

Haiti Earthquake: Relief to Recovery Work

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that shook Haiti on January 12, 2010, was the largest experienced by the country in over 250 years. The quake resulted in an estimated 217,366 deaths, and left more than 1.5 million people homeless and displaced. While adversely affecting the social and the economic stability of communities 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**

The Relief to Recovery activities supported by Episcopal Relief & Development focused on increasing people's security and engaging community members in recovery efforts. Episcopal Relief & Development–supported programming from 2010–11 assisted an additional 40,000 people by continuing and expanding health care services, food distributions and sanitation, as well as building more stable shelter and household sanitation facilities and creating short-term employment.

Health Care

Mobile Medical Clinics:

While moving from a relief to recovery focus, CEDDISEC, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, continued providing mobile medical clinics to an additional 21,234 individuals (13,086 adults and 8,148 children) in 70 communities of the Léogâne and Carrefour areas.

While fewer mobile medical clinics were deployed than planned, due to transportation and logistical constraints, CEDDISEC managed to provide health care to twice as many people as anticipated – an estimated 1,300 individuals per week. This was due to careful identification of communities in need and scheduling of clinics in remote rural locations where the populations were truly underserved.

As such, from the start of the mobile medical clinic program in February 2010 through its conclusion in May 2010, a total of 42,124 people received health care through 203 mobile medical clinics. This number comprised 25,870 adults and 14,254 children. The mobile clinics were facilitated by 15 Episcopal parishes and more than 40 mission stations in over 70 locations in Léogâne, Baintet, Jacmel, Grand-Goave, Gressier, Carrefour, Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Petion-ville, Croix des Bouquets and Arachaie.

Mobile medical clinics provided both medical care and health education to individuals who were unable to travel to hospitals and other health facilities. The most common ailments treated included gastrointestinal problems, respiratory infections, malaria, anemia and malnutrition. Health education addressed the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, how to maintain basic sanitation in spite of crowding and scarce resources, and cultural perspectives on hypertension, anemia and gastritis.

Hôpital Ste. Croix:

Léogâne-ville's Hôpital Ste. Croix (HSC), built in 1973–74 by the Episcopal Church of Haiti, was once the most important and centrally located general hospital in the Department of the West. Throughout 2010, Episcopal Relief & Development provided operational support that, in cooperation with other efforts to rehabilitate HSC, enabled the hospital to respond to the increased demand for services and restore its potential to serve the region. Specifically, in 2010 the hospital delivered outpatient services to an estimated 200 patients per day. And following the renovation of a temporary inpatient wing, officially opened by Bishop Duracin on September 22, 2010, the hospital was equipped to deliver inpatient care to as many as 24 individuals per day.

To help support the service restoration and improved patient care, Episcopal Relief & Development's operational support to HSC was accompanied by the hiring of a consultant to help build administrative systems. These systems included identification and mentoring of hospital leadership, systematization of accounting processes for designated funding streams, and transition of the hospital's governance structure to ensure deeper representation from local leaders in the Haitian health community.

Cholera Epidemic

In October 2010 Haiti experienced an outbreak of cholera. The waterborne disease, which is treatable with antibiotics and rehydration packs, quickly spread from the Artibonite region to all of Haiti's 10 departments (geographic divisions similar to counties). The numbers of infections also quickly rose, particularly in the crowded urban refugee camps where clean water was scarce and sanitation was severely lacking.

To help alleviate the initial outbreak, Episcopal Relief & Development supported CEDDISEC in leading a major education initiative on cholera prevention and water purification techniques. These activities were carried out in 16 parishes throughout the Departments of the West and South, as well as in 18 informal urban tent camps around Port-au-Prince. A Youth Brigade of 13 health advocates was mobilized and trained to give lessons and hand out pamphlets on proper hygiene, hand washing, waste disposal and disinfection of contaminated areas. Health advocates were also charged with the distribution of life-saving water, water purification and hygiene supplies, and rehydration treatments.

As of December 2010, over 23,550 families in Episcopal parishes, schools and urban tent camps had been reached with hygiene education and cholera prevention kits. Each kit contained:

- 6 liters of treated bottled water
- 30 tablets (Aquatabs) for the purification of an extra 75 liters of water
- 1 liter of bleach for disinfection of contaminated areas and purification of water
- 3 bars of soap for proper hygiene and hand washing
- 6 packets of oral rehydration salts (ORS) for emergency treatment of people showing signs of infection



Preventing Sickness and Panic in Haiti

"As quick as the spread of cholera is the spread of panic that the outbreak has created among those still living in the tent camps and on the streets of Port-au-Prince and its surrounding areas." ... [Read more](#)

Food

Immediately following the quake, Episcopal Relief & Development worked closely with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, CEDDISEC, the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic and other partners to get food to people in need as quickly as possible. It is estimated that during the initial months of 2010, CEDDISEC assisted at least 13,700 individuals with 217 tons of food. This number comprises 800 individuals assisted with wet rations (hot meals), and 12,900 individuals (equivalent to 2,150 families) with dry rations. Just over 50% of the provided food was purchased in Haiti.

In April 2010, the Haitian government ceased mass food distribution, hoping to boost the local economy by encouraging people to buy from local vendors. However, pockets of continuing emergency need remained. Therefore, while moving from a relief to recovery focus, CEDDISEC conducted targeted food and non-food distributions with support from Episcopal Relief & Development. This work included distributions to areas directly impacted by the quake's destruction in the Department of the West, as well as areas affected by the outflow of displaced persons from Port-au-Prince and other destroyed areas.

CEDDISEC's distributions were conducted through 35 Episcopal parishes and institutions, which identified the households and individuals to be assisted. Using local Port-au-Prince suppliers, CEDDISEC procured 87 tons of food (fish, rice and oil) that were distributed to 2,760 families in over 35 communities.



Macilia's Story: Caring for Extended Family in Disaster's Wake

Macilia lives in Guilloux, a small town in southwestern Haiti near Les Cayes. Guilloux is far enough away from the epicenter of Haiti's January 12th earthquake that on that day, Macilia only felt the ground tremble. While most of the area's homes withstood the tremors, the quake still impacted Macilia and her neighbors. [Read more](#)

School Canteen Support

To assist Episcopal schools in providing hot meals to their student populations, CEDDISEC, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, conducted short-term or one-time food distributions to Episcopal school canteens. Specifically, in collaboration with Episcopal parish priests and school committees, CEDDISEC supplemented existing school feeding programs through purchasing and distributing a variety of food that was Haitian-produced (e.g., rice, corn, peas) or otherwise locally procured (e.g., herring, salmon, spaghetti, oil, tomato paste). During the 2010–11 school year, over 2,600 students and 13 Episcopal schools and institutions throughout the country benefited from CEDDISEC's supplemental food distributions.

Water and Sanitation

In the wake of a disaster, lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation can often worsen already terrible conditions. This is especially true when a large number of individuals are living in close proximity to one another, as in many of the camps where people took refuge following the earthquake.

Public Sanitation

Immediately after the quake, Episcopal Relief & Development supported CEDDISEC in ensuring that people had access to both clean water and adequate sanitation systems. This work included construction of four sanitation blocks on the grounds of Episcopal parishes (Ste. Croix in Léogâne, St. Etienne in Buteau, Annunciation in Darbonne and St. Matthieu in Matthieu) where large numbers of families left homeless by the quake spontaneously took refuge in informal tent camps.

While moving from a relief to recovery focus, CEDDISEC, with Episcopal Relief & Development support, assisted an additional 5,000 individuals (an estimated 1,000 per school) with access to new sanitation facilities through constructing five public latrines. Each with four toilets (two male and two female stalls), the latrines were built on the grounds of Episcopal schools and/or public markets, in conjunction with Episcopal parishes in Trouin, Grand Colline, Cavaillon, Beraud and Savanette.

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 crushed or rendered unsafe. As such, while moving from a relief to recovery focus, CEDDISEC's household sanitation work included both reconstruction of damaged household pit latrines and showers and building of new facilities for all families participating in the provisional home construction program. The aim was to restore a sense of privacy, security, and protection from sexual harassment and assault, as well as to prevent the spread of contagious diseases such as cholera.

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

Shelter

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

To restore a sense of security and privacy to families left homeless following the earthquake, in June 2010 CEDDISEC, with support from Episcopal Relief & Development, launched its provisional home program. The project also creates opportunities for individual and community participation in home construction.

CEDDISEC's provisional home objectives are:

- To restore a sense of physical and emotional security to families left homeless, through constructing one provisional home per family.
- To improve household privacy, health, sanitation and hygiene through constructing an outdoor shower and latrine and providing two insecticide-treated mosquito nets per home/family.
- To create short-term economic independence for individuals in the communities where homes were being built, through creating 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 aid recipient. 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.

Gregory Despero, CEDDISEC's Shelter Manager and an engineer, designed and developed the model provisional home after field visits and consultations with other international shelter organizations. Designed with an emphasis on security, durability and utility, CEDDISEC's model meets Haiti's United Nations Shelter Cluster and International Sphere standards. The home 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 also includes construction of an exterior latrine and shower and 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, of whom 35% were children. At the same time, through the construction work, an estimated 1,084 individuals were employed and 398 family members of homeowners participated in the construction.

The following is a summary of characteristics of the families assisted:

- 54% have improved sanitation over their pre-earthquake situation
- 49% are headed by a woman
- 23% are headed by an individual 60 or older
- 19% have a member that was either seriously injured during the earthquake, or had a prior handicap or chronic illness
- 81% are members of the Episcopal Church
- 60% were living next to their destroyed home
- 11% were living in a tent camp
- 87% were living in a tent, tarp or provisional structure

* 145 homes were built in the communities of Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Carrefour, Gressier, Matthieu, Darbonne, Léogâne-ville, l'Acul, Buteau, Trouin, Grand Colline, Tabarre and Croix des Bouquets in 2010. In 2011, an additional 175 homes were built in the communities of Matthieu, l'Acul, Buteau, Trouin, Grand Colline, Carrefour, Delmas and Port-au-Prince.



Kettle's Story: New Homes and New Hope

Kettle is a 37-year-old single mother of five. Before last year's earthquake, she and her children lived in a home built from locally made bricks – her childhood home, which she had inherited from her mother. When the quake destroyed her house and many of her belongings, Kettle rummaged for pieces of wood, tin and plastic sheeting to protect her family from the wind and rain. ... [Read more](#)

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. The project created employment opportunities and increased household economic independence while encouraging the leadership and participation of Haitians in community-based recovery efforts. Ensuring that people had a voice and a sense of control in their own recovery and future was an essential step in reducing stress and facilitating sustainable development. Generating both cash and pride at the community level, CEDDISEC's program methodology encouraged community-based committees to formulate and lead recovery projects. This gave people the opportunity to make decisions as well as identify program participants.

CEDDISEC's initial 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 earthquake, with an intentional effort to ensure at least 40% of program participants were 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 participated in identifying potential community recovery projects, along with people from vulnerable households to receive short-term work on the projects. The typical community recovery project employed 33 individuals (mobilized as three teams of 11 each) for a period of 20 days. The minimum wage earned per individual during a 20-day work cycle was US\$102 (200 gourdes/day for 20 days), and the minimum wage earned per team leader (three per project) during that time was US\$128 (250 gourdes/day for 20 days).

The impact of this job creation was twofold. As expected, the program put cash directly into the hands of people affected firsthand by the quake. Workers used their wages to purchase food supplies and cooking fuel, pay school fees and debts, purchase new clothes, buy construction materials and equipment to begin repairing and refurbishing homes, and finance the reopening of small businesses (vegetable stands, cooking canteens) that they had operated before the disaster.

At the same time, the program positively impacted participants' psychological health. After spending months in displacement camps and standing in line for assistance, people expressed that the program gave them a new feeling of usefulness. They felt that they were doing something to help themselves and others. They also found that they awoke in the morning with a feeling of purpose and a plan for the day, which helped divert their attention from their problems and reduced stress. Overall, the participants expressed and demonstrated a sense of pride in their work.



Cash for Work Stories: Déséré Marie Claudia

Déséré worked 24 days as one of 15 CFW Team Leaders in the first phase of the Darbonne CFW program, which aimed to reach 500 individuals with short-term employment by August. ... [Read more](#)

In 2010 CEDDISEC launched 37 CFW community recovery projects (see following section) employing 1,468 individuals in 22 communities. The following is a summary of the characteristics of these individuals:

- 1,468 families were represented, and thus 7,340 family members indirectly benefited
- 588 (40%) were women
- Participants ranged in age from 18 to 81 years old
- 128 were team leaders earning \$128 each, and 1,340 were workers earning US\$102 each
- 655 (44%) were single-headed households
- 235 (16%) were families with a member who was either seriously injured during the earthquake, or had a prior handicap or chronic illness
- 86 (5.9%) were families with a pregnant woman

In all, benefited from the initial 37 CFW projects. Thirty-three projects (89%) took place in the heavily affected quake zone, in collaboration with the Episcopal parishes and institutions of Port-au-Prince, Carrefour, Matthieu, Darbonne, Trouin, Grande Colline, Buteau, l'Acul and Arcahaie. The remaining four projects (11%) took place in the South, in Les Cayes, Torbeck, Beraud and Savanette, where families received an overwhelming number of relatives and friends displaced by the quake.

In 2011 CEDDISEC launched 100 additional CFW community recovery projects, thus expanding employment opportunities to another 3,300 individuals. The following is a summary of the characteristics of these individuals:

- 3,300 families were represented, and thus 17,502 family members indirectly benefited
- 1,411 (43%) were women
- Participants ranged in age from 18 to 82 years old
- 300 were team leaders that earned \$128 each, and 3,000 were workers that earned US\$102 each
- 2,023 (61%) were single-headed households
- 750 (23%) were families that have a member who was either seriously injured during the earthquake, or had a prior handicap or chronic illness
- 269 (8%) were families with a pregnant woman

In all, 57 communities benefited from the additional projects. Sixty projects (60%) took place in the heavily affected quake zone, in collaboration with the Episcopal parishes and institutions of Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Carrefour, Matthieu, Léogâne, Trouin, Buteau, l'Acul, Arcahaie, Croix-des-Bouquets and Montrouis. The remaining 40 projects (40%) took place in both Northern areas (Lascahobas, Mirebalais, Gonaïves, Cange, Cap-Haitian, Limonade and Cange), and Southern (Jeremie, Petit Trou de Nippes, Les Cayes, Torbeck and Beraud).

Community Recovery

Through CEDDISEC's Cash-For-Work (CFW) economic relief program, which created employment opportunities and increased household economic independence, individual Haitians and parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti were supported in their leadership of community-based recovery efforts. Working through the Haitian parish network, CEDDISEC's CFW methodology encouraged parish priests to mobilize community-based committees that in turn identify and lead recovery projects, thus ensuring that people had a voice and role in their community's recovery.

A few examples of community recovery projects supported from 2010 to 2011 include:

- Rubble removal and rehabilitation of local markets, clinics, schools and churches
- Hygiene and sanitation campaigns
- Hurricane preparedness through rebuilding of roads, ditches and retaining walls
- Reinforcement of hillside walkways to prevent erosion
- Rehabilitation of agricultural fields and irrigation canals
- Building of provisional church and school buildings, perimeter walls and basketball courts
- Special interventions for vulnerable community members

The typical project employed 33 individuals (grouped into three teams of 11 people) for a period of 20 days. Each project received a standard set of safety and work tools:

- Work gloves, face mask (dust guard), and T-shirt for all workers
- Two wheelbarrows, six shovels, two sledgehammers, six rakes, six pickaxes and three brooms

In addition, each community recovery project could request up to \$600 in supplemental tools and supplies to support the proposed work. Examples of supplemental materials typically requested include:

- Cement for reinforcing walls or repairing drainage canals
- Metal sheeting and rebar for repairing fences and roofs or constructing provisional buildings
- Machetes for clearing fields
- Additional sledgehammers for large-scale demolition and rubble removal

In 2010 22 communities benefited from CEDDISEC's support of 37 CFW economic relief projects. A summary of the accomplishments of 2010 community recovery work includes:

- Over 6,200 cubic meters of rubble removed from fallen churches, schools and other community structures
- More than 20 kilometers of road and drainage canals repaired
- More than 1,500 cubic meters of land filled and leveled, and retaining walls reinforced
- An estimated 1,000 cubic meters of garbage cleared from public areas
- 300 meters of perimeter fence repaired
- Three public areas (markets and tent camps) cleaned
- Two provisional homes constructed for community members with physical disabilities

In 2011, 57 communities benefited from CEDDISEC's support of 100 CFW economic relief projects. A summary of the accomplishments of 2011 community recovery work includes:

- Over 2,300 cubic meters of rubble removed from fallen churches, schools and other community structures
- More than 147 kilometers of road and 24 kilometers of drainage canal repaired
- More than 400 cubic meters of land filled, leveled, and retaining walls reinforced
- An estimated 90 cubic meters of garbage cleared from nine hectares of nine public areas (such as schools, markets and tent camps)
- Four hectares of field cleared and three kilometers of irrigation canals cleaned
- 33 meters of perimeter fence repaired
- One basketball court constructed
- Two provisional buildings constructed and one parish repaired for church services

- Ste. Trinité Cathedral site and 17 other parishes and mission stations cleaned and prepared for celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Episcopal Church in Haiti (May 2011)

Institutional Support

Diocesan Response Activities

With Episcopal Relief & Development support, the Diocese of Haiti invested in relief and rehabilitation activities at several of its institutions. This included:

- Rubble and debris removed from the campus of the Episcopal University in Port-au-Prince, and a large structure with three classrooms constructed in order to allow classes to continue. Because of this work, 670 university students were able to continue their education, and 64 workers were employed in periods of 10-12 days.
- Relocation of the St. Trinity Professional School in Port-au-Prince to Croix des Bouquets, where a structure with four classrooms was built to enable 200 vocational students to continue their course work. Nineteen workers were employed for 20 days to complete this project.

CEDDISEC Response Activities

With Episcopal Relief & Development support, CEDDISEC invested in the rehabilitation and reinforcement of its own institutional capacities. This work included:

- Cleaning and rehabilitation of offices on the grounds of College St. Pierre, as well as the replacement of office equipment and supplies destroyed during the earthquake (e.g., computers, printers, desks and chairs, etc.).
- Construction of a warehouse alongside CEDDISEC's office, helping CEDDISEC to avoid taxes and storage fees placed on containers received in port, and also purchase program-related goods in bulk and thus at a better price.
- Creation of a program database to track program participants and progress.
- Leadership strengthening and training in participative community recovery approaches for CEDDISEC Development Agents (launched September 15–17 at a workshop for CEDDISEC staff and Development Agents in Port-au-Prince).
- Support by Episcopal Relief & Development of operational costs and salaries for 11 professional staff, 27 Development Agents, and 10 support staff.

A unique aspect of Episcopal Relief & Development's response to the quake, as compared to our other international response efforts, was that Episcopal Relief & Development program staff and consultants were deployed within Haiti for substantial periods of time. The organization's rationale behind this deployment considered the scale of the disaster and its stress on local clergy, leadership and systems, as well as the possibility of assisting CEDDISEC in coordinating with 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 response, the principles and strategies that guided the organization's support of the Diocese and CEDDISEC have included:

- Supporting and encouraging the vision of Bishop Duracin that calls parishes to work together with and on behalf of their entire communities, not only their congregations, 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 and the communities hosting them.
- Ensuring that recovery programs provide individuals and communities with choices, create employment (both short- and long-term), protect the environment and assure participation and respect for all people.