



## HAITI

## ECHO FACTSHEET

### Facts & Figures

**Internally displaced persons in 2010, immediately after the earthquake struck: 1.5 million**

**Internally displaced persons as of January 2014: 146 000 (IOM)**

Since 2010, **1.3 million people have benefitted from ECHO shelter initiatives**

### EU assistance:

Over **€294 million** in humanitarian aid since 1995

**€213 million** in humanitarian assistance in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake

**€25.9 million** for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects from 1998 to 2013

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Manise, who lost an arm in the earthquake, received aid to start a small shop to get by. EU/ECHO/I.C.

### Key messages

- The EU, through the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), has supported Haiti since 1995. Aid focuses on addressing basic needs caused by natural hazards or by violence with severe humanitarian consequences. ECHO remains committed to helping Haiti and maintains a **strong presence** in the country.
- EU funds are allocated based on clearly identified humanitarian needs. In order to ensure maximum efficiency and efficacy of the funds, the ECHO Office conducts regular field monitoring of interventions. Humanitarian aid is not meant to offer durable solutions but focuses on short term relief, to save lives and alleviate suffering. ECHO interventions are built on the principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality, set out in the EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.
- In 2010, the EU allocated **€122 million to help the victims of the devastating earthquake and the ensuing cholera epidemic.**
- ECHO has sustained its strong support with over €91 million since 2011 covering notably:
  - **basic services and protection** to those still living in camps;
  - **cholera treatment and prevention**;
  - **increased resilience** towards natural hazards;
  - **assistance** following extensive damage after Tropical Storm *Isaac* and Hurricane *Sandy* in 2012.
- Disaster Risk Reduction is an integrated part of the EU's assistance.

# Humanitarian situation and needs

## Background

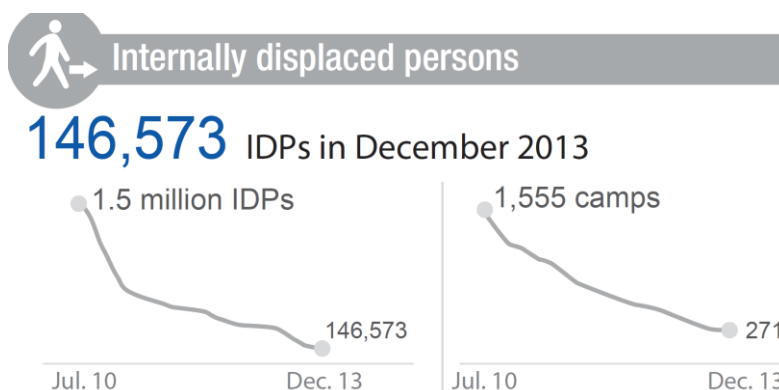
Haiti is the poorest country of the Americas, with 77% of residents living on less than US\$2 per day. It is highly prone to tropical cyclones, floods, landslides, drought and earthquakes. Climate change, massive deforestation, extreme poverty and food insecurity make Haiti populations especially vulnerable to hydro meteorological events. Even small and medium size natural hazards can have a huge impact on rural and urban communities.

On 12 January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, causing 222 750 deaths and the displacement of 1.5 million people. In October 2010, a cholera outbreak spread across the country causing one of the largest epidemics in the world. As of December 31 2013, the Ministry of Health has registered 696 794 cases and 8 531 deaths countrywide.

## Major needs and related problems

**Adequate housing solutions remain a major need** but also access to basic services, especially water, sanitation and health services.

Although the number of IDPs in camps has decreased significantly, as of December 2013, around **146 000 individuals** (or 39 000 households) **continue to live in 271 camps**, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



The **IDPs are considered amongst the most vulnerable** categories of the population. As humanitarian actors exit camps, IDPs face **increasingly worse living conditions**. A survey conducted by the Direction of Water (DINEPA) in 65 camps concluded that 92% of the remaining camps were facing recurrent flooding and drainage issues, while 88% remained without access to waste management services, and 34% were offered only one latrine per 100 to 500 inhabitants. Adding to this precarious situation, landowners are increasingly attempting to gain back access to their property, regularly threatening IDPs with **evictions**. Over 16 000 IDP households in 52 camps are considered at high risk of forced evictions. Since 2010, it is estimated that 177 camps were closed through evictions and more than 16,000 households forced out often through the use of violence or intimidation and without receiving any form of assistance.

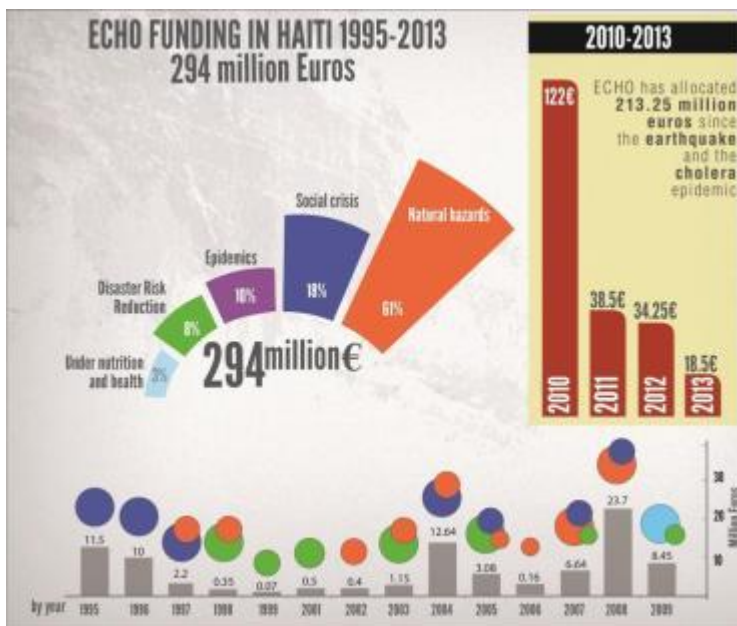


A Cholera Treatment Center funded by ECHO. ©EU 2012/EC/ECHO/I.C.

The number of **cholera** cases and the related mortality rate have gone down, but cholera can flare up again at any moment. An estimated 45 000 people could be affected by cholera during 2014. The usually strong hurricane seasons and the overall weaknesses of sanitary infrastructure remain serious concerns. Therefore, besides curative care for cholera patients, activities aimed at promoting hygiene and improve sanitation in the communities are needed, as well as actions that will strengthen the local authorities to cope with an outbreak.

As to **Disaster Risk Reduction**, Haitian authorities are demonstrating a strong commitment. However, given the country's vulnerability and the frequency of natural hazards, more investment in disaster risk reduction and preparedness is needed. DRR must be firmly embedded in Haiti's reconstruction and development processes.

## The European Union's Humanitarian Response



Haiti is the largest beneficiary of EU humanitarian aid in Latin America and the Caribbean, with **over €294 million in assistance since 1995**. An EU humanitarian office has been operating in Port au Prince since 2009.

Between 1995 and 2009, humanitarian aid totaling €81 million, focused on covering needs arising from disasters and also from episodes of violence with severe humanitarian consequences in the context of a deep socio-economic crisis.

**In 2010, the EU allocated a total of €122 million to the victims of the devastating earthquake and the ensuing cholera epidemic.** €100 million enabled humanitarian organisations to provide shelter, safe drinking water, healthcare, food, protection and essentials such as blankets, kitchen utensils and hygiene products to about 5 million people. Mobile clinics were set up, destroyed health facilities were rehabilitated and orthopedics and prosthetics provided to more than 67 000 tons of food as well as vouchers to earthquake victims. The EU funded distribution of access food as markets reopened. 25 European

rehabilitated and orthopedics and prosthetics provided to more than 67 000 tons of food as well as vouchers to countries provided help through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Moreover, the trucking of more than 2 million liters of potable water was funded, as well as the set-up of latrines and the rehabilitation of water sources. A cash for work program provided affected people with income and assisted in rubble removal. **Disaster risk reduction** was mainstreamed in all EU-funded actions.

When the cholera outbreak was declared, an additional €22 million went to respond to the epidemic, through the establishment of Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC), improved water and sanitation, and the promotion of hygiene activities, benefiting around 3 million people.

In **2011, €38.5 million** were granted to assist 5 million people. The EU's humanitarian strategy was focused on three pillars: earthquake and cholera response (€26 million); under-nutrition and obstetric care (€7 million); and disaster risk reduction (€5.5 million); ECHO's investment in disaster risk reduction and preparedness represented 6.6% of total funding in 2010 and 8% in 2011, placing ECHO as a leading donor in the area of resilience.

In **2012**, ECHO allocated in total **€34.25 million** to Haiti. The assistance focused on addressing displacement, responding to damage caused by natural hazards and to the ongoing cholera outbreak, and reducing the risk of disasters. In 2011-2012, ECHO's Disaster Preparedness program (DIPECHO) carried out activities benefitting 1.3 million people in the country, and helping the Haitian civil protection services and Haitian Red Cross to better prepare for emergencies.

When tropical storm *Isaac* hit the country in August 2012, The European Commission allocated €3 million in humanitarian aid assisting the 20 000 most affected families with temporary shelters, clean water and adequate sanitation. Two months later, in October, hurricane *Sandy* affected 1.5 million people and destroyed crops, infrastructure and homes. ECHO responded with €6 million to restore the food security and assets of the most affected population.

In **2013**, the European Commission allocated a total of **€18.5 million** for humanitarian relief. Of this funding, €15 million were devoted to ensuring those still living in camps have access to basic services and protection, while at the same time supporting the ongoing efforts to relocate the remaining displaced population (around 146 000 people as of January 2014) to decent housing in neighbourhoods where basic services are available. Protection of the most vulnerable is a main focus for ECHO in a context where violence and structural poverty characterize the plight of the populations in the camps and surrounding



communities. Through its partners, ECHO supports projects addressing gender based violence, the critical lack of documentation and the extreme vulnerability of displaced populations to forced evictions.

ECHO funding also helped provide 17 384 rental subsidies, as part of relocation programmes. Beneficiaries can also access small grants to help them start a small business and get back on their feet. These programmes have helped thousands leave the camps for a decent house. From 2010, a total of **1.3 million people have benefitted from ECHO shelter initiatives** and other activities carried out in displaced camps at a cost of €44.4 million.



New houses. ©EU 2012/EC/ECHO/V.R.

### Real aid reaching real people

To increase the resilience of Haiti's population, livelihood support has focused on the most vulnerable and most exposed people. For example, Manise Zephyr, 29, (pictured in the front page) was trapped in rubble for days after the earthquake, and lost an arm. She received treatment and a prosthesis but she needed a new way to make a living, since she could no longer work at a restaurant like she used to. In 2012, with ECHO funds, she was assisted by the Handicap International programme to support livelihoods of people with disabilities. She received a small help to start a small business and that has allowed her to provide for her and her daughter. Manise' story is one of many examples of real aid making a tangible difference for real people.

Another goal of ECHO's 2013 strategy has been to continue working on **cholera prevention and treatment**, as well as on the **outbreak control**, supporting and complementing the national institutions. The provision of obstetric care in underserved key locations was also part of ECHO work in 2013.

Projects also have a Disaster Risk Reduction dimension to reduce the risks in case of future disaster. **€3.5 million** were also allocated to specific **Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Management projects**. ECHO is supporting interventions that aim to increase the resilience of the population towards future extreme natural hazards. As in other ECHO funded operations, it is the most exposed populations who are the target of the actions.

### Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)

The Commission is ensuring close coordination between its short-term emergency and recovery interventions and the long-term development programs to facilitate the transition. One example of the **Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)** program has been the contribution of the Commissions' department on development aid (DEVCO) of €55.8 million to neighbourhood reconstruction programmes through ECHO partners and in neighbourhoods where ECHO has been supporting the relocation of internally displaced persons.

### Looking ahead

**The European Commission remains committed to helping the people of Haiti.** ECHO is one of the last humanitarian donors present (the number of humanitarian actors continues to decrease, from 515 partners registered with OCHA in 2010 to currently 117). ECHO supports the coordination of the remaining humanitarian organisations.

Humanitarian needs persist and ECHO remains on the ground to address them. The 2014 Humanitarian Implementation Plan focuses on continuing IDPs resettlement, providing services and protection in the camps, strengthening livelihoods of the most vulnerable and addressing severe food insecurity, and supporting the cholera outbreak control interventions.

ECHO's commitment to disaster risk reduction (DRR) continues. It is an overarching objective, integrated across all interventions. ECHO is also funding interventions supporting the authorities to develop a national Urban Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to improve Tsunami preparedness.