



## SESSION 6: Debrief on 2021 Haiti Earthquake

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## Debrief on 2021 Haiti Earthquake

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Presenters:

1. **Silvia Ballén**, Expert for the National Search and Rescue Program, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD), USAR COL-1 Team Liaison Officer, UNDAC Focal point – Colombia

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2. Major **Welter Alves das Chagas**, Brazil

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3. **Tracey Reed**, Deputy Chief of Special Operations for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, the United States, and **William Vannoy**, Battalion Chief at Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

●

Moderated by Sebastian Mocarquer

# COLOMBIA NATIONAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



**UNGRD**  
Unidad Nacional para la Gestión  
del Riesgo de Desastres

Sistema Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres



El futuro  
es de todos

Presidencia  
de la República

9/03/2022

### The USAR Colombia Team mobilized on August 15 as follows:

- ✓ 38 Members, 2 canines, maintaining the capacity with the 5 components (Management, Search, Rescue, Medical and Logistics).
- ✓ 8 Tons of Equipment, 10 Tons of Humanitarian Assistance (Food, Sanitation, Water and Basic Sanitation)
- ✓ 1 C-130 aircraft and 1 C-295 aircraft, the latter with the capacity to mobilize in territory.
- ✓ 8 days of field operation.



## Activities performed



- ✓ Support for OSOCC and UCC activities in Port-au-Prince.
- ✓ Field response actions with medical assistance, damage assessment and needs analysis in Jeremie and Port-au-Prince.
- ✓ Operational support at the humanitarian assistance reception and distribution center.
- ✓ Health assistance to BoO, national and international personnel.
- ✓ Maintenance and functionality of water and sanitation elements in the BoO at the disposal of Civil Protection.





- ✓ The USAR COL-1 Team determines that flexible response is a strategic and important component of the INSARAG Methodology.
- ✓ Colombia was able to implement USAR capabilities in the service of a regional emergency that at first seemed to involve working on collapsed structures, but when on site, other needs became evident, and according to the INSARAG methodology, we were able to support the demand for humanitarian assistance in coordination with the Haitian government through the OSOCC.



# UNGRD

Unidad Nacional para la Gestión  
del Riesgo de Desastres

Sistema Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres

# Thank You



GestionUNGRD



@ungrd\_oficial



@UNGRD



UNGRD Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres



# Brazilian Multidisciplinary Mission to the Republic of Haiti

**Commander Welter Chagas**

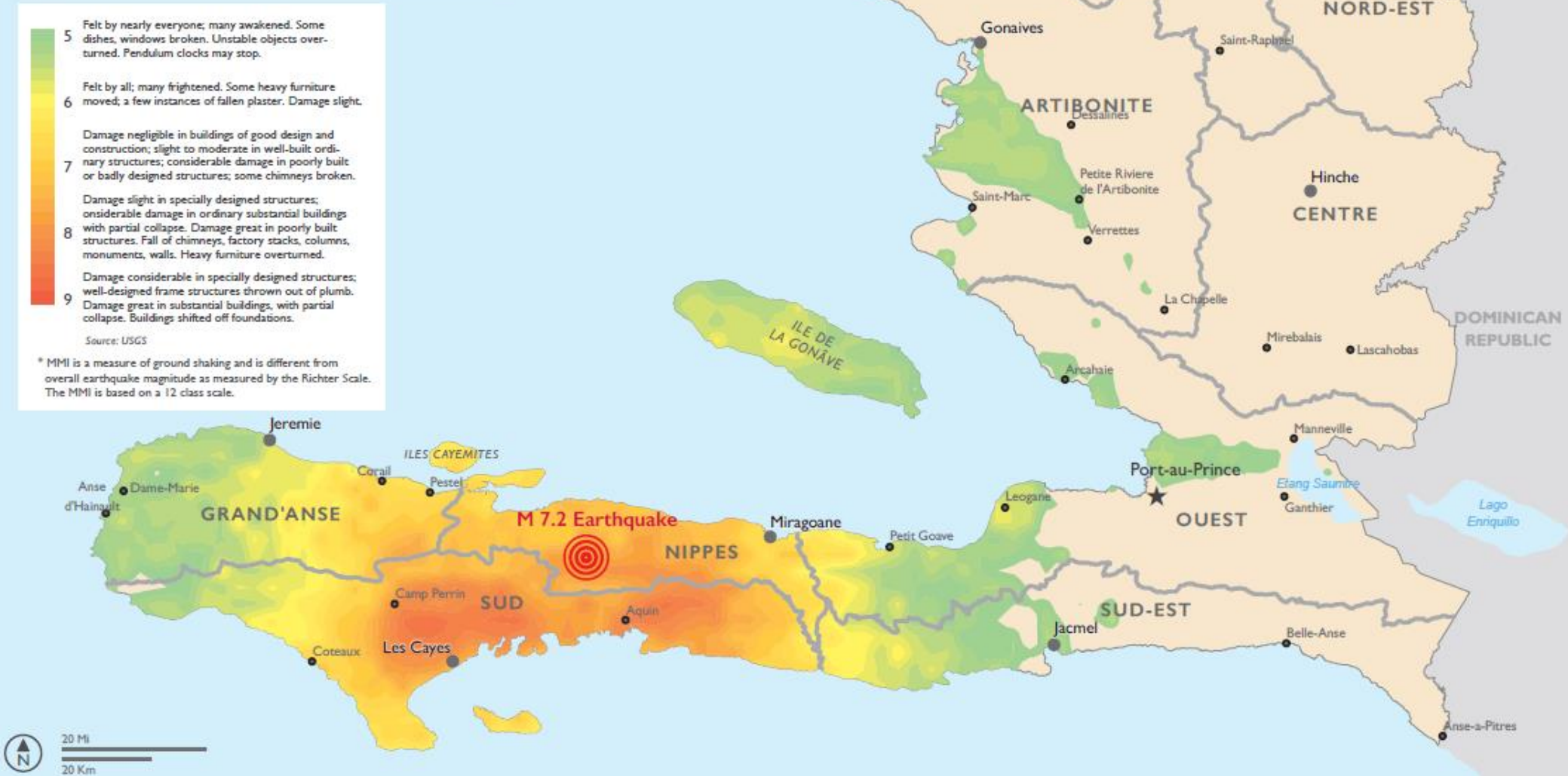
Environmental Emergencies and Disaster Response  
Batallion

Minas Gerais Fire Fighter  
Brazilian Government





2,300 deaths  
12,000 Injured  
137,000 damaged buildings



2,300 deaths  
12,000 Injured  
137,000 damaged buildings



Source: USGS

\* MMI is a measure of ground shaking and is different from overall earthquake magnitude as measured by the Richter Scale. The MMI is based on a 12 class scale.







## Involved agencies

### Ministries

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazilian Cooperation Agency
- Ministry of Regional Development
- Ministry of Justice and
- Ministry of Defense
- Ministry of Health

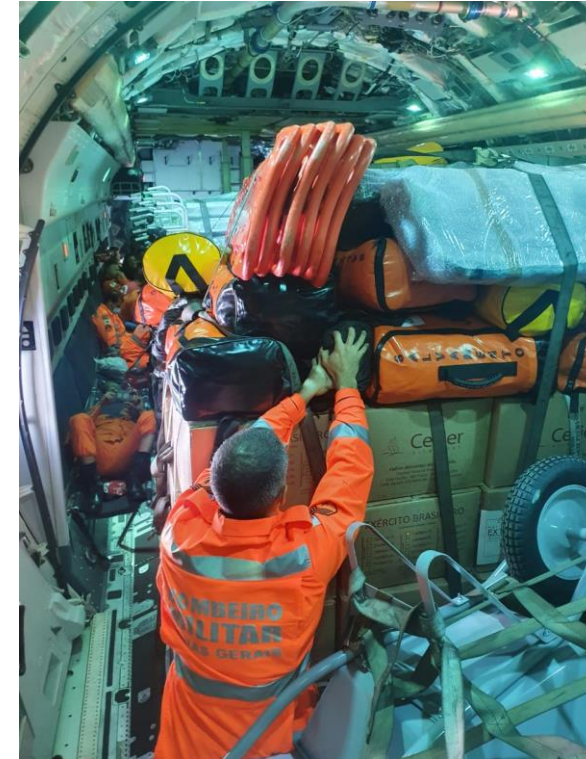




**INSARAG**  
Preparedness Response

**30**  
YEARS

- Haiti's request and diplomatic arrangements
- Presidential decree
- Team deployment
- Humanitarian donation:
  - Medicine
  - Food supplies
  - Water purifiers
- Logistics and flight







- Arrival of the Brazilian Mission (Port-au-Prince, Haiti)
- Meetings (Haitian government, OSOCC, embassies, international USAR Teams)
- Reconnaissance and previous experiences on the field







## Liaison with authorities:

- Haitian government, focal point: Civil Protection of Haiti
- UN: OCHA, UNDAC
- Other countries response teams





**INSARAG**  
Preparedness Response

**30**  
YEARS

## Convoy to Les Cayes



**AG** | **30**  
Response YEARS





## Field actions:

- Search and Rescue
- Risk assessment
- Medical assistance
- Structures recovery (emergency bridge, road clearance, health center, hospitals, water tank)
- Cultural heritage (historical church)
- Food and hygiene kits distribution
- Donation of water purification equipments





## Lessons learned

The importance of a National Flexible Response Team suitable to deploy

The importance of the multidisciplinary aspect (Mozambique and Haiti)

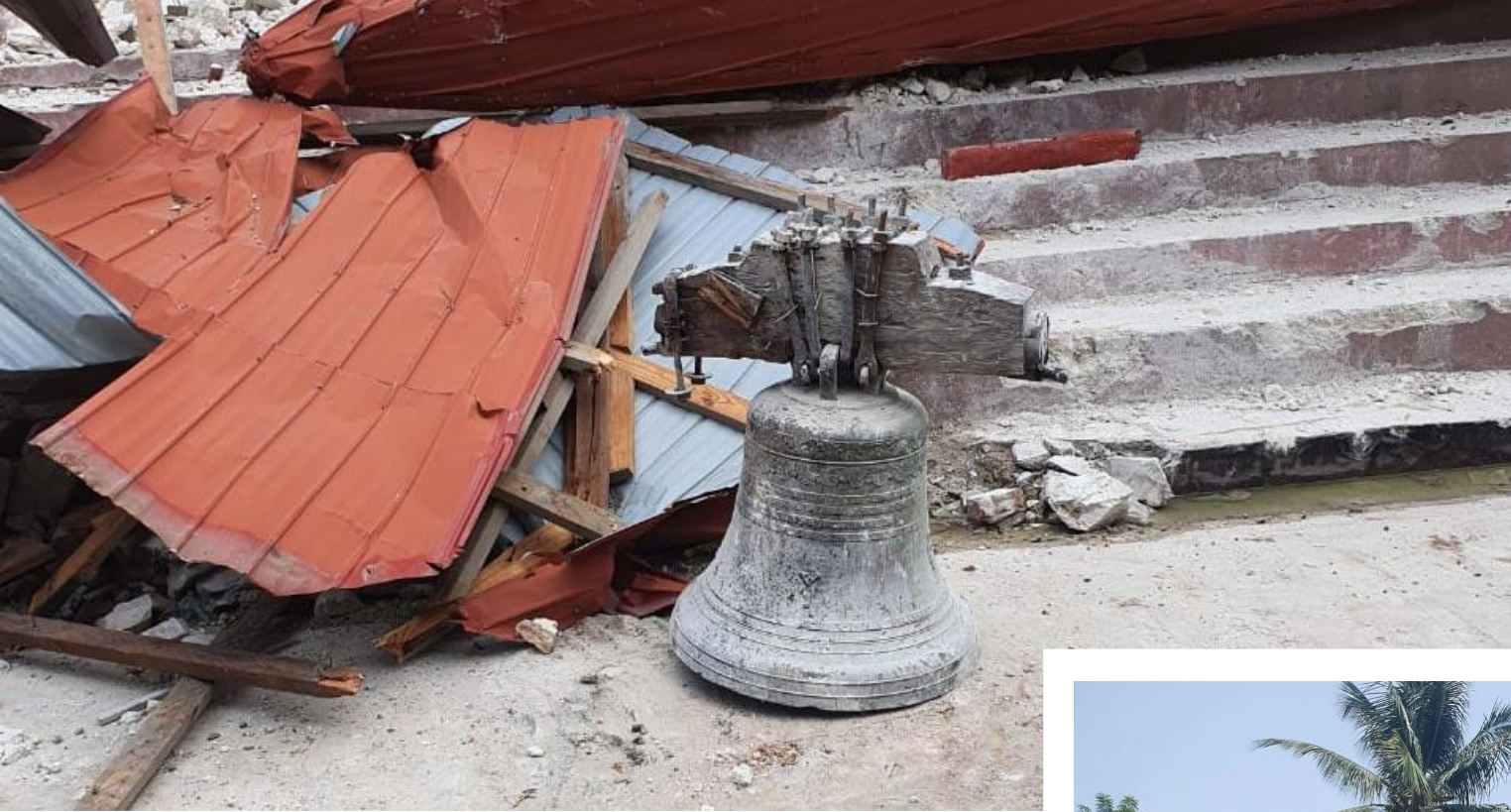
- Coordination (precursor team, evaluation and coordination);
- Search and Rescue (earthquakes, floods, landslides, technological disasters);
- Medical assistance to the team and to the local community;
- Water purification equipment;
- Organisation of shelters/camps.



































**INSARAG**  
Preparedness Response

**30**  
YEARS

further information: [abc-humanitaria@itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:abc-humanitaria@itamaraty.gov.br)



**INSARAG**  
Preparedness Response

**30**  
YEARS

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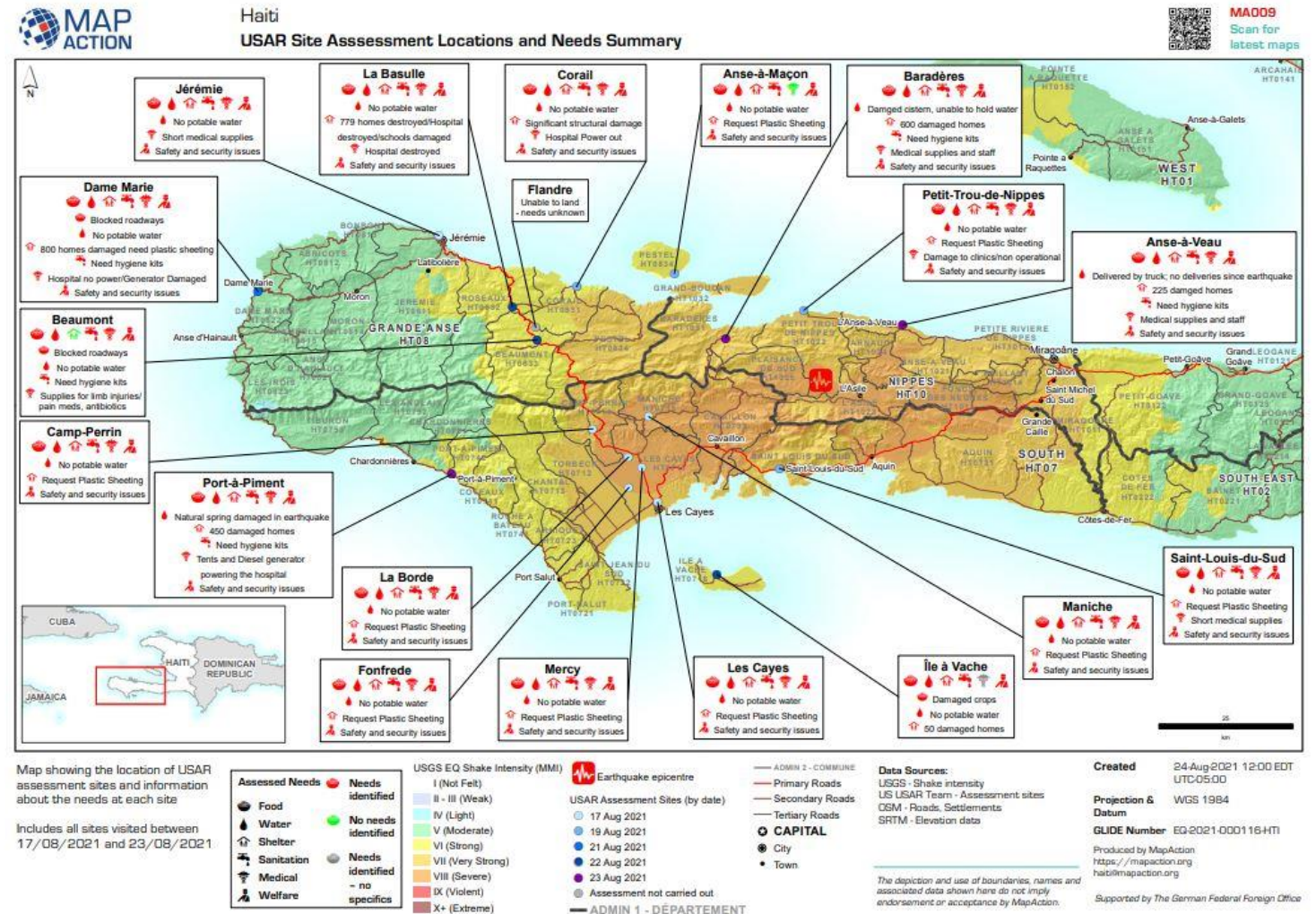
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- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) deployed USA-01 on August 15, 2021 (arrived in Haiti the same evening)
  - INSARAG Classified Medium USAR team (57 personnel and 4 canines)
  - UC Staffing (2 personnel)
  - UNDAC Team Support (6 personnel)
- Base camp in Port-au-Prince due to transportation challenges and ASR-1 and 2 results
  - All transportation to the area of operations by helicopter
- Air and ground assessments with support of the US Government
- USA-01 assisted with medical care, medical evacuation of patients, and transport to medical facilities
- No worksites triaged for ASR-3 operations
- Extensive infrastructure analysis and structural assessment
- The USAID Americas Support Team (AST) supported OSOCC and UNDAC operations in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes for several weeks

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- Multiple air assessments
  - Backed up by ground when possible
- Extensive humanitarian assessment
  - Leveraging of USAR capability



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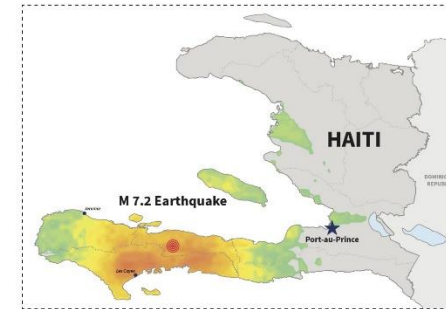
## Debrief on 2021 Haiti Earthquake

- Summary of USAID Humanitarian efforts
  - As of August 20, 2021
- USAID Continues work in the region

### USAID Response to 2021 Haiti Earthquake

On August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck southwestern Haiti, approximately 80 miles west of the capital Port-au-Prince. Within hours, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the U.S. Government's response, search for survivors, assess needs, and provide lifesaving assistance.

#### Earthquake Affected Area



#### Critical Food and Relief Supplies



**110**  
metric tons  
of food



**5,090**  
Hygiene kits to  
prevent disease



**2,000**  
Jerry cans to store  
safe drinking water



**750**  
Rolls of heavy-duty plastic  
sheeting & 1,000 shelter  
kits to repair homes



**2,500**  
Blankets



**90**  
Kitchen Sets

#### USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team

**33**  
USAID  
Disaster Experts

**64**  
Search and  
Rescue Professionals

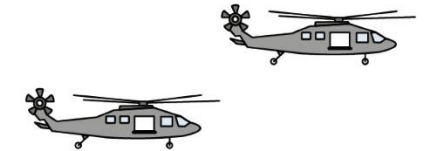
**5**  
Experts  
supporting UN  
disaster coordination

**4**  
Canines

**52,000**  
Pounds of equipment,  
saws, torches, drills,  
and medical supplies



#### U.S. Interagency Assistance



**8 - U.S. military helicopters are supporting USAID's mission** by transporting humanitarian cargo and response staff.

**3 - U.S. Coast Guard helicopters have flown more than 100 flights** to medevac critically injured patients, transport medical & search and rescue staff—including members of the DART, and airlift thousands of pounds of medical supplies to affected areas.



Updated August 20, 2021



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### Lessons Learned

- Transportation Challenges
  - Terrain, infrastructure damage, and security challenges greatly limited road travel
  - All team transportation was via air (helicopter)
  - Flight scheduling and crew configuration were complex tasks
    - Scheduled assessment flights could become unavailable due to medical evacuations
- Humanitarian Assessments
  - A rapid shift to humanitarian assessment occurred
    - No ASR-3 operations were indicated
  - Humanitarian assessments required non-core USAR skills
    - Soft skills and interview methodologies were widely employed
    - Humanitarian reporting pathways from the team to the UNDAC were refined

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### UC Summary

- UCC established at the OSSOC located at Haiti Civil Protection Office in Port-Au-Prince.
  - Two INSARAG classified USAR teams were in country
    - USA-01
    - COL-01
  - Three structural assessment teams
    - ISAR - Germany
    - PUI - France
    - SARAID - United Kingdom
  - Hybrid, mobile health/structural assessment team
    - Brazil



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Initial assessments impacted by multiple factors

- Impacts of Tropical Storm Grace
- Transportation challenges
- Direct damage to roadways and bridges
- Initial assessments concentrated in areas with the greatest damage as reported by LEMA
  - Jeremie, Pestel, Les Cayes and their surrounding areas
- The UCC identified areas for further assessment in coordination with the EMTCC and UNDAC management
- US Government air assets allowed assessment in less accessible areas such as the mountainous regions of Haiti





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- Once determined that ASR-3 operations were not indicated, focus shifted to humanitarian assessments
- UCC assisted with coordinating USAR efforts with humanitarian assessments
- UCC coordinated with MapAction to develop visual display for communication of humanitarian assessment results
- UCC ceased operations on August 24 with members of AST and UNDAC handling further coordination
- Lessons Learned
  - Coordination
    - The RDC is a crucial feature of initial coordination
    - Co-location of the UCC and EMTCC in the OSOCC facilitates effective communication
      - Though both were part of the OSOCC they were in different facilities
    - Early development of summary humanitarian infographics while USAR operations are still underway helps with more efficient transition to humanitarian relief efforts