



January 2012

Haiti Earthquake Two Year Anniversary

Achievements

- CRS implemented a community resettlement program to help 10,000-plus families resettle in Port-au-Prince by providing key services in selected communities, such as transitional shelter, clean water, sanitation, protection, demolition, rubble removal and house repairs.
- Some 10,600 transitional shelters were built. These are sturdy but modest, quake and storm-resistant buildings that enable people to leave the homeless camps and move back to their original neighborhoods. A number of community buildings such as clinics and schools were also constructed.
- Teams organized by CRS performed over 1,000 emergency operations through ongoing support to St. Francois de Sales Hospital and conducted over 71,000 outpatient consultations at hospitals and camps. CRS is funding the construction of a new St. Francois de Sales Hospital, a state-of-the-art medical facility, in partnership with the Catholic Church and the Haitian Ministry of Health. Upon completion it will also become a training facility to provide medical training to Haitian physicians and nurses.
- CRS implemented a major cholera response starting just one day after the outbreak was confirmed, including the distribution of soap, water purification tablets and hygiene guidance to 22,000 families, the installation/repair of sanitation infrastructure and increased disinfection and maintenance of facilities in 12 settlements in Port-au-Prince. CRS supported cholera treatment units in 11 hospitals and clinics across Haiti. Overall, CRS has reached over 2,270,772 people through our cholera programming (recipients of treatment and/or prevention messages).
- More than 16,000 metric tons (about 1,763 typical U.S. dump truck loads) of rubble has been recycled through the use of hand-cranked rubble crushing machines supplied by CRS to at least 32 beneficiary entrepreneur groups (these are large groups, typically of a dozen or so workers). This rubble has been used for the foundations of more than 4,500 transitional shelters and more than 300 latrines.
- CRS has registered 1,126 separated or unaccompanied children for family tracing and reunification services, of whom 588 have been reunited with their families. The rest continue to receive interim care and support. Some 7,880 people, such as community workers and

members, have also been trained in child protection issues and psychologists are available in the Port-au-Prince neighborhoods that are part of our community resettlement program: Christ Roi, Petionville, Carrefour, Maïs Gate and Solino.

- CRS provided food to more than one million people (10 million meals) and continues to provide monthly food rations to more than 50,000 children in more than 250 schools, orphanages and childcare centers.
- CRS created short-term employment that has benefited 12,000-plus people through cash-for-work activities that provide income to vulnerable people and benefit communities through improved infrastructure.
- CRS installed 1,328 latrines, wash stations, potable water tanks and inflatable water bladders in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area. Over 6 kilometers of drainage canal has been constructed or rehabilitated for flood prevention. Hygiene education sessions were conducted for 68,840 people and 1,175 water and latrines monitors and hygiene volunteers trained.
- CRS provided 8,062 beneficiary families with livelihood support through vouchers valued at \$40 per family, allowing them to choose from a variety of seeds. These vouchers allowed them to take advantage of the planting season and recover from loss of crops after Hurricane Tomas – an approach that also benefits local seed suppliers and the local Haitian economy. CRS chose to work through local vendors and suppliers which facilitated a quicker response and stimulated the local economy.
- Strengthened the CRS partnership unit in Haiti and created another in the U.S., which together have provided assistance to numerous Church partners in Haiti. More than \$1,500,000 in cash and in-kind support was provided to partners within the first several months of the disaster response. A small projects grant was launched, and \$1,100,000 was distributed to 206 projects in all 10 of the dioceses in Haiti. The U.S. Partnership Unit provided training on best practices in parish partnership in 7 dioceses across the U.S. Planning is underway for a national Haiti partnership conference June 1-3 at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Financial

CRS has received \$194 million for Haiti relief and rebuilding. Of this, \$130 million came from private donors, including \$50 million received from special collections for Haiti in Catholic dioceses across the United States.

As of October 31st, 2011, CRS had spent just over \$124.5 million on our 5-year plus program of relief and reconstruction. You can find more details on expenditure at:

<http://crs.org/emergency/haiti/financials.cfm>

Q&A

How do you intend to spend the remaining money?

As with other major humanitarian disasters CRS has responded to, such as the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, we have planned a long-term response that transitions from emergency relief into rebuilding and reconstruction.

We will continue to look at shelter solutions such as the renovation of what are known as yellow houses – houses partially damaged by the earthquake that have been approved for renovation by qualified engineers. Also, CRS has started a pilot program that provides rental subsidies for one year to help more than 200 families make the transition from camp to home. The families also took part in a six-week course that provided training in everything from financial management to conflict resolution. At the end of the course, each family made a plan for how to cope with challenges in the future and take back control of their lives. To support them moving forward, CRS is providing basic health insurance for 6 months and education coverage.

Outside of the country's urban centers, recovery will depend on increased agricultural activity. About two-thirds of Haitians are subsistence farmers who simply can't grow enough food on a regular basis to cover their needs. To help revive Haiti's struggling mango and coffee industry, CRS is working with more than 5,000 farmers to improve production and process practices and link to more lucrative markets.

Our Haiti program is an integrated strategy covering agriculture, civil society, disaster response, HIV and AIDS, education, health, and livelihoods. It focuses not only on rebuilding community infrastructure in Haiti, but on increasing Haitians' capacity to respond independently to natural disasters and development challenges. Catholic Relief Services has served in Haiti since 1954 and we will continue to operate our country program long after the earthquake response is complete.

Where possible, CRS is working directly with the Haitian government to strengthen its capacity. In areas like health, education and waste management CRS is partnering with the relevant government ministry in programs designed to provide badly-needed public services to poor communities, such as the reconstruction of St. Francois de Sales and waste removal in inaccessible neighborhoods. We are also in the assessment phase of a program to improve access to and quality of education across Haiti, together with the Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education, the Ministry of Education and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Also, for fundamental, long-term change in Haiti Catholics in the United States need to stay engaged. Thank you for continuing to highlight Haiti and the needs of its people.

Why has the relief and recovery effort been so slow in Haiti?

It hasn't. It is important for people to understand that Haiti suffered from extreme poverty before the earthquake and was already the victim of frequent natural disasters, such as the three hurricanes of 2008. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere and is ranked 145 in the U.N.'s Human Development Index.

Before the quake there was a lack of basic primary education in Haiti and no basic health care for most people. Only 50 percent of Haitians had access to clean water. The environment was often in poor condition and polluted. Deforestation is severe and waste collection in urban areas continues to be sporadic at best. Seventy percent of the population in Port-au Prince lived in rented accommodations that were often in slum conditions. Land is scarce and proof of ownership is lacking for many.

The political situation compounded these difficulties. Haiti had weak government for many years. The government was devastated by the quake and when ministries got up and running again, there was uncertainty on future policy and leadership.

Very poor infrastructure adds to the difficulties in Haiti. Most roads are narrow, potholed and in very poor condition. Mountain roads are particularly hazardous. Whole neighborhoods are built on steep hillsides, making access impossible for heavy construction equipment. There is a very limited national power. Most goods, especially for reconstruction, need to be imported, and costs are high.

What's needed in Haiti right now?

It would greatly benefit CRS, our Haitian partners and the people of Haiti for the new Haitian government to be a strong guide in the direction of the country's reconstruction and to address some of the central issues that would allow permanent housing solutions for Haiti. Government, alongside NGOs, can also help develop civil society groups.

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Why hasn't CRS spent all of the money collected yet?

CRS has benefitted from generous donations, and CRS Haiti has doubled in size to take on more work and help as many vulnerable people as possible, in a transparent and accountable way. But even with our experience, expertise and established relationships, we cannot do it all, especially not overnight. Spending is tactical and targeted, not random, because disaster relief, recovery and rebuilding, particularly in regions in which poverty is rampant, are a long-term endeavor. At first, spending was mainly on emergency and recovery services. Now, more money is being spent on rebuilding of infrastructure (housing, health centers, schools, etc), microfinance loans for small business operators, seeds, tools and technical assistance to restore agriculture, as well as other programs that help wean recipients from charitable handouts and allow them to return to their normal patterns of earning and buying.

How much of the remaining money is going to help people in need?

Ninety four percent of the funds we receive go directly to our programs. This includes 100 percent of the interest from the funds remaining in the Haiti earthquake response account.

How does CRS make sure that there is no corruption in its dealings with third parties in Haiti?

CRS exercises good stewardship as a guiding principle in all of its transactions with third parties. We make sure that all of our dealings are in line with the highest standards required of us as a U.S. charitable organization. If we have doubts about a potential contractor we look elsewhere. Our natural partner in Haiti is the Church, especially Caritas Haiti, which is also guided by the Catholic principle of the highest stewardship of resources. Furthermore, we back up our principles with policies and procedures established to minimize risk and ensure accountability

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