

# Rapid Gender Analysis in Haiti

## Impacts of the 2021 Earthquake

Almost half of the population of Haiti's Grand Sud region was affected (800,000 people) by August 14, 2021 earthquake, and a third of that population (650,000 people) needs emergency humanitarian aid. There were 2,248 people killed, 12,763 people injured and 329 people missing. This comes in a very difficult context for Haiti, with the continued impacts of COVID-19, the political situation, and the impacts of cyclones on the area weakening already fragile systems. It is in this context that CARE and UN Women are launching this Rapid Gender Analysis to understand how these impacts fall on people of different genders and with different ages and vulnerabilities. In total, between August 25 and September 2, 2021, the RGA connected with approximately 1,088 people through in-person data collection methods, and over 3,200 people through mobile and online methods (in total, 49% women and 51% men). This covers the departments of Grand Anse, Nippes, and Sud.

### Key Findings

- Shelter is a priority need, especially for women and girls.** 63% of organizations interviewed and 50% of youth said shelter is their number one concern now. It is estimated that 21% and 76% more women than men in Grand 'Anse and Nippes, respectively, have nowhere to live in the aftermath of the earthquake. 18% of women and 12% of men surveyed have no shelter, while 53% of women and 56% of men sleep next to a damaged house.
- Gender-based violence is becoming a serious crisis.** 70% of women and men surveyed said their fear of sexual violence had increased since the earthquake. 43% of community leaders and 75% of youth say GBV has increased since the earthquake. 70% of organizations say women and girls are most at risk of GBV.
- Livelihoods are weakening, especially with disrupted markets.** 33% of men and women noted a reduction in paid work and income opportunities. 23% of adult women and 8% of men saw that their economic activities were interrupted. 48% of community members report that having no work is the most important change in their daily life. 57% of girls have lost their productive capital – the part of the population most affected by this problem.
- 60% of communities lack access to water.** 24% women disproportionately stressed the risk of disease compared to 5% for men. Women and girls bear the biggest burden with this impact, both because they are responsible for getting and carrying water, and because of their specific water needs for their menstrual hygiene.
- Health is at risk, especially mental health.** 32% of people report psychological trauma as a serious impact of the earthquake. 68% of service providers find that women have little or no access to health care. The risks are high for pregnant women (according to 46% of service providers) and people with disabilities (according to 27% of providers).
- Food security needs are on the rise.** 60% of respondents, and 76% of organizations say that food is one of the main needs. 33% of girls – versus 28% of boys – say food security is their number one concern. Of particular concern is the finding that only those who have physical strength can access the distributions, and that, women who must stay at home to protect their children do not have access. Other groups are also at risk. "In our society we do not see the LGBT community favorably, on the other hand we more or less understand the disabled and people with chronic diseases" group of women.
- Information is essential, across multiple channels.** 41% of organizations say that the lack of information creates a problem for the population, especially when it comes to accessing aid of any kind. Only 7% of

"Now there is a lot more violence given the lack of food ..."  
 – Key informant, Les Cayes

women in the area have internet access, so information needs to be shared through multiple methods.

### The response so far

- **Women play a critical part of this response.** 79% of the population perceive that women participate in a large part of the response process. Several key informants referred to the role women's leaders played in the rescue operations.

"We are the strength. We can really help give positive answers to this tremor if and only if we agree to unite and bring out our know-how and our energy together"  
- Women's Group, Mercie 9th
- **We must strengthen the leadership of women.** 22% of organizations note that the presence of women in decision-making is weaker, even if they participate in the response. Most service providers say that women played an informal role in the earthquake response, but they played a limited role in managing the response, with a general lack of female leaders. It is only in Sud where women have a significant role as community leaders, and even there it is only 20%.
- **There are problems with organizations and targeting.** 43% of organizations say current assistance is poorly organized and inequitable, with inadequate targeting. According to one interviewee, "Humanitarian aid agencies have worked hard to provide care, but many women and girls have not benefited from it, due to a lack of information, poor transport infrastructure and the excessively high cost of certain costs not included in the list of free services."
- **Aid is not meeting basic needs.** 47% of organizations say that the help coming in is not enough. According to interviews with men and women members of the communities, current food assistance is insufficient and does not reach these vulnerable groups. According to these groups, in some site neither food nor non-food items (such as hygiene kits), are available.

"Talented negotiators, women have things to say but they are not listened to."  
- Respondent of Petiti Trou, Nippes.

### Recommendations

- **Increase impacted people's participation, especially women.** Ensure that targeting and distribution operations are planned and conducted in a participatory manner in collaboration with men and women community leaders.
- Strengthen the capacity of women for responsible participation and leadership in emergency situations and **strengthen the inclusive participation of women in decision-making bodies**, and involve women-led organizations to improve women's access to support.
- **Generate sex and age disaggregated data** on the precise impact on women and girls as well as on gender relations in order to better measure the experiences and target the priority needs of groups in the most vulnerable situations.
- **Create civil society consultation mechanisms and meaningful community engagement channels**, including ongoing dialogue with affected communities to integrate priority needs and provide information on available resources.
- **Urgently focus on improving security to prevent violence**, including the risks of violence and sexual abuse against women, girls, boys and the LGTBIQ + community.
- **Provide community feedback and accountability mechanisms** to create spaces for collaboration around program design, transparency of operations and gender-sensitive complaint mechanisms.

This document summarizes the full [Rapid Gender Analysis](#) written by CARE Haiti and UN Women (ONU Femmes) Haiti in September 2021.