



Children fill a classroom at the Institution Mixte Splendeur in Carrefour, Haiti. Save the Children helped rebuild and equip the school and train its teachers – one of the many ways we are working to restore hope and strengthen services for children three years after the epic earthquake. Photo: Suzanna Klauke/Save the Children

HAITI THREE YEARS AFTER: SUSTAINING OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

Donor Report – February 2013



Save the Children®

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Haiti Three Years After: A Message to Our Global Donor Family



I arrived in Haiti six months after the earthquake, when people with no place to live filled every park and public place in Port-au-Prince. Every day, I passed a partially collapsed apartment building leaning dangerously over the road, threatening to fall.

Three years later, over three-quarters of those left homeless by the earthquake have moved out of camps. The apartment building no longer leans precariously, although it is yet to be torn down. The road is lined with temporary wooden houses instead of tents. Small businesses along it are thriving.

Signs of recovery are undeniable—whether in Haiti’s streets or in the hope and resiliency that I see in the faces of children and adults served by Save the Children.

We are now starting the fourth year of our earthquake recovery strategy, with the expectation that this work will be largely completed by 2014. We’ve moved from lifesaving relief and recovery to programs driving more sustainable outcomes. We have supported the government’s and the donor community’s effort to move services outside of camps to encourage people to return to neighborhoods, and have worked with Haitian institutions and service providers, rather than providing the services ourselves. We have responded to the cholera epidemic and damage wrought by three tropical storms.

These latter events remind us of Haiti’s vulnerability and the challenges of working here. Progress can be slow and there are no easy answers to the obstacles. But that’s never deterred us.

We know that investing in children makes a difference in a country’s future. We can measure progress on an individual basis, as each child receives an education or benefits from improved water and sanitation or knows more about hygiene. Over time, we can also measure it on a larger scale.

This year, we will increase children’s and families’ ability to cope with disasters while supporting their development and well-being. We will champion new national policies and activities that make the lives of children better, like significantly stronger education and health systems. I’m especially excited by our new reading program, developed with the Government of Haiti, which has the potential to help hundreds of thousands of children in first and second grades stay in school and perform well in it.

This link: <http://youtu.be/4CueDDr5axM> will open a special video on our Haiti programs. I hope you’ll take a moment to view it.

I speak for every member of our team in thanking you for your generosity.

Lisa Laumann
Country Office Director



Haiti Three Years After: The Shock of January 12, 2010



Haitians walk past a collapsed building after the earthquake. Photo: REUTERS/Jorge Silva/courtesy www.alertnet.org

Three years after Haiti's epic earthquake, the numbers still defy comprehension. Approximately 230,000 people were killed in a matter of moments and 2 million others were displaced. Over 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.

January 12, 2010 was a day of profound tragedy for Haiti. The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti on that day was already struggling to feed its people, keep them healthy, and educate its children. Before the earthquake over 70 percent of Haitians did not have stable jobs, and 84 percent of those who had earned college degrees were living abroad. Widespread deforestation had left Haiti at risk of flash flooding during its frequent storms — some rural communities had not yet recovered from massive floods two years prior to the earthquake. A fragile government, poor infrastructure and insecurity exponentially compounded the earthquake's impact.

Haiti Three Years After: Save the Children's Responses



Our education, health and child protection programs have benefited children including, from left, Withney, Antoine, and Clifford. Photos: Christopher L. Mitchell, Dan Alder and Rebecca Janes/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.

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. We recognize that there has been criticism directed toward the international aid community periodically since the disaster. We constantly monitor our programs to ensure that they provide the maximum benefit possible to children and families, and that our donors' funding has been spent well, and has 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 and then beyond.**

Backed by the generosity of our donors, we have reached over 1 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; have helped protect children from exploitation; and have helped re-open schools and make them better able to withstand disasters. When cholera raged—and the disease remains a serious threat to the health of every Haitian—Save the Children supplied hospitals with medicine, opened cholera treatment units and raised awareness of cholera prevention.

We initiated a multi-year recovery and development strategy. 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 resiliency 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.

Addressing Health and Nutrition Needs



Will, 3, is examined by Save the Children nurse Elina at our health post in the Gaston Margron camp. The post supported the health needs of thousands of earthquake survivors.

Photo: Susan Warner/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 2012, we supported improved maternal and newborn health care at 11 clinics in Leogane and two in Port-au-Prince. Women and children used services ranging from prenatal care to treatment for diarrhea and pneumonia. We also provided women with access to reproductive health and family planning services and HIV counseling.
- We supported 75 mother's clubs, at which women learned about breastfeeding and children's nutrition.
- Over 500 severely malnourished children were recently enrolled in our nutrition program.

We've helped build the capacity of government health services:

- We have rebuilt and repaired four basic health clinics and one obstetric ward.
- Our fight against malnutrition in Haiti includes providing government health facilities with the training and support to teach women about infant and young children's feeding and nutrition.

- The Ministry of Public Health and Population vaccinated over 11,600 children in 2012, with support for basic services and the vaccination campaigns provided by our staff.

Transitioning our health work to the government is not always possible, as it has few resources and limited facilities in many areas. Our strategy is 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:

- We promote hand-washing and other simple hygiene practices. Our surveys show an increase in hygiene knowledge from early in the cholera outbreak to 2012. Families also benefit from new latrines and improved water systems.
- We train health workers and volunteers in a wide range of interventions—from treating common childhood illnesses to monitoring children’s growth and managing cholera treatment.

Pre-earthquake health indicators:

- 40 percent of the population had no access to basic health services
- The infant mortality rate was the highest in the Americas
- 32 percent of children were malnourished

Source: U.S. Department of State, Office of the Haiti Special Coordinator

Improving Haitians’ access to drinking water, helping them adopt hygiene practices such as washing their hands regularly and raising awareness of proper sanitation have been among our top health priorities. This work became even more urgent as cholera quickly spread through contaminated water and poor hygiene.

Through repairs, new infrastructure and community awareness campaigns, we have made clean water available in vulnerable places such as Carrefour, Delmas, Martissant, Jacmel, Maissade and parts of Port-au-Prince. In Maissade, residents felt so strongly about improving hygiene and sanitation that within 90 days of Save the Children opening a model latrine block, they had built over 1,100 more latrines.

We have also strengthened our partner, the Direction Nationale Eau Potable et Assainissement, (DINEPA), a government water and sanitation agency in charge of the metropolitan Port-au-Prince region, by training over 100 staff in safe drinking water practices. We built water kiosks in Port-au-Prince together, installed water filters at 13 schools and renovated DINEPA’s water testing lab in Jacmel.

"Among all the NGOs we worked with, Save the Children is the most valuable partner because of its way of keeping its commitments to vulnerable communities in matters of drinking water and sanitation," said Paul Lydbenson Theodate of the DINEPA. "We value the dedication Save the Children has shown the institution and we hope to continue this collaboration."

Creating Safe Places to Learn



A girl at the Etzer Villaire School in Port-au-Prince practices reading. The school was among those we helped to re-open. Photo: Suzanna Klaucke/Save the Children

In Haiti, 85 percent of schools are privately run due to the limited national education system. Many private schools operate on a shoestring budget and are challenged to meet monthly expenses. The centerpiece of our work is the Quality Education Initiative at 224 schools. 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:

- Rehabilitating or building classrooms and latrines at over 50 schools. Special construction techniques make the schools better able to withstand disasters.
- Training teachers, school directors and parents from 40 schools in Port-au-Prince and 23 schools in the Southeast Department on child-focused emergency preparedness.
- Rolling out a literacy project in 55 schools to address a language barrier that prevents young children from learning to read.

Involving Haitian parents in children's schooling is key. We have strengthened local communities to actively support children's education:

- We support parent-teacher groups at 132 schools in earthquake-affected communities. The groups are a bridge between school and community—they promote the importance of education and mobilize parents to get involved.
- In 2012, our education teams began rolling out our Community Action Cycle to mobilize communities around education and schools.

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 rehabilitated nine early childhood development centers in Port-au-Prince
- We train center staff and help parents learn to stimulate their children's development at home.
- Over 5,000 girls and boys are enrolled in 52 Save the Children-supported centers.
- Save the Children, the International Development Bank and the Haitian education ministry are assessing national needs related to early childhood development and will develop a plan of action in 2013.

The UN reports that there are now over 70 percent of primary-school-age children 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

The seaside town of Leogane was at the epicenter of the earthquake. Eight in 10 buildings in the town were damaged or destroyed. As part of the recovery effort, we have supported the Centre d'Education Classique de Lompree school, where Joseph, 10, attends classes. The school is among those where we have introduced the *Reading is the Future* program to build key literacy skills and the basics of the language. It also fosters motivation and pride, as many of the stories children read are about their own environment.

Joseph, who lives near the school with his mother, has thrived in the program: "I love school. I am happy here. I love reading. I love the pictures in the books. I read with my cousins and with my mom and grandmother." Aside from his emphatic love of books, there is one activity that particularly resonated with Joseph – making books himself.

With the thrill of describing a best-kept secret, he explained: "There is something we do on Monday afternoons called the *Community Reading Circle*. I really like it. We sing songs. We read. And we make books."

The book Joseph made depicts what is close to his heart - the houses of his grandmother and cousins who live in his neighborhood.



Protecting Vulnerable Children



Deusel was reunited with his father, Jean-Nico, by one of Save the Children's protection teams. Jean-Nico had sent Deusel to live in Port-au-Prince with someone who promised to take care of him and put him in a good school. But the boy was instead passed on to someone else who made him work and treated him badly. Deusel was living in a camp when he was found by our team and registered as an unaccompanied child – action that ultimately helped us to reunite father and son. Photo: Hannah Reichardt/Save the Children.

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.

We are empowering community child protection groups.

- We work with and support over 40 local 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.
- In camps, we encouraged parents to reduce their children's vulnerability by accompanying them to latrines and asking for lighting around these areas.

Reuniting children with their families is an ongoing priority.

- We were instrumental in creating a database of thousands of unaccompanied children used by several agencies. The database has helped lead to over 2,000 children being reunited with their families.
- Our staff made over 200 follow-up visits to children and families who were reunited.

We are transferring skills and building the government's capacity to reunite children with families.

- 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.

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

- We piloted and then shared a financial literacy activity guide for adolescent girls. Two hundred girls in Jacmel and Leogane worked in groups to focus on their self-protection, reproductive health, hygiene, leadership, and decision-making.

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

Thousands of children were alone after losing their parents, families or legal guardians. Some, like Fabienne, were taken in by those who took advantage of their young charges by making them work.

Fabienne had lived with her father in Port-au-Prince because her mother had no money to feed her and send her to school. Although her father was killed in the earthquake, Fabienne's mother sent her back to the city because she could not afford to care for her. The young girl ended up with a woman in a camp who kept her cooking, cleaning and fetching water all day.

During a routine visit to the camp, our staff was approached by the woman, who asked that we try to locate Fabienne's family. Interviewing Fabienne helped us find an aunt and another sister. After several visits to ensure that Fabienne's best interests would be met, she was reunited with them.



Through a partnership Save the Children developed with a local primary school, Fabienne was enrolled and started school in January 2012. Her determination has led her to excel: she is among the top students and vice president of her class.

"Fabienne is a great student; she is currently at the top of her class and a model student. She has been since she started here. We are very proud of her," reports Wilbert Daleus, the school director.

Combating the Cholera Epidemic



Girls at the Acra camp in Port-au-Prince wash their hands at taps constructed by Save the Children.
Photo: Susan Warner/Save the Children

In October 2010, still reeling from the earthquake, Haiti experienced a cholera outbreak. The deadly diarrheal disease spread quickly and by the end of the year over 3,300 children and adults had died. Today cholera remains one of the most serious health threats to every Haitian. The UN has identified it as the world's largest cholera epidemic.

- 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 to have an isolation room for infectious disease treatment in every health clinic.

We are very concerned about how Haiti will manage cholera, as it will be a danger for the foreseeable future. The Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population faces a huge challenge in managing the disease in the years to come. Haiti needs a clear national structure and plan to manage the epidemic. 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

Haiti was one of the worst possible places for a catastrophic earthquake. Port-au-Prince, the capital and seat of the national government, was significantly damaged. Damage to government buildings and the loss of many civil servants 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. Yet the need to quickly undertake large-scale relief and recovery required us to address our own logistical challenges such as finding secure warehouse space for relief materials and then transporting goods to remote locations.

We also needed to hire and train 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. As 2013 began, we had reduced our staff to 165 national and 14 international staff. Our commitment to invest in building the capacity of Haiti's workforce has led us to create opportunities for Haitians in the health and education ministries to learn new skills. We are also providing professional development opportunities to our national staff so that they can contribute to the development and sustainability of Haiti's civil society and economy with their skills and training. Our corporate partners have provided 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

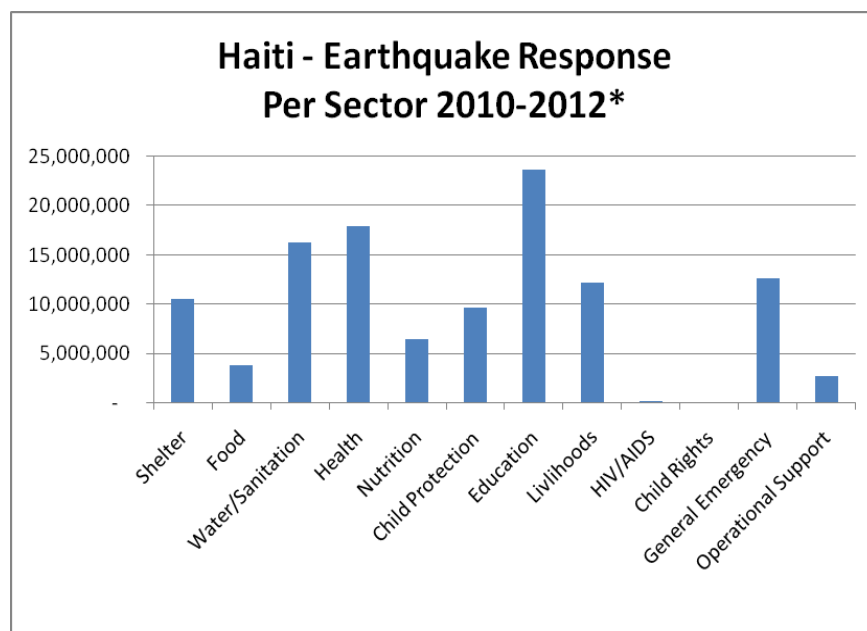
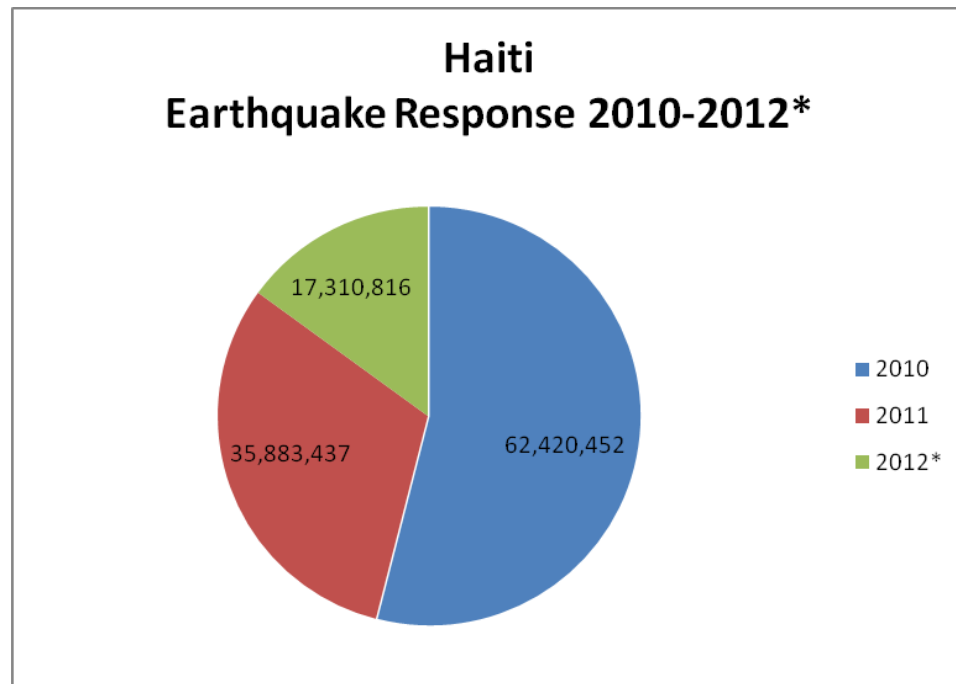
During major disasters, Save the Children and other aid agencies collaborate to improve the effectiveness of the response. Many have said that aid agencies were not coordinated in their response to the earthquake, but this was not the case among organizations such as Save the Children.

Working since 1978 as one of the largest agencies in Haiti and with global humanitarian expertise, we were asked by the United Nations to lead or participate in groups of other agencies who were also responding. These UN clusters ensured that groups could coordinate efforts, deliver aid equally and gather information to expand assistance. Specifically, we:

- 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.
- Led the UN health cluster in the damaged cities of Leogane and Jacmel.
- 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.

We worked closely with the World Food Program and members of the UN's food cluster to make sure that women's security concerns were addressed so that they could safely collect food during distributions and bring it to their families—recognizing that Haitian women are children's primary caregivers. Food distribution to women worked well, despite early challenges with mass distributions.

Haiti Three Years After: Financial Summary



* In US\$ spent as of November 2012.