



Community Hygiene Promoter Solanges Cassamajor explains disease transmission routes to a member of the greater Aquin community.

FAST FACTS

- On August 14, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, leaving more than 650,000 people in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.
- More than 137,000 homes and 60 health facilities were damaged or destroyed.
- As of November 9, International Medical Corps had provided nearly 4,800 medical consultations
- International Medical Corps has reached more than 4,591 community members with hygiene promotion at the EMT.

On August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula, causing 2,248 deaths and injuring more than 12,760 people. Nearly three months after the earthquake, though consultations directly and indirectly related to the event have almost completely subsided, the operating environment for aid organizations remains more challenging than it was at the time of the earthquake itself. Amid an ongoing fuel crisis, national transportation strikes, uncontrolled gang violence and a kidnapping of 17 North American missionaries¹ that garnered international attention, daily operations carried out by aid organizations are faced with significant obstacles and security threats. The United States Embassy has urged Americans to return to the United States due to the high risk of kidnapping and because of the potential of the fuel crisis to decrease the frequency of commercial flights.² Aid organizations continue to practice vigilance, limit their mobility and exercise extreme caution in carrying out day-to-day operations.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps deployed its [Emergency Medical Team \(EMT\) Type 1 Fixed medical facility](#) to Acquin, in southwest Haiti, in late August to address the urgent health needs of earthquake-affected populations. The EMT is a self-sufficient outpatient health facility that is fully equipped to serve a minimum of 100 patients per day. We deployed the EMT in Haiti in partnership with the Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HRDF), a nonprofit organization with the mission of supporting projects and programs that provide measurable results for at-risk populations and ensure greater economic vitality in Haitian villages.

As of November 9, staff at the EMT had provided 4,759 medical consultations to area residents, with 104 consultations directly related to the earthquake and 305 indirectly related to the event. The EMT has experienced a surge in patient consultations attributed to transportation strikes. Since cessation of the strikes, movement has been able to resume, enabling the local population to access the clinic by public transportation.

With notification of a multi-day strike at the end of October, International Medical Corps developed a contingency plan to ensure that the EMT would continue to be operational for patients who could arrive by foot. International Medical Corps also facilitated local accommodations for national medical staff who otherwise would have to travel daily from Les Cayes.

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-58943252>

² <https://ht.usembassy.gov/security-alert-u-s-embassy-port-au-prince-haiti-november-5-2021/>

The relocation allowed for ease of transport to the facility and a secure operational capacity, enabling the EMT to remain fully staffed and operational amid the strike, road blockages and the ongoing fuel crisis.

Last week, using the Abbott rapid antigen test, the EMT identified three positive COVID cases. These patients were isolated, treated and referred to the Aquin Reference Hospital. Given the uptick in COVID cases identified in the clinic, all WASH and fleet personnel have received specific training related to COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC), including safe cleaning surrounding transport of COVID-19 patients. Furthermore, the isolation tent has been relocated to allow for increased privacy and reduced stigmatization of patients requiring isolation.



Members of the EMT's Center for Women and Girls learn food preparation techniques, to grow their catering and street-vendor small businesses.

International Medical Corps continues to collaborate with Aquin Reference Hospital to promote and deliver COVID-19 vaccinations, which we provide at no cost to the general population.

The team providing gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and treatment services opened the Center for Women and Girls on October 15, adjacent to the EMT. The center is hosting daily activities for women Monday through Friday, and activities for adolescents on Saturdays. GBV services are ongoing at the EMT, and GBV response officers continue to receive supportive supervision and mentorship to ensure that quality services are being provided to survivors. The center will continue to host activities, including information sessions in collaboration with the health, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) teams.

Since the integration of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into the EMT Type I, services have been provided through community outreach, awareness-raising activities and onsite services. During October, the MHPSS team focused on themes including stress management, and attention to overall wellbeing and depression. Starting next week, the MHPSS team will begin the implementation of the mental health unit at Aquin Reference Hospital. Two doctors and two nurses from the hospital received MHPSS training from International Medical Corps staff to improve psychological and medication management of severe depression, PTSD and epilepsy.

The WASH team continues to conduct hygiene promotion messaging to patients, caregivers and companions for 30 minutes during the morning hours at the EMT, as well as at the Aquin hospital. To date, 4,591 people have participated in hygiene promotion conducted at the EMT and hospital. Recently, the WASH team implemented community hygiene promotion in the greater community of Aquin. Community hygiene promoters (CHPs) will conduct hygiene promotion sessions at households and in schools to share and reinforce best practices shared at the EMT, and to introduce these practices to members of the community who have not visited the clinic.

Haiti Earthquake EMT Type I Response					
Health services delivered	Health consultations: 4,759		GBV consultations: 38		Psychosocial support consultations: 244
Medical volunteers deployed	Doctors: 6	Nurses: 14	Nurse Midwives: 3		Pharmacists: 4
Persons trained	Health: 119	GBV Core Concepts: 55	Psychological First Aid: 63		Waste Management: 29
Community members reached	Health Talks for patients and family: 2,870	GBV activities for women and girls: 354	MHPSS sensitization outreach: 740		WASH hygiene promotion: 4,591