

# Haiti • Earthquake Situation Report #2 January 29, 2010



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

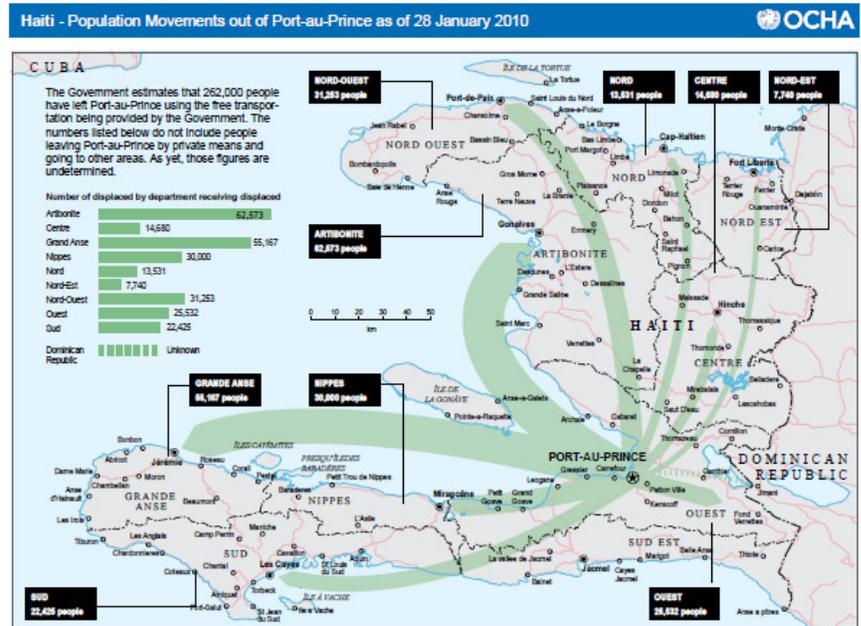


## I. Highlights

- 112,392 people reported dead, 196,501 injured
- 1 million homeless
- Material aid, specifically food aid, still in high demand
- Haitian-Americans continue to return to the U.S.
- ELCA commits an additional \$300,000; immediate ELCA response now at \$925,000
- ELCA Disaster response sending additional food aid and responding to the homeless
- Lutheran Services Florida continue to respond to the needs of returning Haitians
- ELCA staff provide coordination and communication support on the ground
- ELCA has given more than 15,000 gifts totaling 2.7 million
- Thrivent members can receive match funds now at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)
- ELCA Disaster Response blog at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/haiti>

## II. International Situation

As of January 27<sup>th</sup>, the Haitian government is reporting 112,392 people have died and 196,501 have suffered injuries related to the earthquake on January 17<sup>th</sup> and several following aftershocks. It is estimated that nearly one million people have been displaced from this natural disaster. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is reporting that nearly 300,000 people have left earthquake-affected areas, migrating north and west in search of shelter and material resources.



While relief supplies are being distributed throughout the affected areas, the need far outweighs distributed supply. Airports and water ports are bottlenecked with supplies lacking transportation and security in order to get these supplies to the individuals that need them most. Current priorities for material aid are food including ready made meals and beans, shelter including tents and plastic sheeting, and stoves to support the preparation of food aid.

With the huge influx of humanitarian aid coming into the country, a negative impact is being realized by business owners. Many have reopened operations in retail stores but are finding it difficult to purchase supplies to restock lost or emptied goods. Items that can be found on shelves have drastically inflated prices. UNDP has begun a cash-for-work program with the goal of stimulating the economy and removing rubble from roads and other safe/accessible areas. So far, 7,500 people have been hired.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the humanitarian cluster for health noted that medical teams have reported increased incidence of diarrheal disease in recent days, as well as suspected tetanus, measles, and dysentery cases. This highlights the importance of constructing latrines in order to eliminate poor sanitary conditions and the spread of disease in affected areas. The health cluster also noted an increase in mental health needs following recent trauma.

The Haitian Government is requesting that all available tents be set-up in visible sites as soon as possible. Relief organizations are prioritizing the establishment of many smaller camps over large camps so that temporary water and sanitation systems can be established quickly and security standards met. Gender is a cross-cutting issue in the humanitarian cluster coordination system, promoting the adoption of gender appropriate response where possible which can include appropriate lighting and policing in camp areas of high-risk or with a large number of vulnerable populations such as women and children.

### III. Domestic Situation

Flights of Haitians holding U.S. passports, as well as some Haitian nationals who have received "Humanitarian parolee" status, have continued to arrive in the United States this week, mostly through airports in Florida. Many of those arriving have places to stay with family and friends, but others are seeking the assistance of humanitarian agencies here to secure housing, transportation, and meet basic needs.

### 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.

Specifically, the ELCA has supported the base of operations in Port-au-Prince for this work in partnership with The Lutheran World Federation, who has been a presence in Haiti for over two decades. Initial support in the amount of \$300,000 to the LWF has allowed immediate response to the needs of individuals affected by the earthquake in the form of:

- Emergency distribution of food
- Water, sanitation and health (WASH) programs utilizing water purification units, distribution of water purification tablets and jerry cans, emergency communal latrines, waste management and support to public water management structures.
- Shelter

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, an additional contribution of \$150,000 was committed to the LWF to respond to the needs of internally displaced people (IDP). In response to the migration of people out of Port-au-Prince, the LWF is in the process of establishing IDP camps that will provide safety,

security and needed shelter to an initial 19,000 individuals. Five locations of intervention have been identified.

1. Petion Ville - has many spontaneous settlements from a few hundred people up to 10,000 people. The mayor's office has counted 97,000 people in 36 different areas. LWF will work in St Therese, with a population of 7,300 people (1,900 men, 2,800 women and 2,900 children). LWF has been given the task to support 7,000 people living in spontaneous settlements by providing water, shelter and non-food items (mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, baby kits and kitchen utility kits, plastic sheeting and tools). Currently, LWF is distributing 20,000 liters of water per day to individuals in this area. LWF will also lead the promotion of sanitation and hygiene in this area.
2. Gressier - was near the epicenter of the first earthquake. The assessment conducted by LWF noted nearly 100% destruction of public and private infrastructure. Police and medical facilities suffered major damage leaving them minimally to in-operable. Additionally, this area has limited food supply, safe drinking water and is without working sanitation systems. Gressier has an overall population of 32,000 people and LWF will be working with a group of 3000 people in temporary settlements. LWF will assist with food distribution, sanitation and temporary shelter to 3,000 people in 26 settlements, and will provide psychosocial support.
3. Leogane – has suffered 90% destruction of infrastructure destruction and a large number of casualties in this community of 178,000 people. Police estimate 5 – 10,000 dead and report most bodies are still inside buildings and schools that have collapsed (both secondary and primary). No sanitation is available and there is very limited safe drinking water. LWF will provide food, sanitation and temporary shelter to 3,000 people.
4. Ti Goave – this area is in the epicenter of the second earthquake, destroying 30% of the buildings. 154,000 people live in this area that now has very limited medical coverage and severely damaged water systems. Several small camps exist in this area, also large ones with 1500 + people. Sanitation is a problem. LWF plans to provide food, water, sanitation and hygiene and temporary shelter, as well as non-food items to up to 5,000 people.
5. Thiotte - where internally displaced people are arriving from the capital area, consideration will be given to providing food and non-food items for 1000 people (including host families).

LWF has already identified primary activities for post-crisis phase implementation. These activities include food security and livelihood through farming and cash for work programs, ongoing WASH activities, community shelters, education and school assistance, psychosocial activities direct to individuals and training of civil society leaders, and disaster preparedness/risk reduction activities through assessments and community training. ELCA Disaster Response will be working with the LWF in the coming weeks to identify areas of long-term collaboration.

Support has also been committed to the coordination base of operations in the Dominican Republic through Church World Service in the amount of \$150,000. With ELCA support, relief supplies of health kits, baby kits, hygiene kits, blankets and flashlights with batteries were shipped to Haiti for immediate distribution. ELCA Disaster Response, through CWS, provided resources enabling the safe transport of humanitarian aid workers and material aid from the

Dominican Republic into Haiti. Four weekly convoys have brought life saving human and material resources such as food, water and shelter to five distribution points, one being Petion Ville where partner LWF operates a 10,000 person camp.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, ELCA Disaster Response allocated an additional \$150,000 to Church World Service recognizing the extent of human suffering and continued need for material resources such as food and water. These funds will allow for the continued distribution of material aid, specifically:

- 5,000 blankets (cost of \$25,000)
- Family tents (Nylon, waterproof and UV resistant)
- Water (1,000 boxes/24 per box)
- Fortified Food Packages (one package serves 6 persons. Blend of rice, crushed soy, dehydrated vegetables, vegetarian chicken flavoring, and 21 vitamins/minerals). These food packages meet the WHO food standards for vitamins/nutrients and exceed SPHERE standards for food distribution and nutrition.

Goods will be prepared and sent over the next two weeks. Primary distribution will be to children's centers and clinics, targeting highly vulnerable populations.

The ELCA's principle partner for collection of material aid is Lutheran World Relief. An initial contribution of \$150,000 was sent to LWR to help with the costly, but necessary, transportation of lifesaving material resources to Haiti from US warehouses. Initial material items include health kits, nursing kits and blankets. LWR's first shipment of material aid arrived on January 28<sup>th</sup> to partners CWS and Christian Aid. Future shipments are being prepared.

Louis Dorvilier, director for international development and disaster response, has been working with LWF to help coordinate work with civil society. As a Haitian national and former staff member of the LWF-Haiti program, his expertise is a valuable resource for assessment and creating a response strategy. Louis returns to the U.S. on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Domestically, Lutheran Services Florida continues its work coordinating Creole-speaking volunteers at Sanford International Airport, outside of Orlando, supporting the repatriation of Haitian-Americans into the U.S. As of January 25<sup>th</sup>, the latest date Florida Emergency Management had released figures, 13,584 individuals had been repatriated. Of these, 7,011 were repatriated through Sanford Airport specifically. Lutheran Services Florida has a roster of over 60 volunteers, helping to staff operations at the airport in three, eight-hour shifts for 24 hours a day.

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Kevin Massey, director of domestic disaster response for the ELCA, traveled to the Orlando area to visit Sanford and support the work of Lutheran Services Florida. Rev. Massey thanked volunteers and staff for their faithful service in this difficult time and witnessed the amazing work the volunteers do when meeting families arriving from Haiti.

Also on January 27<sup>th</sup>, Florida's Department of Children and Families requested that Lutheran Services Florida assist in another program. Haitian nationals requiring medical care are being brought to the United States in a process called "Humanitarian Parole." These individuals are being flown to several cities around Florida at this time to be admitted to hospitals for specialized care, and some of these patients have family members accompanying them during treatment. Lutheran Services Florida staff are meeting these family members when they arrive

in Tampa and arranging temporary lodging and services for their stay. At this time, 65 individuals have arrived in Tampa through this program.

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. This will allow for the situation to be more organized so that volunteer teams can work and stay in Haiti safely and effectively.

## VI. Fundraising

As of January 29th, ELCA Disaster Response has received or been notified of nearly 15,000 gifts totaling more than \$2.7 million for Haiti Relief. This includes nearly \$300,000 that has been received or is being transmitted by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, with a commitment to match gifts at an amount of \$1 for every \$2 given by Thrivent members.

Additional gifts are encouraged and anticipated as congregations hold special events and offering opportunities. 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 these gifts will be spent for the Haiti earthquake response.

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](http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake)

Thrivent members may direct gifts through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, information is available at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) Please act while matching funds are still available.

## V. Communication

The week of January 25, 2010, included many communications of thanks, encouragement of continued support, and provides updated information about the situation in Haiti. These communications include:

- A postcard mailing to all congregations
- An e-mail update from Bishop Hanson to congregational leaders
- An updated bulletin insert
- Updated content and photos on [elca.org/disaster](http://elca.org/disaster)
- A new story on Stories of Faith in Action
- Updated homepage spotlights

- A video message from Pastor Livenson Lauvanus, the President of the Lutheran Church of Haiti ([elca.org/disaster](http://elca.org/disaster))
- Video footage from Port Au Prince, Haiti and its surrounding suburbs ([elca.org/disaster](http://elca.org/disaster))
- Video footage of ELCA Disaster Response at work through CWS distributing material aid to people with disabilities.

Communicator/Videographer Tim Frakes arrived in Port-au-Prince on January 27<sup>th</sup>. ELCA Disaster Response has provided his media skills to the LWF and ACT Alliance. Tim joined the ACT media team, consisting of writers and photographers, and will complement the recording of work being done by the ACT Alliance, the LWF and ELCA Disaster Response. Aforementioned video footage is from this source.

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](http://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](http://www.elca.org/disaster)
- For more information on ACT Alliance: [www.act-intl.org](http://www.act-intl.org)
- For more information on international aid: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)



**VII. Contact**

| <b>Desk</b>                                     | <b>Role</b>  | <b>Name</b>      | <b>Contact Information</b>          |
|---|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Global Mission Latin America Desk               | Director   | Raquel Rodriquez | raquel.rodriquez@elca.org<br>X2629  |
|   | Companion Synod Relationships                                    | Mary Campbell    | mary.campbell@elca.org<br>X2618     |
| International Development and Disaster Response | Director   | Louis Dorvilier  | louis.dorvilier@elca.org<br>x2620   |
|   | Associate Director, Point of Contact for International Disasters | Megan Bradfield  | megan.bradfield@elca.org<br>x2291   |
|   | Administrative Assistant   | BethAnn Lynch    | bethann.lynch@elca.org<br>X5040     |
| Domestic Disaster Response                      | Director   | Kevin Massey     | kevin.massey@elca.org<br>X2822      |
|   | Assistant Director   | Mike Nevergall   | michael.nevergall@elca.org<br>X2863 |
|   | Administrative Assistant   | Maria Maldonado  | maria.maldonado@elca.org<br>X2748   |
| News Services                                   | Associate Executive Director                                     | John Brooks      | john.brooks@elca.org<br>X2958       |
| ELCA Disaster Response Appeal                   | Director-World Hunger Appeal                                     | Dan Rift         | daniel.rift@elca.org<br>X2757       |
|   | Marketing-World Hunger and Disaster Appeal                       | Laury Rinker     | laury.rinker@elca.org<br>X2452      |
| ELCA World Hunger                               | Hunger Leader Liaison; Blog Manager                              | Nancy Michaelis  | nancy.michaelis@elca.org<br>X2713   |