

Haiti Earthquake

ETC Situation Report #2

Reporting period 20/08/2021 to 26/08/2021

Following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck southwest Haiti on the morning of 14 August 2021, the Global ETC has been coordinating with its partners globally and on the ground to assess and respond to ICT needs for the response.

Highlights

- Haitian Civil Protection has established a National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN) in Port-au-Prince and is coordinating response operations from the Departmental Emergency Operations Centre (COUD) in Les Cayes.
- Global partners are supporting the government operations centres and the corresponding on-site Security Operations Coordination Centres (OSOCC) established by UNDAC with Internet connectivity.
- WFP is working to establish a radio network for UN and NGO security communications in southern Haiti.



Situation Update

- Following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck southern Haiti on 14 August, the Haitian civil protection agency (DGCP) estimates that more than 2,200 people have died and 12,200 have been injured. It is also reported that 53,000 homes have been destroyed and a further 77,000 suffered damage in the earthquake.
- The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) launched a flash appeal on 25 August for USD 187.3 million to fund the response. It is estimated that 650,000 people, comprising 40% of the population of Haiti, are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.
- The government has successfully cleared the main roads between Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes, however security remains a concern, with some incidents reported of armed groups looting aid trucks. The logistics sector is organising daily truck convoys from the capital to the affected areas, in addition to a barge service from Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes.

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) continues to provide helicopter transport for humanitarians. Requests from registered humanitarian organizations can be sent to haiti.unhas@wfp.org. Commercial airlines also continue to operate. Requests for the transport of humanitarian cargo by US Military helicopters can be submitted through haiti.logisticsservice@wfp.org.
- Despite some reported damage to infrastructure, local Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are still able to provide voice and data communications in most areas. However, due to poor connection quality and network congestion, VSAT may be required as a backup for humanitarian and government relief operations. Some communities in remote locations may also be in need of connectivity services.
- Haitian Civil Protection has established a National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN) in Port-au-Prince and is organising response operations from the Departmental Emergency Operations Centre (COUD) in Les Cayes. UNDAC has established an On-site Security Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) at the COUN in Port-au-Prince and a sub-OSOCC at the COUD in Les Cayes.
- There is no UN radio network for security communications in the south of Haiti.

Response Activities

- Runar Holen, from WFP FITTEST (Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team) arrived in Haiti on 24 August to continue the interagency coordination activities initiated by Patrick Midy, WFP Haiti Head of TEC. He will be continuing to hold ICT Working Group meetings with all partners on the ground. All partners that are deploying staff on the ground are encouraged to provide their contact information and to participate in the working group.
- The WFP team arrived in Les Cayes on 23 August to conduct an assessment mission and establish a radio network for security communications in support of UNDSS. The team has secured a repeater on loan from emergency.lu that it will install in Les Cayes in the coming days. WFP is awaiting confirmation from UNDSS on the frequencies that can be used for UN agencies and NGOs.
- As of 26 August, Ericsson Response extended the existing connectivity established by Digicell to provide Wi-Fi to the COUN and the OSOCC at the logistics base in Port-au-Prince.
- Emergency.lu is deploying a team to les Cayes with two GATR VSATs on 26 August to support where required. Ericsson Response staff is also joining the mission to Les Cayes.
- Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) has staff deployed in Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes, and Jeremie. TSF has signed an agreement with a local ISP to provide high speed Internet to the COUD in Les Cayes. TSF is also providing connectivity at the sub-OSOCC through Global Xpress Terminal.
- TSF is also installing a VSAT from Eutelsat at a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) France hospital in Les Cayes. Other organisations working on site may need to consider VSATs support for redundancy.
- TSF and Help.NGO are working together to assess connectivity needs for communities around Les Cayes. Three small communities without connectivity have been identified and itinerant operations are being planned.

- ITDRC has deployed a team to les Nippes that is supporting teams going on mission to rural areas from Camp Perrin and Les Cayes with portable connectivity and telecommunications equipment, including BGANS and satellite phones.
- The Finnish Red Cross is conducting a mission to Port Salut to assess the conditions for supporting the IFRC basecamp with data connectivity and security communications.
- In response to a request received from the Haitian Telecommunications Sector Regulator, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has shipped 20 satellite phones and a BGAN to Haiti to support the civil protection agency's (DGCP) coordination of response operations.
- The Disaster Connectivity Map for Haiti, available [here](#), is being updated regularly to show the current state of the telecommunications network in the country. The map is an initiative of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the ETC with support from the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA).

Meetings

- The next Global ETC teleconference on the Haiti Earthquake will take place on **30 August 2021**.

Information

- Humanitarian ICT responders supporting the Haiti operation across the region are encouraged to share their contact details with Haiti.ETS@wfp.org to facilitate coordination efforts.
- A dedicated information-sharing space on Haiti can be found on the [ETC Haiti Operation page](#).

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