

## Emergency appeal for the destructive earthquake that hit South Haiti on August 14th



### Context

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti on August 14, 2021, 12 km northeast of Saint Louis du Sud, South region, 10 km deep. For context, this is more powerful than the 2010 earthquake which resulted in over 200,000 casualties. The first of multiple aftershocks was felt across all regions of the country, according to information provided by Civil Protection structures. The tsunami alert has been lifted.

The earthquake has severely damaged several cities in Grand'Anse and Les Cayes. According to OCHA's [report](#) on August 22, more than 2,200 people dead, at least 344 missing, over 12,000 injured and upwards of 130,000 homes damaged or destroyed. The quake has come on the back of ensuing political instability, food insecurity, the hurricane season and ongoing impacts from COVID-19. According to Unicef, the country has already been enduring its worst humanitarian crisis in years, and it is getting worse every week. Millions of Haitians are already at risk of being deprived of crucial emergency assistance due to insecurity and border closures. The most fragile are often children and single mothers.

A one-month state of emergency has been declared by the national authorities whilst national and international humanitarian actors in the country are coordinating response efforts. Houses and public infrastructure have been destroyed, hundreds of people have been injured and fatality figures are expected to be substantially higher than the initial official figure released by the civil protection authorities.

## Our response

ActionAid's emergency teams are assessing urgent needs and already providing immediate assistance to affected communities in the municipalities of Roseaux and Jeremie in Grand'Anse and Camp-Perrin in Les Cayes distributing water, tarpaulin, NFI kits, and support psycho-social activities.

ActionAid has ongoing programmes in two of the three areas currently deemed the worst affected in the southern regions of the country - Jérémie and Les Cayes – and are linked through local networks to Nippes. ActionAid is currently mobilising support to the most affected communities at the same time as assessing the full impact of the disaster and planning for our short- and medium-term response.

ActionAid Haiti's network of women trained as first responders during emergencies are set to provide emergency relief, including first aid and support for women and girls at risk of gender-based violence in the areas most affected by the earthquake. When Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016, they were ready to respond, and the same network of women leaders are being deployed.

Women and women-led organisations lead ActionAid's response during emergencies because they are uniquely placed to respond to the specific and disproportionate needs of women and girls, including the increased risk of gender-based violence.

ActionAid is aiming to assist at least **4,000 households** with immediate shelter, protection, cash and food assistance:

- 2,000 households in Grand'Anse (municipalities of Jérémie, Roseaux and possibly Beaumont)
- 2,000 households in South region (Municipalities of Camp-Perrin and Chantal)

In addition, we will continue and scale up, as needed, our **ongoing food security programmes** in the areas:

- Grand'Anse: in Jérémie (5,400 households – ActionAid / World Food Program)
- South region: in Arniquet, Port Salut, Camp-Perrin and Chantal (6,750 households – ActionAid/ World Food Program).

The initial emergency response needs are estimated at least at 1,8 million USD for a period of 3 months: through this appeal we are hoping to contribute to these needs in part.

In line with ActionAid's humanitarian signature, based on needs on the ground and in coordination with local authorities and other international and national agencies to avoid any overlap, ActionAid response will include:

1. Cash support/Food support to meet essential food and shelter needs for affected families

2. Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as blankets, pillows, hygiene and dignity kits and kitchenware as needed
3. Water filters and water supply
4. Women's protection activities and services
5. Psychosocial support for traumatised children and their families
6. Personal Protective Equipment as of the distancing and hygiene rules to all actors who will be providing support to affected people

### PRICE POINTS

Item	Unit cost (CHF)
Cash support for family of 5 to meet basic food needs for one month: (CHF 19.5 per person) for one month.	97.5
Cash or voucher support for shelter items CHF 235	235
Household items kit (such as kitchen set and hygiene items) CHF 94	94
Water filter to provide clean water for a family CHF 52	52
Handwashing station to help hundreds of people prevent covid and other water borne diseases CHF 470	470

These are indicative price points; detailed activities will be defined after the ongoing need assessment is finalised. Donations will be handled through the ActionAid Emergency Action Fund.

### ActionAid Haiti

In Haiti, ActionAid has been working with the most vulnerable communities in the country since 1997, with the aim of strengthening the resilience and capacity of people and the State to respond to emergencies and improve their long-term quality of life. Developing sustainable agriculture and livelihoods and ensuring the right to food and education have been at the heart of our work with partners across the country. The ActionAid programs are primarily implemented with local partner organizations and women-led emergency networks across various different regions in Haiti (North, North-East, Center, West, South-East and Grand'Anse).

ActionAid Haiti responded to the 2011 earthquake and 2016 Matthew hurricane through multi

sectoral responses. It is also regularly involved with the World Food Program to address food insecurity issues in different Haitian regions. ActionAid Haiti has also responded to Covid-19 crisis with the support of Unicef and private funds.

### **COVID-19 Safety Measures**

To limit the spread of the virus and ensure health & safety of staff and partners, we will continue to: communicate preventive measures including confinement if staff are infected, facilitate equipment for working remotely, provide an advance payment option available to staff for food and medicine, disinfect the office and provide hand washing machines, ensure the availability of COVID-19 testing for staff and a list of doctors including psychosocial support, following the protocol, according to the recommendation of the Health Ministry and AAI directives are shared with staff and partners. Field visits are limited and if essential derogation from the direction is obligatory and all the measures as per vehicle use are applied systematically.

### **SHEA/Safeguarding**

SHEA/safeguarding measures will apply systematically according to policy in place. AAH will ensure all staff and partners involved in this response receive proper induction and adhere to our code of conduct. At community- level there will be spot and communication materials on SHEA/safeguarding to ensure awareness of all protocols. AAH will implement hotlines, WhatsApp, SMS and other complaint mechanisms such boxes will be put in all areas.

*Update / August 23, 2021*

*Thank you for your consideration. Your support is vital to help the survivors of the Haiti earth quake. For more information, please contact Gisella Reina, Director of Philanthropy, ActionAid Switzerland: [email: gisella.reina@actionaid.org](mailto:gisella.reina@actionaid.org) or phone: +41 79 4701296*