



Complex Emergency in Haiti

Situation Report #6

December 6, 2024

Project HOPE continues to provide urgent health and humanitarian assistance to communities affected by violence, mass displacement, and the complex humanitarian crisis in the Grand Sud region of Haiti.

Key Highlights

- Recent gang violence in Pont-Sonde has displaced **6,200 survivors**, who have since sought refuge in Saint-Marc and surrounding areas.
- According to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Office, **3,661 people** died from gang-related violence from January to October 2024.
- Port access in Port-au-Prince is very limited, restricting humanitarian access.
- MAERSK, one of the world's largest shipping container lines, announced the suspension of bookings to Haiti on September 26.
- The Dominican Republic is expecting **130,000 displaced individuals** to arrive at the border by the end of the year.
- Project HOPE continues to respond with integrated health, protection and WASH services in Grand Sud, reaching over **110,000 people** in 2024, to date.

Situation Overview

On September 30, 2024, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to extend the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti for another year. Kenya, Jamaica, and Belize have deployed MSS police officers in Haiti.

2024 Impact

110,000+ individuals reached

Health:

- **41,201 patients** received medical care and treatment through Project HOPE's mobile medical units (MMUs)
- **21,395 patients** received primary health care services at six health facilities that Project HOPE is supporting in the Sud and Grand'Anse departments

Protection:

- Project HOPE provided **62,480 people** with mental health and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness activities
- Project HOPE provided psychosocial support to **13,478 people** through Problem Management Plus

WASH:

- Project HOPE provided **109,362 people** with education, hygiene promotion, and sanitation activities

A report from [Human Rights Watch](#) has found that armed gangs in Haiti are stepping up efforts to recruit children into their ranks ahead of an anticipated long and bloody battle with international security forces and Haitian police. Children now form up to 30% of Haitian gang members, according to the report. Children experiencing poverty are reported to be enticed by gangs with offers of food and shelter in exchange for undertaking illegal activities or being exploited for sex.

In October, humanitarian access became restricted in some areas after a helicopter was struck by gunfire and the National Highway Two (RN2) remained blocked. Gangs have either entirely blocked off prominent roads or have begun requiring payment to pass. Project HOPE's team was temporarily cut off from accessing the Les Cayes base as armed men blocked National Highway Number Seven (RN7).

As violence continues, more Haitians are becoming displaced and seeking refuge in different departments. In the past six months, Project HOPE has observed a significant increase in the amount of internally displaced people (IDPs) in service areas. According to the International Organization of Migration (IOM), there were 702,973 IDPs in Haiti in September 2024. Additionally, the escalating and ongoing violence in the Ouest department continues to increase the number of IDPs fleeing the region. According to ACAPS, there has been a 60% increase in the number of IDPs in 2024, increasing from 362,000 to 702,973 between March and September. Nearly half of those IDPs (315,200) have sought refuge in the Grand Sud region, where Project HOPE currently operates. The Sud department received more than 116,000 IDPs by the end of September, a figure only surpassed by the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.



Pologne Casimir, 76, was displaced from her home in Gressier, Haiti, and lives in an IDP camp with her eight children and grandchildren. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2024.

“The situation in Haiti is catastrophic. Our health system is broken, and mass displacement is putting an enormous strain on every health facility across the country. Currently, health care staff in Sud, Grand’Anse, and Nippes departments are facing salary arrears of up to 3 months. Health workers cannot continue operating in these conditions.”

— Dr. Didinu Tamakloe, Project HOPE’s Haiti Country Director

Project HOPE’s Response in Haiti

Project HOPE is responding to health; protection; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in the Sud, Nippes, and Grand’Anse departments in the Grand Sud region of Haiti. Our programs focus on increasing access to integrated primary health care, GBV case management, WASH services, and psychosocial support. Our team is also training frontline health workers; providing pharmaceuticals and medicines; improving WASH infrastructure at health facilities and in communities; promoting sanitation and hygiene; and responding to extreme weather and health crises as they arise.

In 2024, Project HOPE reached more than 110,000 individuals through facility-based primary health care, MMUs, and community-level interventions focused on psychosocial support, hygiene promotion, clean water access, and GBV prevention and response.

Health

Project HOPE provided 41,201 health consultations in 2024 through MMUs, which are comprised of integrated teams of medical doctors, nurses, psychosocial support officers, social workers, and Community Health Agents (CHAs). Project HOPE continued to deploy MMUs between September and October 2024, treating 21,039 patients at pop-up clinics in remote and/or underserved communities across Nippes, Sud, and Grand Anse departments. Of those patients, approximately 5% were IDPs.



Dr. F. Harmonie Duprevil (blue shirt) treats patients at a MMU's pop-up clinic at a school facility in Jérémie, Grand'Anse department, Haiti. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2024.

Additionally, Project HOPE continues to support health workers providing consultations at five health facilities, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Population. Since January, 21,395 patients were provided with care at these facilities, with 6,025 in September and October alone. Of those 6,025 patients, 988 (16%) were treated for infectious diseases, 2,115 (35%) for non-communicable diseases, 1,188 (20%) for injuries, 49 (1%) for mental health disorders, 758 (12.5%) for reproductive health services, and 927 (15%) for other health issues.

As gang-violence spreads, Project HOPE will continue to provide medical supplies and essentials to MMUs and health facilities providing services. With the increased movements of IDPs from the Port-au-Prince metropolitan zone and the Ouest department, Project HOPE's integrated teams will also increase the delivery of services to both IDPs and host communities within the Grand Sud region.

Protection

Project HOPE continues to provide mental health care, psychosocial support, and GBV care and case management to communities in need. In September and October, we reached over 15,651 people with awareness-raising activities in the Grand'Anse, Sud, and Nippes departments, covering topics like suicide prevention, stress management, sexual harassment, harmful traditional practices, and domestic and physical violence.

“At a level one trauma center in Les Cayes, the emergency room is just two broken hospital beds under a cover outside. The floor is broken concrete that is prone to floods. This is the only functioning hospital in the area – patients often travel one to two days on foot or motorbike to receive care.”

— Dr. Didinu Tamakloe, Project HOPE's Haiti Country Director

Throughout September and October, the team also provided Problem Management Plus (PM+) to 2,557 people, including 292 IDPs, discussing adversity, stress management, problem management, depression, and anxiety. Dignity kits were given to 103 IDPs and GBV survivors in Les Cayes and Jeremie and 167 survivors of GBV received case management support. Since January 2024, Project HOPE was able to support 62,480 participants with mental health and GBV awareness activities, 13,478 participants with psychosocial support, and 429 survivors with GBV case management.



Project HOPE psychosocial support officer Belouse Cadet (right) works one-on-one with Etiel*, 29., a survivor of GBV. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2024.

In Grand'Anse and Nippes, hygiene kits were distributed to GBV survivors, IDPs, and women and girls at risk of harm. Project HOPE also honored World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th, World Mental Health Day on October 10th, and International Day of Girls on October 11th with activities in Maniche, Les Cayes, and other areas. The team continues to strengthen mental health and GBV prevention resources by providing referral services, support participants through PM+ group sessions, and follow-ups.

WASH

In September and October, Project HOPE completed multiple WASH infrastructure repairs and rehabilitations. At the Hospital Immaculee Conception in Les Cayes, completed works included shower cubicles, the installation of a sump pump and water tank, and rehabilitation of the latrine block in the surgical, orthopedics, maternity, and pediatric wards. At Hospital Saint Antoine (HAS) in Jeremie, the team installed wash basins and rehabilitated showers and latrines in the pediatric and surgical wards. Project HOPE also coordinated with local officials to establish a spring and increase access to clean water in the municipality of Bury in Grand'Anse department. The spring is now providing clean water for a population of 3,000 people.

Project HOPE reached 27,620 people with hygiene promotion activities in September and October, covering topics like water hygiene, environmental hygiene, and personal hygiene. These activities were conducted by Project HOPE's cadre of CHAs at 932 door-to-door sessions, 334 group discussions, and 66 interpersonal awareness-raising sessions. After increased violence in Nippes department prevented some CHAs from carrying out activities, Project HOPE integrated CHA activities with MMU services to ensure the protection of staff and participants.

“Malnutrition is common, many children simply do not have enough to eat, and their parents do not have access to jobs to afford food.”

— Dr. Didinu Tamakloe, Project HOPE's Haiti Country Director

“New displacement camps continue to pop up in abandoned churches and soccer fields. Hundreds of people sleep outside on muddy grounds or inside on cold concrete. We've seen cases of E. coli as hundreds share just one bathroom and there is no clean water.”

— Dr. Didinu Tamakloe, Project HOPE's Haiti Country Director

Coordination

The third and fourth intersectoral coordination meetings took place on September 11 and September 25, where participants discussed improved preparedness, education, and logistics. On October 22, Project HOPE participated in a meeting with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), IOM, the United Nations Network on Migration, and other actors to discuss the increased deportations of Haitians from the Dominican Republic. Project HOPE also met to discuss the state of Haiti and program needs with Health Clusters, the United Nations Department for Safety and Security, OCHA, USAID's Partnership Liaison Security Operation, and other local and international actors. Project HOPE will continue to coordinate and collaborate with humanitarian partners to ensure that community needs are met.

Next Steps

Project HOPE is positioned to continue providing aid to the Grand Sud region in 2025 and is mobilizing to provide emergency support to areas of the Ouest department receiving increasing numbers of IDPs. However, the need for increased support and a scale-up of humanitarian aid to the people of Haiti remains critical. The health system is near a breaking point, with hundreds of thousands displaced from their homes due to ongoing violence and insecurity.

Displacement camps, makeshift shelters in abandoned churches, and overcrowded urban spaces have become breeding grounds for disease outbreaks, malnutrition, and gender-based violence, compounding the already dire situation. The international community must continue to support the urgent humanitarian needs of the Haitian people as they face ongoing violence, displacement, acute food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and lack of basic human necessities.



Project HOPE team members travel to visit a clinic in the rural mountain village of Golbotine to learn more about how our MMU is serving the area. Photo by James Buck for Project HOPE, 2024

***“The world cannot forget about Haiti. The international community must continue to support the urgent humanitarian needs of the Haitian people as they continue to face ongoing violence, displacement, acute food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and lack of basic human necessities.*”**

— Dr. Didinu Tamakloe, Project HOPE’s Haiti Country Director