Haiti Earthquake: Long-term Recovery Work

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that shook Haiti in January 2010 was the largest experienced by the country in over 250 years. The disaster resulted in an estimated 217,366 deaths, and left more than 1.5 million people homeless and displaced. While adversely affecting social and economic stability throughout the island nation, the quake – centered near the city of Léogâne (approximately 16 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince) – has had a particularly devastating impact on Haiti’s Western and South-western Departments (geographic divisions similar to counties). This region includes Episcopal parishes and outstations of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti’s Western II Archdeaconry.

Ansan-m ann di: Ayiti leve kanpe pou-w mache.
“Together we say, Haiti: rise up and move forward.”
– The Rt. Rev. Jean Zaché Duracin, Bishop of Haiti

Episcopal Relief & Development and our partners in Haiti have been implementing Long-term Recovery activities that focus on reinforcing household and community security, economic growth and environmentally sustainable development. Recently concluded recovery programming has assisted over 12,000 people by fighting gender-based violence, providing short-term employment, and strengthening agriculture techniques. Continuing Long-term Recovery programming is assisting an additional 7,500 people with home and latrine construction, micro-credit, agroforestry and renewable energy production.

Protection and Empowerment

To promote a culture of peace that both protected and empowered displaced individuals living in urban tent camps, CEDDISEC, with our support, united a Youth Brigade of 18 university students to address the high incidence of gender-based and sexual violence in four camps.

The Youth Brigade’s objectives were:

• To influence and transform the perspectives of an additional 160 youth (ages 12-25) living in urban tent camps so that they might develop a greater respect for one another, as members of society that must “rise up and move forward” in solidarity.
• To guide these youth in recognizing their roles and responsibilities as men and women, and as equal people in a nonviolent and respectful society.
• To facilitate these youth in identifying actions they can take to mobilize their friends and neighbors toward creating a non-violent and respectful society, where the incidence of gender-based violence is remarkably decreased.

In CEDDISEC’s protection and empowerment program, a Youth Brigade that had initially been mobilized during the 2010 cholera epidemic was expanded to include 18 university students (nine men and nine women). The aim was to continue community outreach and education in urban tent camps. With a new focus on addressing the high incidence of gender-based violence (which the Cholera Brigade previously encountered in the tent camps), CEDDISEC’s Youth Brigade used cultural tools such as drama, music and debates to energize, educate and mobilize additional youth living in the camps with a greater understanding of the negative effects of such violence. In turn, these young people have been
encouraged to identify actions they can take to educate and mobilize their friends, other youth and camp neighbors in solidarity against violence in all forms.

Beginning in June 2011, CEDDISEC’s 18 Youth Brigade members received training in gender-based violence issues from prominent Haitian gender-rights advocates, lawyers and Episcopal priests. Three urban tent camps situated in the greater Port-au-Prince area and previously served by the Cholera Brigade were selected for pilot programs: Camp Aloune in Delmas 19, Camp CR7 in Delmas 60, and Camp ENAF in Canape Verte. Working with camp leaders, the Youth Brigade then conducted baseline surveys on the nature and frequency of violence and gender-based violence in the three camps. The process included interviews with camp leaders, women residents and youth. In July 2011, the education program was officially launched through a series of camp presentations involving skits and music that the Youth Brigade members wrote themselves.

After several months, over 120 youth (approximately 40 per camp) were actively participating in the Youth Brigade’s biweekly educational sessions. In addition, Cash-for-Work (CFW) projects were launched for these 120 youth, in cooperation with CEDDISEC’s CFW employment program. Youth-identified work projects focused on activities that addressed important aspects of respect and protection, such as cleaning their environment and securing safe public latrine and shower facilities.

In 2012 the Youth Brigade education program concluded by engaging youth in camp-based debates and cultural (singing and drama) competitions that promoted solidarity against violence in all forms. At the same time, the youth from CR7 camp in Delmas 60 formed their own Youth Brigade to reach out to others in CR2, a nearby camp, thus extending the nonviolence message to more than 40 additional young people.

**Shelter**

It is estimated that the January 2010 earthquake left more than 1.5 million people homeless. Even those whose homes were left standing were in many cases unable to return to these unstable structures as aftershocks continued affecting the country.

In June 2010 CEDDISEC, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, launched its Home Construction program, which also creates opportunities for individual and community participation.

CEDDISEC’s Home Construction objectives are:

- To restore a sense of physical and emotional security to families left homeless, through the construction of one provisional home per family.
- To improve household privacy, health, sanitation and hygiene through the construction of an outdoor shower and latrine, and the provision of two insecticide-treated mosquito nets per home/family.
- To create short-term economic independence for individuals in the communities where homes are being built, through the creation of an estimated 500 hours of construction-related employment per home.
CEDDISEC’s response to the shelter needs of Haitians impacted by the earthquake involves building provisional houses for families in need. The program is intentional about creating opportunities for individual and community participation in home construction, which increases an individual’s feeling of ownership of his or her home and work, instead of being a passive recipient of aid. In partnership with Episcopal parish priests, local committees help identify families seeking immediate provisional housing, as well as construction workers (skilled and unskilled) seeking employment. CEDDISEC technicians then work alongside these individuals to ensure that the work is in compliance with CEDDISEC’s model provisional home.

CEDDISEC’s model home was designed and developed by CEDDISEC’s Shelter Manager and engineer, Gregory Despero, after field visits and consultations with other international shelter organizations. CEDDISEC’s model meets Haiti’s UN Shelter Cluster and International Sphere standards, having been designed with an emphasis on security, durability and utility. The model home built includes 195 square feet of living space and features a reinforced wooden frame anchored 12 inches into the ground, a 16-inch raised cinderblock foundation, rubble-filled and concrete-surfaced flooring, tin roofing, plywood walls and interior paneling, two windows, and interior and exterior painting. Unique from other shelters being constructed, CEDDISEC’s model home also includes the construction of an exterior latrine and shower and the provision of two insecticide-treated mosquito nets. The homes are intended to last three years, and homeowners can either improve them or use the components to construct a more permanent dwelling.

During the Relief to Recovery period (2010–11), a total of 270 homes were constructed, thus restoring families' sense of security and improving sanitation and privacy for 1,240 individuals (35% of them children). At the same time, through this construction work, an estimated 1,084 individuals were employed and 398 family members of homeowners participated in the construction (see Relief to Recovery Work program page for additional information).

During the Long-term Recovery period, CEDDISEC is continuing its home construction work with a special focus on building homes for families relocating from temporary urban tent camps to more permanent locations in suburban or rural areas. Concluding construction in 2013 are an additional 85 homes for 392 individuals (40% of them children) in the communities of Matthieu, Darbonne, Buteau, Trouin and Grand Colline. Through this construction work, 649 individuals were employed and 232 church and family members of homeowners participated in the construction.

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<th>Two Years Later, Moving Toward Hope</th>
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<td>January 12, 2010, marked a new page in the history of the Haitian people. While two years have already passed, the consequences of this terrible earthquake are still present. Here in Haiti we are reminded each day of its effects, as we step outside our front doors and continue to see the destruction and debris. … <a href="#">Read more</a></td>
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**Water and Sanitation**

**Clean Water**

In the wake of a disaster, lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation can often worsen already terrible conditions.
Building upon prior rescue, relief and recovery efforts that provided clean water to displaced families, as well as entire communities affected by the cholera epidemic, the Diocese of Haiti has launched an emergency preparedness initiative that has pre-positioned stocks of clean water and other health and hygiene supplies. Some of these supplies have already been distributed as a response to flooding and water contamination caused by the 2012 hurricane season.

**Household Sanitation**

Prior to the quake, half of Haiti’s population did not have access to appropriate sanitation infrastructure. Following the disaster, many household latrines and shower facilities were either crushed or rendered unsafe. As such, while moving from a relief to recovery focus, CEDDISEC focused on household sanitation work to restore a sense of privacy, security and protection from sexual harassment and assault, as well as prevent the spread of contagious diseases such as cholera. These efforts included both the reconstruction of damaged household pit latrines and showers, as well as the construction of new household pit latrines and showers for all families participating in the provisional home construction program.

From 2010 to 2011, 270 exterior pit latrines and showers were constructed alongside provisional homes built by CEDDISEC. This project helped restore a sense of security and improve sanitation and privacy for 270 families totaling 1,240 individuals, of whom 35% were children. For 106 (54%) of these families, this represented an improvement over their pre-earthquake sanitation situation.

During the Long-term Recovery period, CEDDISEC is continuing its household sanitation work to build exterior pit latrines and showers for the 85 families participating in the house construction program.

**Micro-credit**

To improve the economic security of rural and urban households that have been affected by the January 2010 earthquake and are currently excluded from institutionally based finance services, CEDDISEC, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, has launched a micro-credit program.

CEDDISEC’s micro-credit program objectives are:

- To assist CEDDISEC’s past clients who, due to the January 2010 quake, have lost either their business or capital. These past clients will be enabled to restart or expand their businesses through access to new credit and terms.
- To identify and assist new clients who seek access to credit for the launch or expansion of income-generating activities.
- To increase clients’ household incomes by 15%, and improve CEDDISEC’s micro-credit program management in order to achieve a loan recovery rate greater than 80%.

CEDDISEC’s micro-credit program offers entrepreneurs loans ranging from 5,000 to 25,000 gourdes (US $120 to $625). Loans are only accessible for the creation or expansion of a business; they may not be used for consumption purposes (e.g., household purchases, school fees, construction, etc.). Loans and loan amounts are accorded to entrepreneurs with consideration of their ability to pay it back. To make loans more accessible to entrepreneurs, CEDDISEC’s interest rate is only 2.5% digressive – half of what other finance institutions in Haiti are currently requiring. Before a loan is disbursed, each client makes a savings deposit with CEDDISEC equivalent to 20% of the approved loan amount. Upon the full repayment of their loan and any interest due, clients receive access to their savings deposit. All loan
repayments, regardless of the amount, are due monthly, with the full loan amount being repaid within six months.

Beginning in June 2011, CEDDISEC Micro-credit Manager Jean Estervall Dol and his team of Loan Officers began registering clients and disbursing loans in both urban and rural communities of four communes: Port-au-Prince, Carrefour, Léogâne and Croix des Bouquets. As of March 2012, CEDDISEC had served an initial 92 clients (representing 478 family members) with loans worth a total of US$30,143. Of these clients, 65% were women, 48% were single heads of households, and 39% were former CEDDISEC clients who were in good standing as of January 2010.

Some of the results of recent micro-credit work include:

1. Positive reinforcement of small businesses
   - 96% of clients reported increasing the amount invested monthly in their business
   - $20.48 average amount of increase, per household, reinvested monthly in business

2. Positive reinforcement of purchasing power and business management
   - 99% of clients reported increasing their monthly gross profit
   - $30.66 average amount of increase, per household, of monthly gross profit
   - 95% of clients reported increasing their monthly gross profit by at least 15%

3. Increase in disposable income contributing to improved living conditions and household’s ability to meet basic needs
   - 73% of clients reported increasing their monthly household income
   - 68% of clients reported increasing net profits of business by at least 15%

4. Improvement in economic security of household
   - 58% of clients reported increasing their monthly savings
   - $5.09 average amount of increase, per household, of monthly savings

In 2013, CEDDISEC intends to support an additional 60 clients in the areas of Lascahobas, Mirebalais and Carrefour with the capital reimbursed by the 92 clients served in 2011–12. At the same time, CEDDISEC's micro-credit team is exploring the development of alternative savings and financial services to assist emerging entrepreneurs (including youth and women’s solidarity groups).

**Yolande’s Story: Sales with a Smile**

Yolande, a business owner in her 50s, has been running her small shop in Port-au-Prince since 2004, selling toiletries, household items and soft drinks. After the earthquake, Yolande sacrificed her profits in order help her community, since so many of her customers had lost everything.

[Read more](#)

**Additional Micro-credit Stories, 2013 Program**

**Agriculture**

To improve the food and economic security of urban households affected by the January 2010 earthquake, CEDDISEC, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, launched a program to promote kitchen gardens, which in Creole are called Jardins prè-Kay.
CEDDISEC’s agriculture objectives were:

- To facilitate people’s access to the resources (i.e., techniques, seeds and tools) necessary to create small kitchen gardens, which do not require access to expansive or traditional plots of agricultural land.
- To share opportunities for experiential and technical learning that will enable people to engage in vegetable production and grow a variety of vegetables year-round.

CEDDISEC’s kitchen garden program sought to enable families to produce a variety of vegetables for both consumption and sale, thus improving household food availability and finances. Kitchen gardens are versatile in both structure and size, enabling families to create productive gardens inside of old tires, grain sacks, half-barrels, etc., and within very confined spaces. At the same time, by applying the appropriate techniques, kitchen gardens can be cultivated year-round, regardless of the season.

Using an experiential learning method, CEDDISEC assisted families not familiar with vegetable production to work together to build “group-wide” nurseries in a location loaned by one of the participating families. From the nurseries, families transplanted vegetable plants to their individual kitchen garden structures. In addition to sharing new techniques, CEDDISEC assisted these groups with start-up seeds and horticulture tools (e.g., insecticide sprayers, small picks, transplanting shovels and water cans). Based on participating families’ recommendations, the types of vegetables grown included cabbage, eggplant, tomatoes, onions, spinach, chili peppers, bell peppers, carrots, okra and cauliflower.

Beginning in June 2011, CEDDISEC Agriculture Manager Salomon Oscar and his team conducted a series of technical and experiential workshops for families from urban communities in Carrefour, Gressier, Léogâne (Matthieu and Darbonne), Bois Léger and Croix-des-Bouquets. Following these practical sessions, 365 households (representing 2,190 family members) became engaged in building vegetable nurseries and constructing kitchen garden structures from locally available materials. Some of the results of this agriculture work included:

1. Increase in household’s capacity and production of vegetables
   - 98% of participants had a kitchen garden post-project
   - 99% of participants reported cultivating vegetables as a result of the project
   - 55% of participants reported starting to cultivate vegetables as a result of the project
   - 3,697.5 m² of garden was being cultivated as a result of the project
   - 10.13 m² of average surface area, per household, was cultivated with vegetables as a result of the project
   - 99% of participants are cultivating a surface area of at least five square meters as a result of the project
   - 100% of participants reported knowledge of the techniques for creating vegetable nurseries
   - 53% of participants reported gaining this knowledge as a result of the project
   - 100% of participants reported having access to the appropriate tools for vegetable cultivation
   - 60% of participants reported gaining this access as a result of the project

2. Contribution to household increase in consumption of vegetables
   - 63% of participants reported an increase in the quantity of vegetables they eat per week, as a result of the project
   - 4.5 average number of times households eat vegetables per week, post-project
   - 2 average number “more” times households eat vegetables per week as a result of the project
93% of participants reported an increase in the variety of vegetables they eat per week, as a result of the project.

5.4 average number of types of vegetables eaten as a result of the project; most common types: chayote, carrots, spinach, cabbage, eggplant, okra, tomato, parsley and/or turnip.

3. Contribution to the reduction of malnutrition among children in the family

- 440 children with signs of malnutrition before the project
- 86 children with signs of malnutrition after the project
- 81% of children reportedly improved their nutritional status during the project period
- 93% of families with children with signs of malnutrition were able to improve the children’s nutritional status.

4. Contribution to an improvement in household economic situation

- 92% of families reduced the weekly amount of money spent on vegetables as a result of the project
- 270.48 gourdes (US $6.76) is the average weekly benefit (amount saved) per family as a result of the project.

**Employment**

In line with national relief and recovery efforts, in May 2010, CEDDISEC, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, launched a Cash-For-Work (CFW) economic relief program that created employment opportunities and increased household economic independence for 4,768 individuals (representing 24,842 family members). The program encouraged the leadership and participation of Haitians in 79 community-based recovery projects (see Relief to Recovery Work program page for additional information).

Ensuring that people have a voice and a sense of control in their own recovery and future is an essential step in reducing stress and facilitating sustainable development.

Generating both cash and pride at the community level, CEDDISEC’s program methodology encourages community-based committees to formulate and lead recovery projects. This gives people the opportunity to make decisions as well as identify program participants.

In general, CEDDISEC’s CFW economic relief and community recovery objectives were:

- To provide immediate relief and a greater sense of economic independence to individuals and families affected by the January 2010 earthquake, with an intentional effort to ensure at least 40% of program participants are women.
- To restore a sense of structure and routine in individuals’ lives, and to reduce stress and violence.
- To encourage the engagement of Haitians and parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti in community-led recovery.

Working through the Haitian parish network, CEDDISEC supported parish priests in mobilizing committees that include parishioners, local leaders and non-Episcopalian community groups. These local committees participate in identifying potential community recovery projects, along with people.
from vulnerable households to receive short-term jobs working on the projects. CEDDISEC’s traditional community recovery projects employed 33 individuals (mobilized as three teams of 11 people each) for a period of 20 days. As such, the minimum wage earned per individual during a 20-day work cycle was US$102.

Based on an assessment of prior work and continuing economic recovery needs, in 2012 CEDDISEC modified its CFW methodology in two ways: 1) by increasing the work cycle from 20 to 40 days, thus increasing the average wage earned per household from US$102 to US$204; and 2) by offering the short-term work opportunities to targeted individuals in communities that have not yet been able to re-engage in their pre-earthquake economic activities.

During the Long-term Recovery process, CEDDISEC supported an additional 33 CFW community recovery projects with a focus on helping an additional 1,426 families that included: 1) parents of children not enrolled in the 2012–13 school year; 2) entrepreneurs who lost business capital and had not restarted their businesses or gained access to formal credit; 3) youth in urban tent camps seeking economic opportunities to contribute to their families’ well-being; and 4) community members who were preparing terraces as part of two Episcopal school-led reforestation campaigns.

The results of these recent CFW projects are:

- The reinsertion of 972 primary school students;
- The re-capitalization of 66 micro-businesses;
- The gainful occupation of 124 youth; and
- The terracing by 264 community members of 2,637 square meters of land for the transplanting of 1,100 trees.

As of 2013, CEDDISEC and Episcopal Relief & Development supported 170 CFW projects that have provided employment to a total of 6,194 individuals, representing a total of 30,629 family members in 103 communities.

**Agroforestry**

Two-thirds of all Haitians depend on agriculture, mainly small-scale subsistence farming, for food security and income. Extreme soil erosion and deforestation, combined with the devastating impact of the January 2010 earthquake and chronic hurricanes and floods, have resulted in Haiti having one of the most disadvantageous environments and economies in the world. The country faces a significant structural food deficit, and malnutrition is widespread. CEDDISEC’s agroforestry program, with the support of Episcopal Relief & Development, focuses on improving the food production techniques of rural farmers through a diversified reforestation, gardening and agroforestry program. In this way, the program addresses both the food needs of people and long-term environmental needs to prevent soil erosion in mountainous areas.

In 2012 CEDDISEC worked with two Episcopal schools and Norwegian Church Aid (an international partner supported by Episcopal Relief & Development) to install bio-digester sanitation systems at newly reconstructed Episcopal schools, to equip community members with new techniques for use of bio-digester compost material as they engaged in
reforestation of surrounding hillsides. The agroforestry objectives included:

1. Facilitation of community members and students (grades 4 to 6) in replanting deforested hill areas, to contribute to decreased risks of erosion, flooding and mudslides.

2. Facilitation of the same individuals in using waste produced by the school bio-digester systems in the production of trees for reforestation trees (500 per community) and fruit trees for household transplantation (two per household) to improve the population’s knowledge of and access to more effective agriculture production techniques.

3. Facilitation of four school and community committees in creating a school garden plan that will effectively use the bio-digester waste in the production of nutritious foods to be served in school canteens.

The four Episcopal schools that participated in the agroforestry program were St. Mattieu in Mattieu-Léogâne, St. Esprit in Darbonne-Léogâne, St. Joseph in Gressier and Bon Berger in Danot-Grand Goâve.

As a result of this work, over 497 individuals and students participated in the use of bio-digester waste to create four nurseries (one per school) and the production of over 2,000 reforestation trees and 2,000 fruit trees. In total, 2,637 square meters of hillsides were terraced and reforested with 1,100 trees, and 173 households received fruit trees.

**Renewable Energy – Green Schools**

To encourage Haiti’s recovery with a greener focus, in 2011 Episcopal Relief & Development teamed up with ACT Alliance partner Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti’s Anglican Office for Education (BAEH) to launch a renewable energy and water and sanitation program at Episcopal schools.

The Green Schools objectives are:

- To reduce the quantity of nonrenewable fuels used in school kitchens and the overall air pollution around schools through the construction of bio-digester systems that within two years will sustainably produce sufficient quantities of cooking fuel (methane gas).
- To improve sanitation conditions through the installation of flush toilets and hand-washing stations alongside each bio-digester system.
- To reduce the overall load on local groundwater resources and minimize the cost of purchasing water for schools through the installation of rainwater harvesting and collection systems along school roof surfaces. This includes the installation of 1,000-gallon water tanks and four-panel solar water pump systems at each school.
- To improve students’ access to clean water for drinking and for school canteens through the installation or rehabilitation of one borehole well per school, in close proximity to each campus.
- To improve hygiene habits through behavior change education in good sanitation and hygiene standards.
- To transfer knowledge about green technology and renewable energy use to local committees and community structures composed of parents, students, church members and others, thus ensuring the operation, maintenance and sustainability of the new sanitation and water systems, as well as a possible future increase in community use of green technologies.
Bio-digesters are sewage systems built to produce biogas (methane) through a process of controlled anaerobic digestion of organic matter (in this case, human waste). The NCA bio-digester systems provide for the disposal of waste, capture of greenhouse gases, and production of cooking fuel for the Episcopal school canteens. The by-product (water) of the bio-digester systems is also used as fertilizer for school gardens.

The bio-digester system connected to student latrines is built below school grounds. The student latrines are upgraded to accommodate both flush toilets and hand washing stations. The water for these latrines comes primarily from a rainwater harvesting and conservation system being installed by NCA along the eaves of newly rebuilt school classrooms (built through a school reconstruction project led by BAEH, in partnership with ACT Alliance member Finn Church Aid). Collected rainwater is pumped to an elevated tank by a small solar-powered electrical pump also installed by NCA, thus further reducing the schools’ dependency on unreliable and expensive electricity supplies and other nonrenewable energy sources.

In 2011, NCA’s Water and Sanitation Coordinator, Flory Balaga, and his team of technicians and community educators worked with the Matthieu Episcopal parish, school committee, teachers and 300-plus students in the commune of Léogâne to install the first bio-digester system. This new system was inaugurated in September 2011 and as of June 2012, had already begun producing gas and waste that was used to support a school-led reforestation campaign. In 2012, with Episcopal Relief & Development support, NCA expanded its program to the schools of Bon Berger in Danot (commune of Grand Goâve) and St. Esprit in Darbonne (commune of Léogâne). In total, over 1,550 teachers and students, working alongside 6,228 family and community members, were educated and engaged in this initial pilot phase at three Episcopal schools.

In 2013, with continued Episcopal Relief & Development support, NCA has expanded the Green Schools program again to an additional six schools (four Episcopal and two public), thus ensuring the engagement of over 1,245 students, 91 teachers and 3,000 parents/community members in renewable energy promotion and effective use of bio-digester liquid fertilizer for improved agriculture production.

For more information about bio-digester systems, click here.

Maryline’s Story: “Green” Innovations Promote Health and Improve Environment

Seven-year-old Maryline lives with her family in Léogâne, 50 kilometers outside Port-au-Prince, in Haiti. Léogâne was extremely hard-hit by the January 2010 earthquake that shook the country, killing 300,000 people and leaving a million homeless. … Read more

Institutional Support

A unique aspect of Episcopal Relief & Development’s response to the quake, as compared to our other international response efforts, was that our program staff and consultants were deployed within Haiti for substantial periods of time. The organization’s rationale behind this deployment took into consideration the disaster’s scale and its stress on local clergy, leadership and systems. In addition, it weighed the possibility of assisting CEDDISEC in coordinating with the massive international relief efforts and diverse US parish-based mission responses, on behalf of the vast number of individuals and communities across Haiti in which the Episcopal Church is present.
Throughout all of Episcopal Relief & Development’s support, the principles and strategies that have guided our interaction with the Diocese and CEDDISEC have included:

- Supporting and encouraging Bishop Duracin’s vision, which calls parishes to work together with and on behalf of not only their congregations, but their entire communities, so that Haiti may “rise up and move forward” together.
- Strengthening local leadership and engaging Haitians in their own recovery and redevelopment processes.
- Reinvesting knowledge and experience gained through previous emergency and community-based programming into current earthquake recovery efforts.
- Ensuring that support reaches communities throughout the country, assisting both those displaced by the quake as well as communities hosting them.
- Ensuring that recovery programs provide individuals and communities with choices, create employment (both short- and long-term), protect the environment, and ensure participation and respect for all people.