

# HAITI - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JULY 2, 2020

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**10.9 million**

Population of Haiti  
UN – January 2020

**6.3 million**

Estimated People Affected by the Complex Emergency in Haiti  
UN – January 2020

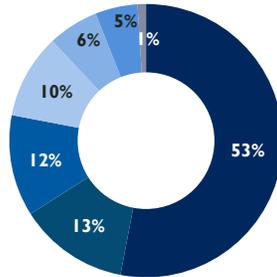
**5.1 million**

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Haiti  
UN – June 2020

**1.6 million**

People Relief Agencies Aim to Reach with Emergency Food Assistance under the 2020 HRP  
UN – May 2020

## USAID/BHA NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2020



- Health (53%)
- Protection (13%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (12%)
- Logistics and Relief Commodities (10%)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (6%)
- Risk Management Policy and Practice (5%)
- Multipurpose Cash Assistance (1%)

## USAID/BHA FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2020



- Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement (14%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (27%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (59%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- GoH reports nearly 6,000 cases of COVID-19
- UN appeals for \$472 million for 2020 HRP, COVID-19 response
- Food insecurity further deteriorates as a result of gourde depreciation and impacts of COVID-19

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2020

USAID/BHA<sup>1,2</sup> \$22,795,222

**\$22,795,222<sup>3</sup>**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 19, Haitian President Jovenel Moïse declared a state of health emergency across the country in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and introduced measures to prevent the spread of the virus, including international travel restrictions and physical distancing requirements. The UN reports a significant increase of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country since mid-May, identifying COVID-19 surveillance, public awareness messaging on the disease, and health care and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support as priority needs.
- The effects of political unrest and economic instability, including the depreciation of the Haitian gourde, have reduced household purchasing power and further limited livelihood opportunities, the UN reports. Additionally, fuel shortages, protests, roadblocks, and sporadic security incidents continue to limit access to essential services and markets in major cities across Haiti, increasing the cost of food and other basic goods. The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are also further hindering vulnerable households' ability to meet basic food needs.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

<sup>3</sup> This total includes \$4.5 million in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

## COVID-19 IMPACTS AND RESPONSE

- The Government of Haiti (GoH) had reported nearly 6,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 105 related deaths as of July 2, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Following the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Haiti on March 19, President Moïse declared a state of health emergency across the country and introduced measures to prevent the spread of the disease, including closures of the Haiti–Dominican Republic border, airports, seaports, schools, and factories, as well as physical distancing and mask-wearing requirements in public spaces. The GoH and UN have identified needs for strengthening COVID-19 surveillance systems, health care support, WASH activities, community awareness, and logistics and procurement of required health and WASH supplies, including hospital beds, personal protective equipment, oxygen supplies, and materials for laboratory testing.
- On May 31, the UN released a revised 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Haiti to incorporate needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance to approximately 5.1 million, compared to an estimated 4.6 million people in January. The revised HRP requests approximately \$328 million to address the complex emergency and an estimated \$144.4 million to respond to COVID-19, including more than \$105 million for health assistance such as case management, disease surveillance, and infection prevention and control.
- Nearly 32,700 Haitians voluntarily returned from the Dominican Republic through unofficial crossings between March 17 and June 7, despite the mid-March closure of the Dominican Republic–Haiti border, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. Local authorities of border municipalities, including in Centre and Sud-Est departments, have reported a lack of capacity to provide health assistance to migrants returning from the Dominican Republic through unofficial border entry points and sheltering in the municipalities, according to local media.
- With \$2.5 million in USAID/BHA support, IOM and partners, including J/P Haitian Relief Organization, Samaritan’s Purse, and local non-governmental organizations, are providing COVID-19-related health assistance in Haiti. The funding enables partners to assist vulnerable populations experiencing acute food insecurity and facing inadequate access to WASH services and supplies. The organizations plan to distribute hygiene kits and conduct community engagement and risk communication regarding COVID-19. In addition, IOM is supporting GoH Directorate for Civil Protection—the country’s first responder to natural disasters—national COVID-19 response coordination efforts.
- USAID/BHA partners Caritas Haiti and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are providing health, protection, and WASH assistance—including hygiene promotion, psychosocial support for frontline health care workers, and WASH kit distributions—to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among urban populations in Artibonite, Nord, Ouest, and Sud departments.

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## NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- The GoH, USAID/BHA, and humanitarian partners have prepared for an active Atlantic basin hurricane season, which began on June 1 and ends on November 30, through community preparedness and resilience activities, assessment training for local officials and stakeholders, and the strengthening of early warning systems. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s official 2020 outlook of Atlantic basin hurricane activity indicates a high likelihood of an above-normal hurricane season, with up to 19 named storms, of which up to 10 may become hurricanes, including up to six that could develop into major hurricanes of Category 3 or higher on the Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. In comparison, the thirty-year average Atlantic hurricane season has 12 named storms, of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes. Building on lessons learned from the 2016 Hurricane Matthew response, USAID/BHA supports programs in Haiti to strengthen humanitarian coordination and capacity building, enhance disaster preparedness and response capacity, and pre-position relief supplies for rapid response to mitigate the effects of a storm or other natural disaster.
- USAID/BHA partners continue hurricane season preparedness activities while adjusting programs to comply with measures to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission. IOM maintains USAID/BHA’s pre-positioned emergency relief commodities—including hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and water containers—sufficient to support up to 10,000 households in four warehouses across Haiti. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, the UN World Food

Program (WFP) maintains a stockpile of contingency food supplies in Haiti sufficient to assist approximately 300,000 people for one month in the event of a disaster or shock. Additionally, World Concern Development Organization (WCDO) is repairing and rehabilitating evacuation centers in 100 communities across Haiti that are particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and severe flooding. With funding from USAID/BHA, Mercy Corps is able to provide small-scale cash assistance for affected households immediately after a disaster event. Further, USAID/BHA, through the American Red Cross (AmCross), supports the Haitian Red Cross to maintain 14 regional offices and nearly 110 local coordinators across all 10 departments in Haiti.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- From June to September, households in each of Haiti's 10 departments are expected to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity, due to the combined effects of GoH COVID-19 mitigation measures, reduced household incomes, elevated staple food prices, and irregular rainfall, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.<sup>5</sup> The secondary impacts of COVID-19—including reductions in household income and remittance flows, food price spikes, and government-imposed mobility restrictions—are negatively affecting vulnerable households' ability to meet basic food needs and compounding the primary drivers of food insecurity in Haiti, such as recurring drought, rising inflation, socio-political instability, and natural disasters. The Haitian gourde depreciated by 45 percent between April 2018 and April 2020 due to continued political unrest and economic instability, reducing household purchasing power and further limiting livelihood activities, according to the UN. Additionally, fuel shortages, protests, roadblocks, and sporadic security incidents have limited access to essential services and markets in major cities across Haiti—including the Port-Au-Prince metropolitan area—increasing the cost of food and other basic goods in the country. Reduced food production during the June-to-July harvest, persistent inflation, and the impacts of COVID-19 on food access and availability will likely prompt many poor households to adopt negative coping strategies—including reducing the quantity and quality of food consumed, taking out credit, and selling livestock or charcoal—to meet basic food needs through September, according to FEWS NET.
- USAID/BHA partners have implemented various measures to ensure the ongoing delivery of emergency food assistance to vulnerable Haitians during the COVID-19 pandemic. CRS has adjusted activities to distribute double-ration food vouchers and cash transfers for food, allowing households to purchase supplies for longer periods of time between distributions. Additionally, WFP is packaging bulk items into smaller bundles for individual distribution, enforcing handwashing and physical distancing at distribution sites, as well as posting COVID-19 prevention messaging during distributions. Since FY 2019, USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$35 million in emergency food assistance for people facing acute food insecurity in Haiti, including the distribution of in-kind food aid, cash-based transfers for food, and food vouchers to meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable households.

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## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT

- In early May, the UN raised concerns that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions may exacerbate ongoing political and social tensions and lead to renewed violence, further impeding humanitarian access—particularly by land—to vulnerable populations due to roadblocks and security incidents. In response to hindrances on humanitarian partner mobility, USAID/BHA supports the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, to provide logistical assistance to ensure that partners can reach beneficiaries and effectively implement ongoing humanitarian and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs.
- UNHAS also offers essential air, land, and sea transport and storage services to the humanitarian community and GoH counterparts to support the COVID-19 response in Haiti. UNHAS flights are a key method for the transportation of health workers and supplies. However, WFP requires additional funding to cover operational requirements in the coming months, particularly considering an anticipated increase in needs during the Atlantic hurricane season.

<sup>5</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## CONTEXT

- Civil unrest and economic instability—combined with recurring shocks from natural disasters, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes—have resulted in food insecurity and other humanitarian needs throughout Haiti, with an estimated 5.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. In response, USAID/BHA funds humanitarian programs in Haiti that aim to build resilience, enhance food security, reduce risk to disasters, strengthen livelihoods, and bolster national self-sufficiency in emergency preparedness and management.
- On December 16, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Michele J. Sison declared a disaster for Haiti due to the complex emergency.
- USAID/BHA is supporting humanitarian partners to adapt and increase programming to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 and respond to the outbreak in Haiti, especially for vulnerable populations.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2020 <sup>1</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER   | ACTIVITY   | LOCATION                              | AMOUNT              |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>FUNDING IN HAITI FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>                      |  |                                       |                     |
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>   |  |                                       |                     |
| <b>Non-Food Assistance</b>   |  |                                       |                     |
| UNHAS  | Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support | Countrywide                           | \$2,400,000         |
|  | Program Support  |                                       | \$19,040            |
| <b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>     |  |                                       | <b>\$2,419,040</b>  |
| GOAL   | Risk Management Policy and Practice  | Grand'Anse, Ouest departments         | \$243,635           |
| UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)  | Risk Management Policy and Practice  | Nord, Nord-Est, Sud-Est departments   | \$350,000           |
| UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)          | HCIM   | Countrywide                           | \$300,000           |
| <b>TOTAL DRR FUNDING</b>   |  |                                       | <b>\$893,635</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE</b>                                       |  |                                       | <b>\$3,312,675</b>  |
| <b>Food Assistance</b>   |  |                                       |                     |
|  | U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance   | Countrywide                           | \$3,997,913         |
| WFP  | Local, Regional, and International Procurement                                 | Grand'Anse, Nippes, Ouest departments | \$2,184,634         |
|  | Cash Based Transfers for Food  | Grand'Anse, Nippes, Ouest, Sud-Est    | \$8,800,000         |
| <b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE</b>   |  |                                       | <b>\$14,982,547</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN HAITI IN FY 2020</b> |  |                                       | <b>\$18,295,222</b> |

### FUNDING IN HAITI FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE<sup>2</sup>

|                            |  |                                    |             |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>           |  |                                    |             |
| <b>Non-Food Assistance</b> |  |                                    |             |
| AmCross                    | Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, WASH | Nord-Ouest, Ouest, Sud departments | \$1,000,000 |
| CRS                        | Health, Protection, WASH                   | Artibonite, Nord, Ouest, Sud       | \$1,000,000 |

|  |        |   |                    |
|--|--------|---|--------------------|
| IOM  | Health | Artibonite, Grand'Anse, Nord-Ouest, Ouest | \$2,500,000        |
| <b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE</b>   |        |   | <b>\$4,500,000</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE IN HAITI IN FY 2020</b> |        |   | <b>\$4,500,000</b> |

|   |  |  |                     |
|---|--|--|---------------------|
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b> |  |  | <b>\$22,795,222</b> |
|---|--|--|---------------------|

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 2, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Figures represent supplementary International Disaster Assistance (IDA) funding obligated for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of July 2, 2020.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).