

Haiti – Complex Emergency

January 19, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Security conditions have deteriorated in Port-au-Prince since late November due to an increase in kidnappings and political protests.
- The GoH recorded an increase in COVID-19 cases in December; relief actors are prioritizing health and WASH interventions to curb the spread of the disease.
- Elevated commodity prices, the ongoing socioeconomic effects of COVID-19, and a late-December fuel shortage continue to disrupt livelihoods and drive acute food insecurity among vulnerable households countrywide.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Haiti Complex Emergency in FY 2020

USAID/BHA^{1,2} \$46,400,052

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

Total \$46,400,052³

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. This total only accounts for emergency response funding and does not include nearly \$6 million in FY 2020 funding for disaster risk reduction activities.

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Kidnappings, Political Instability Fuel Deteriorating Security Environment

Humanitarian staff in Haiti have reported an increase in kidnappings and gang-related violence in and around the country's capital city of Port-Au-Prince since late November in advance of a scheduled constitutional referendum in April. Additionally, anti-government protests have increased in recent months, according to local and international media. The unrest stems from the dissolution of the Haitian Parliament in January 2020 as insecurity and coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related restrictions prevented scheduled legislative elections.

Approximately 4.4 million people in Haiti are in need of humanitarian assistance, and the persistent risk of violence and political instability linked to the forthcoming referendum and elections could negatively affect access to critical, life-saving services for vulnerable populations, exacerbating humanitarian need across the country, according to the UN's 2021 Global Humanitarian Needs Overview. Additionally, deteriorating security conditions could disrupt access and supply to local markets, as well as contribute to a depreciation of the Haitian gourde, limiting vulnerable households' ability to access food, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

GoH Scales Up COVID-19 Response Efforts to Curb Spike in Cases

The Government of Haiti (GoH) had reported 10,907 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 240 related deaths, as of January 16. While the rate of new infections decreased slightly in October and November, the GoH reported an increase in new infections related to holiday celebrations throughout December, with daily new infections reaching as high as 112 in late December, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). In response to the increase, the GoH established a COVID-19 Task Force led by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and the Haitian National Police aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 outbreak continues to disrupt the provision of medical services in Haiti's health care institutions—which faced shortages of equipment, medicine, and staff before the outbreak—and constrain access to infant and child health care services and routine immunization for polio and measles. Additionally, relief actors in Haiti report that public awareness and understanding of the disease remains inadequate and COVID-19-related stigma—particularly in rural areas—continues to deter affected individuals from seeking treatment.

The GoH and UN are scaling up COVID-19-related health care, surveillance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities to mitigate the spread of the disease. 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.

Elevated Food Assistance Needs Will Likely Persist Through May

Households in each of Haiti's 10 departments will likely experience Stressed—IPC 2—or Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through at least May due to increases in imported food prices, the persistent socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and heightened political instability, FEWS

NET reports.⁴ A sharp depreciation of the Haitian gourde in early October has led to an increase in the price of imported foods, such as rice, vegetable oil, and wheat flour, according to FEWS NET. Combined with below-average rainfall and subsequent crop losses in recent months, FEWS NET projects that vulnerable households could face heightened food insecurity during the February-to-June lean season. Additionally, COVID-19-related restrictions, including border closures, have continued to disrupt livelihoods, with poor households facing income losses due to lower agricultural yields and limited income-generating opportunities. Given ongoing disruptions to livelihoods and low purchasing power, poor households will likely continue to adopt negative coping strategies in the coming months, including reducing the quality and quantity of food consumed and selling livestock and charcoal, according to FEWS NET. In addition, a late-December fuel shortage limited public transportation availability, further disrupting market access. However, the GoH received a shipment of 165,000 barrels—approximately 695,000 gallons—of fuel on January 2, which it began distributing to gas stations throughout the country, media report.

⁴ 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.

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



\$1.2 Million

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$34 million in FY 2020 funding to the UN World Food Program (WFP) and three non-governmental organizations (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 fortified food blends and 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 supported 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 have coordinated 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 have increased 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 provided 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 supported activities at child-friendly spaces where vulnerable children and adolescents can attend vocational trainings, receive informal and formal education, and socialize. USAID/BHA partners have also organized awareness campaigns for the reduction of gender-based violence and providing safe spaces for vulnerable girls and women.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

To address persistent logistical challenges in Haiti that can hinder effective implementation of humanitarian programs, USAID/BHA supports WFP to conduct critical logistics activities in the country. With USAID/BHA support, WFP 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 4.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. In response, USAID/BHA funds humanitarian programs in Haiti that aim to build resilience, enhance food security, and strengthen livelihoods. USAID/BHA also funds additional programming to reduce disaster risk in Haiti 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.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN HAITI FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA^{2,3}			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Cash Transfers for Food, Complementary Services, Food Vouchers	Nippes	\$7,000,000
Concern Worldwide	Complementary Services, Food Vouchers	Ouest	\$2,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
	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, Ouest, Sud-Est	\$8,800,000
World Vision	Complementary Services, Food Vouchers	Centre, Nord-Est	\$6,000,000
	Program Support		\$19,040
TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE HAITI COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2020			\$36,400,052

FUNDING IN HAITI FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE⁴

USAID/BHA			
American Red Cross (AmCross)	Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Countrywide, 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	Nippes, Ouest	\$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 (SCF)	Protection	Sud	\$500,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,676,900
TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN HAITI IN FY 2020			\$10,000,000

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HAITI COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2020	\$46,400,052
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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)