



## Haiti Earthquake – January 20, 2010

### Earthquake aftermath

- A 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on Tuesday, Jan. 12, just southwest of capital city Port-au-Prince. Significant aftershocks have since followed, including one this morning.
- An estimated 3 million—nearly one-third of all Haitians—have been directly affected by this disaster. Authorities are now estimating as many as 200,000 casualties, with another 1.5 million homeless.
- Haitian authorities say most of the capital city of Port-au-Prince has been destroyed.

### Impact to Compassion's work in Haiti

- Of 230 Compassion Church Partners, an estimated 50 were seriously impacted
- We have made contact with 22 of those 50 partners
- An estimated 15,000+ Compassion children have been directly impacted by the quake
- There are no specifics to-date, but information should begin flowing to us in the next few days
- All but one Compassion Haiti staff survived the earthquake. Many are injured; many have lost loved ones. One died from injuries she sustained being buried under the rubble.

### Compassion's immediate response

In the hours immediately following a disaster, Compassion locates those Compassion-assisted children and their families who have been affected by the disaster, and provide them with the following:

- **Temporary Shelter:** Shelter needed to remove the families out of the elements and into safety. Items like tents, tarps, blankets & mosquito nets are often supplied.
- **Basic Sanitation:** Items such as latrines and temporary hand washing station.
- **Cooking Utensils & Fuel:** Things like pots and pans, plates, cups, eating utensils, as well as a means for cooking food items such as rice, beans, macaroni and canned meat
- **Emergency Clothing:** 2-3 day supply of clothing for each family member.
- **Preventive Health Services:** Control of communicable diseases (e.g. measles, malaria) and outbreak control (e.g. cholera, meningitis, typhoid) needed to ensure health is not negatively affected as a result of the disaster.

Compassion staff will also **set up a temporary meeting area called a "child area"** and stock it with crayons; paper; stuffed animals, etc. It is a safe place for registered children & their siblings to go during the aftermath of a disaster. Here they can find comfort in activities (such as coloring & games), as well as support and encouragement from project staff.

## Ongoing response

Ongoing efforts in the wake of a disaster or crisis are provided in the form of:

- **Family Reunification:** Locating & unifying Compassion families who were separated during the aftermath of the disaster
- **Food & Water:** Emergency food & water needed until the family is re-established and able to keep themselves at the level of nutrition they were prior to the disaster
- **Personal Items:** Toiletries and other personal items needed to maintain hygiene during the aftermath of the disaster
- **Trauma Counseling/Spiritual Support:** Counseling needed on an individual or group basis; It is preferred that his counseling be provided by Christian health workers or pastoral staff.
- **Medical Attention:** Any medical needs resulting from the disaster

## How you can pray

- Pray for the family of our staff member Farcine, who is survived by her husband and four small children.
- Pray for another miracle as rescue teams at the Hotel Montana continue searching for potential survivors. Our video contractor David Hames is one of them. Pray for his wife Renee and their family during this difficult time.
- Pray for the Compassion Haiti staff, who are deeply discouraged, as well as physically and emotionally exhausted.
- Pray for distribution channels directly into Port-au-Prince be freed up and that life-saving supplies and rations can be quickly distributed.

## Compassion in Haiti

- Compassion's work in Haiti began in 1968.
- Currently, more than 64,600 children participate in 230 child development centers.
- Compassion partners with churches to help them provide Haitian children with the opportunity to rise above their circumstances and become all God has created them to be.
- Because all communications into and out of the country are currently down, Compassion does not have information on specific Compassion child development centers or any Compassion-sponsored children in Haiti. Compassion is working to communicate with sources within the country. As soon as information is known on specific centers or children, Compassion will release that information to the sponsors of those children.

## Haiti

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.
- Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic and has a population of 9,035,536.
- According to the CIA's World Factbook, 80% of Haitians live under the poverty line and another 54% in abject poverty.
- Most of the population remains vulnerable to damage from frequent natural disasters, exacerbated by the country's widespread deforestation.

## **Why Compassion?**

- Compassion is working around the globe to permanently rescue children from poverty, not merely sustain them through it.
- Compassion recognizes there is no such thing as a cookie-cutter kid. That is why we take an individualized, holistic approach to meet the personal needs of each of the more than 1 million children we serve in 25 of the world's poorest countries on four continents.
- Recognizing that poverty is more than a lack of money, Compassion's unique holistic combination of physical, economic, educational and spiritual development programs helps Compassion-sponsored children to thrive, not just survive.
- Because local churches know the unique needs of their community's children, Compassion works exclusively through local churches, partnering with more than 5,000 community congregations from 60 denominations.
- Compassion is consistently recognized for its financial efficiency and transparency by organizations including:
  - The Chronicle of Philanthropy's "Philanthropy 400"
  - The NonProfit Times' "Top 100 Revenues"
  - The American Institute of Philanthropy's "Top Rated Charities"
  - Charity Navigator, who has awarded Compassion International its highest rating – four stars – for seven consecutive years.

## **Why it matters?**

- Of the 1 billion people worldwide currently living in abject poverty, more than half are children
- More than 27,000 children in the developing world die every day of preventable causes such as dehydration, malaria and malnutrition
- There is enough food in the world for every man, woman and child to have 2,720 calories per day. Unfortunately, the world's food is not distributed equally.
- Every day 1,600 women and more than 10,000 newborns die globally due to complications in childbirth, most of which could have been prevented.
- About 134 million children worldwide do not attend school.
- More than 15 million children around the world are orphaned because of HIV/AIDS.