

Haiti – Complex Emergency

September 30, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The GoH continues to record COVID-19 cases, with relief actors prioritizing health care programs, surveillance, and WASH activities to curb the spread of the disease.
- Elevated prices of imported food despite local currency appreciation, reductions in local food supplies, and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to result in food insecurity among vulnerable households.
- Tropical Storm Laura struck Haiti on August 23, damaging infrastructure and constraining land access in southern Haiti.



TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/BHA^{1,2} \$52,285,778

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

Total \$52,285,778³

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

² 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.

³ This total includes \$10 million in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

GoH Continues COVID-19 Advocacy and Response

The Government of Haiti (GoH) had reported more than 8,792 confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, including 229 related deaths, as of September 30. While the UN reports a decrease in the number of daily recorded COVID-19 cases since late May, the pandemic continues to disrupt the provision of medical services in Haiti's health care institutions—which faced shortages of equipment, medicine, and staff before the pandemic—and constrain access to infant and child health care services and routine immunization for polio and measles.

While the GoH, the UN, and humanitarian partners continue to disseminate key COVID-19 messaging, humanitarian actors in Haiti report that public awareness and understanding of the disease remains inadequate. Additionally, COVID-19-related stigma—particularly in rural areas—is deterring affected individuals from seeking treatment.

The GoH and UN are prioritizing COVID-19-related health care, surveillance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities to curb disease spread. With UN support, the GoH is strengthening laboratory and testing capacity, providing health equipment, and training health care staff. In addition, the GoH and humanitarian partners are rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, assisting with waste management, and promoting hygiene practices in health care facilities and surrounding communities. The GoH—in coordination with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)—is also distributing hygiene kits, installing WASH facilities, and implementing a COVID-19 prevention and awareness campaign in schools across Haiti.

IPC 2 and IPC 3 Conditions Expected to Persist Through at Least January

Households in each of Haiti's 10 departments are projected to experience Stressed—IPC 2—or Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity from October to January due to increased prices of imported food, reductions in local food supplies, and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.

Irregular rains during the spring growing season reduced spring harvests, affecting the amount of agricultural inputs that can be used for summer and fall harvests. In addition, flooding caused by Tropical Storm Laura, which passed over Haiti on August 23, damaged crops and livestock in southern parts of the country. However, FEWS NET projects that additional rainfall from Tropical Storm Laura could contribute to improved crop conditions in part of the country. While the supply of imported food staples remains steady, COVID-19-related border restrictions have increased food prices, contributing to financial strain on poor households facing income losses due to lower agricultural yields, below-average remittances as of September, and the secondary economic effects of COVID-19 containment measures. Moreover, despite recent appreciation in the Haitian gourde, FEWS NET had not identified a commensurate reduction in food prices as of September 30. Given ongoing disruptions to livelihoods and low purchasing power, poor households will likely continue to adapt negative coping strategies from October to January, including reducing the quality and quantity of food consumed and selling livestock and charcoal, according to FEWS NET. Meanwhile, urban households are expected to see a limited income increase as most formal and informal economic activities resume in cities. General insecurity in Haiti's capital city Port-au-Prince, however, could impact market supply and prices, threatening food availability and access.

Tropical Storm Laura Results in Death, Infrastructure Damage, and Access Constraints

Tropical Storm Laura caused floods, heavy rain, and strong winds that resulted in the deaths of at least 31 people and damaged or destroyed nearly 9,000 homes in August, the UN reports. The storm caused significant damage to roads and bridges, restricting access to many affected areas—particularly in southern Haiti—into September. In response, the GoH—in coordination with UN agencies—distributed food kits, shelter kits, and water purification tablets to affected populations in southern Haiti, including Sud-Est Department’s Anse-à-Pitres town, which received assistance by boat and helicopter. Most of the roads to Anse-à-Pitres remained blocked as of September 8, according to the Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

KEY FIGURES



\$34 Million

in dedicated USAID/BHA support for emergency food assistance in FY 2020



\$6.9 Million

in dedicated FY 2020 USAID/BHA support for life-saving health programming



5

Number of USAID/BHA partners implementing protection activities

USAID RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$34 million in FY 2020 funding to the UN World Food Program (WFP) and three NGOs to reach vulnerable populations across Haiti with emergency food assistance. With USAID/BHA funding, NGO partners provide monthly cash transfers for food and food vouchers to food-insecure households. Additionally, WFP distributes U.S.-sourced rice and vegetable oil to vulnerable households and maintains a pre-positioned stock of emergency food commodities that can be quickly distributed throughout Haiti in the event of a disaster.

HEALTH

With approximately \$6.9 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, and four NGOs to strengthen the capacity of local health care facilities and conduct community awareness raising activities amid Haiti’s COVID-19 outbreak. USAID/BHA partners have provided health facilities with infection prevention and control training, personal protective equipment, and waste management assistance. In addition, USAID/BHA partners are working with local leaders and health care workers across Haiti to conduct handwashing campaigns, disseminate COVID-19 risk and prevention messaging, distribute hygiene kits, strengthen community-level surveillance, and reduce COVID-19-related stigma among affected populations.

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA partners are increasing access to psychosocial support services to address the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on frontline service providers and community members in Haiti. With approximately \$2.3 million in FY 2020 funding from USAID/BHA, UNICEF and four NGOs are providing protection services such as psychosocial support to children, families, and frontline health care workers affected by COVID-19 through counseling support and referrals via hotlines, small group discussion sessions, radio and social media messaging, and training in psychological first

aid. In addition, USAID/BHA partners are supporting activities at child-friendly spaces where vulnerable children can attend vocational trainings, receive informal and formal education, and socialize. USAID/BHA partners are also organizing awareness campaigns for the reduction of gender-based violence and providing safe spaces for vulnerable girls and women.



\$1.2 Million

in dedicated USAID/BHA funding for logistics support and relief commodities in FY 2020

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

To address persistent logistical challenges in Haiti that can hinder effective implementation of humanitarian programs, USAID/BHA supports the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to conduct critical logistics activities in the country. With USAID/BHA support, the WFP-managed service has bolstered humanitarian supply chains and manages three warehouses in Haiti; the UN agency also maintains overland and maritime transport capabilities to facilitate safe and timely provision of relief commodities to vulnerable populations across the country.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- 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 among vulnerable populations.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN HAITI FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
UNHAS	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
	Program Support		\$19,040
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY			\$2,419,040

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Protection; Risk Management Policy and Practice; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Artibonite, Grand'Anse, Nippes, Nord, Nord-Ouest, Ouest, Sud, Sud-Est	\$900,000
GOAL	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Grand'Anse, Ouest	\$243,635
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Nord-Ouest, Ouest, Sud	\$1,250,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Risk Management Policy and Practice	Nippes, Ouest	\$2,842,091
UNICEF	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Nord, Nord-Est, Sud-Est	\$350,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$300,000
TOTAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FUNDING			\$5,885,726
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$8,304,766
Food Assistance ^{2,3}			
Concern Worldwide	Complementary Services, Food Vouchers	Ouest	\$2,000,000
CRS	Cash Transfers for Food, Complementary Services, Food Vouchers	Nippes	\$7,000,000
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$7,996,378
	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Grand'Anse, Nippes, Ouest	\$2,184,634
	Cash Transfers for Food	Grand'Anse, Nippes, Sud-Est, Ouest	\$8,800,000
World Vision	Complementary Services, Food Vouchers	Centre, Nord-Est	\$6,000,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$33,981,012
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$42,285,778

FUNDING IN HAITI FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE ⁴			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
American Red Cross (AmCross)	Health, Protection, WASH	Nord, Nord-Ouest, Ouest, Sud	\$1,000,000
CRS	Health, Protection, WASH	Artibonite, Nord, Ouest, Sud	\$1,000,000
Doctors of the World	Health, Protection	Ouest, Nippes	\$823,100
IOM	Health	Artibonite, Grand'Anse, Nord-Ouest, Ouest	\$2,500,000
Management Sciences for Health (MSH)	Health	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Protection	Sud	\$500,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,676,900
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$10,000,000

**TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN HAITI
IN FY 2020**

\$10,000,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI RESPONSE IN FY 2020

\$52,285,778

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ USAID/BHA-supported complementary services—which include sector-specific activities such as agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition, and WASH interventions—enhance food assistance programs by strengthening food availability and access.

⁴ Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 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 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: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)