



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The natural disaster risk index in the country has been among the highest in the world for a long time. Erosion and deforestation add to the impact of frequent flooding, particularly during the rainy season (April to October) and the cyclone season. Since the early 2000s, the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD) has promoted a culture of risk reduction across the country through prevention, preparedness and response activities. The Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) has also considerably reinforced its capacities at the national and departmental levels, with the increased provision of human and in-kind resources from partners, including the UN.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

RISK PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

About **244 km** of streets and roads rehabilitated since October 2011.

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More than **70 km** of irrigation, drainage channels and ditches cleaned.

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25,000 m³ of waste and trash removed in 10 major Port-au-Prince ditches by four companies of MINUSTAH's military engineers, to prevent flooding.

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7 multi-purpose centres in some of the most vulnerable communes of the South equipped with solar panels and water purification systems. These centres are used as evacuation locations in the event of a natural disaster.

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36 projects to mitigate flooding risks and improve sanitation in vulnerable neighbourhoods (51,000 Haitians employed, including 30% women).⁽¹⁾

FOOD SECURITY

41,000 families (60% women) from urban and peri-urban areas received agriculture inputs and sold part of their production.

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More than **8,000 hectares** of agro-forestry land planted and rehabilitated with soil conservation structures.

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An **emergency distribution network** was developed to bring the necessary food assistance to the most in need after disasters (e.g. Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy in 2012).



PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

1 national and 10 departmental cyclone season contingency plans available.

4 national and 10 departmental cyclone simulation exercises (SIMEX) and first ever Tsunami SIMEX to improve coordination and response.

More than 4,500 persons in vulnerable areas trained in disaster preparedness, evacuation and first aid.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 national and 10 departmental Emergency Operation Centres equipped and fully functioning.

70 local experts integrated into the DPC, including 10 teams at departmental level, and a tele-communication network established.

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

The adoption of a national legal framework for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and monitoring DRR expenditures and activities at national and departmental levels remains a priority.

Sustained donor funding is required to continue investing in strengthening institutional capacities at all levels and in scaling up mitigation and infrastructural improvements such as river banks rehabilitation, drainage systems and seismic proof housing.

It is important that awareness campaigns on disaster prevention and the integration of disaster risk reduction into school curriculum continue to reach more people throughout the country.

Efforts also need to be sustained to consolidate the national early warning system and strengthen logistics and emergency telecommunication capacities.

VOICES

«So Haiti and Haitians can be more resilient to disasters.»

Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste, DPC Director

