

H2H Fund Activation:
Earthquake in Haiti, 2021
Case Study: February 2022

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About the author

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Thanks to all members who participated in the study

The H2H team thanks all the contributors: Rieke Vingerling and Meg Settler from Ground Truth Solutions. Christina Wille and Helen Buck from Insecurity Insight. FanMan Tsang and Alyssa Boulares from CDAC Network. Shazmane Mandjee and Wendy Delva from Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team. Katie Bitten from RedR UK and Max Saumol Lubain, participant of RedR UK training. Emmeline Booth from The New Humanitarian. Tom Van Herwijnen, Global Security & Safeguarding Manager at Christoffel Blind Mission. David Clamp, Chair of the UK INGO security focal point network. Guerna Jn Laurent Isme, education and training specialist at Zanmi Timoun. Angeline Annesteus from Action Aid. Donna Bowater one of the users of TNH reporting from Acceso. Helen Kearney and Alice Darcq from the H2H Network.

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Introduction

This case study explores how the H2H Fund activation for the earthquake that occurred in Haiti on 14 August 2021 was able to rapidly fill gaps in the humanitarian response. As part of a series of case studies, it also contributes to a wider evidence-based learning process which aims to strengthen the H2H Network's activities and ensure their continued relevance and appropriateness. The study was conducted in February 2022 for the H2H Network by an independent consultant. A variety of sources including 18 key informant interviews, 14 project reports, the kick off and mid-term call recordings, participation in the learning review call by CDAC (Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities) Network and 9 additional documents informed the study.

H2H Fund Activation

1. Background

On the 14th of August 2021, a powerful, 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the southwestern part of Haiti. Most affected were the three departments of Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes. National authorities declared a state of emergency on the same day. Initial assessments confirmed a rising number of deaths and severely injured, straining the already limited health system's capacity to respond, and it identified an initial 650,000 people needing emergency humanitarian assistance. Agriculture and related livelihoods have been hard hit in affected areas, threatening to exacerbate food security in a country where 4.4 million people – nearly 40 percent of the population – were already acutely food-insecure (UN OCHA, [Haiti Earthquake Situation Report No. 1](#)). Tropical Depression Grace passed over the same parts of the country only 3 days later with strong winds and heavy rains, which severely hampered the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance (Republique D'Haiti, Ministere de la Planification et de la Cooperation externe, [Evaluation](#)).

The earthquake affected Haiti at a moment in time when the nation was experiencing a multitude of humanitarian and political crises, including an inadequate response to COVID-19, a hunger crisis affecting four million Haitians, political fallout and tensions after the presidential assassination one month prior, and the still ongoing recovery after the devastating 2010 earthquake (Lutheran World Relief/IMA World Health, [Situation Report Haiti Earthquake](#)). Access had been increasingly complicated since the beginning of 2021, both for people in need and for humanitarian organizations, because of escalating insecurity in the southern peninsula. Areas affected by the earthquake were hotspots for gang-related violence. (ACAPS [Briefing note Haiti](#)).

800,000
affected people

650,000
people in need of
urgent humanitarian
aid

115,183
houses, 1,250
schools and 97 health
facilities destroyed or
damaged¹

500,000
people targeted by
the Flash Appeal

457,800
people reached with
humanitarian
assistance

Post Disaster Needs Assessment results as of 23 November 2021,
Source UN OCHA Situation Report Nr. 8, 29 November 2021

Three months later, humanitarian partners assessed that the earthquake had a major impact on the 1.5 million people living in the affected areas, as well as on infrastructure, systems, and services, and on humanitarian access. The earthquake affected at least 800,000 people, 650,000 of whom required emergency humanitarian assistance in the departments of Sud, Nippes and Grand'Anse. The earthquake killed 2,246 people, injured 12,763, left 329 missing and many more with disabilities (UN OCHA, Situation Report No. 8, November 2021).

2. Fund activation details

The request to scope the need to activate the H2H Fund came from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO, H2H Network's main donor at the time) on the day of the earthquake. An initial, secondary needs assessment and scope were conducted immediately by the H2H Network's core team, verifying needs, and identifying capacity and availability among H2H Network partners. On 17 August 2021, the H2H Network activated its fund by issuing a call for proposals to its network members. The call was intended to provide short-term support with an eligibility period for activities from 1 September 2021 to 31 January 2022. As with all H2H Fund projects, services were to be built on local capacities, with knowledge and expertise to be made freely available to all humanitarian responders. A total of GBP £250,000, - was made available for the five-month implementation period. The funding expired on 31 March 2022, and all projects had to end in time for final reporting, per the funding agreement between the H2H Network and UK FCDO. By 27 August 2021, nine proposals have been received, reviewed, checked for compliance and scored by the H2H Fund's grant panel. The number of proposals submitted was considerably higher than in earlier fund activation calls, requesting nearly double the funds available for the response. The grant panel scored each project and selected six member agencies to support and inform the wider humanitarian response, specializing in communications and community engagement, data, and information management.

The agencies selected were Ground Truth Solutions (GTS), CDAC Network, Translators Without Borders (TwB), The New Humanitarian (TNH), RedR UK, Insecurity Insight, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT).

Call for Proposals	Selection Process	Eligibility Period for Activities	Final Reporting	H2H FCDO Grant Closure*
17-24 August	24-27 August	1 September-31 January	28 February	31 March

Table 1: Timeline for the H2H Fund activation for the Earthquake in Haiti on 14 August 2021

The H2H Network Fund activation - How it works:

The H2H Fund is activated following a request by a donor, a network member, or a responder within the context of a specific emergency. A monthly network forum gives members the opportunity to flag crises and request needs assessments. The H2H Core team conducts a scoping and needs assessment and decides on whether to activate the fund or not. If the decision is positive, a call for proposals is issued. Proposals are then reviewed and scored by the grant panel. The grant panel for Haiti was comprised of 3 experts with country and regional knowledge, as well as previous H2H Fund activation experience. H2H Core team members are no longer part of the grant panel. The H2H Fund activation leads to the formulation of the overall H2H Service Package, which aims to meet the needs in the specific context and strengthen the humanitarian response.

3. H2H Fund eligibility

H2H Network partners must meet specific eligibility requirements in order to apply for the H2H Fund. This includes having already passed a due diligence assessment and ensuring security, safety and in-field hosting - which are ultimately the responsibility of the network partner. This was particularly important in the complex security context of Haiti, where some partners withdrew their initial plans to deploy international staff in the deteriorating security situation. Participation in the H2H Collaboration calls is another requirement for grantees. These calls are a crucial element for collaborative operation between and across the individual projects. In their decision-making process, the grant panel seeks compatibility of the projects for an effective overall outcome of the H2H Fund activation.

The H2H Fund collaboration calls:

The participation in kick-off and further collaboration calls when required (usually mid and end term) are centre pieces of the service package concept. As a unique feature of the H2H Fund, these calls, facilitated by the H2H Core team, aim to provide ground for collaboration among H2H Fund grantees throughout the entire project phase.

Main findings

The lessons identified in this case study development process are summarized here, systematically grouped by core themes that highlight the benefits and challenges of working collaboratively when implementing the comprehensive H2H Service Package. The learnings include the administration of the fund, how the projects were implemented in practice and what effect they had on the humanitarian response. The design, delivery, uptake and contribution to the overall humanitarian response of all 6 projects are described at the end of this report.

1. Speed and timeliness

- Less than 14 days were needed from scope to activation of the H2H Fund, and all H2H Fund grantees were ready to operationalize their projects with immediate effect.
- Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) was slowed down in their procurement of equipment, having to wait for the FCDO asset transfer plan, a setback that was not predicted in their workplan.

“ The rapid-release nature of H2H funding has been critical for our organisation, notably for this Haiti project but also for our work on COVID-19. By comparison, most funding we apply for takes us an average of two years to get (...) which means we miss opportunities to spark real changes – of the Haiti ilk - when it comes to humanitarian quality and effectiveness. And that is the whole point of organisations like ours

**Meg Sattler, Director Ground
Truth Solutions**

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- Most project implementations were affected by the challenging environment of Haiti and by the fuel crisis that affected the country since June 2021. Even remotely operated activities were hampered by unreliable power grids and inoperable cell phone towers.
- Fuel crises are a relatively frequent occurrence in Haiti, and while the current crisis pre-dated the earthquake, it was not considered in any of the risk analyses conducted at the project planning stage. A stronger emphasis on assessing recurrent challenges in the given context would have allowed for anticipation and mitigation measures to be put in place.

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- The grant panel, selected for their experience in the given context (Haiti), must play a stronger role in helping applicants to understand context-specific risks and must factor in potential mitigation measures during the proposal writing phase. A platform for such input is already in place; yet, the grant panel must review and provide more thorough feedback on possible risks, so that grantees can incorporate that expertise from the get go.
 - Most projects struggled with the relatively short eligibility period of the fund. This indicates that there is still a certain lack of clarity about the H2H Fund being a kick-start funding mechanism, designed to fill a gap in the immediate onset of an emergency and allowing H2H Partners to seek additional, longer-term funding while implementing their projects.
 - During the CDAC review presentation (see P. 11 for details), it was proposed that a hybrid system for funding, which addresses the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, might be an important area to explore.

“ Regular check-ins (collaboration calls) were great, as otherwise I would not have had the capacity to reach out. Even small bits of collaboration are already helpful and interesting. ”

Rieke Vingerling, Ground Truth Solutions

2. Coordination and collaboration

- While services provided by H2H Network members are often distinct, niche services where cross-fertilisation of ideas or direct collaboration between two or more projects can seem artificial, feedback from key informants indicates that the collaboration calls often opened collaboration that otherwise would not have come to fruition.
- Multiple forms of collaboration between two or more H2H Fund grantees took place in response to the earthquake, and all but one – the joint project between CDAC and TwB – stemmed from the kick-off (and mid-term) collaboration calls. Most key informants believe that the relationships formed in this response will continue in the future (in Haiti and in other emerging crises). Details on collaboration can be found in the project descriptions below.
- The role of the grant panel in selecting projects with potential for collaboration should not be underestimated. It explored how to bring forward (in time) opportunities for collaboration to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency. While the H2H Core team is no longer part of the grant panel, its role in validating the financial and compliance parts of the proposals, as well as sharing additional context about previous collaboration efforts, remains crucial.
- When prompted about their role in promoting the H2H Network during the project implementation, most key informants confirmed that (if at all) they reference the H2H Fund as the source for their activities, while largely letting the opportunity to promote the network pass. While this sometimes makes sense for project managers, this is still an opportunity

“

Marketing of the H2H Network and its operational partners is not great. Who they are and what their mandate is I cannot describe! They should be less humble and profile themselves better!”

Tom van Herwijnen Global Security & Safeguarding Manager Christoffel Blind Mission

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missed to disseminate the value of partnering with the H2H Network.

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- o In earlier H2H Fund activations, the H2H Core team deployed a member to help with needs assessments and play an active role in the coordination of H2H Fund grantees within the wider humanitarian response. With the current skeleton team, this valuable chance to promote the H2H Network and its fund is currently unachievable.
 - During the H2H Fund activations in Ethiopia and Haiti, Insecurity Insight lobbied for the inclusion of non Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF) members in the round tables which are usually for members only, per GISF policy. While this is a small step toward a more inclusive service (including local actors), there is now a willingness to open specific events more widely.
 - The H2H Core team has decreased over the past year from initially 8 to 2.5 at times and now 3.5 staff members. Each member has worked above and beyond their described roles in the past. This is likely unsustainable and bears considerable risks from a managerial viewpoint. Maintaining the level of technical support and facilitation of collaboration to network partners during a fund activation (sometimes several overlapping ones), is important. The strong technical support throughout the activation period is a vital component of the H2H Fund, and it sets it apart from other funding mechanisms. While the H2H Fund is an important component of the H2H Network, there are multiple other services and support that are being provided by the H2H Core team. According to key informants these have decreased over the past year, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also due to limited staff availability to maintain earlier levels of engagement.
 - Key informants for this case study highlighted that above all, their membership in a network that collaborates in new ways, facilitates mutual technical support and enables partners to benefit from shared learning and exchange of innovative ideas is crucial to their organisation. The H2H Fund is seen by most as an added benefit, especially for the newly established, smaller, or very niche service providers. Allocating (human) resources towards maintaining and nourishing the unique community of H2H Network members will in turn allow the H2H Fund, as part of the network development, to further develop its unique role within the humanitarian landscape.

3. Adaptation and Innovation

- Insecurity Insight used the implementation period to trial the use of a security risk assessment software in collaboration with a software company that specialises in digital security risk management. The objective was to test and adapt the system, which uses coded security incident data to generate a risk profile for aid operations in Haiti based on actual aid security incidents, for the use by aid agencies. The software trial has provided important learnings of how to adapt an existing, private sector focused, security risk assessment model to the aid sector.
- The security situation in Haiti required several projects to adapt a “stronger than anticipated” remote operation model, which forced most project coordinators to apply creative and novel concepts to ensure effective project implementations. TwB, for example, used the situation to practice a remote validation process for terms and have gone on to use this method in other contexts (see P. 12 for details).
- Most grantees observed, and complemented, the H2H Network’s core team was open and flexible with regards to adapting/changing project objectives resulting from the difficult operational context.

4. Relevance and appropriateness¹

- All grantees engaged intensely with local and national sources and developed (or build on existing) partnerships that allowed for regular monitoring of the continued appropriateness and relevance of their projects.
- Most projects had robust monitoring in place and demonstrated their ability to adapt their projects to the findings of e.g., key informant interviews, daily training feedback and community consultations.
 - A strength of the H2H Fund is the approachability of the H2H Core team and their openness to discuss and accept even considerable project deviations in the interest of effective and efficient service provision. Without the rigidity of having to conform to outdated expectations, this flexibility enables improvements midstream.
- The CDAC review of the status of Communication, Community Engagement and Accountability (CCEA) in Haiti six months into the earthquake response confirmed: CDACs project addressed multiple existing shortfalls in CCEA and AAP activities in country. However, the achievements have little hope for sustained impact unless CCEA and AAP needs are addressed through longer term programming and respective funding.
- Many of the products developed and delivered in this H2H Fund activation were designed with sustainability in mind and continue to have an influence on the overall humanitarian response in Haiti and likely beyond. Some examples are the adaptation of security risk assessment software for humanitarian contexts by Insecurity Insight, the development of a multilingual glossary of PSEA terms by TwB, and more. This is indicative of the value of funding innovative approaches (even) in emergency settings.

¹ Each of the project descriptions below provides a short insight to the overall humanitarian response contribution, including additional information on relevance and appropriateness which is not repeated here.

5. Additional outcomes and what happened next:

The H2H Fund aims to enable network members to rapidly initiate activities when an emergency strikes. Typically, H2H Network members then seek funding from additional sources for the continuation of their activities. An important aspect of the H2H Fund is therefore its ability to function as catalyst for the medium and longer-term engagement for grantees to continue working in the given context.

- RedR UK developed their project proposal based on their concept of facilitating real-time, capacity strengthening to local responders on the onset of a disaster designed for their H2H Get Ready Fund project. The results of their project in Haiti are improving their approach to rapid capacity strengthening and building a repository of training materials for this purpose. This is a great example of cross fertilisation between the H2H Get Ready Fund² and the H2H Fund activation. Another example is how GTS iterated on the phone surveys they had piloted with funding from a previous H2H Fund activation, confidently serving the people in Haiti and increasing return on investment for the H2H Fund activation for COVID-19.

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GTS has experience with conducting phone surveys in different contexts, due in no small part to a prior H2H Fund project (on COVID-19).

We knew to include steps in the sampling process and targeting, to ensure a representative sample.

GTS final narrative report

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² For more context on the H2H Get Ready Fund, its case study can be read here: https://h2h-prod-website.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/GRF_case_study_Final.pdf

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- “While the five months’ timeframe was sufficient to develop a product, the time did not allow to see the use of the product within the aid sector. As we can now disseminate and adapt the software-based security risk assessment using USAID funding, we hope that the product developed through this H2H Fund activation will over time lead to further changes within the way the aid sector assesses aid specific security risks. This example highlights both the potential of H2H Fund activations in kick-starting change, as well as its limitations linked to the short project implementation period for achieving change.” (Christina Wille, Insecurity Insight)
 - All but one of the projects will continue to operate in Haiti to varying degrees, building on what they started with H2H’s seed funding and demonstrating the H2H Network’s role as a catalyst for medium and longer-term engagement.

Conclusion

Relevance of the fund in sudden onset and neglected crises:

This H2H Fund activation beautifully demonstrated the function of the H2H Fund as seed funding to kick start action that will likely carry on past the project implementation phase. Unfortunately, most grantees were unable to mobilize new funding and instead committed to utilize their own core funding to extend activities that were initiated by the H2H Fund activation. This is reflective of the overall funding situation for Haiti, which has been labelled a “forgotten crisis” in the past. This problem, however, is likely going to be an issue in future H2H Fund activations for neglected or underserved crises. The Haiti-specific funding challenge was addressed in the CDAC learning call for Haiti (see P.11 for details or read the full H2H Fund review [here](#)), when partners discussed the need – and opportunity – for some form of hybrid funding mechanism to follow the emergency H2H Fund activation. This is certainly outside the capacity of the H2H Fund; however, it is an interesting consideration for the process of finalising the strategy for the network and the H2H Fund within it.

Strategy, development, and growth of the network

The organic growth of the H2H Network has, among other things, led to innovative and novel ideas on how to facilitate collaboration, jointly build capacity, and benefit from the uniqueness of each network partner to create something where the sum is indeed greater than its parts. To maintain and further this without the risk of losing focus and clarity is important. Part of this is the (re-) development of a core team that administers the maintenance and growth of the network with distinct roles and responsibilities. The reduction in staff and the frequent change in leadership over the past 2 years has in parts made it very difficult to maintain a clear vision and to deliver the support to network members to the degree that sets the H2H Network apart from other memberships. It also holds the risk of the H2H Core team to become a mere facilitator for funding passing through from the donor(s) to network partners. As key informants reiterated on many occasions: the membership and its many benefits in networking, capacity building and learning comes first; the funding opportunities are a (much welcome and needed) addition.

H2H Fund activation: the role of the H2H Core team

The willingness to go above and beyond to provide humanitarian services is evident in both the H2H Core team's dedication to provide the best possible support to H2H Fund grantees and in the way the grantees exceeded their planned deliverables against many odds. The role of the grant panel was key, among many reasons, to ensure proposals were realistic in scope vis-à-vis potential risks that could be expected in the context of the emergency. This not only required the selection of technical experts with regional knowledge but a clear understanding (briefing) of their role within the H2H Fund activation. The deployment of an H2H Core team member (or temporary recruit) to inform the needs assessment, generally feed into the fund activation process and represent the H2H Network in the humanitarian response has been part of earlier fund activations, and it should be considered in the development of a human resource strategy for future H2H Fund activations as the benefits are considerable.

The H2H Network shared strong feedback on administrative procedures including e.g., high reporting requirements or the low individual funding ceilings related to due diligence, the latter still being a key hurdle for smaller, newer network members to even be eligible to receive funding. All of these were shared with the H2H Core team, which has a proven track record of being open to constructive criticism and responsive to changes proposed that are within their remit. It must be noted that being reliant (dependent) on their host and donors' rules and regulations meant the H2H Core team often has limitations that are outside their own capacity to change. Strengthening the H2H Core team (in number and skillsets) will allow to further support new network partners in their due diligence processes, guide their refinement of financial skills to surpass funding ceilings and be well supported throughout the funding period. Clarity on scope and capacity of support that the team shall be able to extend to partners should be incorporated in the network strategy.

Measuring Impact in the absence of a guiding MEAL framework

It is difficult at the time of the case study development to document the impact of the H2H Fund activation on the overall humanitarian response in Haiti. Fund grantees continue to operate in country, and with that, monitor and eventually attempt to measure the impact of their projects. There is currently no stone cast requirement of MEAL activities in the H2H Fund regulations and previous attempts have apparently failed to yield useful results. A systematic learning feedback mechanism (beyond case studies) that allows for sharing and joint learning among network members would be beneficial, and it is something that the MEAL working group should be tasked with to jointly develop an agreeable MEAL framework for H2H Fund activations.

Annexe 1
Projects
Deep Dive



1. Ground Truth Solutions: Post-quake accountability to affected people and performance management

Project design

[Ground Truth Solutions \(GTS\)](#) aimed to provide operational agencies in the humanitarian response in Nippes, Sud and Grand Anse, with actionable recommendations based on the perceptions of the affected populations. The goal was to understand the way the affected people saw their predicament and the quality of the response. In addition to ensuring that the earthquake response was informed by the views and experience of the affected community, the project aimed to close the loop so they are informed about the aggregated findings and what will be done in response to their communities' feedback. GTS planned to collect quantitative and qualitative feedback through surveys and focus group discussions. Community consultations were to be held to inform people of those quantitative findings and hear their recommendations and/or reactions. Findings and recommendations would be disseminated through OCHA to the established humanitarian coordination platforms. Operational agencies would be enabled to better target their activities to the needs of the affected communities, and donors would have a better sense of the utility of what they are funding.

Services delivered

GTS was able to speak to more than 1,300 people affected by the 2021 earthquake in Haiti, in different types of conversations. Through the recruitment of local quantitative and qualitative data collection experts, GTS conducted 1,251 phone surveys for a quantitative data analysis and 17 qualitative interviews. Seven shorter interviews were videorecorded to bring life to the findings and make the voice of affected people heard. GTS was able to validate quantitative findings and gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding on how affected communities perceive and experience aid. GTS was able to track broader issues of empowerment and transparency that will directly influence many global policy processes.

A delay in the collection of the quantitative data caused the timeline of the project to be pushed back. While data collection, analysis and report writing have been concluded and multiple humanitarian partners have been briefed, additional steps are still required to help humanitarian actors adapt their programming and to close the feedback loop. GTS continues its engagement in Haiti with its own funding. Part of their ongoing activities will be to inform communities of the impact their contributions have had on humanitarian project planning, as indicated in the project proposal.

1. Ground Truth Solutions: Post-quake accountability to affected people and performance management

Services used

The dissemination of GTS' findings aimed to improve humanitarian service provision in country and to influence global policy in general. The qualitative discussions produced multiple recommendations on how humanitarian aid could be improved. These were shared and discussed in the AAP working group and workshopped in a session with multiple in-country humanitarian actors in March 2022. The data generated was used and referenced in the trainings of CDAC and RedR UK, and CDAC and Panos Car-ibbean. Findings were discussed in bilateral conversations and in numerous presentations throughout the project timeline including with the national and regional (Sud) AAP Working Group, Humanitarian country team, UNICEF, OCHA and CDAC.

GTS collaborated with CDAC and RedR in two training sessions through disseminating their findings and sharing lessons. GTS closely collaborated with The New Humanitarian to combine GTS' experience gathering perception data and TNH's sector journalism to reach and influence a wider audience. The findings of this project will be used to write an article for TNH, and GTS and TNH will co-host a global event/webinar with a panel of decision-makers and key stakeholders. The qualitative interview video recordings are intended for advocacy efforts in the coming year, to raise attention, make the report come to life, and use support dialogue and dissemination.

Response contribution

According to GTS the initial feedback from OCHA and others indicate that the project outputs have contributed to the improvement of processes and provided a solid basis from which to build up the activities of the AAP working group. This indicates that the project goal of helping humanitarians incorporate community feedback in a systematic and practical way is on track, though valid proof of this can only be demonstrated over time. By providing open-source access to community feedback on broader issues of concern, the humanitarian community is enabled to meet needs that are communicated to them directly from a diverse group of community representatives. GTS established new partnerships that have potential to last beyond the duration of this project and ensure the obtained data is influencing aid activities. Feedback from affected people and the research team indicate that the data collection process was of value to participants, who appreciated the chance to share their opinions.

The H2H-funded portion of the project was followed up with an article in [The New Humanitarian](#) and a [webinar](#), where senior leaders across civil protection, UNDP and a national NGO publicly discussed the findings and demonstrated a

high level of buy-in from across the response.

The OCHA team are planning to follow up through workshops and prioritisation of issues to address when it comes to community trust.

“ Because of the way the response is organised, and because of the feedback we got from aid recipients (which, in essence, was that the aid has been useful when received as rapid relief after a shock, but trust is very low overall and longer-term solutions are elusive), we all see huge potential to try a more logical, nexus-appropriate approach to ‘AAP’ in Haiti, and this is being discussed by the HCT, Haitian govt civil protection, UNDP, OCHA and donors.”

**Meg Sattler, Director Ground
Truth Solutions**

2.

Insecurity Insight: Aid agency Information (ASI) Incident Data Sharing and Analysis - Haiti

Project design

[Insecurity Insight](#) proposed to support the sharing and analysis of confidential security incidents from over 10 partner agencies active in Haiti with whom the organisation has existing Memorandum of Understanding. Insights from aid agency data were to be coded and made available to the whole aid sector in the form of data on the OCHA data exchange and used in analyses reports. Predictive analyses were to be published in English and French on Reliefweb, the Insecurity Insight website, and H2H Blog. A specifically designed software tool was to be used to produce a generic aid-focused security risk assessment with suggested practical mitigation measures for the use of aid agencies. The overall objective of the project was to provide a data-driven, predictive situation analysis to enable an effective humanitarian and stabilization intervention. As in the H2H Fund response to the conflict in Tigray, H2H Network partners GISF and Insecurity Insight collaborated to provide an online platform for aid agencies to discuss challenges among peers. Insights from those discussions were to inform Insecurity Insights publications and vice versa.

Services delivered

Insecurity Insight delivered tailored situation analyses for aid agencies in Haiti, aiming to support implementation of practical mitigation measures that enable access and safety for staff and assets. Humanitarian aid agencies were able to:

- Access data – via the OCHA data sharing platform HDX from where users can download datasets [Haiti: Attacks on Aid Operations, Education, Health and Protection - Humanitarian Data Exchange \(humdata.org\)](#). In total, 465 incidents from Haiti were coded during the project implementation.
- Receive text-based predictive situation assessments that turned the incident event description data into useable information and discussed it in the context of current affairs in Haiti <https://bit.ly/HaitiSitRep30Sept21> , <https://bit.ly/HtiSitRep12Nov2021> , <https://bit.ly/HaitiFlash01Dec2021> , <https://bit.ly/HaitiLooting21Dec2021> , <https://bit.ly/Jan2022Haiti>.

In the field, Insecurity Insights piloted NGO-tailored security risk assessment software Hawksight to generate risk profiles and access practical mitigation measures. The objective was to test and adapt the system for use by aid agencies to support the implementation, and it was funded by the H2H Fund. By all measures, it was a success.

In collaboration with fellow H2H Network member Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF), Insecurity Insight contributed to 4 virtual round tables. During these round tables, confidential discussions among security focal points of aid agencies took place and the findings presented in Insecurity Insights situation reports were shared and discussed. As a result of the H2H Collaboration calls, Insecurity Insight collaborated with The New Humanitarian (TNH) on an article about [how gang violence strains aid operations in Haiti](#).

2.

Ground Truth Solutions: Post-quake accountability to affected people and performance management

Services used

On average, 1,937 users accessed each of the five reports, and the data provided to the Humanitarian Data Exchange was downloaded over 400 times. These numbers far exceeded predictions at the project proposal writing stage. The membership-based round tables were frequented by 10 attendees on average, reflecting the number of the GISF members operating in Haiti. The aid sector-focused perspective of the various products met the differing needs of global security directors, regional and country security managers, programme and operations managers and aid agency staff in their respective roles within the response to the earthquake.

“ The analyses provided is heavily focussed for international NGOs and not so much aimed towards partner organisations. It would be good if the material would be written more with local partners’ insights.

Tom van Herwijnen Global Security & Safeguarding Manager CBM ”

Response contribution

Insecurity Insights’ products, all of which were publicly available in French and English, supported aid agencies to better understand the security context and consider mitigation solutions. By focusing on aid agencies, the situation analyses provided a unique security perspective that set it apart from commercially available information products that focus on the general security context. Through collaboration with TNH, the project potentially contributed to a much better understanding of the security challenges in Haiti among non-security experts.

“ Insecurity Insight provided input to the round tables in a context where there is not that much information available, resulting in organisations being able to understand how to operate more safely in a very complex difficult context.

David Clamp, Chair of the UK INGO security focal point network ”

3. CDAC Network & Translators without Borders: Embedding the earthquake response in existing systems for community dialogue and communication

Project design

CDAC and TWB proposed to partner for a project that would build on learnings from CDAC's individual and collective CCEA responses in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake, as well as the Hurricane Matthew responses. In conjunction, the two organisations planned to provide in-country and global support to CCEA coherence and inclusion, focusing on:

- Inclusion of diverse local and national actors
- Provision of context appropriate training on CCEA
- Contribution of essential common products in Creole and Spanish with focus on the development of a multilingual glossary which enables humanitarian responders to communicate unfamiliar ideas with community members in a clear and consistent way
- Facilitation of learning and review for planning of recovery and resilience protection

CDAC had planned to complement the overall Haiti coordination role by embedding a nationally recruited CCEA response network coordinator hosted by a CDAC member locally.

Aim of this joint project was to provide strong links between national NGO, private sector, and government actors with UN agencies and INGOs to provide a consistent two-way communication effort, thereby enhancing communication and engagement activities with the affected people in worst affected parts of Haiti.

Services delivered

In collaboration with OCHA, CDAC helped form the framework of the revived AAP working group in Haiti in response to the earthquake. CDAC's mapping of national and international actors, local media, and Haitian Government agencies with response implementing activities formed the initiative for a 3Ws list of actors involved in the CCEA in the country AAP work. Subsequently, CDAC actively encouraged a stronger inclusion of local actors in the AAP working group and helped identify new actors such as media producers and radio stations to participate as well.

A key advocacy role of CDAC was to lobby for two-way communications during the implementation of projects by humanitarian actors. Jointly with RedR, CDAC organised six remote CCEA training sessions for more than 140 participants from different local actors and humanitarian sector working in Haiti. CDAC also organised two CCEA sessions with Panos Caraibes and Internews for 15 local journalists, including subjects such as community engagement, two-way communication with crisis-affected communities and managing rumours, particularly regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

TwB created a multilingual [glossary](#) of 210 safeguarding terms. The terms were discussed, agreed upon and tested in several steps before being presented at the PSEA task force and the CWC/AAP working group. A presentation was shared with CDAC for use in their wider network. Through its training activities and its networking capacity, CDAC supported the dissemination of the glossary.

As part of the project funded by the H2H Fund, CDAC developed a [review](#)³ on the use of CCEA in the first six months of the earthquake response and shared the findings with the AAP working group in Haiti, H2H Network partners operating in Haiti and the CDAC Community of Practice.

“ Nearly six months after the earthquake, there has been some progress in localisation, community engagement, and accountability, but there remains much more to be done. ”
CDAC review P. 9

³ Haiti Six Months On: Good Intentions, Bad Memories and Local Frustrations. Was Communication, Community-Engagement and Accountability considered in the 2021 Haiti Earthquake Response?

3. CDAC Network & Translators without Borders: Embedding the earthquake response in existing systems for community dialogue and communication

Services used

CDAC helped ensure a coordinated effort to improve communication, reduce confusion, and provide shared feedback pathways by taking a collaborative, step-by-step approach. The project supported actors engaged in the earthquake response by building links between national NGO and private sector communication and community engagement actors, together with UN agencies and INGOs. As a direct outcome of their coordination and networking activities, five local actors joined the AAP working group. A total of 169 individuals have been trained in CCE/AAP using a context specific curriculum developed in French and Creole, and they have been able to use the new communication concepts, community engagement and accountability in their activities.

Response contribution

CDACs active role in including local and national actors, including media, positively impacted the overall response. Through its collaborative action with multiple local, national, and international partners, CDAC considerably expanded the reach of its own activities, including the dissemination of CCEA knowledge and practices among humanitarian agencies and local actors, which helped others reach and/or exceed their objectives. Training curricula being made available in French and Creole will enable local trainers to hold future CCEA trainings in-person and remotely if the opportunity arises.

The sharing of the review findings with key actors in CCEA and AAP activities in Haiti enables stakeholders to improve sustainable, collective, localised action and continue to build CCEA and AAP capacity without repeating the many mistakes made in previous emergencies in Haiti.

The glossary developed by TwB enables all humanitarian actors in Haiti to access tested terminology to support communications on safeguarding, and to be able to use these terms consistently across the response. It has the potential to be used much more widely, as it contains safeguarding terminology in both Spanish and Haitian Creole, enabling humanitarian actors to work with diaspora and migrant Haitian communities beyond the border of Haiti and in Spanish speaking communities across Latin America, Spain and beyond.

4.

Humanitarian Open Street Map Team: Enabling COSMHANNE Capacities Strengthening to Map the Departments of Sud & Grand'Anse

Project design

[Humanitarian Open Street Map Team \(HOT\)](#) proposed to crowdsource strategic open data sets to improve the government of Haiti and HOTs operational partner's ability to respond to the aftermath of the earthquake. The project aimed at reinforcing, refreshing, and strengthening capacities within the local organisation COSMHANNE to retake crucial data collection, validation, and analysis tasks. The HOT team planned to leverage Open Street Map (OSM) data within their individual analysis to inform the prioritization and method of effective aid delivery to the most affected and vulnerable communities across Haiti. The primary beneficiary of the project was the Communauté OpenStreetMap Haiti Nord et Nord' Est (COSMHANNE). Secondary beneficiaries included the government of Haiti and humanitarian partners working in the earthquake response, who will benefit from the access to crucial data collection and dissemination to continue their work. The strong emphasis on capacity building (data collection, validation/ground truthing, analysis, and visualization) will contribute to sustaining the project beyond the implementation phase.

4. Humanitarian Open Street Map Team: Enabling COSMHANNE Capacities Strengthening to Map the Departments of Sud & Grand'Anse

Services delivered

COSMHANNE and HOT entered a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of strengthening capacities within the COSHMANNE OSM community. Based on project objectives and a joint initial needs assessment, HOT and COSMHANNE prepared an intense training schedule of organizational and technical segments that would allow the community to be more self-sufficient in the future. The collaborative training concept involved TwB for translation of training materials into French and the OSM community in Democratic Republic of Congo (OSMDRC) as training facilitators, maximizing on their recently built capacity in open data management training and the common language between Haiti and DRC. Thirty members of the COSMHANNE community benefitted from the intense 13-day training period that included a 3 day-training on remote mapping, followed by 2 days of training on quality assurance, 2 days on field mapping, and 2 days on GIS; a training on Mapillary and gender, facilitated by HOT; and 3 days on organizational skills such as financial management and budgeting, proposal writing, fundraising and communication.

“ The partnership with TwB saved countless hours and resources, and allowed for successful capacity building of communities in Haiti.
HOT final narrative report ”

As part of the H2H Network funded project, HOT procured and shipped 1 camera, 5 GPS units and 15 computers to Haiti. Fifteen mouse, as well as a modem were procured in Haiti. The equipment procured enabled the COSMHANNE community to operationalise their newly acquired skills.

“ Ces séances de formation nous ont été extrêmement utiles (...). Elles nous permettent non seulement de nous relancer en tant qu'organisation, mais aussi d'avoir une certaine autonomie dans la gestion et la planification des activités de cartographie.

These training sessions have been extremely useful to us (...). They allow us not only to revive ourselves as an organization, but also to have a certain autonomy in the management and planning of mapping activities.
Wendy Delva, Cordinator COSMHANNE ”

Services used

The COSMHANNE community's project management skills enabled this activation to be a success. They are currently working on KONBIT KATOGRAFI AYITI, which intends to culminate in a conference to discuss the usage of open data in Haiti (planned for October 2022).

Attempts to conduct field mapping in the earthquake-affected South of Haiti failed, not least due to the potential unrest around 7 February 2022. HOT and COSMHANNE instead engaged with the municipality of Limonade for a small-scale toponymy project in Cité Tropicana. Many neighbourhoods in the quickly growing Limonade had not yet been mapped, and its streets were unnamed. The COSMHANNE team held community consultations to approve a list of street names that were also approved by the municipality. This was followed by a two-day mapping of the neighbourhood, where streets and points of interest were mapped, and the data was integrated into OSM. A link to the part of the map that was updated in Limonade is now [available](#) and a blogpost about the collaboration between COSMHANNE and OSM DRC is available in [English](#) and in [French](#).

4. Humanitarian Open Street Map Team: Enabling COSMHANNE Capacities Strengthening to Map the Departments of Sud & Grand'Anse

Response contribution

Capacity building enabled the COSMHANNE community to improve their project planning, management skills, knowledge of how to update, review and add new geospatial information for future events. As happened in the city of Limonade, this will allow for continuous improvements to the city map as new communities arise, roads and buildings change, or critical points of interest are developed. Improvements to the maps in Haiti will increase the ability for disaster preparedness and provide first responders with the ability to quickly act and respond to needs on the ground. The collaboration with the OSMDRC community allowed for a peer-to-peer educational process with positive experiences for both communities. The collaborative working relations formed in this project implementation will continue to positively impact future preparedness and response in Haiti and beyond. HOT will continue its collaboration and capacity strengthening objectives with COSMHANNE over the next year.

“ L'impact d'une telle activité aura non seulement un effet durable mais servira également comme projet pilote pour toutes les autres cités et bidonvilles de la région confrontant les mêmes difficultés.

The impact of such an activity will not only have a lasting effect but will also serve as a pilot project for all other cities and slums in the region facing the same difficulties.

Wendy Delva, Cordinator COSMHANNE ”

5. RedR UK: Strengthening local rapid response capacity in the immediate aftermath of the Haiti earthquake 2021

Project design

[RedR UK](#) proposed to strengthen local response capacity in the aftermath of the earthquake by offering training modules that target local and national humanitarian responders, so that affected populations could access more effective, timely, relevant and equitable support from local responders. The range of trainings offered were to be based on the findings of a rapid learning needs assessment, which in parts had already taken place through RedR sources in country. Initial training opportunities were expected to include protection, recognising and responding to gender-based violence, community engagement and accountability, safety and security. The training modules were to be bitesize, participatory, remote-facilitated courses, offered in French with key messages translated to Creole. Short open-source training videos that could be accessed longer-term, would contribute to existing material available in Creole language. To increase sustainability of the response system in Haiti, RedR UK planned to conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT), to empower them to disseminate knowledge and build capacity of local responders in the future.

5. RedR UK: Strengthening local rapid response capacity in the immediate aftermath of the Haiti earthquake 2021

Services delivered

The project commenced with a survey-based Learning Needs Assessment (LNA), identifying the underlining needs for capacity building in Haiti. The survey results (40 responses received), successive discussions with partners and interviews with experts helped to refine a training curriculum for the project that focused on leadership, management, community engagement, protection, mental health and safety and security. Five 3-hour remote training modules were developed, adapted, contextualized, and translated into French, with key messages also available in Creole. The modules were delivered in 2 phases, addressing different audiences.

RedR UK implemented their project in close collaboration with local partners and agencies working in Haiti, effectively advertising the trainings to the local/national responders in the region. The contracting of local trainers to deliver some of the trainings was crucial to the overall contextualisation and success of the project implementation, which, according to RedR UK, provided a necessary ‘touch to reality,’ especially when engaging with the beneficiaries who had responded to the disaster. One of the five training modules were delivered in close collaboration with H2H Fund grantee CDAC, following their project introductions during the H2H Core team’s facilitated kick-off collaboration call. Without the call, the collaboration likely would not have taken place.

The online training sessions in the Haitian context provided RedR UK with a continuous learning process, much of which was instantly incorporated into the sessions. A constant challenge was the instable internet. However, through trialling different mechanisms, RedR UK managed to make the sessions accessible and effective, maintaining both practical and participatory elements that were continuously mentioned as a ‘best aspect’ of the sessions by participants.

“ The remoteness has caused the most challenges and a lot of changes had to be made. Lots of learning came from this.

Katie Bitten RedR UK ”

Services used

The sessions were open access and made to be as accessible as possible. This enabled representation from government departments, private sector, community-based organisations, and international NGOs and UN agencies. There was also representation from many different humanitarian sectors, the most prominent being Health (16.4%), Protection (16.4%), Education (15.1%) and Food Security (14.3%). Participants were spread across Haiti but concentrated in the South or Port-au-Prince. Over 96% of participants rated the trainings as 'excellent' or 'good,' surpassing the initial target of 80%. Eighty-three percent of participants also rated the increase in their skills and the increase in their knowledge from attending the training as 'excellent' or 'good'. In total, 319 individuals benefitted from the sessions, the vast majority of these (over 92%) were of Haitian nationality. The planned ToT became part of the wider capacity strengthening sessions, in which 73 people received training on facilitation skills. RedR UK posted a blogpost to highlighting the successes of the training programme, specifically in furthering the cause of localisation.

“ Have you used your knowledge acquired since the training? ”

Oui, surtout les outils de la communication et les neuf voix qui aujourd'hui me permettent d'améliorer ma posture dans les négociations. D'autant plus, grâce aux acquis accumulés avec le module de formation « Leadership et management », je viens de postuler pour un poste d'administrateur.

Yes, especially the communication tools and the nine voices that today allow me to improve my posture in negotiations. (...) thanks to the skills acquired with the “Leadership and management” training module, I have just applied for a position as an administrator.

Max Saumol Lubain, training participant
Groupe de promotion de la sécurité alimentaire et le développement

”

5. RedR UK: Strengthening local rapid response capacity in the immediate aftermath of the Haiti earthquake 2021

Response contribution

RedR UK used an assumption matrix based on organisation and job level of training participants, leading to the assumption that 2,477 indirect beneficiaries have been reached through their online, real-time capacity strengthening initiative. This indicates that in addition to the 319 individuals who took the training, the direct beneficiaries of the training sessions, the disaster-hit communities in Southwestern Haiti also benefitted indirectly, receiving more effective, timely, relevant, and suitable assistance from well-trained local responders. They will also be better included in the design and implementation of the response, enhancing community engagement, resilience, commitment, and sustainability. To conduct an online, real-time capacity strengthening initiative, delivered on the onset of a disaster in Haiti, with contextually relevant and translated materials was a novel concept. This highlights the need for such initiatives, and its impact on sustainable localisation of response.

“ Have you used your knowledge acquired since the training? ”

En tant que personnel à la direction de programmation, Je partage mes connaissances avec les jeunes stagiaires de l'organisation.

As a staff member in the programming department, I share my knowledge with the young interns of the organization

Guerna Jn Laurent Isme, Education and training specialist, Zanmi Timoun ”

6. The New Humanitarian: Finding the way: Media coverage of needs and local initiatives in response to Haiti's recent earthquake and pre-existing crises

Project design

The New Humanitarian (TNH) proposed to take a forward-looking, constructive approach to reporting on the crisis response efforts. The aim was to produce solutions-driven coverage that could inform response measures in the immediate and not-so-immediate future. Their reporting intended to represent diverse local voices in assessing need and response and encourage local journalists to continue this in their own work, communicating on-the-ground initiatives and needs to Haitian audiences and international audiences. Five pieces of content – several with visuals or multimedia – were planned to explore:

- The response initiatives underway in the southern peninsula and what lessons were being applied since the 2010 earthquake.
- An analysis of Haiti's disaster risk reduction measures taken since Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and the 2010 earthquake.
- Humanitarian needs and plans for the growing number of Haitians displaced by disasters and recent violence.
- Trauma and mental health needs of those impacted by recent disasters and/or rising violence and challenges to health care needs given the spike in recent COVID-19 cases.
- Report on long-term needs in response efforts to the 2021 earthquake, identifying initiatives, often local, to address the newest and pre-existing crises.

TNH intended to target a broad range of stakeholders and readers with their reporting. These include humanitarian policy makers, academics, and donors, local and international responders in country and civil society groups and general readers in Haiti and diaspora groups abroad.

6.

The New Humanitarian: Finding the way: Media coverage of needs and local initiatives in response to Haiti's recent earthquake and pre-existing crises

Services delivered

TNH produced 6 [reports](#), including one [film](#), on the needs and response to the recent earthquake and overlapping crises in Haiti. The pieces were produced by seven Haitian and four international journalists/researchers who often worked together to ensure that the coverage provided diverse, on-the-ground perspectives in assessing need and response, as well as initiatives that were forward-looking and locally driven. Two of the reports were translated into Haitian Creole and were republished on AyiboPost, a Haitian online media outlet. Further reports will be translated and republished as well. TNH cooperated with GTS on their survey of affected people, and it collaborated with Insecurity Insight on one of the reports.

Content was shared via WhatsApp to reach Haitian audiences, and one TNH reporter was interviewed three times including on Radio Mega, one of the most popular radio stations in Haiti. TNH editors and freelance correspondents, remotely and through field reporting, conducted interviews with local communities, responders, authorities, carried out in-depth research, and drafted and commissioned reports providing a real-time picture of response initiatives to the recent earthquake and ongoing efforts to address existing crises. When possible, reporting centred on a constructive, solutions-oriented angle, reflecting the efforts and needs of communities on the ground. Specialised TNH editors drafted reports, reviewed/edited correspondents' reports to add depth and analysis, and did additional reporting, eventually publishing quality reporting with the potential to improve communication around the crisis response in Haiti and accountability to communities affected.

Services used

All reports were shared via the TNH website and exposed to an average of 245,000 monthly readers during the project period. They were also shared via the TNH newsletters to a total of 65,000 subscribers, including decision-makers, aid workers, academics, and others. TNH shared all coverage on their social media platforms with 180,000 followers. The film, “There’s A Wide Gap Between Aid’s Promise and Reality, Haitians Say,” was released on YouTube had reached more than 1,000 views in the first 8 days. Multiple policymakers and key organisations shared the reporting provided by TNH through their social media channels. Reports were shared by PreventionWeb, Disaster Resilience News, the Armed Groups and International Law blog and the WorldNews Network.

“ The focus on both ongoing challenges as well as concrete new solutions/initiatives was good, and we appreciate the highlighting of the Haiti Food Systems Alliance which will be pioneering/catalytic in Haiti. Our hope is that in finding more about it, others involved in the local food system will join (either as partners or funders).

Donna Bowater, Acceso, one of the users of TNH reporting”

6.

The New Humanitarian: Finding the way: Media coverage of needs and local initiatives in response to Haiti's recent earthquake and pre-existing crises

Response contribution

According to TNH the project responded to a lack of coverage about Haiti and has helped to shine a light on different facets of the humanitarian response. TNH's coverage of Haiti has highlighted key issues and lessons learned about international aid which have contributed to the current situation – from lack of investment in disaster risk reduction measures by international donors (as well as the government), to foreign food aid undercutting local agriculture, to aid organisations ignoring capacity that existed in the country, and more. The reports have highlighted local solutions and proposed next steps to address certain issues – for example, negotiating access with armed groups and gangs – which could have an impact on aid organisations' approach in the near future. The reporting was mostly produced by Haitian people, and it looked for/highlighted Haitian solutions, as well as Haitian voices on the ground. TNH now has an excellent network of local reporters and contacts to continue their coverage in Haiti in the future.

“ The added value with TNH is that it contributes to helping humanitarian actors evidence their work while gaining knowledge of a series of issues that Haiti is facing.

Angeline Annesteus, Action Aid ”

H2H Network

Getting more to people in need

At H2H Network, we work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.

We assess humanitarian crises to define the type of response needed. We then coordinate specific network members to quickly provide relevant services. The network's services are easily accessible to all responders.

We have responded to crises including the humanitarian emergencies in Occupied Palestinian Territories, Tigray and Nagorno-Karabakh, Covid-19, Cyclone Idai, Ebola in DRC and internal displacement in Burkina Faso

H2H Network members are expert and independent.

Together we help the humanitarian sector evolve and cope with the changing scale and nature of humanitarian crises. We address sector-wide issues including the collection, management and analysis of data, community engagement, security management, logistics, accountability, standards and localization.

Reach out to H2H Network for direct contacts and to request other services from network members at h2hnetwork.org or email info@h2hnetwork.org.