



Haiti

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Hurricane Matthew
(October 2016):
2.1 million people
affected
546 fatalities.

**Number of acutely
food insecure
individuals:**
5.8 million people - 2.4
million severely affected
(March 2017, source:
CNSA).

**5 282 suspected new
cholera cases** and **69
associated fatalities**
in 2017 (up to 22nd
April)

**46 655 Internally
displaced persons**
(IDPs) still in camps
(source: IOM).
**European
Commission's total
humanitarian aid to
Haiti since 1994:
€378.3 million.**

European Commission's
total assistance for
**Disaster Risk
Reduction in Haiti**
since 1998: **€22.2
million.**

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

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Vouchers distribution information session in the context of the European Commission's Food Assistance Drought Response intervention in South East Department, Haiti. PHOTO: EU/ECHO/Hilaire AVRIL.

Key messages

- **Following the devastating Hurricane Matthew** which struck Haiti on 4 October 2016, the European Commission provided humanitarian assistance to victims for an amount of €19.755 million. Offers of in-kind assistance and expertise were mobilized through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
- **Response to Hurricane Matthew:** the European Commission adopted a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to address immediate **food, nutrition, livelihood recovery, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and protection** needs. Interventions are articulated to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable populations to face recurrent shocks.
- Sectoral **coordination** efforts at national and departmental level are being supported by the Commission in order to ensure a more efficient response, avoiding duplication and reinforcing local institutions capacities.
- The Commission's humanitarian assistance supports the most vulnerable people affected by prolonged droughts linked to "El Niño" phenomena addressing **basic nutrition needs**.
- The Commission supports **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and preparedness projects**, to ensure Haitians are more resilient to **recurring natural hazards**, with a special focus on droughts.
- All interventions are **strategically linked with the EU's long term development programs** implemented in the country, adopting the "Linking Relief, Recovery and Development (LRRD)" approach.
- Since 1994, the Commission has provided **€378.3 million in humanitarian assistance to Haiti, including €22.2 million for DRR actions**.



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Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Haiti, located on the western side of the island of Hispaniola (which it shares with the Dominican Republic), 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.

The **catastrophic, magnitude 7.0 earthquake** which struck Haiti on 12 January 2010 - the strongest in two centuries - **claimed 222 750 lives** and **displaced 1.5 million Haitians**. Survivors lacked food, water, sanitation, basic emergency health care and even the most basic forms of safe shelters.

In October 2010, a **cholera outbreak** spread across the country causing the largest epidemic ever recorded in the world. As of April 2017, it has claimed over 9 000 lives and remains one of the world's worst outbreaks with over 807 000 suspected cases from its onset. **5 282 new suspected cases and 69 associated fatalities** have been registered between January and 22 April 2017.

In addition, the country's **fragile food and nutritional security** has gradually deteriorated over the last years, due to cyclonic disasters in 2012, followed by recurring episodes of severe drought exacerbated by *El Niño*. **Hurricane Matthew** claimed 546 lives and affected over two million people in October 2016, forcing highly vulnerable households to adopt regressive coping mechanisms to cover their basic food needs.

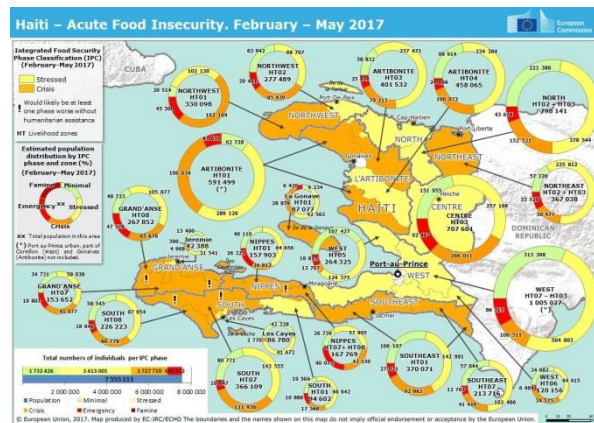
About **200 000 Dominicans of Haitian descent are at risk of becoming stateless** and deported to Haiti. Since 2014, **almost 120 000 individuals crossed the border**, including over 3 200 unaccompanied minors.

Major needs and related problems

Following Hurricane Matthew and the prolonged drought exacerbated by *El Niño*, the country is facing a highly critical food and nutritional security situation. According to the National Coordination Food Security (CNSA in French), **5.8 million individuals are suffering from acute food insecurity** countrywide.

Despite significant progress, a widespread **lack of access to safe drinking water, the continued weakness of sanitary infrastructure and high cholera fatality rates** remain serious concerns.

Acute humanitarian needs still persist in the remaining IDP camps. **Basic services, protection and adequate housing solutions** remain largely insufficient. 46 655 Haitians remain sheltered in camps, where access to water and basic services remains very limited (IOM figures).



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 €378.3 million in assistance since 1994 to victims of the 2010 earthquake, hurricanes, the cholera epidemic, droughts and the migration crisis, as well as strengthening local capacities to prepare for and respond to natural and epidemics events.

After the 2010 earthquake, the EU provided shelter, safe drinking water, healthcare, food and protection to 5 million people. Since 2014, €31.33 million were allocated to address acute food and nutrition needs through cash transfers, safe water and livelihoods. €52.7 million addressed the cholera outbreak, targeting close to 3 million people.

In 2016 and 2017, €19.755 million in emergency aid was allocated to cover immediate the basic needs of those most affected by Hurricane Matthew. Overall, emphasis has been placed on building the resilience of the most vulnerable, in particular in the face of recurring natural and epidemics disasters.

Since 1998 the EU has invested €22.2 million in its Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO), to set up early warning systems and strengthen shelters and infrastructure to face recurring hurricanes, floods and other disasters.



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