

# Haiti • Earthquake Situation Report #5 April 9, 2010



**ELCA Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
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## I. Highlights

- Shelter still prioritized as a need along with employment and education
- International Donor's Conference raises \$11.5 billion for Haiti reconstruction
- \$500,000 sent to LWF/WS-Haiti for distribution of materials and cash-for-work grants
- \$300,000 sent to the LCH for distribution of food, water and sanitation systems
- ELCA has processed gifts totaling more than \$8.9 million
- Haiti Video message to be shown at all upcoming synod assemblies
- ELCA Disaster Response blog at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/haiti>

## II. Situation

### General situation (OCHA Sitrep, 31 March 2010)

- According to a survey carried out by Oxfam in Haiti, over 60% of respondents thought the quality and efficiency of aid distribution by international NGOs was positive. Priority needs are seen as being first jobs, followed by schools and then homes.
- Emergency Shelter cluster members have reached over 81% of the known caseload (1.5 million people) with emergency shelter materials.
- WFP is currently feeding an estimated 401,000 children nationwide, out of a targeted 800,000 children for 2010. Schools in Port-au-Prince are due to re-open on 5 April.
- In Petit Goave and Grand Goave, it was reported that of the 115 pre-primary, basic and secondary schools operational before the earthquake, 102 are now damaged or destroyed (almost 90%).
- On 19 March, President René Préval signed a decree assigning 7,450Ha of land to the north of Port-au-Prince for Temporary Relocation Sites. Preparation work is underway.
- The WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) cluster emergency needs planning figure is for approximately 1,100,000 people hosted in about 651 spontaneous settlements in Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Gressier, Leogane, Grand Goave and Petit Goave. So far, about 4,981 latrines have been installed.
- The use of an approved broker for Haitian custom clearance has become compulsory in the Dominican Republic for all organizations sending cargo to Haiti. The logistics cluster is facilitating the cross-border customs clearance accordingly.

### International Donors' Conference - New York - March 31, 2010

Donor states pledged nearly USD 10 billion at the New York donor conference on 31 March, half of it for the next 18 months. This amount is close to the USD 11.5 billion estimated reconstruction cost. The UN General Assembly stated that "the International Donors' Conference 'Towards a New Future for Haiti' raised almost \$9.9 billion in immediate and long-term assistance for the earthquake-devastated nation's reconstruction, with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urging "full and generous support" for the Haitian Government's plan of action for recovery and development.

Of the \$9.9 billion pledged by 59 donors, \$5.26 billion was for the financing of specific projects of the national action plan, a figure exceeding the estimated \$4 billion needed over the next 18 months. The funds would be managed by a multi-donor reconstruction fund for Haiti and an interim commission over which Bill Clinton, United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, would preside alongside Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive.

Aid agencies warned on 30 March that Haiti needed fresh money rather than recycled pledges to fund its reconstruction. Funds should be centrally managed with UN or World Bank assistance in order to ensure accountability and transparency of aid distribution and for easier funding of large scale projects. Most important needs for the next 18 months are the rebuilding of the destroyed infrastructure, which includes government buildings, hospitals and schools. A decentralization strategy is to be followed in order to reduce the population concentration in the natural disaster-prone area of Port-au-Prince.

NGOs from Europe, Haiti, North and South America participated to the preparation meetings in Haiti, Brussels and New York. They have issued a number of position papers which highlight the need to coordinate with the government and engage with civil society for a community based, participative, transparent and efficient reconstruction work. According to InterAction press release, NGOs contributions worldwide amount to \$2.2 billion.

### **Information by Sectors**

Food and non-food large scale distribution: The Government communicated to the World Food Program that large scale food distribution would have to end on March 31, and there are also messages from authorities that free health care services should stop by April 12 (three months after the quake), in order not to create dependency to assistance. However, no alternative is in place to meet the still large needs of the affected population. In addition, no official communication has been issued so far to confirm this decision, in particular to the population. Different instances of UN and NGOs still have ordered stocks of food for distribution. In order to avoid a humanitarian crisis and threat to security, negotiations are currently being held between the UN and the government to extend the emergency assistance period (possibly until the end of June 2010) to allow gradual reduction of the distribution rather than a sudden stop. In the meantime, alternative measures will be put into place (such as school feeding programs, large scale cash-for-work programs that would help start the markets working again).

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC): According to findings of a recent consultation (in its report entitled *Anticipating the future: Children and young people's voices in Haiti's Post Disaster Needs Assessment - PDNA*) carried out by Plan International, children and youth represent more than half of the population affected by the Haiti earthquake. Children and youth are on the one hand among the most vulnerable groups affected by the disaster, yet on the other hand many of them have already mobilized to support their communities in the response and taken on strong leadership roles. Despite this, their voices, needs and priorities have yet to be adequately listened to or taken into consideration.

Separated and unaccompanied children and those who have lost parents in the disaster are particularly vulnerable to the psychological impact of the disaster, to illness, abduction, trafficking, sexual abuse and violence. Similarly the very young are at particular risk of under-nutrition and prolonged psychosocial problems (particularly as their care-givers have also been profoundly impacted) and there are concerns regarding the long-term impact of the disaster on their integral development. Most children and youth show signs of being traumatized by witnessing the numerous deaths, injuries and disabilities caused by the earthquake. All children

have had their lives disrupted and their daily routine, including their ability to go to school shattered. It is the children, women, the poor and those from rural areas who in the long-term will bear the greatest impact from the earthquake and who will take the longest to recover. It is these same groups who were already living under extremely difficult situations prior to the earthquake.

Quality and Accountability: A HAP/Sphere planning meeting took place on March 31 with HAP members to define priorities for the next 6 months. A plan of action for the upcoming months will be available soon. Among the most urgent needs perceived is training, which will include local and national partners, in particular on how to work with communities in information sharing, participation and setting up of complaint mechanisms. Setting up a mechanism to exchange challenges and lessons learned will also be a priority, and should also help assess the impact of accountability based project management.

### III. Coordinated Response

The ELCA has supported a multi-national, multi-lateral response to the earthquake that includes the coordination of relief and development agencies through Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, to which the ELCA has been a member since 1995. Support has been provided to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for material aid, Church World Service (CWS) for material aid and distribution on the ground, and to the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Lutheran Church in Haiti (LCH) to respond to the needs of affected individuals and families. The Lutheran World Federation has been present in Haiti for over two decades.

LWF has started to implement cash for work activities; sites and specific activities have been determined closely with community leaders and authorities as well as partner organizations to ensure appropriate intervention in the areas of operation. A disaster preparedness plan has been finalized for Nerette and Ste Therese settlements in Port Au Prince. Cash for Work activities started just after the distribution of tools and materials needed. Distributions were also carried out including

- School kits and materials including hardboard, chalk paper and pencils for psychosocial activities with the children.
- Tents for 67 families will be erected.
- The procurement of 11,700 family kits (mattress, blankets, mosquito nets and rice) was finalized in the Dominican Republic with assistance from the SSID (Social Service of Churches in the Dominican Republic), an ACT Alliance partner.

LWF anticipates the start for distribution of food and non-food items to 11,700 identified families (1 family = 5 persons) in Port au Prince, Léogâne, Grand Goave and Petit Goave, to commence next week. ELCA Disaster Response is partnering with LWF to respond to the needs of families in need, and has sent \$500,000 (of a committed \$1.5 million for emergency phase) for the following activities:

- Procurement/distribution of food/food buckets
- Procurement/distribution of NFIs (blankets, mattresses and mosquito nets)
- Procurement/distribution of plastic sheeting and other transitional shelter materials
- Cash grants to farmers to purchase seeds and tools

The Lutheran Church in Haiti has prepared a planned response to families who have sought refuge on several of the church's 12 locations. The LCH strategy is based in the rootedness of the church in the community. This strategy gives priority to community enhancement while addressing human need in the communities in which the church is present. For instance, priority is given to community centers instead of building individual houses in the rural communities to avoid discrimination and disruption in community life. The same way, community ownership approach is prioritized through cooperative for silos, grain, and food security; women economic empowerment through small business recapitalization, and youth entrepreneurs through training and small grants. On access to health care, the LCH will work with existing health professionals who don't have a place to practice and integrate access to health care provision in the community centers in partnership with these professionals and the government authorities.

The LCH plans to work with local communities and member church in the areas of Sapotille in Carrefour, Petit-Goave, Marigot-Jacmel, Fond-des-Negres, Les Cayes, Cabaret, Jean Rabel, and Pain de Sucre. Personnel have identified approximately 6,000 individuals in need of supportive services including immediate access to food/water/sanitation, long-term access to education, psychosocial rehabilitation services, health services, and opportunities to reconstitute livelihoods through income generating activities.

ELCA Disaster Response has made a commitment to accompany the church in their response to the Haiti earthquake. ELCA International Disaster Response Director, Louis Dorvilier, was seconded to walk with the LCH as they assessed community need and prepared a strategy for response. An initial contribution of \$300,000 has been transferred from ELCA Disaster Response to commence efforts around the provision of food, water and the establishment of sanitation structures. The Florida/Bahamas Synod is participating in this coordinated response through LCH.

#### IV. Fundraising

All over the country congregations have encouraged giving to this vital work. As of April 9, the ELCA has received over \$8.9 million in gifts to support efforts of relief and assistance in response to the Haiti Earthquake.

Thanks to the ongoing faithful giving of Lutherans for mission and world hunger, the ELCA pledges that 100% of gifts for Haiti Earthquake Disaster Response will be spent for this disaster.

In addition to the immediate relief carried out so far, the ELCA is planning its longer term response to the earthquake based on the level of gifts received so far and in the next few weeks. Donors are asked to make additional gifts now so that the church might continue its extended response

Contributions can be made to ELCA Haiti Relief by:

- Check or money orders sent to:  
ELCA Disaster Response  
39330 Treasury Center  
Chicago, IL 60694-9300  
write "Haiti Earthquake Relief"  
on your check's memo line.
- Credit card by phone to: 800-638-3522 or online at [www.elca.org/haitiearthquake](http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake)



## V. Communication

An official Haiti video update has been prepared for synod assemblies taking place during the coming months. This update will be distributed to all synods for viewing during their respective assemblies. The video can also be viewed online at [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster) in the coming weeks. Continued communication of thanks regarding Haiti contributions have continued through social networking tools such as Facebook.

In addition, the ELCA Disaster Response blog about how the ELCA and our companions are responding to the Haiti 2010 Earthquake is live. The blog, hosted on [elca.org](http://elca.org), will feature contributions from a wide range of contributors bringing light to the situation in Haiti, stateside and here at the ELCA. The blog can be found at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/haiti>

Recognizing many close connections between ELCA congregations and individuals with Haiti, ELCA Global Mission has been in contact with a number of these contributors to provide and receive emerging news from and to Haiti. Other congregations and individuals with connections in Haiti are encouraged to email Mary Campbell in Global Mission with news they are receiving from their companions.

### Websites:

- For more information on ELCA Disaster Response: [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster)
- For more information on ACT Alliance: [www.act-intl.org](http://www.act-intl.org)
- For more information on international aid: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)



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