

# ICRC ACTIVITIES IN HAITI

JANUARY–DECEMBER 2023



In the Republic of Haiti, in particular in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, the ICRC uses its expertise to respond to the protection needs of people affected by armed violence.

By engaging in bilateral and confidential dialogue with key players, including armed groups, the ICRC raises awareness of the need to protect the population from the effects of armed violence and seeks to ensure safe access to essential services, such as emergency health care and drinking water. The ICRC thus calls on all those involved in the violence to uphold humanitarian principles in order to reduce and mitigate the risks faced by the population.

The ICRC works in partnership with the Haitian National Red Cross Society and in close cooperation with the other National Red Cross Societies present in the country, in particular those of Canada, Spain, the Netherlands and Switzerland. It also coordinates with other humanitarian players so as to build a collective humanitarian response.

The ICRC's activities in Haiti are therefore mainly focused on protecting people affected by armed violence, promoting their access to essential services, preventing violations of humanitarian law and principles through bilateral and confidential dialogue with the parties concerned, and raising awareness of the need to respect medical personnel and facilities and the red cross emblem. The ICRC furthermore works to improve access to emergency health care by providing first-aid training to communities, supporting health facilities treating injured people (including improving their access to safe water), responding to emergencies and strengthening the operational capacities of the Haitian National Red Cross Society.

Here is an overview of the ICRC's main activities in Haiti from January to December 2023.



## PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The ICRC:

- carried out **11** dissemination sessions for **144** community members, including medical staff, journalists and community leaders, in Cité-Soleil, Bel-Air and Delmas neighbourhoods.
- met with communities and health professionals to discuss the impact of the armed violence and ways to mitigate the risks for the population; also engaged in confidential, bilateral dialogue with weapon bearers in an effort to reduce the impact of the violence on the communities.

## BOOSTING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE

The ICRC:

- held first-aid training and supplied **133** first-aid bags for **220** health workers and community members, who went on to assist at least **886** people, including **232** who were referred/evacuated to a health facility.

- donated **11** dressing kits (including **5** to first-aid posts in Belekou and **2** to the Haitian National Red Cross Society) and **7** surgical kits for gunshot-wound patients to **6** health facilities. Each kit contained sufficient material to treat between **15** and **50** people, depending on the severity of the injuries.
- facilitated and co-hosted a round-table meeting between the leaders of Cité-Soleil and managers of the National Ambulance Centre to discuss the resumption of ambulance services in Cité-Soleil, so as to improve access to health care for the population.
- donated **50** first-aid bags and **5,000** childbirth kits to the Haitian National Red Cross Society.
- advised **62** medical and health-support staff on ways to defuse situations of violence and sensitized over **20** Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers on actions and measures to adopt in order to limit risks.
- donated **4** first-aid bags and **8** dressing kits to the Haitian National Police.
- held a training session (on providing telephone advice on pre-hospital care) for **15** volunteers from the Haitian National Red Cross Society ambulance service.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

The ICRC:

- built a sanitary block with **2** latrines and **2** showers at Belekou medical observation centre (Cité-Soleil) to improve patient hygiene and comfort. The centre was also refurbished to improve access to appropriate health care.



- built a metal structure for solar panels at Sainte Marie Hospital in Brooklyn neighbourhood (Cité-Soleil).
- installed **30** solar-powered street lights to make the courtyard of Hôpital Universitaire de la Paix a brighter and safer place.
- provided **300** hygiene kits, **4** sanitation kits, **4** hand-washing devices and 18,000 litres of water for 1,500 displaced people from the Carrefour-Feuilles neighbourhood, in cooperation with the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the Canadian Red Cross.
- donated **500** tarpaulins to the General Directorate for Civil Protection for distribution to 17 sites for internally displaced people in the municipalities of Port-au-Prince, Bas-Delmas and Tabarre.
- distributed **200** hygiene kits, **410** tarpaulins and **400** pairs of boots to 1,000 people displaced by flooding in Brooklyn neighbourhood, through the local non-governmental organization OREZON.

## CHOLERA EMERGENCY RESPONSE (OCTOBER 2022 TO NOVEMBER 2023)

- From the cholera outbreak (in September/October 2022) until November 2023, **1,700** households in Cité-Soleil were able to reduce the risk of infection thanks to the distribution of 5,000 bars of soap, 36,000 doses of oral hydration salts and 180,000 chlorine tablets.

- ICRC financial and technical support for the international NGO Health through Walls, as part of a partnership between the two organizations, helped to mitigate and prevent the spread of cholera in 18 places of detention in the country. Hygiene conditions at Port-au-Prince central prison improved thanks to the provision of hygiene and sanitation kits and water-chlorination products, the emptying of septic tanks, rubbish collection and trucking of drinking water.

With ICRC support, Health through Walls:

- treated **1,479** detainees in accordance with the national protocol for cholera surveillance and management.
- organized preventive activities (risk communication, health education, access to hand-washing points) for 7,192 detainees.

## COOPERATION WITH THE HAITIAN NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY

The ICRC:

- trained **15** Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers in testing and treating water and on the reflexes to adopt when analysing and responding to situations of armed violence (Safer Access Framework). The volunteers then carried out water-chlorination and cholera-awareness activities at some



- 10 water points in Tabarre, Delmas and Sarthe, benefiting over 2,200 people.
- trained **42** Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers on cholera prevention and response and home water treatment, preparing them to carry out community outreach in the Bas-Plateau region (Mirebalais and Saut-d'Eau municipalities). Their awareness-raising on cholera, water treatment and hygiene and sanitation reached a total of **7,805** people, and **187** suspected cases were referred to an appropriate health facility (in Mirebalais and Saut-d'Eau municipalities).
  - gave financial support to the Haitian National Red Cross Society ambulance service from October 2022 to June 2023, thus enabling it to assist **516** people, including 50 people with gunshot wounds (351 cases handled in Port-au-Prince by the West Metropolitan Ambulance Service). Telecommunications and solar-energy equipment were also provided.
  - donated **50** first-aid kits to Haitian National Red Cross Society headquarters.
  - broadcast **2** awareness-raising spots for several months on 8 local radio stations on the obligation to respect medical staff and facilities and on cholera prevention and response; produced and broadcast 2 videos on the humanitarian situation in Haiti, highlighting the work of the Haitian National Red Cross Society.
  - trained **18** volunteers from 7 local committees (Arcahaie, Cabaret, Croix-des-Bouquets, Delmas, Ganthier, Pétion-Ville and Tabarre) and the West Metropolitan Ambulance Service as Safer Access focal points for their committees. The participants then shared what they had learned with 414 other volunteers.
  - strengthened the capacities of **14** volunteers working as focal points for restoring family links; they also received Safer Access awareness training.

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.