

ALERT 766: CASE STUDY

START FUND
START NETWORK

STORM FRANKLIN RESPONSE: SUPPORTING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN HAITI

CONTEXT

In mid-November 2023, the Grand'Anse Department of Haiti was severely impacted by Tropical Storm Franklin, which brought heavy flooding and high winds. The storm, occurring on November 16 and 17, caused widespread damage and affected livelihoods—roads were cut off, livestock were lost, and the region's infrastructure and homes were greatly damaged.

In response, members of Start Network raised an alert to access the Start Fund, a rapid-response funding mechanism designed to enable NGOs to respond swiftly to small and medium-scale crises. The Start Fund disburses funding within 72 hours of an alert being raised, making it one of the fastest humanitarian mechanisms in the world.

Following the activation of Alert 766, a coordinated response was launched to address the immediate needs of those affected.



KEY INTERVENTIONS



UNCONDITIONAL EMERGENCY CASH TRANSFERS

1,310 households received financial aid, with each receiving 11,000 gourdes (about \$82). In total, around \$106,000 was distributed to help families recover from the loss of property and income.



WASH (WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE) SUPPORT

Four major water points were chlorinated to fight cholera and other waterborne diseases ensuring safe drinking water 24,000 people. Mass awareness sessions on hygiene practices such as handwashing, safe water consumption, and cholera prevention reached over 16,000 individuals.



DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE KITS

255 hygiene kits were distributed to four health centers, to support those affected by cholera. These kits included essential items such as toilet paper, soap, sanitary napkins, toothpaste, laundry detergent, and water purification tablets



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) PREVENTION

AWARENESS:

36 awareness sessions on GBV prevention were held, with active participation from 15,038 people across the region. Key messages were also shared through printed materials with the wider community.

The response benefitted over 20 communities in six of the hardest-hit communes: **Beaumont, Chambellan, Corail, Jérémie, Moron, and Pestel**. Assistance was distributed quickly, with the first group of participants receiving support on December 18, one month after the storm and two weeks after funds were allocated—despite the response occurring during the Christmas holiday season in Haiti.

Start Network member **ACTED** led the multi-sectoral response to the crisis. Beneficiaries were identified through collaboration with local government officials and town hall lists, then validated by ACTED's MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) teams based on a clear set of selection criteria.

A post-distribution survey of 309 participants revealed that 100% were satisfied with the cash assistance they received, confirming that the support was well-targeted and met the urgent needs of affected families. Of the cash distributed, 40% was used to settle debts^[1], 31% went toward food, 19% for school fees, with the remainder used for buying seeds, hospital visits, house repairs, and other essential expenses.

Reflecting on the effort, ACTED's team shared, "**The funds available have enabled us to react more quickly, providing targeted, one-off aid to the population at short notice.**"



Start Network members will continue to respond, ensuring that the needs of communities vulnerable to climate crises are met and that gaps in the humanitarian aid system are bridged.

[1] This may seem surprising, but it is possible that the households had anticipated receiving assistance and went into debt to meet their most urgent needs