

Haiti • Earthquake Situation Report #4 February 19, 2010



ELCA Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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I. Highlights

- Shelter still prioritized as urgent need
- Rains begin to come in Haiti
- Medical evacuations to the US continue
- ELCA commitments reach \$3,450,000 for initial response
- The LWF continues distribution of shelter materials to over 25,000 individuals
- The Lutheran Church in Haiti prepare to respond to families living on church grounds
- ELCA has given more than over 30,406 gifts totaling more than \$5,248,000
- Matching grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is \$320,000
- ELCA Disaster Response blog at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/haiti>

II. International Situation

More than one month after the earthquake, a better picture of its impact and the humanitarian requirements is emerging, indicating the need for a continued and large-scale response.

- The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was officially launched in Port-au-Prince on February 18th, in a ceremony presided over by Prime Minister Bellerive. The PDNA will focus on sanitation, food security, water, debris management and removal and transitional shelter.
- WFP and partners have reached over 3.7 million people with food assistance since the start of the response; some 102 community out-patient care centers for the treatment of severely acute malnutrition, along with 18 mobile units, are operating throughout the country.
- WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) partners are currently reaching 850,000 people with 5 liters of water a day, covering 83% of the target population. A 75% gap remains, however, in the provision of latrines.
- The Health cluster warns that there is a risk of a large-scale outbreak of diarrhea, given the present overcrowding, poor sanitation and lack of effective waste disposal systems in spontaneous settlement sites.
- A small number of commercial cargo flights have started arriving at Port-au-Prince airport. The first civilian passenger flight is scheduled for February 19.

Concerns have been expressed that the long-term food assistance being brought into the country might jeopardize Haiti's own food production. Measures such as including Haiti food production into the assistance program have been suggested to mitigate the effect on local production.

The first heavy rains of the rainy season in Haiti came this past Wednesday night. Makeshift housing is proving not to be sufficient, giving way to rain and mud and further exacerbating an already difficult living situation. While shelter continues to be a priority, this experience has pushed it even further up as a priority that may come too late for some families.



III. Domestic Situation

The situation domestically has remained relatively unchanged since the previous report. Some limited flights of Haitian-Americans who are repatriating continue to arrive, both at airports in Florida as well as into Columbia, South Carolina. Additionally, the program of "Humanitarian Parole" for Haitian nationals requiring specialized medical care also continues, with patients being flown to hospitals in Florida and Atlanta, Georgia.

Authorization for the continued work of medical evacuations has activated a long standing contract called the Cuban-Haitian Entrant Program, or CHEP. CHEP is a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, administered around the country through Catholic Charities USA and Church World Service. The program was originally developed several decades ago, to be activated in a time of mass migration of either Cuban or Haitian citizens into the United States.

IV. 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 Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to respond to the needs of affected individuals and families. The Lutheran World Federation has been present in Haiti for over two decades.

LWF Haiti has completed an initial survey to determine needs in the affected rural communities of Gressier, Leogane, Grand-Goave and Petit-Goave. These are 4 communes some 35-65kms west of Port-au-Prince which were at the epicentre of the earthquake. LWF has identified the more rural locations away from the town centres and the main roads as the main areas of intervention due to the needs and the lack of agencies present. LWF has been in contact with local authorities, OCHA and ACT Alliance members to ensure a coordinated effort. In these rural communes, LWF is planning to target 8200 families (households) with both immediate and longer term recovery support as follows:

- 8200 households for non-food items (NFIs) (jerry cans, plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets)
- 8200 households for one time food bucket distribution (one family for one week)
- 5000 households for transitional shelter support
- 400 households for more permanent core shelter
- 10600 children for education
- 2-4 youth groups in 2 communes trained in psychosocial support
- 1200 households for Livelihood Recovery activities

LWF has also responded to the immediate needs of displaced families now living in makeshift temporary settlements in Petion-ville. In collaboration with the mayor and other agencies (CARE, Concern) whose offices are located in Petion-ville, it was agreed that support would be shared / provided to these 2 settlements. Although the plan is to provide support in the crisis phase during these first 3 months, the challenge and concern is what will happen to these

communities in the longer term as the authorities and international agencies search for a dignified and realistic shelter solution. LWF is planning to target 2100 families (households) in the urban Petion-ville area of Port-au-Prince with immediate and short term relief supplies as follows:

- 2100 for NFIs (jerry cans, plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets)
- 2100 for one time food bucket distribution (one family for one week)
- 500 Latrine and WASH facilities
- 2100 for Water storage & supply for 3 months

ELCA Disaster Response has increased commitment levels for the initial phase of response by \$1.5 million, bringing the current LWF commitment to \$1,950,000. Funds are already providing household items in both Petion-ville and rural communities. Following the initial phase of response, ELCA Disaster Response will be working with LWF to reconstruct communities through the rebuilding of homes. A strong focus will also be put on income generating activities, particularly in the area of agribusiness.

The Lutheran Church in Haiti is preparing to respond to families who have sought refuge on several of the church's 12 locations. Following the return of Joseph Livenson Lauvanus, president of the Lutheran Church in Haiti, an initial assessment indicated a need to provide shelter to over a thousand families in addition to food, water and sanitation. ELCA Disaster Response is working with the church to prepare an adequate plan for response. Technical support will arrive in Haiti the end of February to accompany the church in their response as more permanent solutions are planned. ELCA Disaster Response has committed an initial \$1 million to the response of the church that will help provide for material needs and capacity building. Additional support from the church's companion, Florida/Bahamas Synod, will be integrated into a comprehensive support plan for the church.

In January, \$150,000 was granted to Lutheran World Relief for the immediate mobilization of material resources. Reports received this week indicate that this contribution leveraged \$600,000 of material resources.

- More than 14,000 quilts and 13,000 health kits were sent to LWF and CWS
- 12,000 tarps were purchased for future shipments to LWF and CWS

Domestically, with the enactment of the CHEP contract, Lutheran Services Florida has, for the time being, completed its work as clients are transitioned to the care of Catholic Charities. As of February 12, a number of families were continuing to be assisted by LSF staff and volunteers with cash assistance, housing placement, translation services, etc. as this transition began. The staff of ELCA Disaster Response are extremely proud of Lutheran Services Florida for their selfless contributions to this response.

Lutheran Services Georgia continues to serve the families of the over 50 Haitian patients who have been brought to Atlanta area hospitals for care. Through a sub-contractor agreement of Church World Service to Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA), LSG will continue to serve these clients into the foreseeable future. Specifically, RRISA has requested that Lutheran Services of Georgia provide emotional, psychological, and appropriate spiritual care for these patients and their families.

Additionally, ELCA Disaster Response staff are working on a design and implementation plan for the coordination of specifically-skilled volunteers for work in Haiti. The plan will include details on how volunteers will be screened and accepted, deployed and trained, hosted and

employed, and debriefed as part of the long-term recovery efforts of our partners in Haiti. The focus of these volunteer efforts will be on those with experience and defined skills in the areas of civil engineering and construction management, medical, and pastoral care.

ELCA Disaster Response continues to receive names and e-mail addresses for anyone interested in serving as a volunteer in Haiti. Coordination of volunteer teams may not start for six months or more, due to the instability of the situation in Haiti. ELCA Disaster Response kindly reminds all those interested that volunteers will be requested only at the request of our companions on the ground and priority will be given to those with particular skill sets that can not be found in Haiti, promoting the employment of local Haitians whenever possible.

VI. Fundraising

As of February 18, the ELCA has received over 30,406 gifts for Haiti Earthquake Disaster Response. Total income is \$5,248,000. Of this, \$4,928,000 is from direct gifts and \$320,000 is the matching grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Gifts are needed for the work of continued relief and for long-term community rehabilitation and other recovery activities. 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.

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

V. Communication

The weeks of February 8 & 15, 2010, continued communication of thanks and activities regarding Haiti response contributions at work. These communications include:

- Acknowledgement and thanksgiving letters to donors
- Updated homepage spotlights
- New Releases

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, 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
- For more information on ACT Alliance: www.act-intl.org
- For more information on international aid: www.reliefweb.int

VII. Contact

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