

**HELPING HAITI'S  
CHILDREN THE FIRST  
THREE MONTHS OF  
SAVE THE CHILDREN'S  
EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE**



**Save the Children**



**ON COVER:**

January 27, 2010, Port-au-Prince, Haiti: 1-month-old twin baby girls, Julie and Julianne, lay in a water bucket while their mother washes clothes at the camp in the university. She also has another daughter and says she has no food to give to her family. Credit: Adriana Zehbrauskas / Polaris

**ABOVE:**

January 19, 2010, Church of Latter Day Saints, Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Displaced families take shelter at the Church of Latter Days Saints in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where Save the Children has launched child-friendly space activities. Child-friendly spaces provide normalcy, structure and emotional healing to children who are suffering from the loss and devastation they have experienced. Credit: Antonio Bolfo

Every morning, tens of thousands of Haitian children wake up to a hazardous reality. Their homes and schools have collapsed. Their rubble-strewn cities present added risks to their health and well-being. Their daily lives — which in this, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, were rarely carefree — have acquired further levels of deprivation, uncertainty and terrible loss.

The devastating January 12 earthquake — a 7-magnitude shock that left more than 3 million people in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, Petit Goave, Jacmel and surrounding areas in desperate need — has exacted a heavy toll on Haiti's children. They have lost family members, friends, belongings and familiar surroundings. In the midst of debris and displacement, they are more vulnerable to disease, injury, abuse and exploitation. Meanwhile, their future opportunities are also in jeopardy, as Haiti's education system lies in ruins.

The scale of this disaster is unprecedented in Haiti, and the needs of children and families have far exceeded available supplies and logistical capacity. An estimated 200,000 families (1 million people) are homeless. The majority are living in overcrowded, informal settlements with poor sanitation; unable to access the basic necessities — food, water, shelter and health services — without assistance. Others have fled to the countryside, increasing the burden on impoverished rural communities.

Save the Children has worked with families, communities, government and civil society in Haiti since 1978, in both development and emergency contexts. Well-positioned to respond, the organization rapidly mobilized what has since become its largest relief effort ever in the Western Hemisphere. Over the last three months and in coordination with Haitian authorities, the international community, local and international organizations and communities, Save the Children has reached more than 553,000 children and adults with lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance.

Save the Children is committed to helping Haitian children through this current crisis and to assisting their country as it builds a better environment and brighter future for its youngest and most vulnerable citizens. The organization will sustain humanitarian relief to ensure children's survival during these critical early months and the rainy season. In the emergency phase, Save the Children plans to reach 800,000 people over 6 months — among them 470,000 children. At the same time, it is planning for the long term with a strong commitment to enabling Haitians to help themselves through a multiyear (3–5) relief-to-recovery effort comprising health and nutrition, education, child protection, shelter, water and sanitation, food security and family livelihood programs. This plan will meet the needs of children and families, while strengthening the capacity of Haitians and their institutions — governmental and nongovernmental alike — to recover, move beyond this crisis and lead and manage their own future.

## Serving Haiti's Disaster-Affected Children

Over the three months since the disaster, Save the Children has been supporting its government partners in the Ministries of Health and Education, among others, coordinating with local and international nongovernmental organizations through the United Nations cluster system. The organization has also worked with local authorities and communities to sustain multisectoral assistance to save lives, alleviate suffering and support the protection and recovery of children.

Working in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, Jacmel, Petit Goave and surrounding environs, the organization is focusing on:

### Food

Save the Children is working with the World Food Program and coordinating with other NGOs to ensure that families in need receive sustenance. It is continuing to distribute food rations to families in and around Port-au-Prince, including rice, beans, oil and salt. More than 250,000 children and adults have received food to date.

### What's Next:

Targeted distributions will reach vulnerable households in areas directly affected by the earthquake. Save the Children will provide vouchers to families so that they can purchase food in local markets, supporting local producers in the process.

### Shelter and Supplies

More than 7,500 households have received transitional shelter materials, hygiene supplies and essential household items. The rainy season has begun and families are in critical need of shelter.

### What's Next:

Families will receive essential materials, shelter kits or cash grants; and supplies are being pre-positioned for the hurricane season, which begins June 1.

### Water and Sanitation

More than 221,000 people benefit from Save the Children's water and sanitation programs, which include the construction of latrines, bathing areas and clean-water points, as well as the delivery of drinking water to temporary settlements. Haitian health promoters are providing families with information they need to safeguard their well-being.

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*February 9, 2010, Port-au-Prince, Haiti: 3-year-old Olivier is fed by his mother, Eunide, 40, after she cooked the rice she received from the Save the Children food distribution center. More than 1.5 million Haitians were left homeless and struggling for basic needs such as water, food, and shelter, following the earthquake on January 12. Credit: Robert King / Polaris*



### What's Next:

Save the Children will continue to deliver clean water, construct water distribution points and latrines, promote good hygiene practices and clear ditches to improve drainage as the rainy season begins.

## Health and Nutrition

Prior to the earthquake, Haiti had the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the Western Hemisphere, with a weak health care system. One in 13 children did not survive to 5 years old, and almost a third were chronically malnourished. The earthquake has exacerbated the situation. Save the Children is scaling up work to reduce health threats to infants and children in the earthquake-affected area, screen and treat malnutrition, provide basic health services and continue regular health work where possible. Its mobile clinics and Haitian medical teams have cared for more than 23,000 children and adults. The organization has delivered more than 16 tons of medicines and supplies to hospitals and clinics. Save the Children has also established 16 infant care tents in temporary settlements. These “baby tents” provide mothers with a private place to breastfeed and serve as a center where malnourished children receive treatment.

### What's Next:

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, health facilities will be rebuilt and strengthened, and women will receive reproductive care. Save the Children will continue its work to prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases, and to provide supplementary food to malnourished infants, children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. The organization also will work with families to improve infant feeding practices and distribute micronutrients and deworming treatments.

## Child Protection

Children have been profoundly affected by the events they have witnessed and experienced. Displacement is likely to have increased their anxiety and fear. An estimated 380,000 Haitian children were missing one or both parents before the quake — now many more have been left unaccompanied, separated from their families or orphaned, increasing the risk for abuse and exploitation.

Save the Children has established 20 child-friendly spaces in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel, each providing structured activities for about 100 children per day. More than 15,000



## Baby Tents Support Quake's Youngest Survivors

Amidst the host of makeshift shelters in Léogâne, a special tent provides a vital lifeline for twins Michelle and Micaël.

Here in the “baby tent,” established by Save the Children, the 1-month-old infants and their mother, Rachelle, have a quiet and safe place to breastfeed, an oasis from the crowded camp outside.

Baby tents are placed in affected camps and surrounding communities. In addition to providing a protected place, the tents serve as a center for breastfeeding support groups as many mothers are having difficulty feeding their infants since the quake. Tent staff also monitor and treat children with acute malnutrition.

“It’s my first time here, and I am hoping to receive some advice for taking care of my babies,” said Rachelle, who is finding it challenging to take care of newborn twins and deal with the aftermath of the disaster. “I am not getting enough to eat and I need support as these are my first children.”

Breastfeeding is an affordable and fundamental way to help keep young children alive and healthy. Save the Children has established 16 baby tents — for newborns and babies up to 1 year old — in temporary settlements in the quake-affected zone.

*In Léogâne, women and children are sitting and relaxing in the Save the Children infant feeding tent. Rachelle, 30, holds her 1-month-old baby, Micaël. She gave birth to twins and is attending a Save the Children baby tent in Léogâne, Haiti. These spaces offer mothers a safe space where they can breastfeed and receive nutritional advice. As in any emergency, infants and young children are the most vulnerable survivors of the disaster in Haiti. Breastfeeding is an affordable and vital way to help keep them alive and healthy. Credit: Rebecca Janes*

children have had the opportunity to play, sing and socialize with their peers — and to regain a sense of normalcy in these difficult times. Working with the Haitian Ministry of Social Welfare, UNICEF and other agencies, Save the Children is also helping to trace unaccompanied children, provide community-based interim care, monitor their well-being and reunite them with their families. The organization is also training government and NGO staff to identify, register, monitor and support vulnerable children.

### What's Next:

Family tracing and reunification activities will continue, as will programs at child-friendly spaces. Save the Children will support children's participation in disaster risk-reduction activities and in child-protection committees. In addition, in coordination with Haitian ministry officials, it will address institutional care, child labor and trafficking.

## Education

The Haitian Ministry of Education estimates that a staggering 90 percent of schools in the capital and more than half of schools in other quake-affected areas were damaged or destroyed. Save the Children's education team assisted the ministry in assessing schools and identifying areas for temporary learning spaces, in addition to providing

classroom tents and supplies. The organization is also training teachers in psychological support.

### What's Next:

Half of Haitian children did not go to school prior to the earthquake, and the majority of those who did left before age 8. While working to assist the ministry in its efforts to revive the education sector, Save the Children will focus on providing 160,000 children with access to schooling, training teachers, launching early childhood development programs and bringing education to out-of-school children.

## Livelihoods

Save the Children is helping vulnerable families improve their economic and nutritional status through cash-for-work programs. At the same time, projects such as rubble removal and canal clearance assist their communities. Nearly 2,500 adults have participated in cash-for-work activities.

### What's Next:

Save the Children will provide seeds and cash grants to up to 4,500 farming families so that planting can go forward and rural laborers and those displaced have work. Save the Children also will support the recovery of local markets and help vulnerable families develop income-generating activities.

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February 6, 2010, (Léogâne, Haiti): In Léogâne and Jacmel, nearly 1,000 families received blankets, plastic sheets, jerry cans, and hygiene kits from Save the Children. Since the earthquake hit Haiti, Save the Children has reached more than 48,000 people with basic household kits for families whose homes were destroyed. Credit: Laurent Duvillier / Save the Children



## A Better Future for Haitian Children

Haiti and its children face a long and difficult road to recovery. The process will require sustained attention and

assistance from the international community — with a focus on building the capacity and systems of the Haitian government and local civil society. While Haitians cannot do it alone, they must lead and manage their own recovery.

### Save the Children Calls on the International Community to Deliver

Save the Children urges donors to prioritize the needs and rights of Haitian children. Alongside other humanitarian and development agencies, we urge donor governments to:

- Offer sustained, robust funding. Haiti's successful reconstruction and development demands immediate and long-term support.
- Improve shelter. Urgent attention must go to finding appropriate spaces for camps and transitional shelters, to ensuring safe, voluntary and informed movement of displaced people, and to increasing support for families who are hosting those who have lost their own homes.
- Protect children. Priorities should include care and reunification services for unaccompanied and separated children and improving laws, policies and systems that protect children.
- Expand health care. Primary health care and nutrition programs need immediate support and Haiti's primary health care system must be strengthened.
- Make education work. Children need to get back in school as soon as possible and deserve a strengthened education system.
- Enable lasting food security. Focus should shift from general food distributions to targeting the most vulnerable children and families, while promoting economic opportunities that allow families to feed their children over the long term.
- Invest in disaster risk reduction. At least 1 percent of reconstruction and development funding should go to initiatives that protect Haitians from future disasters, and these initiatives must include a focus on children.
- Strengthen the Haitian government and civil society. Donors can empower Haiti to lead and manage its own development by building national capacity and systems.
- Ensure funding delivers. Multidonor funding mechanisms must be accountable, transparent, and accessible, while supporting reconstruction and development in line with Haitian national plans.
- Cancel debt and boost trade. Haiti should be freed of all outstanding bilateral and multilateral debt and receive expanded international trade preferences.

Collective advocacy by Save the Children and other humanitarian and development agencies helped generate donor pledges of nearly \$10 billion for longer-term reconstruction and development and \$5.3 billion for the next 18 months. The international community has recognized the need to further reduce debt and trade barriers that impede Haitian development. Going forward, our focus is to ensure that children's needs and rights remain priorities, that funding promises are kept, and that aid is effective, well-coordinated and transparent.

#### FOLLOWING PAGE:

*Save the Children Opens First Temporary School for Quake-Affected Haitian Children. Classes have begun again for the children of the Cejecodema School in Martissant, an area on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Save the Children provided classroom tents and supplies so that hundreds of children in this quake-affected area could re-initiate their studies and regain a sense of normalcy. Children at the first Save the Children-sponsored temporary school in the Martissant area of Port-*

*au-Prince, Haiti, received pencils, notebooks, erasers and sharpeners. In Martissant, where homes and buildings were destroyed by the January 12 earthquake, the large classroom tents ensure that children can continue their education and play and interact with each other in a safe environment. Two days after the temporary school opened, attendance had increased by a dozen students, from 120 students to 132 students, and the school director estimates the number of students could climb as high as 400. Credit: Rebecca Janes*

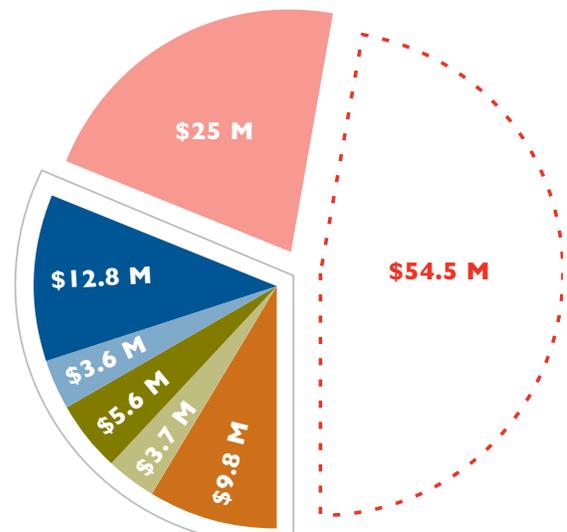


## Funding for 2-Year Earthquake Response and Recovery

TOTAL RAISED: **\$60.5 MILLION**

FUNDING TARGET: **\$115 MILLION**

- EMERGENCY RELIEF: **\$12.8 MILLION**
- EMERGENCY EDUCATION SERVICES: **\$3.6 MILLION**
- PROTECTION OF CHILDREN: **\$5.6 MILLION**
- EMERGENCY HEALTH AND NUTRITION RESPONSE: **\$3.7 MILLION**
- WATER, SANITATION, LIVELIHOODS, DISASTER RISK-REDUCTION, AND CROSS-SECTORAL PROGRAMS: **\$9.8 MILLION**
- FUNDING FOR MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMS: **\$25 MILLION**
- FUNDING GAP: **\$54.5 MILLION**



COMMITTED \$35.5 MILLION FOR PROGRAMMING THROUGH JUNE 2010

(all figures are rounded)

## About Save the Children

Save the Children has been implementing child-focused programs in Haiti for more than three decades — and working to help children survive and thrive around the world for more than 90 years.

Save the Children will stand with and continue to assist children, families, communities, agencies and authorities in the quake zone. It will prioritize education, child protection and health needs; help parents provide a secure and healthy environment for their children; and work to ensure a better future for Haitian children.

Save the Children is the leading organization creating immediate and lasting change for children in more than 120 countries around the world.



January 27, 2010, Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Danyson Basquet, 7, and Ana Eli Senatous, 10, carry water outside the gate of La Cours Issa camp in Carrefour-Feuilles neighborhood. The camp now has 10 latrines, 4 showers and drinking water. Credit: Adriana Zehbrauskas / Polaris

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