



HAITI – Earthquake

ECHO CIVIL PROTECTION MESSAGE N°01

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

19/08/2021,
16:00:00 UTC

Status

Request for assistance

Event

Earthquake

Occurrence

Date: 14/08/2021

Situation

On 14 August 2021, a devastating 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit south-western Haiti. The death toll has surged to nearly 2,000 people and more than 12,000 persons have been injured. Figures are likely to rise as search and rescue operations are still ongoing.

The Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate (DGPC) says 137,000 families have been affected in the Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes departments. About 500,000 people – 40 per cent of the total population in the affected departments – are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF estimates that approximately 1,211,000 people including 540,000 children are affected. Nearly 61,000 homes have been destroyed and more than 76,000 have sustained damages in the three most affected departments, leaving thousands homeless and creating an urgent need for emergency shelter solutions.

Urgent health needs identified by the Haitian health authorities include: medical personnel (general and specialists), medicines and medical supplies (anesthetic drug, orthopedic external fixators, among others) and logistical support for the delivery of supplies, deployment of people and transfer of patients. The Health Crisis Cell (UNGUS) has been activated to coordinate and provide support in the health emergency response. Some certified Emergency Medical Teams are already in the country and several others are to come.

A UN Flash Appeal is under elaboration for emergency response (for 6 months maximum and same sectors as the Humanitarian Response Plan), expected to be released by the 23 August.

Request for assistance

On 16 August, the Government of Haiti sent a request for international assistance to the EU Delegation in Port-au-Prince.

Operational recommendations by the ERCC

Given the context, the ERCC recommends EU Member States and Participating States to the UCPM to focus on the following priority areas:

- **Health:** medical team (EMT) and / or medical personnel
- **WASH:** water purification modules / plants
- **In-kind assistance:** medical equipment and medicines, tents, tarpaulins, blankets, non-food items, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, etc.
- **Logistics:** the ERCC anticipates the need for strategic sea transport with vessels capable of sea to shore operations, ensuring Medevac functions and airlift. Such vessels would be used to transport the EU assistance from the entry point in Port-au-Prince to the affected areas and also serve the humanitarian partners.
- Furthermore, the ERCC is currently assessing the need for **telecommunications**, e.g. VSAT equipment and related services.
- In view of deployment in the affected areas of Haiti, which could be characterised by difficult and/or insufficient access, logistics and host nation support as well as high security risk, the ERCC recommends taking **additional measures for deployed capacities**, including **Covid-19 related**

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arrangements for a safe and efficient operation and **other necessary equipment and services** to ensure self-sustainability..

Response

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the ERCC activated **Copernicus** satellite in Rapid Mapping ([EMSR536](#)).

On 16 August, DG ECHO mobilised **€3 million in emergency humanitarian funding** to address the most urgent needs of the affected population, including provision of medical assistance to local hospitals, water, sanitation and hygiene services, shelter and protection.

A **EUCP** team composed of 12 experts and 2 ERCC Liaison Officers is being deployed to Port-au-Prince and will be supported by a **Swedish** Technical Assistance and Support Team (TAST) of 8 additional experts.

Spain offered medical equipment and medicines (approximately 8000 kg), a water purification plant (accompanied by 3 experts), 720 tarpaulins and 500 kitchen sets. The assistance is expected to arrive in Haiti on 22 August.

France offered a water purification module composed of 40 people and 22 tons of equipment. The transport schedule is still pending.

Sweden offered 200 emergency family tents and 15 support facility tents. The transport schedule is pending.

The ERCC is in contact with other Member and Participating States having response capacities in the European Civil Protection Pool in order to analyse the conditions and plan for a potential deployment.

Furthermore, the ERCC is in contact with the Netherlands and France for a potential strategic sea transport and logistics support with vessels from the region.

The ERCC invites all EU Member States and Participating States to the UCPM to consider making offers of assistance as per above-mentioned recommendations. The EUCP team will support with planning and assessments as well as logistical arrangements in order to ensure a safe and efficient deployment of MS/PS response capacities.

Attachments

Annex 1: Request for Assistance from Haiti

Annex 2: DG ECHO Daily Map on Haiti - 7.2 M Earthquake of 18 August