

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



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Building Physical, Fiscal, and Inclusive Resilience in Haiti

Context and Objectives

Poverty and exposure to disasters are closely related in Haiti, as most households whose consumption level is just above the poverty line are at risk from at least one hazard such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and drought. Due to the frequent occurrence of hazards, Haiti is subjected almost annually to catastrophic events with disastrous impacts, resulting in significant loss of life and adversely affecting poverty reduction efforts, economic growth, and fiscal stability.

The “Building Physical, Fiscal, and Inclusive Resilience in Haiti” Technical Assistance (TA) project has been launched to support the government of Haiti to address these challenges. The TA is accomplishing this by strengthening Disaster Risk Management (DRM) institutions and emergency preparedness and response, mainstreaming DRM in key sectors, strengthening Disaster Risk Financing, and improving the understanding of disaster impacts on the poor and women. The project also addressed preparations for the 2020 hurricane season and prevention measures for compounding risk and COVID-19. This work will also complement the “*Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Public Infrastructure Management in Haiti*” TA, also implemented under the Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility.

Main Activities

- Strengthening DRM Institutions and Emergency Preparedness and Response.
- Mainstreaming DRM in Key Sectors.
- Strengthening Disaster Risk Financing.
- Improving Understanding of Impacts of Disasters on the Poor and Women.

Results

Several activities have advanced in the frame of the first component which aims to strengthen DRM institutions and provide technical assistance to promote emergency preparedness and response:

- i. Activities supported the dissemination of a communications campaign over the summer of 2020 which promoted early warning messages and emergency preparedness. Spearheaded by the Haiti Civil Protection General Directorate (*Direction Générale de la Protection Civile - DGPC*), the campaign involved multiple distribution channels, including radio, video, and social media, and was publicized on national television and print media. The campaign had a high impact, with about five million people reached.
- ii. While entering the 2020 hurricane season in a context of COVID-19 pandemic, DGPC reviewed and updated the 2013 *Emergency Evacuations Shelter Guidelines* to integrate COVID-19 considerations. Technical assistance of the Caribbean RRB Facility was provided to the DGPC to integrate COVID-19 recommendations in the guidelines, outlining the procedures to activate emergency shelters and to develop related training materials. Several virtual working sessions were also organized between July and November 2020 with the technical staff of the DGPC to review the guide and develop the associated materials, training a total of 15 people including five women. Furthermore, a detailed set

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- of recommendations and technical advice were provided for the development of an online training platform and mobile application to reach the local members of the DGPC in charge of shelter management.
- iii. The Haiti DGPC became a General Directorate within the government of Haiti since the approval of the DRM Law in June 2020. The Caribbean RRB Facility provided technical assistance to support DGPC in this transition through the development of institutional and organizational diagnostics. Specifically, an institutional workshop was organized to exchange experiences between **Mexico, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and Haiti** on 17 December 2020, bringing together 41 people including 13 women. The workshop was set up as an exchange of experiences among Latin American countries that have gone through institutional and organizational changes in DRM. The workshop led to an enhanced understanding of the institutional and operational adjustments needed in order to support the transition of DGPC.

Several activities were implemented under the second component, which aims to improve DRM planning and coordination capacity within different sectors:

- i. Support was provided to the Haiti Hydrometeorological Unit (*Unité HydroMétéorologique d'Haïti - UHM*) in terms of hydrology, meteorology, data management, and institutional strengthening. An inter-institutional workshop and an open house day of the UHM were respectively organized on October 22 and 23, 2020 with the objective of presenting the institution, its new capacities, and promoting its products. Representatives from several other Haitian institutions participated in the workshop, including the National Geospatial Information Center (*Centre National de l'Information Géo-Spatiale - CNIGS*), the National Food Security Coordination, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Civil Protection General Directorate, the National Civil Aviation Office, the Haitian Red Cross, the National electrical company, and the National Directorate of Potable Water and Sanitation. School children from several neighboring schools, academics, and representatives from different institutions also took part in the UHM open house day. Two videos were produced as a result of these two activities, which will serve as visibility to promote the UHM.
- ii. Activities also supported the CNIGS to draft a memorandum of understanding for all actors involved in the development of the new geospatial platform entitled "*Haitidata*" (www.HaitiData.org). The document listed the type of access, rights, and responsibilities associated to the different users of the platform, and also involved discussions about the mechanisms to support the sustainability of the new platform. Technical assistance was also provided to the CNIGS and the DGPC to utilize geospatial information and carry out drone flights in the aftermath of the August 2021 earthquake and tropical storm Grace. The assistance helped to gather data to be used by humanitarian actors working hand in hand with the DGPC in the response to the emergency and for the preparation of impact assessments and the PDNA. Additional technical assistance and capacity building was provided in the production, use and sharing of aerial and seismologic mapping through geospatial data and drones. This culminated with a training on metadata management and spatial layers for GeoNode and the "*Haitidata*" platform organized in October 2021 that benefitted 2 people from the government of Haiti. In addition, assistance was provided for a selection to designate a firm that will complete the purchase of additional drones and information technology equipment for the CNIGS

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- Drone Lab. The firm will also conduct capacity building for drone construction, operation and interpretation of images and data.
- iii. Also, a dedicated session on **Haiti** was organized during the *2020 Understanding Risk Forum*¹, gathering 20 participants and entitled *How disaster risk data is driving public investment in Haiti*. Specific presentations were made on the following topics (i) investing in LiDAR coverage to develop a Digital Terrain Model (3D model) for Haiti, which included an opening speech by Mr. Bobby Piard, General Director of CNIGS; (ii) using digital terrain model to create a flood hazard study for Haiti; and (iii) using flood hazard models and spatial data to identify public investment needs for emergency evacuation shelters.
 - iv. Technical assistance to supervise the installation of hydromet stations in Haiti was provided as well as technical support to the government in meteorological aspects for the improvement of the national early warning system and a communication strategy for national early warning, accompanied by approved and adopted protocols adapted to local conditions.

Under the third component technical assistance is being provided to the Ministry of Finance to develop a DRF Strategy and to enhance the government's understanding of disaster-related contingent liabilities and financial capacity.

Finally, the fourth component of this project aims to improve the understanding of impacts of disasters on the poor and women. An analytical note entitled *Disaster Shocks in Haiti: Evidence from Wave 2 of a Mobile High Frequency Survey* was finalized, outlining the conclusions of the data analysis on exposure to shocks conducted in the frame of the second round of the Haiti Mobile High Frequency Survey. Another draft note is being finalized, which summarizes the key messages on the exposure of Haitian households to floods and droughts, which should be available in the next reporting period.

Partnerships and Coordination

The technical assistance project is undertaken jointly with institutions of the government of Haiti including the Ministries of Interior and Local Authorities (namely the Civil Protection Directorate), Public Works, Agriculture, Education, Social Affairs, Economy and Finance, Planning and External Cooperation, and the National Center for Geospatial Information.

Country

Haiti

Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility component

Adaptation Facility for Leveraging Investments in Resilience in the Caribbean

Amount approved

EUR 551,674 / \$603,090

Duration

05/2020-12/2022

¹ More information on the Forum can be found at https://understandrisk.org/event/ur2020_forum/. The specific link to the session can be found at <https://bit.ly/2W21v4m>.