



HAITI

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 12.3M**

Appeal number **MAAHT002**

In support of the Haiti Red Cross Society



127

National Society branches



170

National Society staff



9,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



100,000

Ongoing emergency operations



50,000

Climate and environment



1.5M

Disasters and crises



100,000

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration and displacement



50,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- earthquake

Longer term needs

- livelihoods • health
- water sanitation and hygiene
- Protection gender and inclusion

Capacity development

- epidemic preparedness and response
- protection and displacement services
- complex humanitarian environments

Key country data

Population

11.5M

INFORM severity rating

very high

Climate ND-GAIN Index rank

104

Human Development Index rank

170

Population below poverty level

58.5%

Hazards



Floods



Hurricanes



Earthquakes



Climate change



Poverty



Political instability

Funding requirements

Total 12.3M CHF

Through the IFRC



IFRC Breakdown

5.8M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

350 000 CHF

Climate and environment

3M CHF

Disasters and crises

1.5M CHF

Health and wellbeing

300,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

150,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

1.3M CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRHT018

Haiti Earthquake
Earthquake

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

Red Cross Society of China*

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Finnish Red Cross*

French Red Cross

German Red Cross*

Iraqi Red Crescent Society*

Irish Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross

Polish Red Cross*

Spanish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

With over 80 years of experience in crisis and emergency management, **the Haiti Red Cross Society** is well recognized and accepted by the country's population. Its neutrality facilitates the impartial provision of services to prevent and alleviate human suffering in a complex context, where outbreaks of violence and socio-political instability aggravate the protection needs of the people affected.

The Haitian Red Cross was recognized as being of public utility by the Presidential Decree of 20 July 1932. The National Society has an auxiliary role to the public authorities to contribute to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and accidents, and the alleviation of suffering by means of training and mutual aid programmes in the service of the community, adapted to national and local needs and conditions; to support effective risk reduction actions (preparedness, response and recovery) and emergency relief services for the victims of disasters of any kind. The Haiti Red Cross also collaborates with the public authorities for the protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants and displaced people, and in the promotion of International Humanitarian Law.

The National Society's 17 regional and 127 local committees have strong connections with local communities, and even the most remote and underserved populations are reached. Its ambulance service is one of the only independent and neutral ambulance service providers in the country. The Haiti Red Cross has a large volunteer network, and volunteers often originate from the communities they serve, which fosters trust. The National Society plays a key role in improving the coordination between health and civil protection

authorities and communities. It guarantees coverage and safe access, and creates demand for health and protection services and relief assistance.

In its auxiliary role, the National Society has a good reputation and fosters links between emergency response and long-term development programmes. It has experience in supporting health and civil protection systems – at a national and local level – and adds value to the provision of locally-owned services through community mobilization. The National Society also fosters coordination between humanitarian and development stakeholders, and promotes sustainable activities.

The Haiti Red Cross Society's three strategic pillars are set out in its Strategy 2016–2020:

Be prepared to act better: The National Society will mobilize communities to become more resilient, and build capacities to prepare for and respond effectively to disasters and crises. It will support risk reduction preparedness, response and recovery, while strengthening its role and competencies as an auxiliary to the public authorities.

Mitigate the risks: The National Society will support communities to identify the warning signs of emergencies, and anticipate and mitigate the impact of emergency situations. This includes health-related issues and adaptation to climate change.

Act for more social inclusion: The National Society will promote the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged groups, as it builds community resilience and meets the protection and humanitarian needs of migrants.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Haiti's economic and social development continues to be hampered by political instability, increased violence, unprecedented levels of insecurity, and heightened fragility and exposure to multiple natural hazards. As a result, Haiti remains one of the poorest countries in the world and the poorest in the Latin America and Caribbean region. High levels of poverty are compounded by deep inequality in the population. The

richest 20 per cent of Haiti's population own more than 64 per cent of the country's total wealth, and the poorest 20 per cent own less than one per cent. As Haiti's economy contracted, resulting in significant fiscal imbalances, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic triggered an even greater economic downturn, which offset any recent progress in poverty reduction. These economic challenges have been exacerbated by a succession of other crises relating to political instability and violence, and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Haiti is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, particularly hurricanes, floods and earthquakes, with more than 96 per cent of the population exposed. On 14 August 2021, an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck the Southern region, where approximately 1.6 million people live. At this time, the region had barely recovered from the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, which occurred in 2016 and caused an estimated 32 per cent reduction in GDP, compared with 2015. Another earthquake in 2010, which killed about 250,000 people, destroyed 120 per cent of the country's GDP. Climate change is likely to increase the frequency, intensity and impacts of extreme weather events, yet Haiti still lacks preparedness and adaptation mechanisms.

In addition to being exposed to natural hazards and the effects of climate change, Haiti faces recurring socio-economic and political challenges rooted in deep-seated structural problems. Between 2019 and 2022, there was a deep deterioration of the socio-economic, political and security situation in the country. Aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the 2021 earthquake, humanitarian needs in Haiti have increased, particularly in the Southern region. The activities of armed groups in Port-au-Prince and the metropolitan area have compromised the provision of, and access to, humanitarian relief – particularly along National Road 2, which leads to Nippes and Grand'Anse on the Southern Peninsula, which was affected by the earthquake.

The political crisis, the insecurity and lack of opportunities are forcing people to leave Haiti, and it is estimated that there are over 1.7 million Haitian migrants worldwide. The current socio-economic context and levels of insecurity make the reintegration of expelled migrants difficult.

In terms of human development, specifically health, Haiti has made significant progress in the fight against cholera and has recorded no confirmed cases since 2019. However, there are no longer improvements being made in human capital (skills, knowledge and education). Infant and maternal mortality rates remain at high levels, and the use of preventive measures is stagnant or declining, particularly for the poorest households. According to the Human Capital Index, a child born today in Haiti will become only 45 per cent as productive as they could be if they received a complete education and adequate access to health care. More than 20 per cent of children are at risk of cognitive and physical limitations, and only 78 per cent of 15-year-olds will survive to the age of 60. Haiti's health system faces challenges in terms of investment, governance and coordination, both within the public system and elsewhere. Issues that must be addressed in order to improve the health system include barriers to access of quality and affordable health care, supply shortages and disruptions, and a shortage of health workers.

Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Haiti](#)

- Appeal number: [MDRHT018](#)
- Appeal launch date: 15 August 2021
- End date: 28 February 2023
- People affected: 800,000
- People targeted: 35,000

Emergency situational overview

On 14 August 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti's departments of Sud, Nippes and Grand'Anse. According to the Haitian General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC), it killed 2,248 people, destroyed nearly 54,000 homes and damaged 84,000. About 39,000 people were displaced from their communities. There were more than 100 people in 75 of the 89 assembly points. The Government requested

assistance with meeting critical needs for food, health care, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene for the affected population.

The IFRC supported the National Society to initiate an emergency response operation, which was implemented in a highly sensitive and volatile security context. Reports indicate an upturn in security incidents, despite an earlier respite in blocked roads and looting on transit routes to the affected areas. This situation continues to challenge the Haiti Red Cross and its partners in their efforts to remain efficient and effective.

Emergency operational strategy

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the emergency operation aimed to provide immediate lifesaving relief, effective disaster response and recovery support to 35,000 people in 7,000 households, for 18 months. The operation, supported by the IFRC Emergency Appeal, is still underway. It provides humanitarian assistance in

the areas of shelter, livelihoods and basic needs; health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); protection, gender and inclusion; migration and disaster risk reduction.

The emergency phase focused on the safe and efficient distribution of shelter, health and WASH assistance in targeted affected communities. Protection, gender, and inclusion considerations were included in the strategy. A Red Cross Emergency Hospital was installed during this phase to provide health care to the affected population in the Sud department.

The National Society's capacity improvement and localization agenda enabled the IFRC to work through the branch network. An interconnected, coordinated approach in the emergency phase was fully aligned with the National Society's response plan and the sector-specific assessments.

To address longer-term needs, a second operation phase linked relief action with early recovery plans. These built upon a community resilience approach, and focused on improving water, sanitation and hygiene; protection, gender and inclusion; mental health and psychosocial support; health care; and cash-based assistance.

Comprehensive assistance: The IFRC's first response focused on supporting the Haiti Red Cross in the provision of primary assistance to 7,000 affected families, or 35,000 individuals, addressing their essential shelter, health, food and water, sanitation and hygiene needs. For the second line response and early recovery phase, the National Society implemented a cash-based, multi-sectoral assistance programme that focused on the restoration of livelihoods, recovery and home restoration. In terms of WASH assistance, hygiene kits, buckets and jerry cans were included in the multi-sector family kits provided to targeted households. The National Society also supported the reintroduction of WASH facilities in collective centres, health centres and schools, and handwashing stations.

Health, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the IFRC supported the Haiti Red Cross in the delivery of first aid, the emergency provision of pre-hospital trauma care, and the ambulance transfer of patients to a higher level of care. A Red Cross Emergency Hospital and international personnel were deployed, and provided immediate post-earthquake care in

wound, orthopaedic and post-operative care, as well as rehabilitation services. The Emergency Hospital personnel maintained round-the-clock access to health care until its closure at the end of November 2021. The Haiti Red Cross also supported communities in the prevention of disease transmission. As a result, the community-based surveillance programme, which was integrated into the existing Ministry of Health structure of community health workers, is able to detect early disease outbreaks. The National Society also provides mental health and psychosocial support for affected communities, volunteers and staff.

Protection, gender and inclusion: Aligned with the "do no harm" commitment, work in this area focuses on preventing harm and mitigating protection risks. It particularly responds to the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied and separated children. In the emergency operation, this means the implementation of international mechanisms to protect people from sexual exploitation and abuse, and continual assessment and monitoring. The National Society will incorporate minimum protection, gender and inclusion standard commitments into other sectoral activities, and basic response and awareness-raising activities.

The revised Emergency Appeal reflects an increase from 5,000 to 7,000 families in the target population. The IFRC focuses geographically on the Sud and Grand'Anse departments, while coordinating the efforts of the IFRC network in Les Nippes. Specific activities include:

- Emergency shelter, essential household items, rehabilitation and reconstruction support for 1,500 families
- Livelihood and basic needs interventions for 5,000 families – an increase from 2,000
- A stronger focus on mental health and psychological support, Red Cross Emergency Hospital operations, and the strengthening of epidemic prevention and community-based surveillance
- WASH assistance for 7,000 families – up from 2,000 – and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic services
- Migration services for 2,000 families
- A hurricane contingency plan and business continuity plan for the earthquake operation

The IFRC provided overall operational coordination for the operation, in support of the Haiti Red Cross response, which included the deployment of search and rescue teams to the Sud, Les Nippes and Grand'Anse departments, the operation of ambulances, and attending the unmet needs of the affected population. The IFRC supported the National Society in deploying a number of teams to provide humanitarian assistance, and a type 2 emergency response unit, or [Red Cross Red Crescent Emergency Hospital](#), to Les Cayes. The hospital opened with staff from the Canadian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, and other partner National Societies joined later. The hospital had a pediatric and maternity ward and an operating room. It handled 5,238 outpatient department visits, 615 hospitalized patients, 381 psychosocial support visits, 136 people in need of protection, 115 baby deliveries, 278 antenatal consultations, 92 surgeries and 152 physiotherapy visits.

After the earthquake, the Haiti Red Cross reached 15,884 households within six months. The IFRC supported the National Society to distribute multi-sector family kits targeting 25,000 people (5,000 households).

This target has been increased in the revised Appeal to reach a total of 35,000 people in 7,000 households in Sud, Nippes and Grand'Anse departments.

All emergency response units completed their missions by December 2021, and in-country and field staff were hired to continue the operation on a long-term basis. This operation is implementing actions in shelter, livelihoods and basic needs, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, gender and inclusion, migration and disaster risk reduction. All activities are underpinned by the enabling actions of strengthening the National Society, influencing others as strategic partners, and strengthening coordination and accountability.

The IFRC provided membership coordination services while it rolled out a Federation-wide approach to the operation in Haiti, and the IFRC network and the ICRC continue to coordinate their activities there.

The emergency response will be completed by end of February 2023, after which remaining needs will be covered as part of longer-term programming.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, in terms of climate hazards, Haiti has been the third most affected country worldwide over the last two decades. The resulting annual economic loss has averaged nearly US\$400 million, which represents about 50 per cent of the world's Official Development Assistance, and 55 per cent of the country's public expenditure since 2010.

The degradation of Haiti's marine and terrestrial ecosystems has also increased in recent years. The country has already lost all its primary forests, and its remaining forests continue to shrink. In recent years, the area of Haiti's fallen forests covers 12.6 per cent of its territory, and it is estimated that 36.3 per cent has only patchy forest cover. Waste management – collection and treatment – remains very basic. Only 12.4 per cent of solid waste is collected, the lowest rate in Latin America and the Caribbean ([UNOCHA](#)).

By 2030, Haiti predicts that its annual rainfall will decrease by about six to 20 per cent, its rainfall seasonality will change, and the temperature will rise between 0.8 and 1°C. This prediction is outlined in Haiti's most recent submission (2015) to the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The variation in rainfall and temperature leads to new insect crop pests and a higher incidence of vector-borne diseases such as malaria.

Main actions and areas of support

The Haiti Red Cross is part of the [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

In Haiti, the IFRC network will support the National Society to address vulnerability factors related to livelihoods, food shortages, access to health, displacement

caused by the impact of climate change, and urban living. It will also work on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises, and enabling people to adapt and thrive when they occur. This means that it will be crucial for the National Society to integrate climate risk management, including adaptation and mitigation, into its various programmes, and to further adopt environmental management approaches such as:

- Developing an environmental policy and a climate change adaptation strategy
- Building National Society narratives and communication strategies on climate change and its impact on communities, and fostering its participation in fora
- Supporting the National Society to integrate climate risk management, including adaptation and mitigation, into all programmes, operations and outreach activities
- Considering ecosystem services more broadly and environmental management approaches to reduce risk exposure and vulnerability
- Improving staff and volunteer capacities in climate action and climate-smart programming
- Focusing on climate vulnerability factors related to livelihoods, food shortages, access to health, climate change-induced displacement, and urban living
- Considering protection, gender equality and inclusion issues, and strengthening activities in these areas when addressing climate change

Disasters and crises

Haiti is exposed to multiple natural hazards. More than 93 per cent of the territory and over 96 per cent of the population is exposed to at least two hazards, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides and droughts, which regularly cause significant drops in agricultural production in many departments. These recurring phenomena weaken the country, and lead to food insecurity and migration. Climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events. The Southern Peninsula has faced repeated major catastrophic events, with damages and consequences of enormous magnitude.

Haiti is located in a very active tectonic zone, at the border of the Caribbean and the North American tectonic plates, resulting in significant seismic phenomena. The epicentre of the 14 August 2021 earthquake killed 2,248 people and affected at least 800,000 people, with 650,000 people needing emergency humanitarian assistance in the Sud, Nippes and Grand'Anse departments.

According to the post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA), the earthquake affected all social sectors. In addition to the direct impact it had on Haiti's people, it is estimated that it caused US\$1.6 billion worth of damage and losses, representing 10.9 per cent of the country's 2019–2020 GDP. Approximately 73 per cent of the earthquake's impact was on the housing, education and health sectors. The cost of sustainable reconstruction and economic recovery is estimated to be approximately US\$2 billion.

The earthquake significantly affected buildings and houses in the Southern Peninsula and severely damaged basic infrastructure and roads, cutting off access to some areas of the southwest. Of the buildings assessed, 88 health centres were damaged, 64 schools were completely lost, and another 456 schools and 60 religious buildings were severely damaged. The Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes departments, particularly the cities of Cayes, Jérémie, and Anse-a-Veaux, were hardest hit, suffering significant damage and destruction to buildings and homes.

Violence and insecurity also affect people in need in Haiti, and add constraints to efficient and effective humanitarian services.

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network will focus on supporting the Haiti Red Cross to build its capacity to adapt to increasingly complex humanitarian environments, and on preparedness and readiness to respond to multiple shocks, by strengthening risk reduction and community resilience. This includes early warning systems, and the anticipation and mitigation of risks from the multiple hazards that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable communities and the most disadvantaged and hard-to-reach people. It also includes strengthening of people-centred and people-led approaches.



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The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in accessing the IFRC DREF and Emergency Appeals for funds and surge support to respond to disasters and crises. It will also effectively coordinate the regional and global IFRC network, to respond to growing humanitarian needs and optimize locally led operations.

The IFRC will support the National Society and its network partners to:

- Build capacity to adapt to increasingly complex humanitarian environments, such as urban settings, protracted crises, and digital and technological environments
- Effectively use technology and innovation to anticipate risks and disasters
- Build forecast-based financing approaches to anticipate and implement rapid action
- Better target people, placing affected people and communities at the centre of preparedness and response activities
- Further embrace ethical and people-led approaches, such as cash transfer and livelihoods programmes.

Health and wellbeing

Access to health care facilities is a major concern in Haiti. Damage to health structures in earthquake-affected areas further limits the population's access to health services, including emergency obstetric and neonatal

care, in an already critical context for maternal health. Haiti's maternal mortality rate is 529 deaths per 100,000 live births, the highest in the region, according to [EMMUS VI, 2016](#).

Low vaccination rates for measles, hepatitis and polio – less than 80 per cent by 2021 – expose Haitians, especially children under five, to a variety of diseases and infections. Poor access to safe drinking water causes the transmission of diarrheal diseases, while aggravating acute malnutrition.

Until July 2021, Haiti was the only country in the Americas that had not started a COVID-19 vaccination campaign; it began when the first donation of 500,000 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine arrived. The Ministry of Public Health and Population received further vaccine donations between the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022, through bilateral agreements and the COVAX facility. In 2022, Haiti still had the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rate in the Americas – according to the [Haitian Institute of Statistics and Informatics](#), only 1.5 per cent of the population were fully vaccinated, and 1.6 per cent had received at least one dose.

Before the 2021 earthquake, there were approximately 9,600 people per health facility in the Southern Peninsula. After the earthquake, health services – already weakened by previous crises and the COVID-19 pandemic – were particularly affected, with 62 per cent of health facilities (97 in total) experiencing either severe or light damage.

Main actions and areas of support

The goal of this strategic priority will be to ensure safe and equitable access to health, water, sanitation and adequate living conditions. This means expanding integrated community-based health care and first aid programmes, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene programmes, to address the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups. It also means investing significantly in epidemic and pandemic preparedness by relying on local organizations and networks, and training volunteers to be first responders and early risk detectors.

Since the first cases of COVID-19 were detected in Haiti in March 2020, the National Society has been working on the response to the global pandemic through the [IFRC Federation-wide Emergency Appeal](#) and other local initiatives. It is involved in several key areas of the implementation of the COVID-19 response plan, which is led by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, and plays a key role in supporting state institutions in their work. Preparedness and response activities include operational and logistical support, patient transportation, local prevention measures, risk communication, health education, social mobilization, water, sanitation and hygiene, and vaccination. The National Society has been involved in setting up the national COVID-19 vaccination plan, by supporting the national technical working group with its planning, as well as sitting on three technical sub-committees.

The IFRC network will support the Haiti Red Cross in expanding the scale and quality of its health and water, sanitation and hygiene services at community level, in both emergency and non-emergency settings. In addition, the IFRC network will support the National Society in strengthening its activities to promote mental health and wellbeing, to combat isolation and provide psychosocial support, particularly in vulnerable communities affected by climate change, conflict and disasters.

The IFRC will support the National Society and its network partners to:

- Promote community engagement activities to build public confidence in COVID-19 vaccination
- Adapt hygiene promotion and the use of potable water in emergency situations, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population
- Access tools, strategies and actions to integrate the impacts of climate change into health programmes
- Develop programmes to address community health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) vulnerabilities

- Expand integrated community-based health, care and first aid activities, and WASH promotion programmes, to meet the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups
- Scale-up epidemic and pandemic preparedness, by working with local actors and networks, and the Haiti Red Cross volunteers as first responders and early risk detectors
- Embrace technologies and innovations to improve analysis, forecasting and solutions in the implementation of health activities
- Strengthen activities to promote mental health and wellbeing, address isolation and psychosocial needs, particularly in vulnerable communities and communities affected by climate change, violence and disaster

Migration and displacement

At least 84,800 vulnerable displaced, expelled or repatriated people in Haiti need humanitarian assistance – as a result of disasters, armed violence and the repatriation of Haitian migrants from abroad. There is a general climate of insecurity and high levels of gang activity in the urban and peri-urban areas of Port-au-Prince, and 19,000 people have been forced to move, to save their lives. In some cases, their homes were burnt down. The 2021 earthquake led to more displacement, with 39,000 people in 89 assembly points across the Sud, Nippes and Grand'Anse departments. The standard of living for internally displaced people has collapsed, as it has for the wider population affected by the disaster.

The political crisis, the insecurity and lack of opportunities are forcing more people to leave Haiti. It is estimated that there are over 1.7 million Haitian migrants worldwide. The current socio-economic context and levels of insecurity make the reintegration of expelled migrants difficult. Following the 2021 earthquake, the United States suspended deportations of Haitians; however, this changed after several thousand people, mainly Haitians, entered the country from Mexico. After arriving in the United States, approximately 15,000 people remained in an improvised camp in Texas. In September 2021, approximately 4,600 Haitian migrants were deported, 5,000 were transferred to detention centres, and another 19,000 were moved to large cities in Texas where immigration procedures began. Of the 1,789 returned children, 15 unaccompanied migrant children were identified as travelling by sea to the United States or the Caribbean islands and returned to Haiti.

On 4 October 2021, the IFRC and the Haiti Red Cross launched a [3-month DREF operation to support Haitian migrants](#) returning from the United States and arriving at the Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haïtien airports. The National Society played an auxiliary role in this operation, and intervened to ensure their protection. The National Society put in place a multi-agency humanitarian diplomacy team to support people who have returned from the United States, Mexico, Cuba, the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, or who have been picked up by the coast guard. It has worked in collaboration with the National Migration Office, the International Organization for Migration and other local organizations, to provide post-arrival assistance.

Main actions and areas of support

The Haiti Red Cross takes part in the three-year IFRC [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. Each year, the programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move, and people in host communities, through three operational pillars: improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; strengthening National Society capacities; and local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The IFRC network will focus on ensuring that all people who migrate and are displaced are safe, are treated humanely and with dignity, and have the assistance and protection they need to thrive in inclusive societies. To achieve this, it will enhance the National Society's capacity to understand migration dynamics and deliver appropriate humanitarian services to migrants, displaced people and other affected people, including families who stay behind.

The IFRC will support the Haiti Red Cross and its network partners to:

- Meet the humanitarian needs of migrants along major migration routes, to enable them to access essential services, regardless of legal status
- Ensure the protection of particularly vulnerable migrants
- Intensify efforts to integrate programmes that focus on inclusion and social cohesion, recognizing that these issues are closely linked to the well-being of all people, whether in communities of origin, or transit and arrival

- Promote research and new partnerships to meet the changing needs of people on the move
- Improve operations along migration routes and across borders – linking programmes and information systems between countries, National Societies and Movement partners
- Pilot the humanitarian service point community engagement and accountability toolkit

Values, power and inclusion

Haiti remains one of the most unequal countries in the world. Access to basic social services is low and characterized by significant inequalities. Women continue to face discrimination in access to productive resources, employment and decision-making. Gender-based violence, including rape and domestic violence, reinforces inequality. According to a study by the Ministry of Public Health and Population in 2016–2017, nearly 29 per cent of women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence.

People living with disabilities represent one of the most disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups in Haitian society. Haitian authorities estimate that there are approximately one million people in this group – 10 per cent of the population – including at least 200,000 children. The socio-economic situation of people living with disabilities remains marked by inequalities. They have a lower level of education, limited access to basic social services including health care, and higher rates of unemployment and poverty compared with the rest of the population.

In Haiti, children have been disproportionately affected by protection risks. Approximately 15–20 per cent of children affected by humanitarian crises require individual psychosocial care, and 75–80 per cent require psychosocial support at a community level. One in four girls and one in five boys are affected by sexual violence.

Cases of gender-based violence, sexual abuse and exploitation increase in situations of crisis, disasters and increased insecurity – making this one of the biggest challenges that individuals and communities face. From January to October 2021, health facilities in Haiti providing case management services, mainly in sexual and physical violence, recorded 15,288 cases. Of these, 77 per cent were women and girls, and 23 per cent were men and boys.

According to the assessment report of the Office of Citizen Protection, which leads the protection sector, sexual and gender-based violence is used by gangs as

a weapon to humiliate, terrorize and strengthen their control over local populations. On average, 75 cases of sexual and gender-based violence are reported every month, including two-year-old children. However, sexual violence involving gangs remains largely under-reported.

Access to basic services for people who have experienced gender-based violence and abuse remains a challenge, because of attacks on the health system, a lack of operational capacity for psychosocial support, corruption, threats and insecurity. These factors make it difficult for the humanitarian sector and public authorities to provide an efficient, holistic and coordinated response.

Main actions and areas of support

The Haiti Red Cross will continue to promote the protection of people and their dignity, and social inclusion. The IFRC will work on enhancing the National Society's capacities at local branch level, and increase awareness through the role of youth, and engagement with the education community. The Haiti Red Cross will also promote more inclusive working dynamics and greater diversity within its own organisation.

The IFRC will support the Haiti Red Cross and its network partners to:

- Include protection, gender and inclusion in its strategic plans, programmes and operations
- Include sexual and gender-based violence policies in its emergency response programming
- Expand humanitarian education programmes, with an emphasis on promoting humanitarian values and improving access for people whose education has been interrupted by violence, disaster or displacement
- Focus on initiatives that promote inclusion, participation and diversity in opportunities, representation and decision-making, within the IFRC network and society in general
- Strengthen the leadership of women at all levels, and emphasize the issue of gender balance
- Promote and raise awareness of the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles
- Integrate Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for community engagement and accountability into strategies, policies, procedures, programmes and operations

Enabling local actors

The Haiti Red Cross is committed to strengthening its institution and carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC's Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2019. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the preparedness for effective responses (PER) process and is currently at the action and accountability phase. This is a continuous and flexible process that will enable the National Society to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

Engaged

The IFRC will support the Haiti Red Cross to:

- Become more visible and communicate more effectively
- Improve its presence and contribution in key coordination activities

- Promote programming and communication strategies that are aimed at changes in public behaviour and integrated with community engagement and accountability

Accountable

The IFRC will support Haiti Red Cross to:

- Enhance the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting capacity of focal points, building on recommendations from IFRC workshops and training sessions
- Develop and disseminate procedures for gender policy implementation, and systematize sex, age and disability disaggregated data collection during humanitarian operations
- Increase key staff awareness of IFRC commitments with donors, and participate in donor fora locally and regionally

Trusted

The IFRC will support the Haiti Red Cross to:

- Develop a resource mobilization strategy and financial sustainability plan
- Improve the capacities of local branches to design and implement viability plans, and develop income-generating activities
- Establish fundraising objectives and strategies to achieve them
- Continuously improve Movement coordination in Haiti, systematizing and reviewing operational plans and coordination

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC provides direct support to the National Society, focusing on its development and strategic and operational coordination. It has supported it through Emergency Appeals and the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) over the years, in large and small emergencies related to hurricanes, earthquakes, civil unrest and for population movement. IFRC also works with the National Society in the area of humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC continues to provide financial and material support to the National Society's COVID-19 response plan. As part of the IFRC global pandemic response, the Haiti Red Cross has increased its emergency response capacities in terms of prehospital care, first aid and medical transport for the Haitian population through the IFRC and Red Cross Society of China "Strengthening Ambulance Services" programme. The Haiti Red Cross's Western Metropolitan Ambulance Service (SAOM) was strengthened to provide medical transport in a context of a very weak health system and limited availability of ambulances. The fleet of vehicles in the ambulance centre was bolstered by the purchase of 10 additional fully equipped ambulances. The Haiti Red Cross has helped people in many areas that are inaccessible to other public or private ambulance services.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that

strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

Currently, five participating National Societies are supporting the National Society in Haiti as it leads a multi-sectoral and multi-location response effort. The Canadian Red Cross Society, French Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross have a permanent presence in Haiti. The Dominican Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Red Cross Society of China provide remote technical and material support.

The IFRC membership's collective experience, technical capacity and field knowledge provides a solid basis for achieving expected outcomes, in terms of crises and disasters caused by natural hazards and man-made disasters, and health issues. The IFRC membership also works together on the development of longer-term resilience-building programmes, the strengthening and improvement of water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, and the response to the unmet assistance and protection needs of migrants and displaced people.

The Canadian Red Cross supported Haiti Red Cross in its COVID-19 response, by enhancing volunteers' capacities to prevent the spread of the disease. More than 300,000 people received information about COVID-19 and used the 21 handwashing stations that had been installed. Health centres and local organizations received cleaning materials and protective equipment, and public spaces were disinfected. The Canadian Red Cross also completed a structural damages and rehabilitation needs assessment on health centres in Les Nippes and Grand'Anse, including water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Canadian Red Cross				●		●			
French Red Cross				●					
Netherlands Red Cross		●	●	●					
Spanish Red Cross		●	●	●					
Swiss Red Cross			●	●					●

The French Red Cross supports the Haiti Red Cross in risk and disaster management, with a focus on prevention, preparedness, response and rehabilitation. Through its Regional Response Platform [PIRAC](#), the French Red Cross provides technical and logistical support. As part of the implementation of the 2021 Earthquake Emergency Appeal, it dispatched materials from pre-positioned stocks in Guadeloupe and Martinique. The Haiti Red Cross mobilized its network of volunteers to establish links with affected communities, distributed hygiene kits and blankets, set up emergency shelters and addressed psychosocial needs.

The Netherlands Red Cross supported the Haiti Red Cross in the COVID-19 response operation. Support included awareness and training activities in the South and Southeast of the country, in collaboration with the Spanish Red Cross. Community outreach activities, such as training volunteers on communication in communities to prevent infection, reached 222,000 people. The Netherlands Red Cross also supported the installation of handwashing stations for the benefit of more than 30,000 people. With regard to the Haiti earthquake operation, it supports the National Society with a response and recovery project in the South Department, in collaboration with the American Red Cross. The project provides more than 66,000 people with access to clean water, through the distribution of hygiene kits and the rehabilitation of drinking water supply systems.

The Spanish Red Cross supported the Haiti Red Cross with the launch of its COVID-19 response plan in the South-East Department. The Haiti Red Cross trained volunteers throughout the region, with the aim of raising awareness among the population in 10 municipalities and the least accessible communities. In total,

nearly half a million people received some type of information message. The Spanish Red Cross is supporting the Haiti Red Cross in the rehabilitation of water systems in Grand'Anse and Les Nippes, in the framework of the Earthquake Emergency Appeal, and this is linked to a longer-term strategy encompassing the improvement of household water treatment.

The Swiss Red Cross supports the Haiti Red Cross with the implementation of a three-project programme ongoing until 2023, that aims to improve access to water and sanitation and promote awareness of good hygiene practices, improve risk and disaster management, and strengthen response capacities. After the 2021 earthquake, the Swiss Red Cross, with the Haiti Red Cross, distributed hygiene promotion kits procured by the IFRC, and assessed the rehabilitation of five drinking water pipelines in Les Nippes. In a joint effort to support livelihoods and basic needs, the Swiss Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross coordinated with the IFRC cash and voucher assistance sector to provide cash to vulnerable populations.

The Red Cross Society of China does not have a delegation in Haiti. However, as part of the global IFRC response to stop the spread of COVID-19, it donated medical equipment to the Haiti Red Cross, including two artificial respirators handed over to two hospitals in Port-au-Prince. These devices enabled specialized medical staff to provide respiratory assistance to patients during surgery and in the case of acute respiratory failure. The Red Cross Society of China has also supported the National Society with the donation of personal protective equipment, and by reinforcing its ambulance service.

The Dominican Red Cross maintains regular communication with the Haiti Red Cross at an operational level, and they develop joint emergency response scenarios. With the support of the Haiti Red Cross, the Dominican Red Cross has been working with the Haitian Embassy in the Dominican Republic to translate COVID-19

messages from the Ministry of Public Health and Population into Creole, for the benefit of the Haitian population living there.

The Italian Red Cross does not have a delegation in Haiti. However, the delegation based in the Dominican Republic continues to provide technical support.

Movement coordination

The Haiti Red Cross leads the strategic and operational coordination of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the country with brings together the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies. The Movement Coordination and Communication Mechanism supports the activities of the Haiti Red Cross. Information about operations and contextual analysis is shared through communications and coordination channels, and meetings are held periodically. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC has been present in Haiti since 1994, with the mission of assisting and protecting those affected by armed conflict and internal violence. In Haiti, it focuses

on supporting Haiti Red Cross, protecting people deprived of their freedom, and promoting fundamental humanitarian principles. The ICRC, through its regional delegation in Panama and Haiti, supports the National Society in the areas of restoring family links, migration and capacity building. It also works with prison authorities and the International Humanitarian Law Commission. During the earthquake emergency of 2021, the ICRC supported the National Society in improving access to, and acceptance of, security around its operations, through the Safer Access Framework. It also ensured that the National Society could provide first aid and pre-hospital care to people affected by violence, while enhancing the visibility of its actions. The ICRC also supports the restoring family links and management of the dead activities, that were included in the IFRC Emergency Appeal.

Coordination with other actors

To ensure a coordinated response to crises and disasters, the Haiti Red Cross works closely with local, provincial and national authorities, and other humanitarian organizations. It is a member of all committees of the National Disaster and Risk Management System, and a permanent member of the National Emergency Operations Centre. The government authorities and partner organizations that are actively involved in the earthquake response include the Office of Prime Minister, the Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate, all government departments including the Ministries of Public Health and Population, Public Works, and Transport and Communications, and local government authorities at the departmental and commune levels.

In emergency situations involving support from international humanitarian actors, the IFRC and the National Society participate in the coordination and clusters. For the recent earthquake operation, the IFRC response team participated in local and national-level taskforces to address health, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and non-food items, protection, including prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and child protection, and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. IFRC also participated in the IT / telecommunications and cash working groups. To collectively share information on security risks and how to mitigate them, the IFRC participated in a security coordination group with other international organizations in Haiti.

During the COVID-19 response operation, the Haiti Red Cross participated in regular meetings of the virtual national emergency operations centre, which supports the Ministry of Public Health and Population, to discuss the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. The centre includes representatives from several government ministries, along with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO). The National Society supported it by making recommendations to the Government on an appropriate response

to COVID-19. It also held regular technical coordination meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, WHO, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the Permanent Secretariat for Disaster Risk Management. This ensured a coordinated national response to the pandemic.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

Contact Information

Elias Ghanem

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for Latin Caribbean

T +1 829 370 8499

elias.ghanem@ifrc.org

Mei lin Leon

Head of Strategic Engagement
& Partnerships
IFRC Regional Office for Americas,
Panama

T +507 6676 1582

meilin.leon@ifrc.org

Haiti Red Cross Society

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