

# Save the Children's Earthquake Relief in Haiti

## Fact Sheet: One Month On February 12, 2010

Shortly before 5 p.m. on the afternoon of January 12, the ground in southwest Haiti convulsed. Within moments, much of the capital city of Port-au-Prince lay in ruins. Surrounding communities suffered equal or worse damage. With a death toll estimated to be well over 200,000, the earthquake and major aftershocks created the worst disaster ever in a country regularly battered by tropical storms and flooding.

At the one-month mark of the crisis, Save the Children has reached 477,000 children and adult members of their families with lifesaving immediate relief. As one of the lead international responders to the disaster, and with 31 years' continuous work in Haiti, Save the Children continues to deliver food, water and other essential materials daily to children and adults in Port-au-Prince and nearby communities. Our mobile health teams have treated over 16,000 people.



Olivier, age 3, eats rice his mother received during a Save the Children food distribution. Robert King / Polaris

While we attend to children's physical needs, we are also addressing their need for security and safety through child protection efforts. An estimated 1.5 million children were affected by the earthquake, and many remain extremely vulnerable to malnutrition, diseases, exposure and exploitation. For children with their families in temporary

**"The majority of Haitian children were vulnerable before this disaster and now, a month after the earthquake, their health, well-being and future are at increased risk. Their families are caught up in a daily struggle to meet basic needs and rebuild their lives,"** said Lee Nelson, Save the Children's country director in Haiti.

camps, Save the Children has opened Child-Friendly Spaces that give them a desperately needed respite through structured play and learning activities. For children who have been orphaned or separated from families, we are leading a family tracing and reunification effort at the request of UNICEF.

Children who survived the earthquake and its immediate aftermath face continuing grave danger in the weeks and months to come as food, water and health care remain limited. The approaching rainy season in mid-March and April will find tens of thousands of families sheltered under blankets, plastic tarps and scraps salvaged from collapsed homes and buildings.

Our humanitarian responses – and our commitment to initiate long-term, multi-year recovery programs in education, health care and child protection – together represent the largest relief and rebuilding effort Save the Children has ever conducted in the Western Hemisphere. Save the Children plans to provide emergency assistance to save lives, alleviate suffering and support the recovery of 800,000 people – of whom 470,000 are children – affected by the earthquake to ensure a better future for Haiti’s children.

### One Month On: Our Responses by Sector

#### Emergency Health Care

- Our 20 mobile health teams in Port-au-Prince, Leogane and Jacmel have treated 16,870 patients at 40 locations. Our health agents are equipped with oral rehydration solution to help treat children with diarrhea.
- In Jacmel, Save the Children and the Ministry of Health held a measles vaccination campaign.
- We have opened a clinic in Petionville Club, one of the largest camps in Port-au-Prince, with an estimated population of 80,000 people.



Four-year-old Dave is examined by a Save the Children doctor in Port-au-Prince on February 8. Robert King / Polaris

#### Food and Water

- Our food distributions have reached over 244,000 people, among them 146,800 children. 120,000 children and adults are benefiting from our deliveries of clean water and construction of latrines and safe bathing areas.

#### Shelter and Non-Food Relief

- Save the Children has provided 6,025 households (30,125 people) with non-food items including shelter kits of plastic sheeting, poles, pegs, blankets and hygiene kits of soap and other items.



Children at the Saint Therese temporary camp line up before entering our Child-Friendly Space there.  
Robert King / Polaris

### Child Protection

- 18 Child Friendly Spaces in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel are benefiting over 15,000 children. By the end of February, partners we have empowered will open 75 Child-Friendly Spaces.
- We are managing a family tracing and reunification call center and drop-in center at the UN logistics base, in coordination with UNICEF and several other partners. Twenty-seven community registration workers have been trained and began registering children at hospitals and camps in Port-Au-Prince on February 9. To date, 97 children have been identified as separated or unaccompanied and will go through the tracing and reunification process.

### Education

- Rapid assessments at six Save the Children-supported schools in Port-au-Prince identified key priorities for restarting education, identified areas for temporary learning spaces and identified available resources (human and material) within the schools. Assessments at 29 schools are ongoing.
- Save the Children will be among the lead agencies to rapidly restore education for children to provide them with a structured, secure environment.



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