





# **CBi Member Network Overview: Haiti**

# L'Alliance pour la Gestion des Risques et la Continuité des Activités (AGERCA)



The <u>Alliance for Risk Management and Business Continuity (AGERCA)</u> is an independent non-governmental organization (NGO) created in 2008 as a mechanism for the Haitian private sector to support the national system for risk and disaster management, and to enable businesses of all sizes to recover quickly and build forward better from crises.

### **Scope and Focus of Work**

AGERCA supports Haitian businesses, promotes public-private partnerships, and shares expertise among stakeholders in the field of disaster risk management. AGERCA's specific objectives are to:

- Encourage businesses and civil society organizations to identify the risks to which they are exposed and to avoid disruptions to their operations, including their economic and social activities.
- Promote good practices in disaster risk management and coordinate response actions by the private sector and civil society in the event of a crisis or natural hazard.

#### **Role in Haiti's National Disaster Management and Coordination**

In recognition of its expertise, AGERCA has been formally designated as the representative of civil society and the private sector within the Haitian National System for Risk and Disaster Management (Système National de la Gestion des Risques et des Désastres). AGERCA works directly with the General Directorate for Civil Protection and is also a member of the national emergency operations center (Centre d'Opérations d'urgence Nationale). Below is a simplified overview of Haiti's national disaster management and coordination structure, highlighting AGERCA's engagement.



#### **Previous Activities**

Since its inception, AGERCA has conducted:

- Coordination of private sector and civil society contributions and assistance in distributing relief aid in Haiti
- Development and implementation of community-level projects to build resilience
- Awareness raising and capacity building trainings on disaster risk management, business continuity and resilience
- Dissemination of information on disaster risk reduction and business continuity
- Disaster simulation exercises
- Ad-hoc support to small businesses, schools, and vulnerable groups including displaced populations



During Tropical Storm Laura in August 2020, AGERCA and its members sent out more than two million early warning text messages, provided phone credit to the National Emergency Operations Center to facilitate urgent communications, and liaised with telecoms companies to ensure their networks were active in the affected areas.

## **Responding to the August 2021 Earthquake**

On 14 August, following a request from the Haitian government, AGERCA provided phone credits to support information management and coordination. AGERCA also immediately started to map local private sector resources and capacities that can be mobilized to support disaster relief in cooperation with its members. In addition to financial contributions, AGERCA member companies and partners have already made in-kind donations of critical items including thousands of gallons potable water, clothes, solar-powered refrigerators, etc.

AGERCA is also posting regular situation reports and has deployed a staff member to the south of Haiti to support the earthquake response in the most affected communities. Going forward, AGERCA will continue to coordinate the private sector and civil society response in Haiti.

#### For More Information

If you are interested in supporting AGERCA's work in crisis response and recovery, or to learn more about the Connecting Business initiative's work in Haiti, please contact Tiina Mylly at <a href="mailto:tiina.mylly@undp.org">tiina.mylly@undp.org</a>.

For up-to-date information about the current situation in Haiti, visit <u>AGERCA on Twitter</u>. You can also visit CBi's <u>Haiti</u> <u>earthquake emergency page</u>.