, suffering extensive damage and destruction to buildings and homes, while in Petit-Trou-de-Nippes downed phone lines have left the city out of contact.

While a recent surge in COVID-19 cases has tapered off and with some 4.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance prior to the earthquake, the event could not have come at worst time for Haiti. Since June 2021, gang violence has already resulted in the internal displacement of around 19,000 people in vulnerable urban areas of Port-au-Prince, greatly jeopardizing the delivery of assistance. Moreover, the **Tropical Storm Grace** hit Haiti between 16 and 17 August, exposing an already vulnerable population to tropical storm-force winds and heavy rain which damages are currently being assessed.

Despite the difficulties, on August 14th the IOM team was deployed in affected areas to assess the situation and join forces with the General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC) and humanitarian partners in front-line assistance.

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IOM RESPONSE



SHELTER

IOM has been **co-leading the Haiti Shelter/NFI Working Group** supporting the Haitian government (DGPC and UCLBP) by providing technical and strategic guidance to national and international shelter partners as well as coordination support. IOM Haiti stands ready to deploy its engineering unit to support the Ministry of Public Works Transport and Communications (MTPTC) to conduct **structural assessments** across the affected communes in Southern Haiti. The assessments will bring light on the severity of damage caused by the earthquake to buildings and the types of rehabilitation works needed to meet the most urgent shelter needs. Additionally, IOM will conduct distribution of shelter materials to nondisplaced population to address immediate shelter needs, basic infrastructure repairs (including rubble removal, environmental clean-up or emergency rehabilitation of community infrastructure).



Collapsed house in Eveche du Sud
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NFI NON FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

As of August 15th, IOM Haiti, in partnership with the General Directorate for Civil Protection (DGPC) has **started NFI distribution activities** to provide quick, lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable affected population through the provision of plastic sheets, hygiene kits, blankets, collapsible H2O jerry cans and kitchen sets from the **prepositioned warehouses located Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes, and Jeremie**. The NFIs will be made available to humanitarian partners, local organizations on the ground in line with GoH/DGPC emergency preparedness and response strategies for Haiti.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

As **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster co-lead** with the **Unit for the Construction of Housing and Public Buildings (UCLBP)**, IOM Haiti has been coordinating and implementing activities in IDP sites following the inter-gang clashes in the metropolitan areas of Port-au-Prince. The team works closely with the Government of Haiti (GoH) through the UCLBP and the DGPC to 1) seek **sustainable solutions** related to the housing and return of IDPs; 2) **ensure coordination** to provide basic living conditions for IDPs in sites and; 3) **respond to emergency situations**. These activities will also be carried out to respond to the IDPs following the earthquake in the South. The CCCM interventions will include gathering and sharing of critical information on displaced population; support DGPC in the coordination of humanitarian assistance delivery, coordination for rapid response and support to IDP families in the event of further hazards such as a hurricane, and support the IOM Data Management Unit. As an exit strategy, IOM will support DGPC and UCLBP in the relocation of displaced population.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM's unified displacement data management process, called the **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** is a key tool to track displaced populations and the basic conditions in IDP sites in support of the CCCM activities, the GoH and humanitarian actors present in the South of Haiti. IOM's DTM provides timely and accurate information of the displaced population and the IDP sites that are currently being formed in the Southern departments of Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes to guide the humanitarian response as well as the transition towards return and recovery. Humanitarian partners will be able to use DTM data on IDPs for purposes that include but are not limited to beneficiary selection, donor reporting, logistics planning and demographics analyses.



Emergency meeting at the National Emergency Operations Centre in Port-au-Prince
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HEALTH AND COVID-19

To continue supporting the GoH in the **prevention and control of COVID-19** in Haiti, special attention needs to be given to the protection of displaced populations following the earthquake on 14th August. Therefore, IOM carefully aligns its humanitarian response to the IDP site management with the **Ministry of Health’s (MSPP) National COVID-19 Response Plan**. IOM will therefore distribute COVID-19 washable masks as part of the NFI distribution activities and disseminate essential COVID-19 awareness and prevention messaging through the distribution of flyers, sound trucks, community outreach and social media. With over 6,900 people injured, IOM will assist the most vulnerable IDPs in facilitating access to appropriate health care and rehabilitation support and ensure **access to immediate healthcare** to the most vulnerable in the sites. Moreover, IOM will provide longer term support in **rehabilitating the damaged health infrastructures** in the affected departments of Sud, Grand’Anse and Nippes.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) assistance and protection follow-up is available for vulnerable IDPs, with special attention to women and young girls, through IOM’s on-site psychologists. IOM’s psychologists will be available to provide specialized psychosocial support and ensure appropriate referral if needed. Moreover, IOM’s psychologists have previously trained in **Prevention of Abuse and Sexual Exploitation (PSEA)** and complaint handling will provide targeted support to those affected by the earthquake on 14th August. People uncomfortable or unable to receive direct psychosocial assistance can also make use of **IOM’s 840 hotline**. IOM’s 840 hotline is a free mechanism to make a complaint or provide feedback, as well as to receive information or psychosocial support.



EARLY RECOVERY

Through its key role as **co-lead in the Haiti Shelter/NFI Working Group**, IOM will provide **critical support in demolishing unsafe buildings, clearing the rubble and supporting individuals with cash for work**. IOM will participate in debris removal activities by temporarily employing local laborers to clear rubble along main roads. This will be done based on IOM’s previous experience following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the 2015 earthquake.



PROTECTION AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

To meet the most urgent protection needs of IDPs living displaced sites following the earthquake, IOM implements its activities through an **integrated approach** guided by the **IOM Institutional Framework for Combating Gender-Based Violence in Crises (GBViC Framework)**. IOM’s assistance to IDPs therefore alleviate the specific protection needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as the disabled, families headed by women, children and Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors. IOM ensures the principles of do no harm, safety and non-discrimination for all its activities. Assistance provided to IDPs include referral services to appropriate and vetted partners.



Collapsed church in Les Cayes
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