

## Haiti Earthquake: Two Years Later Everyday Haitians Lead the Rebuilding



Jobs and income-generating activities are key to Haiti's prosperity and stability. Your support is helping Haitians rebuild their lives and country through innovative business and agriculture.

Photo by Benjamin Depp for CRS

**January 2012 Report**

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## OVERVIEW

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It has been 2 years since a devastating earthquake shook the Haiti capital of Port-au-Prince and claimed a reported 230,000 lives. Although the cameras have long gone, the work of Catholic Relief Services and our Haitian Church partners has continued.

This earthquake response is the most complex disaster CRS has ever faced. Challenges range from how to clear huge amounts of rubble, to confusion about who has title to land, to a government reeling from its toppled ministries, to the reality that Haiti was a country in crisis well before disaster struck.

Experience shows us that this kind of undertaking calls for a genuine rebuilding of Haiti—one that will happen only if Haitians take charge of their own recovery. And no one wants this more than the Haitian people.

The country is showing signs of real recovery. The nearly 1,300 camps that spontaneously formed across the city have declined in population by almost two-thirds from their peak of 1.5 million. Still, the families remaining in the camps are considered to be among Haiti's most vulnerable; many have no other place to call home.

Your support has provided 1 million people with food, shelter, water, education and child protection. Your gift has helped more than 10,500 families move into transitional homes back in their neighborhoods of origin. Your support also laid the building blocks for long-term programming—helping Haitians to start rebuilding their health care, education, water systems and livelihoods.

Key to helping Haitians get back on their feet is job creation. Through CRS' innovative program Rubble to Reconstruction, Haitians are creating businesses using the rubble around them. Program entrepreneurs use hand-cranked crushers to grind the debris from damaged homes into a concrete mixture for construction. CRS buys the sand and gravel from these entrepreneurs to use in the transitional shelters and toilets we build. In the process, Haitians earn a living and learn to run a profitable business. As the program has matured, entrepreneurs have even hired employees to make cement blocks for sale—a hot commodity in a city that will be rebuilding for years.

That the recovery effort will take time doesn't deter us from believing it is possible. A brighter future doesn't depend on private companies or contractors but on the strength of an empowered Haitian community. To improve life in Haiti for the next generation, we must invest in meaningful engagement that builds the foundation for people to achieve self-sufficiency and lasting stability.

Our response is rooted in the guiding principles of Catholic social teaching. In Haiti, we benefit from a deep partnership with the local Catholic Church, which has long been the backbone of social welfare, health and education in Haitian society. We couldn't do our work without the solidarity and generosity of the Catholic community in Haiti and here at home.

On behalf of our tireless team and partners, CRS is proud to share this update from the frontlines in Haiti. We have accomplished much and still have more to do. By working with communities—not for them—alongside the local Catholic Church and other partners, we are supporting powerful, lasting change. Thank you for making this work possible.

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**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS YOU MADE POSSIBLE**

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<b>Community rebuilding</b>	Implemented a Community Resettlement and Recovery program to help more than 10,500 families resettle in Port-au-Prince by providing transitional shelter, clean water, sanitation, protection, rubble removal and house repairs. Helped communities recycle nearly 17,600 tons of rubble through the use of hand-cranked rubble-crushing machines supplied by CRS to 32 entrepreneur groups. We have used the rubble for foundations of more than 4,500 transitional shelters and 300 latrines.
<b>Food</b>	Provided 10 million meals to more than 1 million people. CRS continues to provide monthly food rations to 50,000 children in more than 250 schools, orphanages and child care centers.
<b>Shelter</b>	Supported the building of 10,600 transitional shelters. These sturdy but modest, quake- and storm-resistant buildings enable people to leave the camps and return to their neighborhoods. Also constructed dozens of community buildings, including clinics and schools.
<b>Medical</b>	Consulted 71,000 patients at hospitals and camps. Through ongoing support of St. François de Sales Hospital, conducted more than 1,000 emergency surgeries. In partnership with the Catholic Church and Haitian Ministry of Health, we have committed to funding the reconstruction of that hospital into a state-of-the-art medical facility.
<b>Cholera response</b>	Reached 2.2 million people with cholera treatment or prevention measures. Distributed soap, water purification tablets and hygiene guidance to 22,000 families. Installed or repaired sanitation infrastructure in 12 settlements in Port-au-Prince. Supported cholera treatment units in 11 hospitals and clinics across Haiti.
<b>Water and sanitation</b>	Installed 1,328 latrines, wash stations, potable water tanks and inflatable water bladders in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. Constructed or repaired about 3½ miles of drainage canal. Reached 68,840 people with hygiene education sessions, and trained 1,175 volunteers to monitor hygienic use of communal latrines.
<b>Children</b>	Registered 1,126 separated or unaccompanied children for family tracing services, and reunited 588 of them with their families. The remaining children continue to receive interim care and support. Trained 7,880 community social workers in child protection and provided psychologists for children in need.
<b>Employment</b>	Created short-term employment for more than 12,000 people through cash-for-work activities to improve local infrastructure. Also, provided 8,062 families with \$40 vouchers that allowed them to purchase seeds of their choice from local vendors and to recover from the loss of crops after Hurricane Tomas.
<b>Church partnership</b>	Strengthened the CRS partnership unit in Haiti and created another in the United States; together, they have assisted numerous Church partners in Haiti. Provided \$1.5 million in cash and in-kind support to partners. Distributed \$1.1 million in small grants to 206 projects in Haiti's 10 dioceses. Trained 7 U.S. dioceses on best practices in parish partnership.

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## CRS EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY PROGRAM AREAS

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CRS takes a comprehensive approach to our emergency recovery effort by providing services that help people improve their lives in fundamental ways: to not only survive catastrophe but thrive despite it. Our ultimate goal, with your support, is to leave the Haitian community better off than they were before disaster struck. Together, thanks to you, we are supporting the people of Haiti to rebuild their lives in a number of ways.

### **Helping Haitians Live in Dignity in Improved Communities**

*Families will have a safe and dignified environment in which they can live, work, learn and play.*

#### **Safe Shelter and Community Infrastructure**

Shelter has been and will continue to be a major challenge facing Haiti. Your support helped CRS provide emergency shelters in the camps as well as household living supplies, plus build camp infrastructure and relocation sites, and offer guidance on construction standards and long-term shelter solutions.

The many challenges of rebuilding—clearing rubble, establishing land tenure and finding ways to resettle the hundreds of thousands of people in camps who had rented accommodations before the earthquake—mean that families will be forced to live in the camps longer than any of us would like. The Haiti government, with support from the international community, must resolve these issues.

In the last year, inroads have been made as CRS transitioned its shelter support from camps to neighborhoods. Over the next 30 months, we—with you—plan to help at least 25,000 families move back to their communities of origin.

This flagship Community Resettlement and Recovery program represents CRS’ “pull and push” approach. We recognize the need to provide viable options for people in neighborhoods so that camps do not become permanent settlements. By scaling up and concentrating services in their former neighborhoods, we are “pulling” families from the crowded camps where some of our services are coming to an end and “pushing” them toward their neighborhoods where new opportunities and services are available.

The resettlement of families in restored communities is about more than just shelter. When we help people transition back to their neighborhoods, we are working with them to clear and rebuild those areas, piece by piece, as a community. Haitians are fully participating in projects that establish safe temporary houses, plus local water, sanitation, protection and community infrastructure. Innovative activities, such as our Rubble to Reconstruction program, help people become involved hands-on in the rebuilding of their lives and earn an income at the same time.

CRS architects and engineers are also applying innovative design and construction techniques to ensure that transitional shelters and restored buildings are able to withstand moderate hurricanes and earthquakes. And, we are supporting efforts to repair schools, clinics, orphanages, hospitals, drainage canals and flood banks, all vital infrastructure that helps communities regain their footing and get back to life.

## **A Safe and Clean Living Environment**

Before the earthquake, the water and sanitation systems in Haiti were among the worst in the world. Today, 40 percent of Haiti's children still live without access to clean water or sanitation. Families often must use their neighbors' toilets or resort to using plastic bags, which they throw in ravines or in holes they've dug.

The lack of a comprehensive solid waste collection and disposal system compounds the risk of disease in camps and communities. The October 2010 cholera outbreak—which occurred in areas far from the earthquake and its relief efforts—showed us just how threatening water-borne illness can be when people are without means for sanitation.

CRS' water, sanitation and hygiene activities incorporate four main activities to keep people safe: hygiene promotion, improved management of solid waste, access to sanitation infrastructure and supply of quality water for drinking and domestic use. Early on, we were working in camps to provide clean drinking water, water infrastructure, hand pumps, washing stations, toilets, water purifiers, soap and sanitation. These efforts were key to keeping people alive and preventing disease. We also supported communities in clearing canals of pollution and by teaching hygiene practices to maintain health in the crowded conditions.

In the past year, CRS has transitioned water activities out of camps and into neighborhoods, where your gift helps families resettle and rebuild. With technical oversight and support, cash-for-work programs and other efforts involve Haitians in the construction of new water systems near their homes, schools and clinics. With accessible water infrastructure such as water taps and toilets, families can greatly improve their quality of life.

## **Protecting Haitian Health and Well-Being**

*Health and well-being are essential for people to be productive, fulfilled and able to take of themselves, their families and their communities.*

### **Access to High-Quality Health Care**

The earthquake destroyed at least 50 health care facilities and two of the country's three nursing schools. The Haiti Ministry of Health reported that 350,000 of its staff members were wounded.

With your support, CRS has been working with the Ministry of Health and Catholic health partners to rebuild Haiti's decimated health care system and restore the pool and potential of trained Haitians to medically treat and care for their community.

From the outset, CRS partnered with the University of Maryland Medical Center and the Haiti Ministry of Health to treat orthopedic trauma cases at Port-au-Prince's oldest and most respected hospital, St. François de Sales. Today, we are supporting multiple hospitals with management costs, medical training, equipment, supplies and pharmaceuticals. We continue to provide services in many parts of the country to people living with HIV, previously CRS' largest program in Haiti.

CRS is also supporting the University of Notre Dame of Haiti, the country's main teaching hospital, on the establishment of a sophisticated, comprehensive training program for medical professionals. The Institutional Strengthening program is a partnership involving CRS; the University of Notre-Dame of Haiti; St. François de Sales; the University of Maryland School of Nursing; and the

University of Maryland School of Medicine's Institute of Human Virology. This partnership will transform the ways in which physicians and doctors are trained for the next generation.

The first class of Haitian doctors spent January through April of 2011 studying advanced courses at the University of Maryland. Their specialized training in infectious diseases will allow them to identify diseases more accurately while working within the limitations of Haiti's health system. As training instructors, the new physicians will pass down their knowledge to students in future classes of Haitian doctors.

### **Rebuilding St. François de Sales Hospital**

In perhaps one of the largest construction endeavors in our history, CRS has committed to rebuilding St. François de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince. The earthquake destroyed 80 percent of the hospital, including its maternity, pediatric and general inpatient wards, and killed 140 of the hospital's staff members and patients.

In working to rebuild this vital structure, we will restore the full capacity of the St. François de Sales Hospital to serve the Haitian population with state-of-the-art care. In this multidimensional project, we are prioritizing the community's health needs as well as the hospital's ability to regain financial sustainability and independence.

Priority areas include pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, internal medicine, surgery, orthopedics, and the outpatient and emergency clinics. CRS also will build in ambulance transportation, laboratory services, pharmacy, medical imaging, health information services, community health activities, morgue, security, laundry, kitchen and other key maintenance facilities.

The hospital is operating at a temporary site while efforts are under way to rebuild on its historic site downtown.

### **Protection of Women and Children**

Immediately after the earthquake, we were aware of the grave risks facing children in a city in chaos. We quickly set up child-friendly spaces in the crowded camps to establish safety areas, and brought in counselors and trained volunteers to address children's psychological, health and education needs. CRS spent significant efforts to register unaccompanied children and conduct family tracing to reunify separated children with their families, when possible. We are grateful that 588 children and young people have been reunited with their families.

CRS has a long history of support for orphanages and schools in Haiti, and those partnerships expanded after the earthquake. We currently provide monthly food distributions to orphanages and care centers that serve 10,000 children. We are also working with communities to provide support for the rebuilding and repair of their schools and child care centers.

As part of our overarching program, we are helping families become more financially stable so that they are better able to care for their children and pay for their education and health care. In this way, fewer families will feel they must turn to orphanages as the guardians of their children, and more families can stay together.

## **Improving Livelihoods**

*Household income is essential to supporting families, providing children with opportunities and contributing to society.*

Jobs and income-generating activities are key to Haiti's prosperity and stability. As we help families return to their neighborhoods, we are rolling out a variety of job initiatives. Cash-for-work programs provide people with an opportunity to earn an income and be involved hands-on in their recovery. In most areas, cash-for-work typically focuses on solid waste removal, rubble removal, drainage clearing, shelter construction and the building of toilets and bathing spaces.

CRS recognizes, however, that cash-for-work activities are not sustainable for Haitians. In the coming year, our cash-for-work programs will transition into a work-for-production model, in which we will pay established crews based on agreed work norms for each activity. This approach provides more incentive to get the work done quickly. We will then advance to a more market-based structure: a certification system for local contractors who take part in training sessions on business management, work safety and contracting standards. They will become the qualified, go-to service providers in their communities.

Thanks to your support, CRS is providing grants and business training to hundreds of entrepreneurs who either lost their small businesses during the earthquake or envision a new one. In a few neighborhoods, your support is helping entrepreneurs set up recycling centers that pay community members for their recyclable plastic items. For those too poor to access credit from banks, we're helping to set up Savings and Internal Lending Communities. Comprising mainly women, SILCs help members pool their money into a fund, giving them access to financial capital they can borrow to pay for health care or educational expenses, and to invest in their homes or small businesses.

Outside of the country's urban centers, recovery will depend on improved farming practices. About two-thirds of Haitians are subsistence farmers who simply can't grow enough food on a regular basis to meet their needs. CRS is working with 5,500 coffee and mango farmers to improve production, and link them to lucrative markets. Development of income-generating activities outside Port-au-Prince will create more options for financial stability and prosperity in rural areas.

We are aware that some obstacles to success have little to do with the earthquake. Urbanization and lack of educational opportunities have led many young people to be idle in the streets. Without an education—formal or otherwise—many have not developed marketable job skills or even the representational “soft skills” necessary to succeed in employment or self-employment. CRS has plans to collaborate with government-accredited vocational training institutions to facilitate market assessments, enable skills training and provide postgraduation employment links to ongoing job opportunities. As part of the arrangement, young people will also complete a community service project together, such as the rebuilding of a school or other public structure.

## **Strengthening Links and Partnership through the Catholic Network**

*Catholics around the world are coming together with the people of Haiti for a united Church response.*

CRS recognizes that the outpouring of compassion and solidarity in the wake of the earthquake presented an opportunity to build even greater solidarity between the Catholic community in United States and Haiti. During the last 2 years, we have cultivated dialogue with the Church in the United

States, the Church in Haiti, the Haitian Diaspora and the broader Catholic community to explore the best ways to develop a common vision for partnerships.

The importance of these partnerships and the nature of future engagement can't be overstated. Strengthening opportunities to express solidarity is part of our tradition, faith and community. Largely ad hoc or individual relationships are being transformed into one that is institutional in its reach and scope, with greater transparency and accountability, and with one voice as one Church.

More than 400 U.S. parishes have "twinning relationships" with parishes in Haiti. CRS is drawing on the best parish twinning experiences to establish a model that expands these opportunities. Our goal is to strengthen twinning relationships to be mutual, respectful, and based on solidarity rather than dependency. We are collaborating with networks of twinning parishes; leading workshops for twinned parishes and dioceses; and initiating a matching grants program to invest in projects that generate sustainable income for Haitians and develop local leadership. Last year alone, your gifts supported 14 matching grants to such income-generating projects.

This June, CRS, with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Church in Latin America, will convene a Catholic Haiti Partnership Conference in Washington, D.C., to provide opportunities for the Church communities in the United States and Haiti to deepen their solidarity, collaboration and sharing, and promote the capacity of Haitian leadership to be the protagonists in their own development.

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## THE ROAD AHEAD

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As with other major humanitarian disasters, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, CRS has planned a long-term transition from emergency relief into rebuilding and reconstruction.

We are now just entering the third phase of this recovery: long-term rebuilding. At this stage, we are focusing on restoring major infrastructure, which supports efforts for people to live in sustainable homes and communities and strengthens people's means to achieve self-sufficiency.

Your gift helps us focus on rebuilding community infrastructure in Haiti and increasing the people's ability to respond independently to natural disasters and development challenges. Our comprehensive in-country program addresses agriculture, civil society, disaster response, HIV and AIDS, education, health and livelihoods. CRS has served in Haiti since 1954, and we will continue to work alongside Haitians for as long as they need us.

Where possible, CRS is working directly with the Haitian government to strengthen its capacity. In areas such as health, education and waste management, we partner with the relevant government ministry on programs designed to provide badly needed public services to poor communities. Examples include waste removal in hard-to-reach areas, and the reconstruction of St François de Sales Hospital.

We are also in the evaluation phase of a program to improve education across Haiti, together with the Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education, the Ministry of Education and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. This effort will likely roll out in 2012 and 2013.

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## FINANCIALS

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Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of supporters in the United States, CRS can ensure that help reaches those who need it most. As part of a plan that will span 5 years and beyond, CRS will spend more than \$200 million to help the people of Haiti recover from their catastrophic loss.

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

Here is a breakdown of CRS spending in Haiti:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Inception-to-Date Expenses, as of November 30, 2011</b>
Emergency response*	\$ 21,935,123
Health and support to hospitals	\$ 10,189,015
Safe, nutritious food, and livelihoods	\$ 39,189,391
Shelter	\$ 30,859,091
Water and sanitation	\$ 11,836,808
Education and child protection	\$ 5,875,880
Church partnership	\$ 3,427,296
Supporting services†	\$ 6,976,437
<b>Total earthquake response</b>	<b>\$130,289,041</b>

*Note:* These are preliminary numbers that have not been audited.

\*Emergency response includes expenditures in a number of sectors from the first days of the response.

†Ninety-four percent of CRS' total operating expenses represent program service costs and 6 percent represent support costs.

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## THANK YOU

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CRS staff, our partners and all of our beneficiaries thank you deeply for your support in this complex recovery effort. Your generosity helps families not only overcome adversity, but develop the assets and skills that can help them break the cycle of poverty that has persisted in Haiti, and achieve a future of promise.

We will need your patience, as this recovery will span years. We have made great inroads, though. You are helping to dramatically change the lives of Haitians and those of the next generation.

Thank you for joining us in this important work. We couldn't do it without you.

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## APPENDIX: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### ***Why is recovery taking so long?***

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 four hurricanes in 2008. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Before the quake, Haiti lacked basic primary education and health care. Only 50 percent of Haitians had access to clean water. The environment was often in poor condition and polluted; deforestation is severe. Waste collection in urban areas is sporadic. Of the population in Port-au Prince, 70 percent lived in rented accommodations often in slum conditions. Land is scarce and proof of ownership is lacking for many.

The political situation has compounded these difficulties. Haiti had weak government for many years. The government was devastated by the quake and, once the ministries were up and running again, uncertainty loomed about future policy and leadership.

Poor infrastructure adds to the difficulties in Haiti. Most roads are narrow, have potholes and are in very poor condition. Mountain roads are particularly hazardous. Whole neighborhoods are built on steep hillsides, making access impossible for heavy construction equipment. Electricity is limited. We need to import most goods, especially for reconstruction, and costs are high.

### ***What are the greatest needs 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 international agencies, can also help develop civil society groups. Where possible, CRS is working directly with the Haitian government to strengthen its capacity.

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

CRS has benefited 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. Even with our experience, expertise and established relationships, though, 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); microfinance loans for small businesses; seeds, tools and technical assistance to restore agriculture; and 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?***

Of the funds we receive, 95 percent 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 no corruption takes place in its dealings with third parties?***

CRS exercises good stewardship as a guiding principle in all of its transactions with third parties. We ensure 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 that requires careful stewardship of all our resources. We back up our principles with policies and procedures established to minimize risk and ensure accountability.