



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

HAITI - Civil Strife

Date: June 29 - July 4, 1987

Location: Port-au-Prince

No. Dead: 30

No. Affected: More than 100 injured

Damage: Not reported

The Disaster

Beginning on June 29, the Haitian provisional military-civilian government, headed by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, was confronted with general strikes throughout the country. One week earlier, the government had issued new election guidelines which voided regulations already drafted by the Provisional Electoral Council. The government's unexpected action provoked widespread criticism among various Haitian organizations who claimed that the government was violating the newly established constitution by usurping the powers of the electoral council. Leaders of these organizations called a general strike which was accompanied by street protests; this resulted in massive interruptions in public transportation, frequent road blocks, and violence in Port-au-Prince as well as in other cities throughout the nation. A total of 30 people died and over 100 were wounded.

Action Taken by the Government of Haiti (GOH) and Non-Governmental Organizations

The Government of Haiti made an appeal to the USG and the international community for assistance in providing urgently needed medical supplies for people injured during the civil disturbances. The Haitian Red Cross provided services to people injured or displaced by the violence.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

In response to the GOH request for medical supplies, U.S. Ambassador Brunson McKinley declared a disaster on July 4 and subsequently obligated \$15,000 for the local procurement of medical supplies. The U.S. Mission purchased cotton, surgical instruments, drugs, X-ray film, and orthopedic equipment with this money. These supplies were delivered to the state university hospital in Port-au-Prince and to the regional hospitals in Les Cayes, Cap Haitien, and Gonaives.

TOTAL \$15,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

Canada - purchased 1,000 kits for blood donations and transfusions, which were given to the Haitian Red Cross.