

Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 in Haiti as of 6-2-20

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How You Can Help

- **What is the best way for the diaspora to help address this crisis in Haiti?**

The diaspora is key in the response, and the best way for the diaspora to intervene is to support the National Commission.

 - *For financial support, from the U.S. and Canada, you can donate at www.gheskio.org. For those in Haiti, we channel via the FHAME Foundation, www.fhame.org. There are transparent procedures for the use of funds, which will be audited.*
 - *For support in-kind, the Commission can help direct support to where it's most needed. Please contact scott@hgha.org.*
 - *For those with political access, please encourage the U.S. to stop the deportation of Haitians during this time of crisis.*
- **What is the fundraising time frame?**

We need to raise funds now as we expect the epidemic to peak in June and July.
- **Given the decline in remittances, how can the diaspora offer support?**

Financial support is the biggest area where the diaspora can help. The Commission also welcomes donations of oxygen tanks, oxygen concentrators, ventilators, diesel generators, and cell phones for patients who need regular monitoring and follow up. To donate items, please contact scott@hgha.org

Needs and Support

- **What are the top needs?**
 - *The Commission needs 1,000 100-pound oxygen tanks and 10 oxygen concentrators. Tanks are about \$300, and concentrators are about \$60,000.*
 - *A top priority is communication for behavior change and community mobilization. The Commission has developed a thorough communications strategy and plan that will*

require \$7 million to implement. So far, only \$300,000 from the private sector has been channeled to this important priority. Unfortunately, the number of cases is growing exponentially, and if we do not act on this priority, it will soon be too late.

- **What additional items are needed?**

- Funds for staff transport to/from sites
- Industrial capacity washer and dryers (for decontamination of washable PPEs, sheets, etc.)
- Incinerators
- Surgical masks
- Gasoline for transport
- Fees (transport, lodging, per diems) for teams traveling to departments: \$35,000
- Autoclaves
- Portable X-Ray machines
- Security firms to protect sites in "hot zones"
- Technicians to install, train and maintain sensitive equipment
 - Repurposing of sites for Level 1 - \$500,000 per site (total of 30 sites)
 - Repurposing of sites for Level 2: \$500,000 (total of 15 sites)
 - Training of personnel for service delivery: \$6,000 /per site (approx 40 sites)
- Ambulance repairs: \$60,000
- Training for and management of bodies: \$60,000
- Phone cards: \$3,000
- Command Center staffing: \$15,000
- Warehouse staffing: \$5,000
- Fuel: \$70,000
- Set up and training of equipment at departmental level: \$100,000

- **What support has been provided thus far?**

From bilateral or multilateral donors:

- UNFPA - HP printer, car and driver available for Commission and volunteers
- IDB - Web master
- UNDP - rent of room to host Command Center, contribution to the cost of setting up the command center, secretarial support
- World Bank/PASMISSI project - initial stock of office supplies, 10 computers, 2 printers, catering for staff, transport of staff back/forth from Canaan site for one month
- World Bank - PPE, Equipment for Oxygenotherapy (amount not available yet), contribution to operations
- World Bank - \$2.5 M through UNICEF, FOSREF and MOH for communications
- World Bank - \$6M (approx) through PAHO for support to response
 - USAID: list of equipment proposed (\$300,000) - not yet confirmed
 - WHO/PAHO: contribution to setting up the Command Center
 - World Bank/PASMISSI project - initial stock of supplies, office equipment, catering for volunteers, phone cards,
- Selecto - coffee for staff and volunteers

- **What has been received from the Government of Haiti?**

Six Boeing 747s arrived with the first procurement of supplies with about \$18 million in supplies. The equipment is stored in three warehouses in PAP (SONAPI) guarded by the Palace police. All

geographic departments have received their initial stock. The Government also procured 13 oxygen generators (approx. \$250,000) and 50,000 items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from local manufacturers.

- **How are Haitian civil society and of community leaders involved in the fight?**
The commission has many high-caliber volunteers. Before setting up a COVID care center, our teams meet with community leaders and train people as community health agents, so that they can educate their community and refer suspected COVID patients to health posts, GHESKIO or other partners.
- **What has the U.S. government contributed or pledged?**
The U.S. government has not yet pledged or made a contribution to the fight against COVID-19 in Haiti.
- **What support has been received from Canada?**
The Haitian Ambassador to Canada is a leader who organized a fund-raising webinar for the commission.
- **How can I see the Commission's budget?**
The budget will be posted on the Commission's website as soon as it is launched.
- **How can we support this effort?**
Please spread the word to your friends, family members and contacts. And please make a donation to fund this fight. More information is [available here](#).

Communication and Outreach

- **What is the best method to reach the public in understanding and convincing them that COVID-19 is real?**
The Commission is getting the word out primarily through community health workers (CHWs). These agents are field workers who are trusted in the communities in which they work.
- **How are the psychosocial perceptions with regard to transmission being addressed?**
Many people distrust the government and don't believe the epidemic is real. Community health workers are key to getting the prevention and anti-stigma messaging out into the communities where these CHWs are trusted.
- **How are you addressing the stigma around the virus? We hear cases of people being attacked because they are suspected to be COVID-19 positive.**
Community health workers are educating and communicating about the disease in local communities.
- **Is there an international communication strategy for outreach to the diaspora and the friends of Haiti?**

Yes. The plan is on the Commission's website. As someone who is concerned about the crisis in Haiti, we count on you to spread the word to your friends and family members about the situation and how they can help.

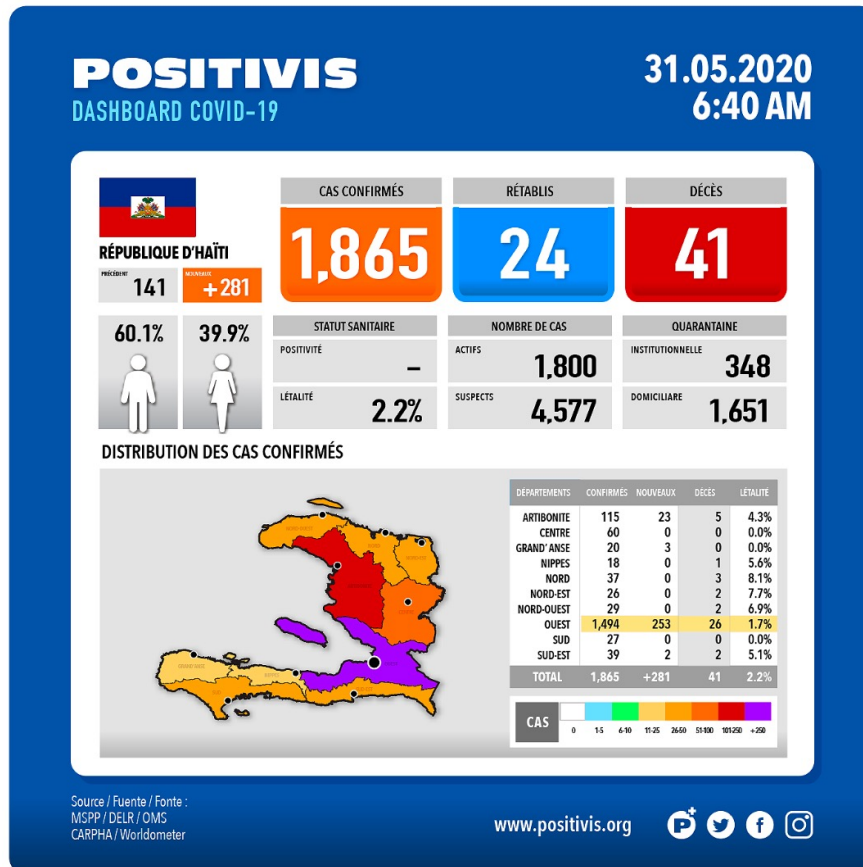
- **What is the most effective way for the diaspora to help with communications within Haiti?**
Please contribute to the Commission, which has a communications team that is working nationally to educate the Haitian population.

Prevention, Testing and Contact Tracing

- **How are you addressing prevention, particularly when social distancing is virtually impossible in Haiti?**
Education from community health workers is key. We have also provided information to the Haitian media (newspapers, TV stations and radio stations) to help them spread the word.
- **How much testing is available for the population?**
Haiti currently has only two labs that can execute SARS-COV-2 PCR testing.
- **Why are more people not being tested?**
There is limited testing capacity in the country. The National lab and the GHESKIO lab are the only two facilities with COVID testing capabilities at present. There are GeneXpert test facilities around the country, but we are unable to get the test cartridges from the United States.
- **How long does it take test results to be provided to the patient?**
Test results can take anywhere from 2 to 10 days, depending on where the tests are initially conducted. This is because, in remote sites, there needs to be a minimum of tests taken to be transported to one of the two labs. Transportation in Haiti in remote areas can be very difficult.
- **What element(s) of the laboratory testing is needed?**
Right now, we cannot get reagents for the GeneXpert testing machines. This is, in part, because countries like the United States will not allow export due to the needs in the U.S.
- **Why is the government not expanding the number of testing sites?**
Until we have GeneXpert cartridges/reagents, we will be unable to expand to other testing sites.
- **Have you tried to procure testing supplies from other countries, for example, those in Africa?**
At this point, the labs are overwhelmed. However, it is estimated that up to 80% of the those with symptoms may be infected. As a result, the strategy has shifted to triage and treatment, so that those with symptoms (regardless of whether they have been tested) receive treatment as soon as possible.
- **How is contact tracing being done?**
Contact tracing is being done via community health workers in the congested areas. However, many people in poor areas do not want to be tested.

Treatment and Capacity

- **What is the number of current cases and deaths?**
As of June 2, there are 2,226 confirmed cases and 45 deaths. This is but the tip of the iceberg because people are not able to get tested. Cases from May 2 to June 1 increased over 2,000%.
- **Is there a breakdown on the cases per Department?**



- **How many COVID-19 treatment centers are needed to respond to the needs?**
There are currently plans for 30 COVID-19 treatment centers.
- **What is the main treatment for patients with moderate to severe cases of COVID-19?**
Oxygen therapy is the most necessary treatment for patients with moderate to severe cases.
- **How many ventilators does Haiti have today?**
It is estimated that there are roughly 60 ventilators in Haiti for a population of 11 million people. However, there is no census on how many are in working order and how many doctors are properly trained to operate them.
- **Does the plan address training activities for health care personnel, with the goal of building their competence, their confidence and their resilience?**
Yes. There is a robust online training curriculum available for healthcare personnel that is being rolled out across the country. For ease of sharing, training videos are posted at gheskio.org/training.

- **How does the Commission plan to address the need for anticoagulant?**
We have obtained Heparin sc from Promess, a government agency.
- **How does the Commission plan to ensure an adequate supply of pulse oximeters?**
The Haitian Global Health Alliance has purchased hundreds of oximeters for patient triage and ongoing monitoring.
- **Have you considered offering telemedicine, with doctors in the diaspora contributing?**
Remote telemedicine from outside Haiti is impractical due to bandwidth constraints and the fact that most people do not have access to the internet.
- **What is the plan for these centers' upkeep and maintenance, post-pandemic?**
Things that the country did not have prior to this pandemic will remain-in country, including ventilators and oxygen concentrators.