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IOM has distributed non-food items to more than 30,000 families since the earthquake that shook Haiti on 14 August. ©IOM2021



## Situation Overview

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

The Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate (DGPC) reported 2,200 deaths, 12,000 people injured, and more than 137,500 damaged or destroyed houses, including essential facilities such as hospitals, schools and churches. Among the 800,000 people affected by the earthquake, thousands are internally displaced and hundreds are still missing. The Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes departments, particularly the cities of Les Cayes, Jeremie and Anse-à-Veaux, were hit the hardest, suffering extensive damage and destruction, while in Petit-Trou-de-Nippes downed phone lines left the city out of reach.

Despite the challenges, on 14 August, IOM deployed its teams to the affected areas to assess the situation and join forces with the DGPC and humanitarian partners on the frontlines. Since then, IOM has reached close to 153,000 people. With the aim of further assisting those affected, IOM published an appeal for USD 15 million for activities related to Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs), Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Protection, as well as Early Recovery and Community Stabilization.

Severe humanitarian access constraints and the fragile security situation have greatly complicated the humanitarian response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The earthquake, coupled with the pre-existing crises, has dramatically exacerbated the humanitarian needs on the ground. Over 650,000 people still need life-saving assistance, while funds are also needed for long-term recovery efforts focused on shelter, mental health support and COVID-19 prevention.

To help those affected, read the [Flash Appeal](#) and visit the [fundraising page](#).



## Shelter

IOM is co-leading Haiti's Shelter/NFI Sector in support of the government, including the DGPC, the Unit for the Construction of Housing and Public Buildings (UCLBP) and the Ministry of Public Transport and Telecommunications (MTPTC). IOM is providing technical and strategic guidance to national and international shelter partners as well as coordination support.

The structural evaluation of public buildings such as schools and hospitals has now been completed, with 2,786 evaluations conducted in the three departments, led by the MTPTC with the support of IOM and that of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). To support the initiative, IOM facilitated the deployment of 12 engineers, three drivers, three cars and fuel supply for the MTPTC.

On October 4, to further support the MTPTC, IOM deployed 10 teams of engineers as part of a structural evaluation campaign. Five teams were deployed to Les Cayes, three to Grand'Anse and two to Nippes, to conduct structural evaluations for the residential houses that were damaged. Each team of engineers is accompanied by a social worker and DGPC volunteers.

The assessments shed light on the extent of the damage caused by the earthquake to buildings and the types of rehabilitation works required to meet the most urgent shelter needs. Additionally, IOM has conducted the distribution of shelter materials to those who have not been displaced to address immediate shelter needs, and has supported the rubble removal, environmental clean-up and emergency rehabilitation of community infrastructure. As Haiti has entered the second phase of the response, IOM is revising its shelter materials to address the needs for early recovery and improve the resilience of the response.

## Non-Food Items

IOM has established a common pipeline service open to international and local partners for the coordinated delivery of shelter and household items. Thanks to the pipeline, the NFIs are available for humanitarian partners and local organizations on the ground, in line with the government's and the DGPC's emergency preparedness and response strategies for Haiti.

On August 15, in partnership with the DGPC, IOM started the distribution of NFIs to provide quick, life-saving assistance to those most vulnerable. The kits include items such as plastic sheets, fixing kits, hygiene kits, blankets, collapsible jerry cans, solar lanterns and kitchen sets. The items are sent out from the prepositioned stock in warehouses located in Port-au-Prince, Miragoine, Les Cayes, and Jeremie.

Since 15 August, IOM has distributed Shelter/NFI kits to 30,544 families (approximately 152,720 people) through 84 distributions in the three departments most affected.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

To address the needs created by the earthquake, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Sector was reactivated under the umbrella of the Shelter/NFI Sector. As the co-lead of the CCM Sector through the UCLBP and DGPC, IOM works closely with the Government of Haiti to facilitate the dignified return of displaced people to their areas of origin and to respond to emergency situations. These activities are also carried out in response to the needs of those displaced following the earthquake.

As part of its earthquake emergency response, the CCCM Sector submitted to the government the relocation strategy that adapts its core interventions to support the assisted rapid return of displaced families. The strategy aims to provide rapid, tailored support to households seeking a quick return to their communities.

The CCCM interventions include gathering and sharing critical information on displaced populations, support to the DGPC for the coordination of the delivery of humanitarian assistance, coordination for a rapid response and support for families in the event of additional hazards such as hurricanes.

With schools reopening on 4 October, the priority has been to accelerate people's relocation from schools and return these buildings to their original use. Schools identified as evacuation shelters need to be ready to host families in case of a natural disaster, especially with the country currently through the cyclone season.



Close to 40,000 people have been displaced due to the earthquake on 14 August. ©IOM2021

## Displacement Tracking Matrix

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a key tool for tracking displaced populations as well as for CCCM, Shelter activities, the government and humanitarian actors present in southern Haiti.

IOM's DTM provides timely and accurate information on displaced populations as well as displacement sites in the departments of Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes to guide the humanitarian response as well as the transition towards return and recovery. Humanitarian partners are able to use DTM data on internally displaced people for purposes that include but are not limited to beneficiary identification, monitoring, logistics, planning and demographic analyses. As of 4 October, IOM could identify 89 displacement locations with an estimated 38,777 persons currently displaced.

## Early Recovery

IOM provides critical support in demolishing unsafe buildings, clearing the rubble and supporting affected communities through cash-for-work activities. Capitalizing on past experiences from the 2010 earthquake in Haiti as well as the 2018 earthquake, IOM will undertake debris removal activities by temporarily employing local laborers to clear the rubble along main roads.

## Protection

An IOM Protection team, comprised of field health assistants, psychologists and protection staff has been deployed to the three departments most affected to conduct protection assessments and meet with key protection partners. In September, IOM has been conducting protection assessments in 23 displacement sites, temporarily hosting displaced people who lost their home due to the earthquake. The team has also visited spaces hosting people with disabilities and the elderly, most notably in Torbeck and Maniche, in coordination with the Office of the Secretary of State for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities (BSEIPH, in French) and with local associations for people with disabilities such as RANIPH. When IOM teams identify persons with specific protection needs, such as survivors of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation or abuse, a follow-up is ensured through their referral to specialized partners.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support assistance is provided by IOM's on-site psychologists, as well as through IOM's 8840 hotline. This hotline is a free mechanism which enables people to place a complaint or provide feedback, as well as to receive information or psychosocial support. IOM has been scaling up its operational team and resources to be able to efficiently guarantee a follow-up to the calls received through the hotline.

IOM's earthquake response is funded by

