



EMERGENCY UPDATE JANUARY 17, 2010

Earthquake Response in Port au Prince, Haiti



Your help is desperately needed to help quake-impacted Haitians

Navensky Charles, who suffered a broken shoulder, leg, and arm before being rescued from his family's collapsing home, lies on a hospital bed in the street. Like all patients at L'Hospital General in downtown Port-au-Prince, the 18-month-old boy can't be treated indoors. The few buildings still standing in this shattered city are unsafe, so he is being treated out in the open, surrounded by chaos. Many people are beginning to get gangreen because they have not received timely or adequate care. Many hospitals have suffered serious structural damage, and are running low on supplies and personnel—yet hundreds of thousands of people desperately need medical attention.

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12, 2010, brought further damage to a country that already was suffering. The United Nations estimated that as many as half the city's buildings were destroyed. The streets are filled with sounds and sights of grief and anguish, as survivors walk through rows of bodies pulled from the rubble. Families choke the city's streets and open spaces, terrified to return to buildings that still might collapse from earlier damage or continued aftershocks.

James Addis, a World Vision staff member, describes the scene on the streets. "...we drove past hundreds, maybe thousands, who would have no shelter that night and perhaps not for many nights to come. Some slept under vehicles. Some on sidewalks. Some dangerously on the road."

The latest reports cited a death toll as high as 200,000, with more than 3 million people—one-third of Haiti's population—injured or left homeless. World Vision's main office in Port-au-Prince was rendered unusable, but operations continue in a second building. Thankfully, none of World Vision's sponsorship communities were seriously affected, and we have not received any reports of casualties among them.

World Vision's response

Within hours of the quake, World Vision began distributing life-saving relief supplies to 2,000 families, and we are aiming to provide emergency supplies to at least 10,000 families. First aid kits, along with Family Survival Kits containing items such as water containers, cooking sets, hygiene kits, and more, are being provided to quake survivors. World Vision also has supplied overmaxed hospitals and clinics with surgical gloves, syringes, antibiotics, and bandages.



Billy, 7 months, was buried in the rubble of her home for 48 hours before being rescued by her neighbor, Julie, pictured above.



"The people who live in Haiti already have suffered so much from poverty, disease, and unrest. Please pray for children and their families who have been affected by this disaster, and for World Vision's staff as they provide emergency relief in the days and weeks ahead, and over the coming years as they rebuild. Pray that God will bring hope out of despair as He builds a new Haiti from the rubble."

— Rich Stearns,
president of
World Vision U.S.



Rescue workers and concerned loved ones continue searching collapsed homes and buildings for more survivors.

How you can help

Please continue lifting up earthquake survivors in Haiti, as well as people involved in the rescue efforts. Also, your donation can help provide much-needed assistance to people who have been impacted by the quake.

Here are just a few examples of how your donation can make a difference:

- \$40 can provide a family with a hygiene kit, which includes items such as soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items, and toilet paper.
- \$600 can provide 15 hygiene kits to families.
- \$3,200 can provide approximately 10 jugs or collapsible water containers for transporting and storing clean water.
- \$6,500 can provide thousands of water purification tablets, each of which will remove bacteria from 10 liters of water.
- \$22,500 can provide 75 families with materials, such as tarps, wooden poles, and iron sheets, to build temporary shelters.

On January 15, World Vision's airlift containing 18 metric tons of emergency supplies arrived in Port-au-Prince from our warehouse in Denver, Colorado. Our pre-positioned emergency supply storehouses in Europe, Panama, and Denver, Colorado, are ready to ship supplies to Haiti. Additional airlifts are already scheduled, including one from Panama City, Panama, containing supplies such as tarps, water containers, shovels, and mosquito nets. A relief supply receiving location is being set up at the airport in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic with the help of World Vision staff in that country. Items will then be transported via road or air to Port-au-Prince.

World Vision has begun helping children who have been separated from their parents. Many children are leaving Port-au-Prince and are heading outside the city to find help. Our staff along the borders of the Dominican Republic are providing food, water, and medical care to hundreds of children who are traveling alone or have become separated from their parents along the way. Because the quake struck during school hours, hundreds of children have not found their parents. Especially during emergencies such as this, children who are alone are incredibly vulnerable to harm, and World Vision seeks to ensure their safety and to provide physical and psychosocial support.

World Vision has set a fundraising goal of \$25 million to provide needed care and support. Your help is desperately needed as World Vision continues immediate relief efforts, and in the near future, when we assist in more long-term recovery and rehabilitation. Because the damage is so severe, we anticipate walking alongside people in Haiti as they rebuild their homes, communities, and lives, for the foreseeable future.

Experience counts

World Vision has provided relief and long-term development assistance for 31 years. More than 52,000 children receive the benefits of child sponsorship through 20 community development programs supported by donors. More than 320,000 people are being helped by World Vision programs that target education, health and sanitation, economic development, and advocacy for the poor. Other special programs focus on clean water, food security, sustainable agriculture, and HIV and AIDS. We currently have 800 regular and contract staff members responding to the needs of quake victims. Our Global Rapid Response Team of emergency responders has been dispatched to assist with assessments and logistics of distributions.

World Vision has experience responding to disasters in Haiti and worldwide. Last year, we responded to dozens of emergencies, including devastating floods that hit Haiti during hurricane season last year. Thanks to generous donors, World Vision was able to provide much-needed assistance to thousands of children and their families following the floods.



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