

Helping to Rebuild Haiti: Report on Relief Efforts to Date

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update of activities and accomplishments to date on Direct Relief International's response efforts related to magnitude-7.0 earthquake that devastated Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince, leaving an estimated 230,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands injured. Since the quake, Direct Relief has provided over 450 tons of emergency medical assistance worth more than **\$52 million** to 53 Haitian healthcare facilities, international medical teams, mobile medical clinics, tent-based hospitals, and medical units at camps for displaced people across the country.

This response has been the largest, most comprehensive emergency response in Direct Relief's 62-year history. It has been made possible by the generous outpouring of private financial support and extraordinary engagement from corporate partners. Six months later, the response continues at full force and will require a sustained effort for an extended period.

To ensure that they are a responsible steward of this incredible flood of charity, Direct Relief has been and is continuing to focus on four distinct areas of response to effectively organize and articulate their intentions and long term commitment to the rebuilding efforts.

I. Immediate Response

Sending Only What Is Needed: Immediately after the earthquake, Direct Relief began daily contact with partners on the ground to identify short-term needs, and within 72 hours had the first emergency air lift on its way to Port-au-Prince. Direct Relief worked with pharmaceutical companies and medical equipment manufacturers to obtain these necessary supplies, including wound care, antibiotics, surgical supplies, and first aid.

The immediate response effort infused urgently needed resources to care for survivors, while reducing the risk of disease transmission, untreated illness, and death. Hospitals and clinics were overwhelmed with patients, the earthquake had left hundreds of thousands of people injured and health facilities damaged quickly overwhelming the facilities that were left standing. Direct Relief focused on making sure these facilities didn't stock out of critically needed wound care supplies, medications and IV fluids.

A huge increase in need for health services still exists; the existing capacity to provide such care has been decimated. Direct Relief's approach is to strengthen the Haiti-based health organizations and facilities that were working in Haiti long before the earthquake struck. The key role they were already playing is even more important now.

II. Establishment of a Secure Staging & Warehouse Facility in Haiti

Good Intentions Don't Always Equal Effective Response: As common during major emergencies, logistical channels get clogged with the wrong materials, causing people to burn valuable staff time sorting through unsolicited donations. This happened once again in Haiti; some of Direct Relief's strongest partners, like Partners in Health, were left overwhelmed and understaffed to handle the large influx of donations. In an attempt to take the logistical burden off of their healthcare partners and

respond to needs as they arise in real time, Direct Relief established a secure staging and warehouse facility in Port-au-Prince. This depot has allowed Direct Relief to stage needed products in-country and to distribute more manageable, sized donations to existing partners.

Over the last six months, Direct Relief has had on-the-ground staff in Haiti managing this depot and coordinate with other aid organizations. Staff attended the UN Health Cluster coordination meetings and offered to help other groups by providing medical aid that fell outside of the existing partner network.



III. Community Grants Program to Support Local Partners

Helping Local Haitian-run Organizations are Critical: Direct Relief has committed \$500,000 to a Community Grant Fund for local Haitian organizations that suffered tremendous losses, undertaken extraordinary efforts, and will play an essential role in the ongoing efforts to recover, rebuild, and serve affected people. Direct Relief has granted funds to over a dozen organizations, which are listed in [Attachment 1](#).

Through these community grants, Direct Relief continues providing emergency assistance needed to care for survivors who have been displaced or disabled by this catastrophic event; infuse resources to support and strengthen the damaged health system as it rebuilds; and assist community-based groups that do essential work but have not had access to resources that have become available.

These local groups have incurred exceptional costs responding to the earthquake's aftermath and are essential in delivering services, providing support, and representing the interests of the communities they serve. But because many are not widely known outside of Haiti, they don't have access to the large amount of international funding raised to assist the Haitian people.

IV. Long Term Rehabilitation Program

The Headlines Will Fade but the Need Will Not: With tens of thousands of people injured as a result of the quake, the need for rehabilitative services is at an all-time high and its effects will be felt for decades. In response to the needs of an augmented partner network in Haiti, Direct Relief has sent **over \$200,000 in orthopedic products**, such as arm slings, ankle braces, walking casts, post-op supplies, and adjustable knee supports. In addition, Direct Relief has committed **\$2 million in cash** for long-term rehabilitative services with an emphasis on prosthetic services.

Partnering with Healing Hands for Haiti International (HHHI), the country's premier physical medicine and rehabilitation institution, Direct Relief is funding an additional rehabilitation center to provide recent amputees with a place to do physical therapy and have their newly fitted prosthesis adjusted.

Direct Relief provided HHHI with a grant for **\$275,000** to help with these efforts. The grant will allow HHHI to operate and staff a temporary facility for a year while it rebuilds its permanent facilities. The temporary space will be fully functional to support patients with newly fabricated prosthetic limbs as

well as those patients who were receiving care before the quake. The temporary facility will house an emergency-response clinic, an administrative office, medical examining room, physiotherapy gym, occupational therapy room, classroom, and storage space.

Since 1998, HHHI has treated over 25,000 patients, outfitting them with more than 1,000 prosthetic and orthotic devices and 1,000 donated wheelchairs. The not-for-profit, nongovernmental institution operates with no religious or political affiliation. Healing Hands for Haiti is also collaborating with Handicap International to set up prosthetic fabrication to assist the estimated 4,000 new amputees and other Haitians disabled in the earthquake.

Looking Ahead

Having worked with partners in Haiti for over 30 years, Direct Relief will remain deeply invested in Haiti and its efforts to rebuild its healthcare infrastructure. Donations of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and needed equipment will continue to be shipped to partners on the ground. Resources that are not donated will be purchased through financial support from generous donors. For many far from the event, the earthquake in Haiti is a distant memory. However, **Direct Relief will remain on the ground and connected to their healthcare partners for the long term recovery efforts** to ensure that critical resources are getting to the facilities treating the most at-risk and vulnerable people.



Attachment 1: Community Grant Recipients

Grantees to date include the following organizations:

- **Angel Wings International (\$25,000):** To help build a new medical clinic made of shipping containers, hire and train local medical personnel to manage the clinic, and pay for the transport of overseas medical personnel who will work in the clinic for two weeks every month
- **Asamble Vwazen Jake (\$11,000):** To purchase school supplies, train and pay teachers, fund workshops, provide electricity in classrooms, and feed students one hot meal a day
- **Asamble Vwazen Solino (\$20,000):** To help the school's students get an education in an updated building, one hot meal each day, and post-quake trauma counseling
- **Batey Relief Alliance (\$30,000):** To purchase of new laboratory equipment for patient tests to detect, prevent, and cure diseases
- **Bureau de Doléances Sociales (\$25,000):** To provide psycho-social support to children at the local library du Soleil Carrefour-Feuilles who have suffered with psychological issues after the earthquake
- **The Center for Community Health, Education, and Research (\$25,000):** To resume clinic operations in the short term and help to rebuild the clinic and create equitable health access to the residents of Delmas through a health maintenance model of care and services
- **Fondation J'Aime Haiti (\$30,000):** To launch the radio program "Vwa Moun Andikape En Action," or "The Voice of People with Disabilities in Action," to spread positive messages about the capacity of people with disabilities and the need for solidarity and respect
- **La Fondation Orchidee (\$25,000):** To repair its facility, conduct reading, hygiene, and etiquette workshops for children; provide hot lunches; and distribute food, hygiene and clothing to the surrounding community
- **Foundation Hope for Haiti (\$25,000):** To improve the Clinic of the Community of Thomassin and develop clinical psychological services to help children and adults deal with the emotional trauma of the earthquake and learn coping skills to achieve true recovery
- **Friends of Petit-Goave (\$25,000):** To provide free medical care at clinics, rebuild the schoolhouse, and host a medical fair to provide health screenings, treatment, and medications to the community
- **Gawou Ginou Foundation (\$25,000):** To support a feeding center and meal program for impoverished students, many of whose parents are seasonal workers living in precarious conditions
- **The Global Empowerment Network (\$25,000):** To provide therapeutic services to school-age children in the northern district, train teachers, hire psychologists, and establish a community center to provide continual support for the long-term mental health needs for Haitians who migrated to the north
- **Haitian Education and Leadership Program (\$25,000):** To help send high-achieving students to school for relief work as medical interns in hospitals around the country, and as civil engineering interns, translators, and work-crew supervisors
- **Haitian Health and Education Foundation (\$25,000):** To enable the hospital to keep offering free services for pregnant mothers and the severely handicapped for three more months and to hire three Haitian medical personnel to work in the clinic
- **Haiti Hospital Appeal (\$25,000):** To create a mobile pediatric and maternity unit in the northern department in conjunction with Konbit Sante and MSPP
- **Haiti Soleil (\$75,000):** To help rebuild Bibliothèque du Soleil, a community library and cultural center in the Carrefour-Feuilles neighborhood of Port-au-Prince that was destroyed by the earthquake
- **Melissa's Hope Orphanage (\$25,000):** To expand and revamp operations so that it can provide not only care for special-needs orphans but also schooling, free medical care, and food distribution in the impoverished community outside Port-au-Prince
- **Solidarite Haitienne, Christ Roi (\$20,000):** To provide weekly access to mobile medical services for the residents of St. Rock community, located two hours outside of Port au Prince, and conduct a nurse training program so residents can have more regular medical care

A full list of grantees can be found at

<http://www.directrelief.org/EmergencyResponse/2010/HaitiCommunityGrantFunding.aspx>