Highlights

On August 14th, 8:30am, an earthquake 7.2 of magnitude hit the southwestern region of Haiti with major impact in three departments: South, Nippes and Grand’Anse. Estimated affected population within the broader area of earthquake impact is 1,211,000 inhabitants (66.4% considered as vulnerable in the 3 departments), including 540,000 children. Several aftershocks were recorded. A one-month national state of emergency has been declared.

While assessments are still in progress, thousands of houses and public buildings are partially or completely destroyed, including hospitals, schools, bridges, and churches. Preliminary assessment counted 724 deaths and 2,800 wounded people (15 Aug, 12pm) although figures may rapidly raise in the coming hours.

Basic social services are deeply affected with, as of August 14th, at least 1 hospital in Nippes and 3 health centers in Grand’Anse damaged, 4 schools (3 in Grand’Anse; 1 in Nippes) completely destroyed and 7 damaged (in Nippes), according to the National Emergency Operation Center (COUN). The information from the South department is yet to be confirmed. According to the Ministry of Education (MENFP), further damages were reported with at least 11 schools damaged or destroyed in one commune of Grand’Anse, 5 completely destroyed in South, and 3 completely destroyed in Nippe.

Fearing cracks in buildings and aftershocks, the population avoids staying inside the buildings, especially the hospitals where patients are sometimes relocated in the courtyards. Telecommunications are fragile as local services were quickly saturated. Accessibility for humanitarian response and evacuation of wounded people to the capital remains challenging as the main road leading to the affected areas is still under gangs’ control. Negotiations for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor are ongoing (lead: BINUH- OCHA) and UNHAS helicopter is available. Landslides also restrain access to certain affected areas.

The National Center for Emergency Operations (COUN) and Departmental Centers for Emergency Operation (COUD) were activated and led by the DGPC (Direction Générale de la Protection Civile) while UNICEF is ensuring its presence and support, together with OCHA and other partners, at the national and departmental levels. Press briefings are held by the COUN under the leadership of the Prime Minister to keep the community informed. The coordination of needs assessments and response is supported at both COUN and South COUD levels by the presence of many partners, including UNICEF. A rapid damage assessment and needs analysis will be conducted on Sunday August 15th, by DGPC in the South department with UNICEF and other NGOs and agencies’ technical support.

Haiti is also in the path of tropical storm Grace, which is expected to reach the country during the day and evening of Monday 16th August.

Situation in Numbers:

- 1,211,000 affected people (est.)
- 540,000 children affected (est.)
- 724 deaths
- 2,800 wounded

Estimated budget needs: US$ 15 M for the first 4 to 8 weeks

Note: the funding requirement is provisional for early response and will be adjusted upon availability of more comprehensive needs assessments.
In a country already shocked by the recent assassination of the President on July 7th and increased gang activities resulting in more than 19,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), at the midst of the cyclonic season, this new crisis deteriorates the already weak support system in place and threatens the lives of thousands of families and children.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

First Response Activities

UNICEF staff from Les Cayes (South department) sub-office immediately responded, providing first reports, and damages and casualties analysis, allowing rapid mobilization of emergency response.

With UNHAS support, additional staff fled from Port-au-Prince for emergency coordination.

UNICEF convoyed a lorry with 6 emergency medical kits containing essentials medicines and renewables (solutions, gloves, analgesics, antibiotics, syringes, among other) to serve approximately 30,000 persons for a period of three months. Three main hospitals (HIC Cayes, OFATMA hospital, HSA Jeremie) involved in victims emergency care, are receiving those medical supplies less than 24 hours from the occurrence of the first earthquake.

WASH supplies are prepositioned and available to target 20,000 to 25,000 people which will be mobilized as soon as possible. Mobile WASH technical teams are being deployed to reinforce the government workforce in terms of provision of access to safe water and sanitation.

Additional available supplies including Education and CR kits.

UNICEF is closely working with the government division in charge of child protection (IBESR) to conduct rapid assessment of children needs, identification of vulnerable ones and service provision along with planning of sensitization activities in the community to avoid family separation/to ensure protection of children, as well as coordination of partners intervention and rapid responses. Seventy per cent of the orphanages in the affected area were contacted and reported not being affected.

In communes like Pestel and Jeremie in Grand'Anse, where UNICEF has already set U-Report clubs, these have gathered to bring assistance to the injured or help move the rubble in houses.

Immediate Needs for Programme Response

According to preliminary information available, UNICEF has identified most critical, life-saving needs and UNICEF’s potential programme response for first two-month period, in support to Government and other partners' efforts.

Health

With the influx of victims causing congestion in the main hospitals in the 3 departments affected, and the damage suffered by some hospitals, greatly complicated by the current COVID-19 pandemic; the health sector immediate needs are mostly:

- Medical emergency supplies (medicines, renewables, materials, etc.) for emergency care of victims at health facilities.
- Mobilization of different categories of health staff (orthopaedist, surgeon, nurse, ...) to reinforce the delivery of services at the hospitals.
- Ensure proximity of emergency care to the victims in remote areas.
- Community awareness raising.

Nutrition

A deterioration of the nutrition status of children, who are already weakened by food insecurity due to the lean period, is expected. Therefore, it is urgent to reinforce the protection and promotion of breastfeeding, the promotion of Infant Young Child feeding practices (IYCF-E) at community level, and the detection and treatment of malnourished children. Immediate needs are:

- Plumpy'Doz to prevent malnutrition.
- Therapeutic food: F75, F100 and Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)
- Anthropometric materials.
- Capacity building of Implementing partners.
- Production of IYCF materials.
- Nutrition Survey SMART.
WASH

Based on the ongoing rapid assessments, damage on some water supply systems was reported, in addition to the urgent needs for safe drinking water for the most affected population, and to the needs for WASH response in healthcare facilities receiving injured patients. Immediate needs include:

- Provision of safe drinking water and critical hygiene kits to the households whose houses have collapsed.
- Upgrade water storage capacities and construction/rehabilitation of the sanitation facilities in health centres receiving injured patients and companions.
- Provision of handwashing facilities, and soap and critical hygiene supplies complemented with hygiene promotion activities in health centres receiving injured patients and companions, to reduce the risks of spread of COVID-19.
- Rehabilitation of the damaged water supply systems and provision of chlorine (HTH).

Child Protection

In order to adequately protect children affected by the earthquake, urgent needs include:

- Psychosocial support to children affected by earthquake.
- Assessment of children’s protection needs and identification of most vulnerable ones (including separated children/ orphans/ injured children/ traumatized children, etc.).
- Referral and service provision for vulnerable children.
- Community and family sensitization on child protection.
- Provision of blankets, child clothes, and recreational kits
- Support to vulnerable families.
- Implementing partners capacity building on child protection in emergencies.

Education

UNICEF will support MENFP and the Departmental Directorates of Education (DDE) thorough initial assessment of the situation (# of schools damaged, # of children without access to school for new school year). The numbers are yet to be confirmed, but provision of following items are the expected urgent needs:

- Rehabilitation of schools
- WASH in schools.
- School kits, school desks and furniture, hygiene kits.
- Catch up classes.
- Psychosocial support to children at school.
- Temporary learning spaces.

Social protection

For the households affected, a 3-tier combined support will be provided to support immediate recovery (cash transfers to the most affected, parenting package to promote child sensitivity, and C4D to adopt safer habits) mainly focused on improving the living conditions of disadvantaged children through: i) full access to quality maternal, infant and sexual health services, ii) malnutrition care; iii) access to “responsive care giving”; iv) “opportunities for early learning” based on socioeconomic vulnerability of the targeted households. Multipurpose Community Agents will be equipped to provide services related to “nurturing care” and that a multisector governance. The expected urgent needs include:

- Targeting of beneficiaries
- Cash transfer

Communication & C4D

When the earthquake hit Haiti, youths who signed up on U-Report are among the first to bring assistance to their families. Providing them with training on basic emergency response and support to extend their action, will be critical in this crisis and will prepare them for other emergencies like tropical storms, most likely in days or weeks to come.

Human Resources

Human resources support is required for surge deployment including staff in health system support, WASH, civil engineering, education, communication, C4D, partnership, supply...
Funding Overview

Based on preliminary analysis of needs in the affected area, UNICEF estimates that US$15 million are required to ensure immediate support to Government and key partners, in responding to the most urgent, life-saving needs of children and families in the affected areas, for the first 4-8 weeks. This funding requirement will be adjusted as additional information from the needs assessment (currently ongoing) becomes available and the planning for a 6 months response progresses in collaboration with the government and partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Target population</th>
<th>Estimated Requirements (US$)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>385,000 people</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>167,118 children 0-59 months</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>200,000 people</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>180,000 children</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>51,000 children</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>6,000 vulnerable families</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication / C4D</td>
<td>1,000 young people</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated funding requirements, for 4-8 weeks.

Accountability

A participatory approach will be adopted to ensure affected communities are listened to and informed, and that accessible feedback mechanisms are in place. Staff and partners will be trained on accountability, in addition to refresher training on PSEA, Interagency coordination will allow assessment of PSEA risks across the response, as well as ensuring potential survivors can access available Gender Based Violence and Child Protection services through the established referral pathways.

Security

One of the main challenges is humanitarian access and security, as the main road leading to the South department from the capital is controlled by the gangs currently fighting against each other for territory control, making the humanitarian response even more challenging. There is a high risk of theft of trucks and containers during the transfer from Port-au-Prince to the South, the populations of the areas crossed being also need humanitarian aid.

UNHAS helicopter can bring personnel and supply items, but the capacity is limited.

Next SitRep: 16/08/2021

Who to contact for further information:

- Bruno Maes  
  Representative - Haiti  
  UNICEF Haiti Country Office  
  Tel: +509 3624 1777  
  Email: bmaes@unicef.org

- Antonio Marro  
  Emergency Chief  
  UNICEF Haiti Country Office  
  Tel: +509 3775 1611  
  Email: amarro@unicef.org

- Ndiaga Seck  
  Chief Communication  
  UNICEF Haiti Country Office  
  Tel: +509 3744 6199  
  Email: nseck@unicef.org