



Children smile and wave at an Early Childhood Development Center supported by Save the Children. Save the Children is training early childhood development facilitators and primary school teachers in the Southeast Department, Port-au-Prince, and Dessalines to assist in the Haitian government's efforts to Build Back Better four years after the earthquake in 2010. Photo: Save the Children.

## **HAITI FOUR YEARS AFTER: TOWARDS A LASTING LEGACY FOR HAITIAN CHILDREN**

**Donor Report – January 2014**



**Save the Children®**

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## Haiti Four Years After: A Message to Our Global Donor Family



On January 12, 2010 at 4:53pm, Haiti was rocked by a devastating earthquake. In October of 2010, thousands of Haitians succumbed to the world's worst cholera epidemic. Haiti rose to the top of the list of humanitarian hotspots because after decades of political instability and corruption, economic and social underdevelopment, and environmental degradation, the majority of the population was poor and extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. But, even as they dealt with family tragedies, Haitians proved to be quite resilient and overcame the most adverse conditions to begin the long process of recovery. With an outpouring of aid from the international community, the Haitian people shifted their immediate response from life saving to pursue a more ambitious and enduring plan to 'build-back-better'.



By the time I arrived in Haiti in mid 2013, the initial recovery work had taken effect, and the end to suffering from the earthquake and even the eradication of cholera were in sight.

Compared with conditions in 2010, the achievements made are easy to see. Of the million-and-a-half people displaced by the earthquake, 89% have left the camps. Thousands of families moved from tents into wooden houses, then laid new foundations and built more solid cement brick homes. To the uninitiated visitor, the piles of gravel and sand that still dot the sides of narrow, winding streets may look dirty and disorganised, but they are clear signs of steadily advancing long-term construction.

As the rains ended in December, the number of new cholera cases dropped from 14,000 per week at the outset of the epidemic to manageable levels below 1,000 per week, and the mortality rate fell to below 1%. Most importantly, research indicates that while cholera is persistent in Haiti, the disease is not yet endemic and can be eradicated in the dry season if all existing cases are identified and treated.

There is also good news to report on the protection and education of children, who are among the most vulnerable to disasters. With help from Save the Children and other international organisations in the construction of new schools, rehabilitation of unsafe classrooms, provision of school equipment, teacher training, and financial support for operations, the government was able to introduce 'Free Universal and Compulsory Schooling', benefitting over a million children. After the earthquake response, enrolment rates rose above 50% for the first time in Haitian history. According to the latest reports, in 2013, 77% of school aged children attended primary school.

Looking ahead, I see the work that still needs to be done. On the roads there are still thousands of children working and playing who need safe playgrounds, and an education. Over half the population live on less than \$2 a day, and a quarter of all households are not sure where their next meal will come from. One in every three Haitian children is stunted from undernourishment, and 20,000 children in Haiti are severely malnourished. Although many more children are now enrolled in school, over two thirds of pupils in primary school are overage and struggling to cope in an environment that is not conducive to learning, where the majority of teachers are unqualified, and buildings and classes are unsafe and ill-equipped.

While there is a lot more to do here in Haiti, the attention of the world has shifted to new crises and it worries me that the gains from the earthquake response might be lost before already identified lasting solutions can be applied to the underlying problems afflicting Haitians. So much has already been done, and if timely resources are supplied, displacement could be ended and cholera could be eradicated in

Haiti—not through emergency response but through investments in education, nutrition, clean water, sanitation, and protection, which take time but bring lasting results that save lives and reduce suffering.

Since 2010 Save the Children has reached over one million Haitians with life saving relief and recovery assistance: with your continued support, we can help the children of Haiti to build a better future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Gv', is positioned above the printed name.

Stephen Gwynne-Vaughan,  
Country Office Director



## Haiti Four Years After The Shock of January 12, 2010



Haitians examine a collapsed building after the earthquake. Photo: Save the Children.

January 12, 2010, was a day of profound tragedy for Haiti. Four years after Haiti's epic earthquake, the numbers are still hard to accept. Over 230,000 people were killed in a matter of moments and 1.5 million others were displaced. More than 70,000 homes, businesses and public buildings were destroyed. The national government was crippled; the dead included 25 percent of all civil servants. Nearly 5,000 schools were damaged or destroyed as the ground convulsed beneath the capital of Port-au-Prince and the surrounding countryside. A fragile government, poor infrastructure and insecurity exponentially compounded the earthquake's impact, and left the population vulnerable to the cholera epidemic that affected over 630,000 people from October 2010, as well as hurricanes and tropical storms that caused flooding and wreaked havoc in 2012 and 2013.

An end is in sight. Over 89% of the displaced population has left the camps; the incidence of cholera has been halved since the outbreak in 2010; severe food insecurity has been brought down from 1.5 million affected people in early 2013 to 600,000 by October 2013. Such progress was made possible by the power of your support, combined with our work and the incredible efforts of the Haitian people themselves.

Now is the time to capitalize on this progress to achieve real lasting change. Now is the time to impact the lives of Haiti's most vulnerable. Now is the time to move together towards a brighter future for

Haiti's children. These children still have critical unmet needs and acute vulnerabilities, requiring proven life and livelihood-saving interventions.

An estimated 30% of Haiti's ten million people are still suffering from the impact of both chronic and acute needs. Over 145,000 people still live in camps for persons displaced by the 2010 earthquake, including an estimated 60,000 children. Over 100,000 children are affected by malnutrition nationwide. Children are growing up with limited or no access to everyday basic services such as water, sanitation, healthcare and schools.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Solutions to the situation are proven, effective and available. If resources were mobilized, those in camps would access secure accommodation and live without constant fear of forced eviction. Abuse and neglect would end and children would thrive in safe and protective environments. The threat of cholera would be eliminated, as it has been in most of the world. Children would be vaccinated, well nourished and grow up strong and healthy. Children would attend school and through quality education, realize their potential as the best and brightest hope for the future of Haiti.

It is clear that Haiti is no longer on the top of the list for aid interventions. Yet the unanswered needs of today amplify to become the catastrophic needs of tomorrow, costing more in the long run and sacrificing entire generations.

Save the Children is working hand in hand with the Government of Haiti, local communities, youth and children to put in place sustainable solutions to reduce the risk from future disasters and increase the capacity of Haiti's people in the face of disaster. At the same time, we are implementing solutions to address long term issues in terms of healthcare, sanitation and education, whilst responding to critical immediate needs as they arise.

Truly lasting and worthwhile endeavors do not bear fruit overnight, but are the result of continued determination, patience and the will to transform the lives of others.

After the earthquake many promises were made to the Haitian people.

We intend to keep ours.

We hope you will join us.

## Haiti Four Years After: Save the Children's Response



Our education, child protection, and health programs have benefited children including, from left, Christie Cineas, Christine Nerva, and Ruth Manaisha Midy. Photos: Ian Zaur, Nora Chefchaoui, and Soraya Volcey/ Save the Children.

Save the Children has worked in Haiti for over 30 years. As night fell on January 12, 2010, we initiated the largest relief and recovery effort in our history in the Western Hemisphere.

Backed by the generosity of our donors, we have reached over one million Haitian children and adults through earthquake relief and recovery programs. We have sheltered families; provided access to lifesaving health and water and sanitary services; helped protect children from exploitation; and helped re-open schools and make them better able to withstand disasters. When cholera raged—and the disease remains a serious health threat—Save the Children supplied hospitals with medicine, opened cholera treatment units and raised awareness of cholera, and built latrines and provided potable water to promote prevention.

Haiti presented—and still presents—a challenging environment for Save the Children and others addressing the needs of those who were impacted by the earthquake and subsequent disasters. We constantly monitor our programs to ensure that they provide the maximum benefit possible to children and families, that our donors' funding has been spent well, and that our actions have resulted in positive changes. **We are proud of what we have accomplished and extend our thanks to every donor who has supported this work. We are prepared to sustain our commitment to Haitian children and their families through the end of our multi-year strategy in 2015, and beyond.**

Today, we continue to concentrate our expertise in three program areas where we can make the greatest impact for children and their still-vulnerable families: **health and nutrition, education and child protection**. We are working from the ground up – beginning with children, parents, schools, communities and local groups – to build their capacity and resilience and, wherever possible, strengthen our government partners and transition programs and services to them. By empowering Haitians to identify needs and take action, we are setting the stage for durable solutions for a country with limited government infrastructure.



## Assuring Child Health and Nutrition



Children wait for class to begin at a school supported by Save the Children's school health and nutrition programs. . Photo: Ian Zaur/ Save the Children.

**Thousands of Haitian children, women and families benefited from our post-earthquake community health and nutrition programs. Even before the disaster, many Haitians did not have access to these services.** In 2013, our school-based health and nutrition interventions reached 16,524 children including screening children for audio and visual impairments and distributing vitamin and micronutrient supplementation. Improving the health of schoolchildren, through proven cost effective and timely interventions, sustains and increases educational gains throughout early childhood.

Transitioning our health work in Haiti to the government is not always possible, as it has few resources and limited facilities in many areas. Our strategy has been to help local health workers and health volunteers learn new skills and help children and families to improve hygiene and sanitary habits to prevent diseases, especially cholera. In 2013 we are collaborating with John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Ministry of Education to refine and improve the national school curricula on adolescent reproductive health.

From 2014, Save the Children will work hand in hand with the government to strengthen health systems in the North through an approach which combines results-based financing for health facilities with the tools to achieve health outcomes: an example of a successful intervention is 'Helping Babies Breathe' a proven range of techniques to increase newborn survival rates.

## Learning to Read and Succeed



Dora Pierre, age six, practices reading during her first year class. Photo: Luciana Sette/ Save the Children.

Haiti has made considerable progress in term of access to education; primary school enrolment has increased from 49.6% in 2006 to 77% in 2012. The challenge now is to ensure these students receive a quality education. In Haiti, we have found that only 20% of students learn to read by the end of second grade, and only 25% go on to, but often fail to complete, secondary school. The centerpiece of our work is the Quality Education Initiative, which continued to work with 119 schools in 2013, along with our innovative 'Reading is the Future' program. We are creating safe learning environments, training teachers, mobilizing communities to support children's education and building local, regional and national capacity to improve the quality of basis education. Highlights have included:

- Doubling literacy rates amongst children at Save the Children Haiti supported schools.
- 17 schools graduating from the Quality Education Initiative.
- Training for 970 teachers and school directors in core curriculum and child centered teaching.

**Involving Haitian parents in children's schooling is key to achieving sustained learning outcomes. We have encouraged communities to actively support children's education:**

- 119 Parent-teacher groups at schools in earthquake-affected communities are a bridge between schools and communities and promote the importance of parental involvement in a child's education. This is especially important considering at least half of parents are themselves illiterate.



- Through our Community Action Cycle, which mobilizes communities around education and schools, a total of 40 libraries and 18 summer reading camps were set up and run by community members in 2013. These self-sustaining initiatives will ensure future generations of children learn to read.

**Studies show that most children's development occurs before age 5. We are creating opportunities for poor parents to send their children to preschool:**

- We train preschool center staff and help parents learn to stimulate their children's development at home.
- Over 1,723 girls and boys are enrolled in Save the Children-supported preschool centers.
- Save the Children, the International Development Bank and the Haitian education ministry are completing an assessment of national needs related to early childhood development.

The UN reports that over 70 percent of primary-school-age children are now in school compared to only 50 percent before the earthquake. This is a significant achievement for the many organizations, schools and families that made education such a high priority.

**Pre-earthquake education indicators:**

- 79 percent of primary school teachers had no formal education.
- Most families paid up to 25 percent of their income to send their children to school.
- An estimated 38 percent of those over age 15 were illiterate.

Sources: UNICEF, CIA World Factbook, Save the Children

Six-year-old Gustave Richardson attends the Institut Haitano Caraibéen in Leogane, Haiti, which was at the epicenter of the January 2010 earthquake. Save the Children has been working with the Institut Haitano Caraibéen through its Quality Education Initiative (QEI) since 2010. Through the QEI, the Institut Haitano Caraibéen is taking part in Lekti se Lavni ('Reading is the Future' in Haitian Creole), which is teaching children to read in Haitian Creole, an important step that lays the foundation for later success in school.

Gustave lives with his parents, two brothers, and two sisters. His mother is unemployed and his father works in a sand quarry.

*I love math because there are figures in it. I love figures. I also like to draw. I like to draw red things. Especially cars... I usually read in my house with my mom. But with all my brothers and sisters too. I love Lekti because it has lots of different drawings and pictures.*



**Gustave Richardson at school.** Photo: Ian Zaur/ Save the Children.

## Protecting Vulnerable Children



**Children's Club members work on community disaster risk maps to reduce their vulnerability during disasters.** Photo: Save the Children staff.

**Protecting Haitian children from exploitation is critical. Children who are unaccompanied by a family member and children living in camps of still-displaced earthquake survivors are especially at risk. Sexual violence against children is common.**

## Empowering community child protection groups

- We work with and support 43 neighborhood child protection committees. We train members on children's rights, violence prevention and gender-based violence.
- We educate committee members, teachers and other adults about the medical and counseling services that are available for abused children.

## Focus on Child Resilience

- Save the Children is teaching 11,046 vulnerable children to protect themselves, and to teach other children how to protect themselves from abuse, through our 'child to child' methodology
- Our 'Children's Club' youth are creating maps of disaster risks in their local areas, leading adults in focus group discussions and advocating with the government emergency agency to have children's specific needs taken into account in disaster planning

## We are transferring skills and building the government's capacity on child protection

- Save the Children helped the government's social welfare department launch a national hotline for vulnerable children in June 2012. We trained 28 department staff to operate the hotline
- In 2013 we are supporting children's to have their voices heard by the government through advocacy efforts regarding key issues in children's rights

## **We are sharing what we know and the tools we've developed with others**

- We piloted, and then shared with other organisations, a financial literacy activity guide for adolescent girls in 2012. Two hundred girls in Jacmel and Leogane worked in groups to focus on their self-protection, reproductive health, hygiene, leadership, and decision-making. In 2014 these modules will form the basis of longer term intervention in rural areas supported through our sponsorship programming

### **Pre-earthquake child protection indicators:**

- A complex system of child domestic servitude threatened the safety and education of 250,000 to 300,000 children. These children worked as domestic servants – many were abused, physically, sexually and emotionally, and highly stigmatized.
- Between 73,000 and 120,000 children to age 17 were orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- 50,000 children were living in residential care and some 2,500 children lived on the streets of Port-au-Prince.

Source: UNAIDS, UNICEF, IASC Sub-working Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action, Save the Children

When Fabiola lost her home after the earthquake, Save the Children offered her psychosocial support.

“I often remember the earthquake...at only twelve years old I saw houses collapse, people running everywhere, injured people and chaos. I was traumatized until I joined a Children's Club being run by volunteers from a local Child Protection Committee with the support of Save the Children. I received psychosocial support through the club, with other children my age. Over time I learned about my rights and responsibilities, and how to defend my rights. I also learned about participation, leadership and managing groups, child resilience and reduction of risks from disasters. I participated in child rights advocacy activities including at the national palace, where I held the role of Minister of Health in the Child Parliament.



**Fabiola interviews the head of UNICEF in Haiti at celebrations commemorating Haiti's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.** Photo: Save the Children.

Today, after more than three years of benefitting from this program, I am very proud and happy with the support I received from Save the Children. I just turned 15 years old; I am in the third year of secondary school, and president of the Child Protection Club in Martissant, Port-au-Prince. Now I have more confidence in myself and I see the future more clearly. I dream of becoming a lawyer and I hope that my dreams will be realized.”



## Combating the Cholera Epidemic



Girls in Port-au-Prince wash their hands at taps constructed by Save the Children. Photo: Save the Children staff.

**In October 2010, still reeling from the earthquake, Haiti experienced a cholera outbreak. The deadly diarrheal disease spread quickly and to date over 689,448 suspected cases of cholera and 8,448 deaths have occurred amongst children and adults. Cholera remains one of the most serious health threats to every Haitian. With only 0.002% of the world's population, Haiti has 50% of global cholera cases.**

- Save the Children distributed medicines to health facilities and hygiene kits to families and conducted a public awareness initiative to increase understanding of cholera and its prevention
- We created, staffed, and operated 10 round-the-clock, seven-day-a-week cholera treatment units of 10 to 50 beds each in Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Maissade, and the Southeast Department. We also opened 36 rehydration stations where medicine, clean water and water purification tablets were available. Five were handed over to the government in 2012 and one in 2013; others closed as the need decreased
- In 2012, Save the Children installed and supplied isolation rooms in six health clinics in the Southeast Department that did not have them, as part of a government effort
- In 2013 Save the Children supported a cholera treatment center in the rural community of Dessalines offering emergency medical assistance to 176,889 people. Whilst not directly impacted by the earthquake, Dessalines has been severely hit by the cholera epidemic, which recurs every rainy season. Our action lowered the mortality rate to only 0.01%, with almost all

children under five surviving the disease; this rate is incredibly low considering other regions have rates as high as 4%.

The Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population has published a cholera eradication plan but faces huge challenges. Although agencies like Save the Children can respond during major outbreaks, ultimately the government needs to have the funding and human resource capacity to disseminate information quickly, ensure care is available when needed and prevent further outbreaks.

## Building Human Capacity



Save the Children has trained teachers like Linel Borgelin to make learning more interactive. A teacher at the Ecole Splendeur Mixte, a primary school we rebuilt in Carrefour, Borgelin taught during the day and attended high school at night. Photo: Lane Hartill/Save the Children

**The earthquake significantly impacted Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, causing damage to government buildings and the loss of many civil servants, which greatly impeded the already fragile government's ability to respond. The country's under-development, insecurity, lack of a skilled workforce, the need to import most materials and supplies and the remoteness of many rural communities in the disaster zone also created extraordinary challenges.** Our 30-year presence in Haiti prepared us for many of these obstacles. We rapidly hired and trained hundreds of new staff—at the peak of our immediate relief activity in May 2010 Save the Children had over 1,100 staff, many on a temporary basis who were hired from the Haitian communities we are serving. Our commitment to invest in building the capacity of Haiti's workforce has led us to create opportunities for staff in the Government of Haiti health and education ministries to learn new skills and, during 2013, to second staff to the Ministry of Education.

As 2013 ends, we have reduced our staff to 101 national and 8 international staff and seek to transfer knowledge gained to local counterparts where possible. We are also providing professional development opportunities to our national staff at home and abroad so that they can contribute to the development and sustainability of Haiti's civil society and economy with new ideas, with their skills and with formal training. A number of Haitian national staff members have gained significant expertise and are now working alongside locals in other countries experiencing emergencies, such as the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We continue to seek corporate partners willing to provide executives on loan to offer their expertise and work side-by-side with our Haitian team.



## Partnerships to Improve Effectiveness



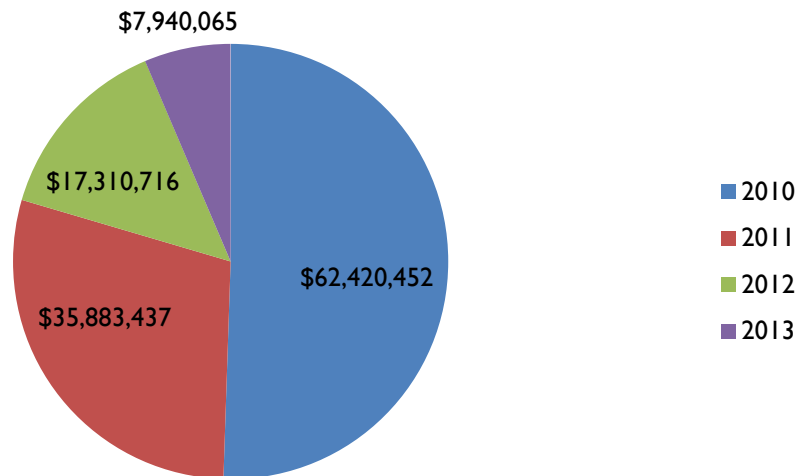
Eunide, 40, carries a bag of rice. Save the Children worked with other groups to address security needs of women during distributions so that they could safely collect food for their children. Photo: Robert King/Polaris

**During major disasters, Save the Children and other aid agencies collaborate to improve the effectiveness of the response. Many have said that aid agencies were not coordinated in their response to the earthquake, but this was not the case among organizations such as Save the Children.**

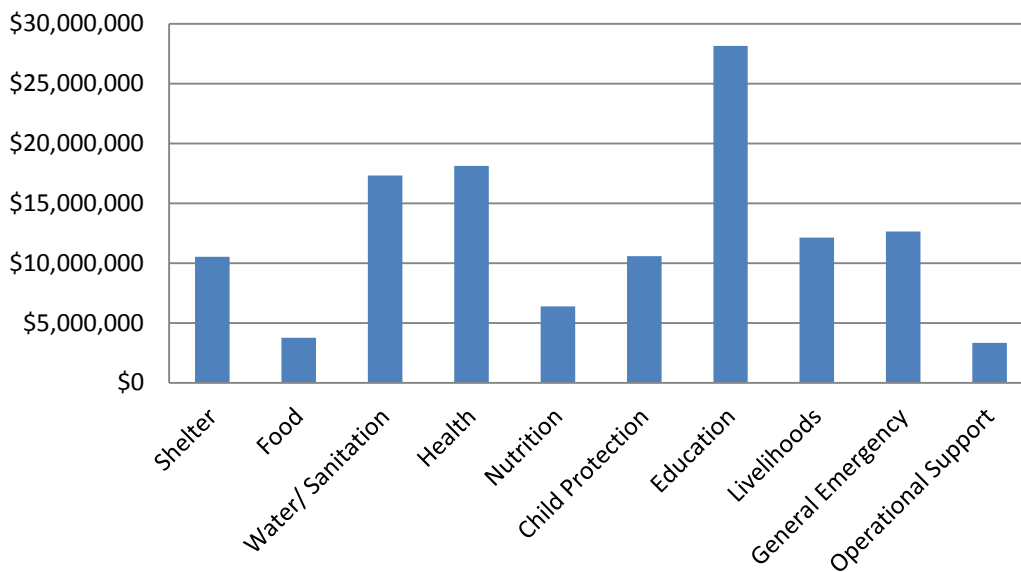
Working since 1978 as one of the largest agencies with global humanitarian expertise in Haiti, Save the Children was asked by the United Nations to lead or participate in emergency relief sector working groups with other agencies who were also responding. These UN relief clusters ensured that specialized agencies in different geographical areas could pool capacity, target aid to meet the most urgent needs, coordinate efforts to avoid overlaps, gather information to expand assistance as required, and deliver aid efficiently and effectively.

- Save the Children International Haiti co-led the education cluster with UNICEF. We worked with other agencies like CARE, Mercy Corps and World Vision and the Haitian Ministry of Education to restore children's access to education and organize teacher recruitment and training, as many teachers had been killed.
- Save the Children International Haiti led the UN health cluster in the damaged cities of Leogane and Jacmel.
- Save the Children International Haiti actively participated in and periodically chaired the Family Tracing and Reunification Working Group and staffed the national hotline until it was transferred to the Haitian government.

## Haiti Earthquake Response 2010-2013\*



## Haiti Earthquake Response Per Sector 2010-2013



\* US dollars received.