



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE **BOLLETTINO**

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE SALA DE IMPRENSA DA SANTA SÉ
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The Holy Father's support for Haiti, Bangladesh and Vietnam

Following the earthquake that struck Haiti with extraordinary vehemence, claiming - according to data from the local authorities - at least 2,200 lives and injuring more than 12,000, as well as extensive material damage, Pope Francis, via the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development, has decided to send an initial contribution of 200,000 euros to help the population in this emergency phase, which adds to an already difficult situation due to COVID-19.

This sum, which will be distributed in collaboration with the Apostolic Nunciature among the dioceses most affected by the disaster, will be used to assist the earthquake victims and is intended to be an immediate expression of the feeling of spiritual closeness and paternal encouragement towards the people and territories affected, manifested by the Holy Father following the Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday 15 August 2021 with the invocation of Our Lady's protection.

This contribution, which accompanies prayer in support of the beloved Haitian population, is part of the aid that is being activated throughout the Catholic Church and which involves, in addition to various Episcopal Conferences, numerous charitable organisations.

The Holy Father has also decided to send initial emergency aid totalling around 69,000 dollars to the people of Bangladesh, recently hit by Cyclone Yaas; and 100,000 euros to the people of Vietnam, who are in a state of grave due to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.