



Haiti

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) still in camps in July 2015: over 60 000

New cholera cases (January-23rd May 2015): **over 16 000**. Increase since 2014: **+306%**.

European Commission's total humanitarian aid to Haiti since 1995: **€332 million**.

European Commission's total assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction in Haiti since 1998: **€32.5 million**.

ECHO's immediate emergency assistance in 2010 after the earthquake: **€100 million**.

ECHO is the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department.

Through ECHO funding, over 120 million people are helped each year in more than 80 countries outside the EU through approximately 200 partners.

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Velina, 74, one of the 60 000 people who lived in camps for several years after the earthquake. PHOTO: EU/ECHO/E.H.

Key messages

- In **January 2010 a catastrophic, magnitude 7.0 earthquake** devastated Haiti, claiming 222 750 lives and destroying tens of thousands of homes and buildings. The European Commission immediately gave humanitarian assistance, and has since then allocated **€122 million** to provide aid to **5 million Haitian victims of the disaster**.
- Commission's humanitarian funding also focused on an additional **3 million people** affected by a **cholera** outbreak which has already claimed 8 900 lives since 2010, and remains one of the world's worst epidemics with over 16 000 new cases between January and May 2015 (according to local authorities).
- Five years after the earthquake, over **60 000 people still live in 45 makeshift camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, where the provision of water and sanitation and hygiene services remains insufficient. The Commission's funding is supporting the most vulnerable, complementing the work of Haitian institutions.
- The Commission also supports **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and preparedness projects**, to ensure Haitians are more resilient in the face of **recurring natural hazards** such as hurricanes, floods, landslides and droughts (like the one currently affecting the **northern part of the country**, where close to 600 000 people are facing **food insecurity**).
- Since 1995, the Commission has provided **€332 million in humanitarian assistance** and **€32.5 million for DRR actions to Haiti, helping to build the resilience of the most vulnerable populations**. European aid has been subject to audits and controls, ensuring its **accountability** to beneficiaries in line with our humanitarian principles of **humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality**.

Humanitarian situations and needs

Background

Haiti is located on the western side of the island of Hispaniola (which it shares with the Dominican Republic) and is situated in the Caribbean Sea's "hurricane belt". Haiti is highly exposed to **natural hazards** such as **hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts and earthquakes**. Climate change, deforestation, a challenging topography and widespread poverty leave Haitians particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

Haiti has long been the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with **58.5% of the population living under the poverty line** (World Bank figures for 2012), and about every other Haitian lacking access to basic healthcare services. Populations have **little coping capacities**, and even minor natural hazards can have a huge impact on the population.

That was before the **catastrophic 2010 earthquake**. On Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 5 PM, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake - the strongest in two centuries, devastated Haiti, **claiming 222 750 lives** and **displacing 1.5 million Haitians**. Those who survived lacked food, water, sanitation, basic emergency health care or even the most basic forms of safe shelters.

A few months later, in October 2010, a **cholera outbreak** spread across the country causing the largest epidemic ever registered in the world. As of May 2015, cholera has claimed 8 792 lives and remains one of the world's worst outbreaks with 740 991 suspected cases from its onset. More than **16 000 new cases** have been registered between January and May 2015, three times the number recorded for the same period in 2014.

Major needs and related problems

Significant progress has been made since the 2010 earthquake, but acute **humanitarian needs** still persist. **Basic services, protection and adequate housing solutions** remain largely insufficient for those displaced. Five years on, more than 60 000 Haitians remain sheltered in 45 camps for IDPs, where access to water and basic services remains very limited (IOM, DTM figures as of July 2015). Haitian IDPs are the most vulnerable population group, facing worsening living conditions in the camps.

The **cholera epidemic** that struck in 2010 is still far from over. Despite notable progress, the necessary **healthcare, water and sanitation measures are still inadequate**. The recent upsurge in the number of new cases could worsen with the upcoming onset of the hurricane season (from June to November), during which heavy rains could spread the disease to unaffected areas. The lack of access to safe drinking water and the prevailing weaknesses of sanitary infrastructures remain serious concerns.

Considering Haiti's exposure to natural disasters, building the **resilience of the most vulnerable population**

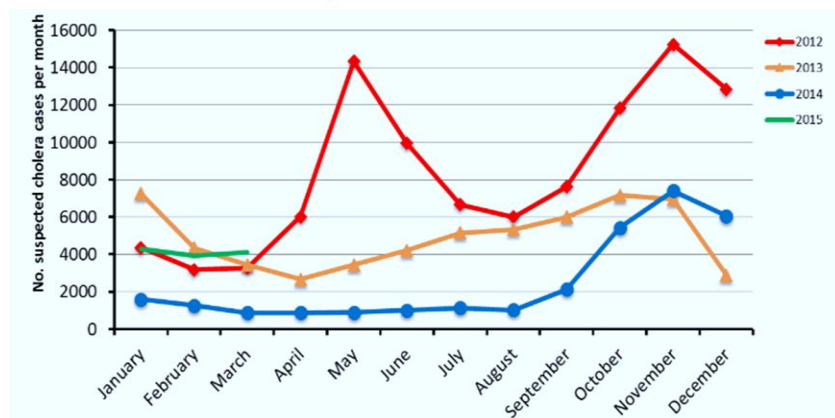


Basic services in camps remain vastly insufficient.
PHOTO: ©EC/ECHO/I.Coello 2012

is an overall theme of humanitarian intervention in the country. Despite Haitian authorities' commitment to DRR initiatives, **more investment is required for adequate preparedness**. Embedding Disaster Risk Reduction in Haiti's reconstruction and development process, as well as empowering local communities to prepare for, and respond to natural hazards remains a priority.

Additionally, many Haitians face serious **food insecurity**. **600 000 people** are **considered at risk**, particularly in the country's North-eastern and North-western regions, currently affected by **droughts**.

Comparison of monthly suspected cholera cases between January 2012 and 28 March 2015



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The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

Haiti is the **largest beneficiary of the European Commission's humanitarian aid in Latin America and the Caribbean**, with **€332 million** in assistance **since 1995**. Between 1995 and 2009, humanitarian aid focused on covering needs arising from natural hazards and from violence with severe humanitarian consequences, in the context of a profound socio-economic crisis.

Since 2010, the European Commission's response has totalled **€251.25 million**, assisting victims of the devastating **earthquake** and the **cholera** epidemic, as well as strengthening local capacities to prepare for and respond to natural events.

Funds have also been used to respond to sudden **emergencies**. In **2012**, the EU allocated a total of **€9 million** to address extensive damages caused by tropical storm *Isaac* and by hurricane *Sandy*. Shelter, safe water and livelihood support was funded for more than **1.5 million people**.

Overall, emphasis has been put on helping to build the **resilience** of the most vulnerable, in particular in the face of recurring natural disasters. Since 1998, more than **€32.5 million** have been earmarked to strengthen the preparedness of the communities to face natural hazards. The ongoing implementation of natural disaster management plans and the deployment of early warning systems will further consolidate Haiti's capacity to resist, adapt and mitigate the impacts of **natural hazards**.

Response to the 2010 earthquake

The catastrophic, magnitude 7.0 **earthquake** that struck the country in January 2010 triggered a massive humanitarian response. In the emergency phase, EU funds helped to provide shelter, safe drinking water, healthcare, food, protection and essential items to about **5 million people**. Mobile clinics were set up while destroyed health facilities were rehabilitated. From 2010 to 2014, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department's (ECHO) response helped a total of **1.3 million people in the camps**, where access to basic services and primary health care infrastructure was made available.

Current interventions focus on **relocating people** still living in the camps, where living conditions lack decent public health or protection against rampant sexual violence, by providing shelters, rental subsidy programmes and additional support to income-generating occupations.



An elderly man benefited from the rental support programme to leave the camp. PHOTO: EU/ECHO/E. H.

Response to the cholera outbreak

ECHO mobilised **€43.5 million** to address **the cholera outbreak**, targeting close to **3 million people** by setting up cholera treatment facilities, strengthening the national health system and reinforcing epidemiological surveillance. Prevention through the improvement of access to water and sanitation services, or educational campaigns on hygiene has been key in limiting the number of new infections.

In **2015**, **ECHO** aims at reducing the number of cholera cases, and the related mortality rate below 1%. Decontamination, distribution of hygiene products, access to drinking water, awareness and support to local authorities will help **control the spread of the disease**.

Disaster preparedness

ECHO's contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction focuses on **preparing communities and institutions to face and respond to natural hazards**.

Since **1998** the Commission has invested **€32.5 million** to make Haiti more resilient to disasters, through ECHO's Disaster Preparedness Programme (**DIPECHO**) and risk reduction activities. The funding helped set up early warning systems and strengthen shelters and infrastructure to face recurring hurricanes, floods and other disasters. Of 1.5 million Haitians initially displaced by the earthquake, 90% are now relocated. But **those still living in the camps are the most vulnerable**. The 2015-16 DIPECHO programme will dedicate €3 million for disaster preparedness actions in the country.



An ECHO expert visiting a coastal area where the population live under threat of tsunamis. PHOTO: EC/ECHO/G. Sosa 2014



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