



CRS Haiti | Grand Sud Earthquake

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY STRATEGY | AUGUST 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022






Cover: Earthquake-affected families receive vital supplies at a distribution in Kay Raymond, Petit-Trou-de-Nippes, Haiti.


Photo by Georges Harry Rouzier for CRS

At a glance

 **7.2 magnitude earthquake and tropical depression**

 **2,200 people dead and 10,000+ injured**

 **26,245 people displaced**

 **53,815 homes destroyed**

 **83,770 homes severely damaged**

EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

Earthquake and Tropic Depression Grace

On the morning of August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti's southern peninsula or Grand Sud, with the epicenter located about 80 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Two days later, a tropical depression passed over the same area, exposing earthquake-affected families to additional hazards and complicating the search-and-rescue efforts.

More than 2,200 people lost their lives and over 10,000 were injured. The compounded crises destroyed more than 53,815 homes, and severely damaged a further 83,770. Tens of thousands of people were displaced throughout the area.¹ In early September 2021, the Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate, or DGPC, and the International Organization for Migration identified 26,245 displaced people across 65 sites in the three most-affected departments. Of these, more than 70% were seeking refuge in 40 sites in the Sud Department.

Businesses and public infrastructure—such as hospitals, schools and bridges—suffered significant structural damage or collapse. The Government of Haiti declared a state of emergency in August. It is estimated that 650,000 people in Grand Sud are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

1. While the earthquake was stronger than the one in 2010 that toppled buildings across Port-au-Prince and beyond, and claimed more than 220,000 lives, it struck in a less densely populated area.



Compounding crises

Even before the earthquake, the people of Haiti had been dealing with increasingly limited access to nutritious food and clean water due to ongoing drought, as well as escalating political and economic instability. The security situation has been deteriorating in recent months, with the capital experiencing a significant increase in gang violence that resulted in the displacement of an estimated 19,000 people in early June. This was followed by the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in Port-au-Prince in early July. Recent tensions and shootings in Port-au-Prince, coupled with ongoing gang violence and the impact of the earthquake, have hindered transportation throughout the country. Food prices are rising and the supply chain of goods like gasoline and diesel has stalled. Of grave concern amid the COVID-19 pandemic is the damage to hospitals, and water and sanitation infrastructure. The displacement of thousands of families risks the spread of infection at a time when local health system systems are already struggling.

COUNTRY PROGRAM CONTEXT

CRS’ long history of programming in the Grand Sud departments of Sud, Nippes and Grand’Anse means it is well-positioned to respond. CRS has ongoing projects in all of the affected departments, and strong operational bases in the towns of Les Cayes in Sud, and Jeremie in Grand’Anse.

CRS has been operational in Haiti since 1954, with a diverse portfolio of relief and development programs. CRS was one of the major agencies to respond to the 2010 earthquake, providing more than 10 million meals, distributing emergency shelter kits to 46,963 families, creating employment for 11,000 people, and building 10,500 shelters so families could return to their neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. Many of the experiences and lessons learned from that emergency response—such as market-based approaches, robust participant accountability, “build back better” techniques, and community-led multisectoral approaches—are being applied in the current response.

Today, CRS is a major actor in emergency response and readiness in the south. Our strong emergency response team is experienced at organizing in-kind and cash distributions according to best practices—including COVID-19 prevention protocols—and gained extensive experience and skills in market-based shelter programming after Hurricane Matthew in 2016. CRS has the capacity to quickly mobilize logistics such as warehouses, transport and distribution networks throughout the affected region. Over the last several years, CRS has been a lead agency supporting and collaborating with the DGPC, the government agency responsible for emergency management.

CRS also has a network of faith- and community-based organizations that have participated in recent programming, and strong relationships with the Catholic Church.

CRS Haiti is a leader in recovery and resilience programming, with extensive experience in market-based emergency food security, agricultural and urban livelihoods, youth programming, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (including infrastructure repair).

The Sud, Nippes and Grand’Anse departments

GEOGRAPHIC TARGETING

experienced the most damage due to their proximity to the epicenter of the earthquake. CRS plans to work in the following communes within each department. This may be further updated as CRS coordinates with the government and other humanitarian organizations to ensure support reaches all communities in need.

Department	Planned communes of intervention
Sud	Les Cayes, Cavaillon, Maniche, Camp-Perrin
Nippes	Arnaud, Baraderes, Petit-Trou-de-Nippes, Plaisance
Grand’Anse	Corail, Pestel



Project participants observe COVID-19 physical distancing protocols as they register for cash assistance.

Photo by Franklin Gentillon/CRS



Collecting water from a treated water system installed by partner Water Mission International in Boumier, Les Cayes.

Photo by Franklin Gentillon/CRS

STRATEGIC RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

To address the widespread impact of the earthquake, CRS is preparing for a multi-phase response:

- The **initial rapid response** will allow affected families to meet their immediate basic needs with dignity. This will focus on the provision of:
 - Basic food and household supplies
 - Emergency shelter
 - Emergency WASH solutions
- The subsequent **recovery phase** will support the transition to more robust sectoral recovery programming for the most vulnerable affected families, with a focus on:
 - Appropriate transitional and/or permanent shelter
 - Water system restoration
 - Livelihoods restoration
- In **all stages** of the response, care for people's emotional well-being will be incorporated, especially for families dealing with distress, grief and trauma.
- CRS will prioritize a **market-based approach** throughout this comprehensive response—ensuring that we support the recovery of markets and the local economy by using local materials; repairing or restoring local infrastructure; and engaging local suppliers, distributors, vendors and others in the programs as much as possible. This includes cash or voucher assistance, where feasible, for program participants to directly buy emergency relief, shelter, hygiene and other supplies. This approach will help support local business, inject cash back into the economy, and promote people's dignity of choice.

CRS' Earthquake Emergency Response Strategy in Haiti 2021-2022

Goal: Earthquake-affected households and communities meet their immediate basic needs and recover with dignity.

	Objectives	Intermediate Results
Initial rapid response	Objective 1: Earthquake-affected households meet their immediate basic needs with dignity.	IR 1.1 Participant households have access to lifesaving food assistance. IR.1.2 Participant households have access to safe and dignified emergency shelter, and essential household and hygiene items. IR 1.3 Participant households access sufficient quantities of clean water.
	Objective 2: Earthquake-affected households live in transitional or permanent shelter.	IR 2.1 Participant households use critical shelter materials to repair and rebuild their homes or transitional shelters in line with Sphere standards. IR 2.2 Participant households have adequate advice and technical support to rebuild safely.
Recovery	Objective 3: Earthquake-affected households meet their WASH needs.	IR 3.1 CRS and partners support earthquake-affected communities to rehabilitate critical water systems. IR 3.2 Household and community sanitation structures are rehabilitated through a flexible approach involving trained local semi-skilled technicians, direct support to families and CRS technical assistance. IR 3.3 Participant households exhibit good hygiene behaviors.
	Objective 4: Earthquake-affected families restore their livelihoods and communities.	IR 4.1 Participants receive support to relaunch livelihood activities. IR 4.2 Participant communities execute community-led projects to remove debris and rehabilitate community infrastructure.
Cross-cutting throughout response and recovery	Objective 5: Earthquake-affected populations and communities benefit from improved well-being.	IR 5.1 Participant households access support to prevent separation and promote family-based child protection. IR 5.2 Frontline workers, CRS and partner staff, and participant households/communities have increased knowledge of psychosocial first aid and improved access to psychosocial services. IR 5.3 School-aged children and adolescents are able to access safe and dignified schools and learning environments.

CRS' emergency response and recovery strategy reflects the findings of a rapid assessment conducted in these departments by CRS, in collaboration with the government and other humanitarian organizations.

PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES

Meeting immediate basic emergency needs

CRS will organize emergency distributions to help families meet their immediate basic needs. These will be coordinated closely with government authorities and reported through the humanitarian coordination system. This will help prevent duplication, and maximize coverage among organizations throughout the areas impacted by the earthquake.

Food assistance

Earthquake-affected families will receive support to access food for up to two months, based on their vulnerability and need, and based on Haiti's average household size of five people. It may be given in-kind or as cash to buy food in local markets. Markets in Haiti have demonstrated their capacity to rebound quickly after disasters, and cash will be the preferred support method whenever possible. Cash assistance allows people to buy exactly what they need in their local market, offers families the dignity of choice, and benefits local economies.

Emergency shelter, household items and hygiene

CRS will distribute **emergency shelter kits** to earthquake-affected families to ensure their protection from the elements, particularly tropical storms, heavy rain and wind. The kits will include tarps, wire, nails, rope and tools such as hammers. To help families make the best use of these kits, CRS will provide informational materials in Haitian Creole, with clear instructions on how to use the contents; demonstrations of installation techniques at key sites in the community; training and support to local carpenters and masons to assist families in setting up their emergency shelters; and accompaniment and assistance to households to adequately use the kits.



A water treatment system installed by partner Water Mission International in Boumier, Les Cayes. Photo by Franklin Gentillon/CRS

Our strong emergency response team is experienced at organizing in-kind and cash distributions according to best practices—including COVID-19 prevention protocols.

CRS will support earthquake-affected families to **replace essential household items** that were lost or destroyed. These may include cooking supplies, bedding and clothing. As in its approach to food assistance, CRS will provide cash to families to enable them to meet their needs, wherever markets allow; otherwise, CRS will provide basic kits of household items.

CRS will distribute **hygiene kits** to earthquake-affected families to help prevent the spread of disease. The contents will reflect the needs identified in the assessments, but will likely include items to support the safe storage and treatment of water in the home, such as covered buckets and water-purification tablets; and personal hygiene items, such as soap, masks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, small towels, sanitary napkins and diapers). Complementing these activities will be community-based **hygiene messaging** about the prevention of waterborne diseases and COVID-19; safe water storage and use; handwashing with soap; safe food handling; and safe excreta disposal.

Treated water

Given reports on damage to water system infrastructure, people's access to treated water is critical to protect their health and dignity, and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. In the initial phase, interventions may include trucked water or the installation of community water points. If such approaches are not feasible due to access or infrastructure, CRS will undertake point-of-use water treatment solutions.

PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES

Supporting family and community recovery

CRS will help families and communities repair their damaged or destroyed homes, restart their livelihoods and rehabilitate essential community infrastructure.

Shelter repair and transitional shelters

Beyond the initial emergency phase, CRS will support families to access dignified and safe transitional or permanent shelter. CRS will mobilize and train a team of local semi-skilled technicians to provide technical support for repair and rebuilding efforts. They will conduct house-to-house assessments to identify families whose houses were partially damaged or completely destroyed.

After categorizing homes, CRS will organize the provision of shelter materials—such as timber, nails, tools and roofing sheets—according to the amount of damage each household sustained. As a condition of receiving the materials, families will attend a training in their community on techniques for repairing and rebuilding. The “build back better” training will incorporate DRR measures and guidance on (re)constructing latrines and practicing hygiene to prevent the spread of cholera, and support healthy families. CRS will encourage training participants to consider the needs of different family members—notably women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those with specific needs—to ensure everyone has the protection and privacy they need.

Based on traditional building practices, CRS anticipates that many families with partially damaged homes will be able to do their own repairs after receiving key materials and training.



CRS will support families whose homes have been severely damaged or destroyed to access dignified and safe transitional or permanent shelter. Photo by Georges Harry Rouzier for CRS

Families whose homes were destroyed will need additional labor to help them rebuild. CRS will provide them with the means to cover some of their labor costs, through cash grants, vouchers or direct labor. This will be conditional on the head of household and laborers attending “build back better” training. Also, the CRS-hired technicians will conduct an inspection of the home to ensure these building techniques were applied.

CRS’ team of field-based technicians will guide and coach families throughout their repairing and rebuilding efforts to ensure they have the technical support to “build back better.” This technical assistance will be focused on families who receive shelter materials, but may extend to other community members where feasible. To further disseminate stronger, guided reconstruction, CRS will also develop and distribute an instructional brochure for all community members in the target areas.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

During the recovery phase, CRS will support the restoration of damaged community water and sanitation infrastructure, and work with communities to set up committees to manage its long-term maintenance. To complement this, CRS will provide hygiene messaging in the communities surrounding each system.

CRS will upgrade sanitation at key health centers, with the provision of hand-washing facilities, soap and hygiene supplies to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Restoring livelihoods and communities

CRS will support rural and urban communities to recover their livelihoods, with an emphasis on market-based approaches, whenever possible. Through ongoing projects aimed to enhance youth livelihoods in Haiti—such as the Jèn Angaje! project—and globally, CRS is well positioned to help vulnerable populations meet their immediate needs, as well as to recover and access sustainable livelihoods.

CRS will continue to build the capacities of youth and link them to successful, local business people, while providing them with critical soft skills and leadership opportunities to foster entrepreneurial and career success.

CRS will help farmers restore productive livelihoods by providing access to seed and agricultural materials for the upcoming November and January planting seasons. Support will be based on the cost of planting quarter-hectares with bean seed—traditionally grown during this period—although farmers may buy any available local seed.

PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES

CRS will help rehabilitate assets, such as agricultural or other community infrastructure, in a way that maximizes positive effects for the community. This will be based on the priorities identified by individual communities, and tailored to their needs. Examples of such projects are the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and farm-to-market roads affected by the earthquake.

Family and community well-being

Throughout the earthquake response and recovery, CRS will support the well-being of families and communities. This will include assistance that helps to prevent family separation that can stem from a drastic loss in income and financial assets and stability. CRS will promote family-based child protection and access to psychosocial support.

Preventing family separation and promoting family-based child protection

CRS will undertake interventions to prevent family separation due to the impact of the earthquake that could lead to an increase in children living in orphanages. CRS is already supporting childcare reform through an existing program, and has the requisite stakeholder relationships and experience in supporting families to stay together through a crisis. This is of great importance as, without their parents' watchful care, children in orphanages may face an increased risk of sexual abuse, violence and even trafficking and abduction.

An important part of this work is to identify the families at risk of separation, and find alternatives to placing children in orphanages, and integrating family support services into the assistance CRS is providing for these families.

Psychosocial support

For complex traumas in disaster responses, multiple layers of psychosocial support and psychological first aid are needed to help both responders and those directly affected by the disaster reestablish a feeling of safety, connection to others, and a sense of calm and hope.

CRS will provide those emotionally affected by the events and aftermath of the earthquake with social, physical and emotional support, and help them to regain a sense of control by being able to help themselves. These psychosocial services are important to building resilience and helping people thrive in the long term.

CRS intends to provide psychosocial support and [psychological first aid](#) to:

- First responders and emergency response aid workers, to encourage self- and team-care to guard against compassion fatigue and burnout.
- Those affected by the earthquake, to help them to regain a sense of calm and connect them to further information, services and social support.

CRS will work with existing clinics and provide mental health services, where possible, to be accessed on a referral basis. To ensure local clinics are able to meet an increased demand for services, CRS will consider paying stipends to registered psychotherapists to provide surge support, and provide clinic operational support to facilitate intake and management.



Market-based approaches support local markets and give program participants the dignity of choice as they select the vital items they need most. Photo by Georges Harry Rouzier for CRS

MARKET-BASED APPROACHES

CRS will incorporate market-based approaches where possible, to enable us to amplify the impact of assistance by supporting local markets and giving program participants more choice to meet their unique needs.

PARTICIPANTS AND FUNDING

CRS will work closely with the DGPC network to establish clear participant-selection criteria for each intervention, and to register households in a transparent and accountable manner. Using an estimated average

household size of five, based on data from a recent census and statistical survey, CRS seeks to serve 200,000 people with this emergency response through the following assistance:

	Total / Amount	Objective 1: Rapid response	Objective 2: Shelter	Objective 3: WASH	Objective 4: Livelihoods and communities	Objective 5: Cross-cutting well-being
Targeted participant households	40,000	20,500	5,600	13,000	20,000	5,200
Funding required	\$24,250,000	\$5,000,000	\$8,750,000	\$3,500,000	\$4,250,000	\$2,750,000
Confirmed funding						
CRS	\$8,700,000	X	X	X	X	X
Latter-day Saints Charities	\$300,000	X		X		
USAID/BHA	\$5,000,000	X	X	X		X
USAID/BHA	\$4,000,000		X	X	X	
USAID/BHA	-\$320,000	X				
Vista Hermosa Foundation	\$300,000*				X	X
Islamic Relief	\$250,000	X	X			

*The Vista Hermosa Foundation grant is a recently funded three-year \$900,000 project. In Y1 there will be a focus on preventing family separation in vulnerable, earthquake-affected households.

PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

CRS works to ensure that the most vulnerable groups are reached and have access to support. CRS will hire community liaisons to help organize distributions and training sessions at the local level in a way that is secure, well-organized and follows protection principles. A key role of this community liaison is assessing and building community acceptance of CRS' programming to ensure the safety of staff, program participants and materials. For particularly vulnerable families—such as female-headed households, or those with members who are elderly or living with a disability—that are unable to participate in distributions or trainings, or unable to repair their own homes, CRS field staff will work with local community leaders to bring assistance to these families using delegates or local volunteers. All staff, contractors, volunteers and partners engaged in this project will receive training on preventing exploitation and abuse, and will agree to the terms of the CRS employee Code of Conduct.

PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

The Government of Haiti is taking a strong coordinating role in this emergency response. All responding organizations are expected to work through the DGPC and its decentralized communal branches. Because of this mandate and CRS' previous investments in the capacity of the DGPC and its communal branches, it will be CRS' primary partner for responding to this emergency in cases where CRS is directly operational. CRS will also work in partnership with the local Catholic Church. CRS will convene an internal committee to review and support special requests from Church partners, including parishes, congregations, Catholic schools and health facilities, and the Caritas network. These initiatives will help get life-saving support to key communities underserved by others.