



*Cross International  
Catholic Outreach*

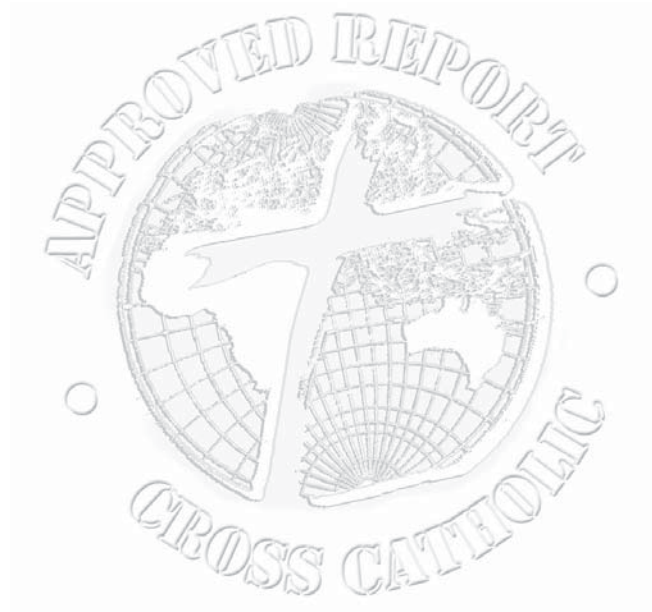
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**PROJECT 9022**

# **Project Update**

## **Haiti Earthquake Relief**

**Rescuing and Rebuilding Broken Lives  
In the Aftermath of Tragedy**



*Special Thank You!*

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## A Cry for Help Heard Round the World



On January 12, 2010, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere plunged even deeper into poverty when unexpected disaster struck. Haiti's 7.0-magnitude earthquake killed more than 200,000 men, women, and children and reduced the capital city of Port-au-Prince to a field of rubble, forcing droves of traumatized survivors to flee to the countryside in search of food, water, and shelter.

The earthquake was the worst the country had seen in two hundred years, and the shoddily constructed shanties of the poor did not stand a chance against it. The loss of the Presidential Palace, combined with the destruction of the Catholic Cathedral and the tragic death of Haitian Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, served a double blow to Haitians seeking a sign of hope to sustain them through the quake's horrific aftermath.

Before the dust from the initial tremors had settled, Cross International Catholic Outreach staff workers were already on the ground, making contact with mission partners to assess how the quake had effected them and how we could work together to bring relief to the thousands of refugees. Then as aftershocks worsened the damage, we sent out an urgent call for immediate aid on behalf of our suffering friends in Haiti, many of whom were desperately searching for mothers, fathers, and children who had been buried under their homes.

The response from you, our compassionate Catholic donors, was as timely as it was generous. You answered the call and refused to turn your face from the suffering of the needy. Your unified support was a lifeline to the thousands of injured, hungry, and traumatized victims, and continues to be important as we work with our Haitian mission partners for long-term recovery.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS



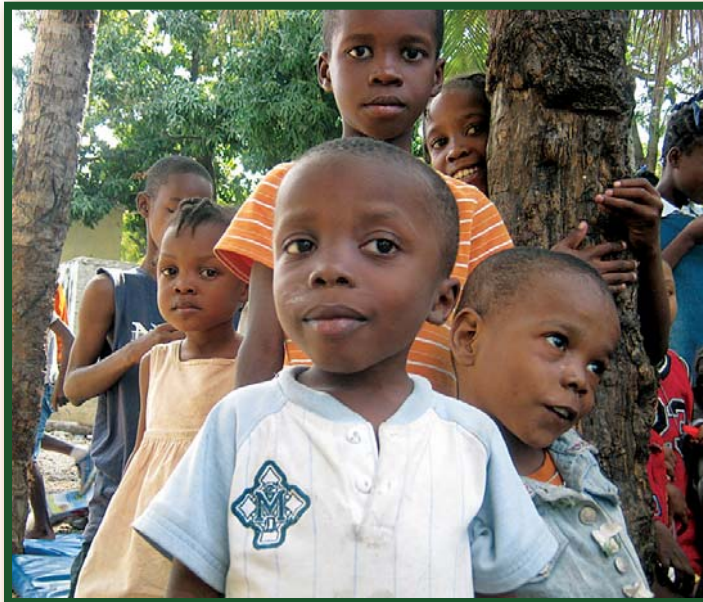
*The Port-au-Prince Cathedral was one of many large buildings destroyed by the quake.*



### Early Response: Hope in the Midst of Horror

Soon after the earthquake, Cross Catholic set up a staging area inside Port-au-Prince to ship immediate supplies of food, water, and medicine to our mission partners in the region. The destruction of the local seaport posed a big challenge, but we worked through it and found ways to get our humanitarian goods into the country. Working in an ecumenical partnership through Cross International Alliance (Cross), one of the first things we did was arrange for two C737 cargo planes to airlift 50,000 lbs. of aid directly into the city, while also securing meals from a mission partner to feed 3,000 families. There was no time to waste: thousands of people were hungry, dehydrated, injured, and crying out for immediate help.

Among the grateful recipients of Cross Catholic aid — which friends like you helped provide — were the children of Divine Mercy Orphanage. We found the children sleeping in their backyard with nothing left to eat after their building was damaged by the quake. They were so happy to see Haiti Projects Officer Mike Henry arrive with several cases of nutrition-packed Vitafood meals! Our quick intervention assured the children that they had not been forgotten and that they could trust in God to carry them safely through the crisis. Divine Mercy was just one of over a dozen orphanages, schools, and relief efforts in the greater Port-au-Prince area that relied on food aid from Cross Catholic in the weeks after the quake.



*The kids at Divine Mercy Orphanage are among the many recipients of Cross Catholic aid.*

Cross Catholic partnered with local churches that had their own trucks and reliable distribution networks. We knew that the parishioners affiliated with these churches would be an indispensable help in moving large amounts of food out of storage and into the mouths of the hungry.



*Cross Catholic airlifted thousands of pounds of emergency supplies into Haiti.*

Before our first shipment of aid reached Haiti, we were also able to reroute thousands of Cross Catholic meals already inside the country to be used for emergency relief. The meals were especially important because of delays that resulted from the closed seaport.

To move supplies quickly and safely through the broken, littered streets,



## Refugees: Flight to the Countryside

To escape the destruction and chaos, survivors from the hardest-hit areas began fleeing to the countryside in search of relatives or refugee camps. Cross Catholic's relationships with Haitian ministries throughout these outlying regions offered a strategic opportunity to serve the needs of the incoming busloads of men, women, and children.

To the north in Saint-Marc, Cross committed \$40 million in medical supplies and a mobile clinic to St. Nicholas Hospital, where a team of five Christian surgeons from the University of Florida were helping to care for injured survivors. Many of the people pulled from the rubble had to be treated for crushed limbs, broken bones, and open wounds, while routine medical needs had become life-threatening because of a scarcity of functioning hospitals and clinics.



*Cross Catholic provided crutches, wheelchairs, and other crucial medical supplies to St. Nicholas Hospital.*



*Small boats ferried thousands of pounds of food, water, and other aid to the Les Cayes wharf to be received by Fr. Marc.*

other much-needed items. Fr. Marc is spearheading our long-term recovery efforts in southern Haiti, where he is now making plans to build specially-designed temporary shelters of galvanized steel that can be converted into permanent homes much safer than the many concrete houses that collapsed. The project will provide high-quality homes for refugee families while also creating job opportunities for local workers to do the building, which will benefit Haiti's economy.

To the southwest in Les Cayes, Cross Catholic partner Fr. Marc Boisvert reached out to earthquake victims while simultaneously providing for the 650 children in his care at the Pwoje Espwa orphanage. With our help, he was able to send meals to a local hospital and refugee camp, minister to and provide for the needs of inmates at a damaged prison that had run out of food, and take in more children who needed a temporary home.

Later, Fr. Marc became the primary recipient/distributor of a large Cross shipment containing \$400,000 in donated food, medicine, tarps, wheelchairs, crutches, and



*Cross Catholic President Jim Cavnar visited a Leogane refugee camp our donors helped to support.*

### A Lasting Commitment to Haiti

The temporary-to-permanent shelters are just one part of Cross Catholic's plans for ongoing relief and recovery. Haiti may no longer be front-page news, but the need is still great, and we are absolutely committed to standing with our mission partners through the crisis. That commitment has taken many forms, from helping an individual pay for a relative's funeral to sending donated laptops to a college scholarship program that lost their office building during the quake. Our goal is to effect complete and lasting rehabilitation, not just throw bandages on festering wounds. The process has required lots

of patience, creativity, ingenuity, and the faithful giving of our compassionate Catholic supporters.

To date, Cross has secured more than \$5 million in cash gifts and nearly \$72 million in material aid for Haiti. There has been a steady stream of Cross shipments of food, water, medical supplies, hygiene products, and other aid flowing into Haiti, and our partners have been retrieving them as often as two to three times per week, even though increased government restrictions have slowed the process of clearing goods for entry.

One very practical plan in the works is to ship a well-drilling rig to Les Cayes. The rig — donated by a Cross Catholic supporter for temporary use — will be sent to Fr. Marc with the purpose of digging four wells that will be a crucial water source for refugees and will continue to provide clean water to local communities long after the crisis has ended.

We have also moved forward with a new campaign to distribute solar lanterns and Bibles translated in Creole (Haiti's official language). The lanterns will be a huge blessing to displaced families who have no access to electricity; and while the lanterns provide light for their physical eyes, the Bibles will provide light for their spiritual eyes. What a great symbol of how Christ's love often shines brightest when times are darkest!



*Jim met with quake victims and listened to their stories while assessing how Cross Catholic will be able to provide the most effective long-term recovery.*



### Rebuilding Schools

A less publicized casualty of the earthquake has been Haiti's education system. We are thankful that the disaster struck late in the day, after the children had been sent home. But while a greater tragedy was averted, the damage to school buildings was considerable. Most schools in affected areas remained closed until April, when students began gathering in tents while waiting for new classrooms to be built.

Cross Catholic understands the central role of a good education in the fight against poverty. In addition to providing the reading, writing, and arithmetic skills children will need to improve their lives, many Haitian schools have feeding programs that are crucial to the nutritional health of their poorest students, who often eat nothing at home.

Realizing the urgency of the education crisis, Cross Catholic sent an assessment team to inspect private schools in the Port-au-Prince area. A full 90 percent of Haiti's schools are privately run, because government schools are too few to handle the large number of students. Haitian private schools typically operate on minimal budgets, must pay their teachers very little, and rely on donations to keep tuition affordable for poor families.

Some of the schools we visited will have to be completely rebuilt, while others require major repairs. Our first priority is to begin clearing debris as soon as possible, so construction can begin. In the meanwhile, many classes will continue to meet outdoors, subject to rains, wind, and frequent cancellations.

One of the schools we have agreed to rebuild is a "restavek" school in Gressier, just outside Port-au-Prince. A restavek is a child who lives as a domestic servant with another family because his or her own parents are too poor to provide for the child's basic needs. Restaveks live very hard lives even in the best of times in Haiti, and the Gressier school is one of the few places they can go where they are treated with love and dignity and taught to believe in themselves.



*A pile of rubble is all that remains of the restavek school in Gressier, but plans are being made to rebuild as soon as possible.*



## **Earthquake Relief Financial Overview** (January thru June)

*Dollar amounts are based on all funding through Cross International Alliance (Cross), an ecumenical partnership of Cross International and Cross International Catholic Outreach.*

### **Total Aid Secured for Haiti**

Cash Gifts	\$5,469,044
Goods and Commodities	\$71,591,565
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$77,060,609</b>

### **Aid Sent to Haiti**

Immediate Cash Grants in Aid	\$182,425
Food Aid Purchased	\$48,000
Expenses for Sea Shipping and Airlifts	\$787,415
Value of Relief Goods Distributed	\$71,591,565
Relief Management and Fundraising	\$517,463
<b>Total Expenditures to Date</b>	<b>\$73,126,868</b>

### **Additional Aid Committed to Recovery**

Cash Grants in Aid	\$169,000
Housing Construction	\$1,000,000
Build Two Girls' Dormitories	\$60,000
Debris Removal	\$250,000
Rebuilding Four Schools	\$300,000
Open a Housing Factory	\$350,000
Shipping Lanterns and Bibles to IDPs	\$5,000
<b>Total Pledged Aid</b>	<b>\$2,134,000</b>

**Aid Available for Ongoing Recovery Efforts**     **\$1,799,741**

For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in...

**Matthew 25:35**

### **Primary Recipients of Cross aid in Haiti:**

#### **Refugee camps/neighborhoods**

Delmas 60 neighborhood  
La Casa Grande camp  
Leogane camp

#### **Churches**

MEBSH  
Christian Revival Center  
Eglise de la Source Church  
Church of God Prophecy

#### **Orphanages**

Pwoje Espwa  
St. Anne's Orphanage  
Notre Dame de la Victoire  
Divine Mercy Orphanage  
Togetherness in Christ Orphanage

#### **Hospitals**

Cure Hospital  
Espoir Hospital  
Medishare/Univ. of Miami Field Hospital  
St. Nicholas Hospital

#### **Other Partners**

Maison de Arc en Ciel  
Salesian Fathers  
CBC Schools  
El Shaddai Ministries  
Help for Haiti  
Kobonal Mission  
World Concern



### **You Answered the Call!**

While walking amid the ruins of Port-au-Prince, we came across a spontaneous outdoor gathering of Haitians who had just watched their whole world crumble, now joined together in prayer and worship. The earthquake could take their homes and churches, but it could not take their faith! We have been amazed by the joy, gratefulness, and prayerful resolve that many Haitians have shown in the face of such devastation.

When you gave to Cross International Catholic Outreach, you became the instrument God used to answer the prayers of his suffering people in Haiti. You brought food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, surgery to the wounded, shelter to the homeless, and hope to the

mourning. Thank you so much for reaching out to our Haitian brothers and sisters with true Christ-like compassion, and thank you for the trust you have placed in Cross Catholic to effectively meet the needs of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The support from friends like you continues to be crucial to our efforts as we work toward Haiti's long-term recovery and rehabilitation.

We pray that God will reward you for your selfless generosity, as he prospers the good work your gift has helped us to begin among the people of Haiti.

*God Bless You!*

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have conquered the world.

John 16:33