



# Rebuilding Haiti: One Year Later

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## PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE JANUARY 12, 2010 EARTHQUAKE ● JANUARY 2011

*One year following Haiti's devastating earthquake, Direct Relief International stands as one of the largest suppliers of medical aid to Haiti, providing more than **700 tons of donated medical supplies worth more than \$57 million** (wholesale). Direct Relief has implemented a one-of-a-kind transparent distribution system to efficiently ensure Haitians get the help they need as soon as it arrives.*

*With more than 40 years of experience working with local healthcare facilities in Haiti, Direct Relief was well positioned to provide critically needed medical supplies in response to the magnitude-7.0 earthquake that struck on January 12, 2010, which destroyed significant infrastructure, took the lives of an estimated 230,000 people, injured 194,000, and left more than 1.3 million Haitians homeless.*

The purpose of this report is to provide an update of activities and accomplishments to date on Direct Relief's response efforts related to the quake. One year later, Direct Relief has provided over 700 tons of emergency medical assistance worth more than \$57 million to 108 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 63-year history. It has been made possible by the generous outpouring of private financial support and extraordinary engagement from nearly 50 corporate partners. The response continues at full force and will require a sustained effort for an extended period. Additionally, Direct Relief has been responding to the recent outbreak of cholera in Haiti that has affected thousands of people -- with an estimated 2.2 percent of the over 157,321 people diagnosed dying from the disease (*Source: USAID 01/04/2011*).

100% of all donations received for Haiti have been committed to Haiti. Of that, 85% have been allocated to specific programs, and the remaining 15% is allocated for long-term recovery. Every dollar and product donated for Direct Relief's efforts in Haiti will go directly to medical relief efforts in Haiti. Direct Relief's ability to leverage donations of medical product also ensures that for every dollar spent, \$40 worth of medicines and supplies are delivered to Haiti.

To ensure responsible stewardship to the thousands of donors supporting the relief efforts, 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 in Haiti.

### I. RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY

**Sending Only What Is Requested and Needed:** Within minutes of hearing about the earthquake, Direct Relief began contact with partners on the ground to identify short-term needs. Less than 72 hours later, Direct Relief had its first emergency air lift en route to Port-au-Prince. Direct Relief worked with pharmaceutical companies and medical equipment manufacturers to obtain supplies critical in the event of a major quake, including wound care, antibiotics, surgical supplies, and first aid. Often during emergencies, donations of various items overwhelm the affected area. While clothing, children's toys, household items may be useful to some individuals, the immediate goal is to address the basic human needs of food, water, shelter, and medicine.

Direct Relief's immediate response effort infused urgently needed medical resources to their established partner network to care for survivors, while reducing the risk of disease transmission, untreated illness, and death. Hospitals and clinics experienced a rapid influx of patients, and the hundreds of thousands of people injured

quickly overwhelming the health facilities that remained intact. Direct Relief focused on making sure these facilities did not run out of needed wound care supplies, medications and IV fluids.

The need for health services is still dire, and the ability of Haitian health facilities to provide such care remains decimated. Direct Relief's approach is to continue to strengthen the capacity of the health organizations that were working in Haiti before the earthquake struck. As international aid begins to leave Haiti, the local community hospitals and clinics will be the only source of medical care for the people of Haiti.



*Direct Relief and local healthcare staff unload a truck of donated medical supplies in Haiti.*

## II. ESTABLISHED AN IN-COUNTRY MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN

**Improving Efficiencies to Ensure Medical Aid Reached the Right Partners:** As common during major emergencies, logistical channels get clogged with the wrong materials and in-country nonprofits are forced to burn valuable staff time to sort through boxes of assorted items. This happened Haiti, where some of Direct Relief's strongest partners, like Partners in Health, were left overwhelmed and understaffed to handle the large influx of material donations. To take the logistical burden off of the 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 allowed the healthcare facilities to provide direct medical aid to patients rather than spending time sorting through unsolicited donations.

In addition to establishing a physical warehouse, Direct Relief developed an effective end-to-end supply chain to enable Haitian health partners to easily order needed medicines and supplies. Direct Relief used the warehouse to pre-position appropriate medical material resources in bulk, and then implemented an online ordering platform so that partners can view inventory and order the medications that they need to treat their patient population. In addition, Direct Relief rolled out a delivery system to over 100 partner facilities so providers could receive the requested orders in a timely manner and at no cost to them.

This medical supply chain system has allowed Direct Relief to stage needed products in-country and to distribute more manageable, sized donations to over 100 partners. Over the last year, Direct Relief has had on-the-ground staff in Haiti managing this depot and coordinating with other aid organizations.

## III. CREATED A COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LOCAL PARTNERS

**Helping Local Haitian-run Organizations is Critical:** Direct Relief established a Community Grant Fund through which \$565,000 has been provided to 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. These funds were granted to 22 Haitian nonprofits which would otherwise lack access to donations available to larger, international groups. Recipient agencies range from health facilities serving impoverished families, to alternative schools for disadvantaged children, to agencies providing social services to disabled Haitians.

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.

### Hôpital Camejo Léogâne, Haiti

Léogâne, a town located 20 miles from Port-au-Prince, was the epicenter of the earthquake. In less than one minute, 90 percent of the buildings in the town collapsed, including Hôpital Camejo. Direct Relief provided them with a \$20,000 community grant to help rebuild the hospital and fully equip its new operating room.

Drs. Marie and Joseph Charles—a husband-and-wife physician team—run Camejo and have a dozen medical licenses between them. Dr. Joseph Charles is the only surgeon in the area, so he sees most every patient who needs surgery. He provides emergency procedures for free to those who cannot afford it, and elective services are provided for a fee.

After almost a year of rebuilding, the hospital recently opened its operating room and began providing surgeries to Haitians.



*“Thanks to generous gifts and a grant of \$20,000 from Direct Relief International, we were able to fully build and equip Camejo’s OR. The first surgery was on December 15th and the patient is undergoing a successful recovery. With this newest addition to the hospital, Camejo is in a position to save even more lives.”*

- Dr. Joseph Charles

## IV. INCREASED CAPACITY FOR LONG TERM REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

**The Headlines Will Fade but the Need Will Not:** Shortly after the earthquake, Direct Relief committed to support the long-term needs of survivors who received disabling injuries, including loss of a limb. This decision was made based on the many years of experience responding to earthquakes and other emergencies which have taught them that such injuries – though caused by the event – often do not emerge until after the relief efforts have exhausted all the funds.

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 sent orthopedic products, such as wheelchairs, arm slings, ankle braces, walking casts, post-op supplies, and adjustable knee supports. In addition, Direct Relief 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 provided \$275,000 to fund a rehabilitation and administrative center where recent amputees can do physical therapy and have their newly fitted prosthesis adjusted. These funds are allowing HHHI to operate and staff a temporary facility for a year while it rebuilds its permanent facilities. The rented space houses the Kay Kapab Klinik in Port-au-Prince which received its first patient on October 15, 2010. This marked the beginning of a return to full services by HHHI since its operational facilities were destroyed in the quake.

Kay Kapab Klinik supports patients with newly fabricated prosthetic limbs as well as those patients who were receiving care before the quake. The facility includes an emergency-response clinic, an administrative office, medical examining room, physiotherapy gym, occupational therapy room, classroom, and storage space. In the meantime, HHHI is rebuilding their main facility, which will include a dedicated Prosthetic Medicine and Rehabilitation Institute.

With the enormous increase in quake survivors' need for rehabilitative care, Direct Relief funded an HHHI study to assess the current rehabilitative knowledge base of Haitian nurses working in hospitals throughout the country. This study will help establish a baseline of current nurses in Haiti and will inform the development of new comprehensive training to address the country's increased population of people needing rehabilitative care.

## CHOLERA OUTBREAK WORSENS CONDITIONS IN HAITI

In October 2010, the people of Haiti had to face yet another health challenge – a cholera outbreak. Cholera spreads through compromised water and sanitation systems, and it is believed that the outbreak originated near the Artibonite River which flows across Haiti. To date, there are over 120,000 people (nearly 12,000 per week since it first appeared in late October) infected and nearly 3,300 have died.

As part of the overall long-term assistance effort in Haiti, Direct Relief imported seven 40-foot containers of medical supplies, which arrived at the beginning of the cholera outbreak. Items suitable for the cholera response were redirected to partner hospitals as needed. In addition, eight (8) hurricane preparedness modules– each with enough medicines and supplies to treat 1,000 for a month – that had been pre-positioned at four (4) Haitian healthcare facilities in June 2010 were opened and used to treat patients affected by cholera.

Direct Relief has spent over \$300,000 to procure and send essential medications and supplies requested by Partners in Health and Hospital Albert Schweitzer, which continue to work to treat affected patients and prevent further infection. Direct Relief also continues to work with the Haitian Ministry of Health and other public health officials to provide supplies needed to treat patients with cholera and prevent its spread to other regions.

In total, Direct Relief has provided \$1,624,149 (wholesale) of medical supplies since the outbreak, including antibiotics, rehydration solution, IV tubing and supplies to treat more than 10,000 patients, and hygiene kits including soap, bleach, detergent, and other supplies – all of which were requested by Haitian facilities.

## DISTRIBUTION MAP IMPROVES TRANSPARENCY

In an unparalleled effort to provide transparency to donors, Direct Relief created an interactive map, which allows for a complete and accurate overview of all medical aid distributed to Haiti by Direct Relief.

Direct Relief tracks its assistance with a high degree of precision to ensure transparency and mitigate duplication. Direct Relief’s Haiti aid distribution map is the only map of its kind – no other organization integrates a mapping tool that allows for the same level of transparency. The provision of medical material is tracked to the end-user facility or partner organization on the map which can be accessed here: [http://www.directrelief.org/Flash/Haiti\\_Aid\\_Distribution/Index.html](http://www.directrelief.org/Flash/Haiti_Aid_Distribution/Index.html)



## FUTURE INVESTMENTS TO STRENGTHEN HAITI’S HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

*Leveraging a more than 40-year long relationship with Haiti’s foremost healthcare providers, Direct Relief has committed to operate ongoing programs essential to rebuilding Haiti’s health infrastructure, including:*

- Assistance to strengthen the Haitian public health infrastructure by working with the Ministry of Health to establish a medical supply chain management system modeled after Direct Relief’s warehouse; develop an inventory management system; and identify the most vulnerable facilities in the country
- Provision of eight (8) hurricane preparedness modules to Haitian partners, each stocked with enough medicines and supplies to treat 1,000 people for a month
- A community grants program to help local nonprofits rebuild their communities, which already includes 23 local recipients, and leverages Direct Relief’s partnerships with UC Haiti Initiative and Music for Relief to enhance support for these grant recipients
- A medical distribution program, which now includes more than 100 hospitals and health clinics
- Long-term prosthetics and orthotics assistance for those who will need lifelong attention
- A maternal and child health program designed to support traditional birth attendants and equip health facilities in order to reduce the extremely high rate of maternal and infant mortality
- Continued cholera support and ongoing medical supply distribution

Having worked with partners in Haiti for over 40 years, Direct Relief will remain deeply invested in Haiti and its efforts to rebuild its national healthcare infrastructure. Direct Relief has allocated funds for lasting recovery, including continued cholera prevention and treatment, long-term prosthetics and orthotics assistance, hurricane preparedness, medical aid distribution, and other areas identified by local on-the-ground partners.