

Supporting those Affected by the Great Haiti Earthquake

Delivering Mobility Aids to Facilities for People with Disabilities

We would like to thank you for your donations to support those affected by the large earthquake in the Republic of Haiti on August 14, 2021. With your support, we were able to distribute mobility aids, such as crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs, to people with disabilities who are particularly vulnerable, creating an environment where they can live with as much freedom and peace of mind as possible.



Republic of Haiti: where we work



Target region: suburbs of Les Cayes, South Department



There are more than 1,600 people with disabilities in Haiti's southern prefecture, but it is estimated that more than 3,200 people have new physical disabilities following the earthquake (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, September 2021 report). Additionally, more than 12,000 people have been injured and need ongoing rehabilitation services. The earthquake has also created difficulty accessing roads and a shortage of medical care due to large numbers of injured people visiting the hospitals at once. As a result, many people with disabilities have delayed medical attention to their injuries, only causing them to worsen. Public support and social welfare programs for people with disabilities in Haiti are also underdeveloped.

Before the earthquake, the "MCPHPSH: le Mouvement Citoyen des Personnes Handicapées Physiques Sud d'Haïti" provided accommodations for people with disabilities, including recreational activities and events. However, the facility was completely destroyed by the earthquake. Beneficiaries were forced to evacuate to tents, shelters, and relatives' homes, and the facility canceled all of its activities. Before the earthquake, about 120 people used the facility, but now that number has doubled to about 240. Forty percent of new registrants are people with disabilities due to the earthquake. While the number of users is increasing, it is extremely important for people with disabilities to be able to move on their own to build independence, self-esteem, and social participation. However, there are rarely enough mobility aids to allow people with disabilities to get around on their own. With the donations Peace Winds received, we were able to distribute mobility aids for 120 people who use the facility. Beneficiaries are now able to move freely and have expressed plenty of gratitude.



Distributing mobility aids to beneficiaries in Haiti

Voices From Our Staff

Peace Winds Haiti office local staff: Jean Nosinord Clerger



"We are proud that this project has supported the ability of people with disabilities to move independently, something that is important to anyone's self-esteem. Their quality of life and participation in social activities has improved greatly.

"Through this project, Peace Winds staff have been able to clearly define the challenges faced by disabled Haitians affected by the earthquake. First, the vast majority of people with disabilities have few opportunities to work, so they cannot secure food for themselves or their families. Second, they have no safe place to live after the earthquake destroyed their homes. Finally, damage to hospitals and injuries among medical staff has made access to medical care scarce. Peace Winds is making plans for continued support based on these needs.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in this project for helping Haitians rebuild after this devastating earthquake."

Peace Winds Haiti office local staff: William Denis



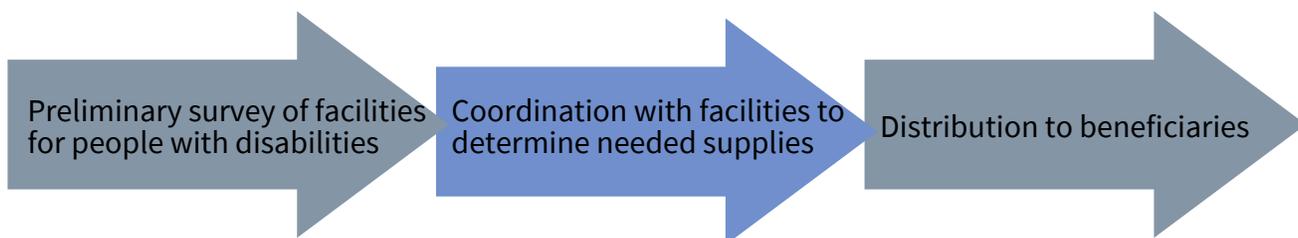
"Many people with disabilities living in Haiti face discrimination and prejudice, often being excluded from social situations and unable to find work opportunities. Moreover, development of accessible infrastructure, such as sidewalks and ramps, is not progressing quickly. Haiti's 1987 constitutional amendment mentions rights for people with disabilities, but it is still difficult for them to get around without the help of someone else.

"Through conducting a needs assessment survey and providing support to our beneficiaries, I have sadly come to realize that Haitians with disabilities are facing even more challenges after the earthquake. In disasters like this, disabled individuals are more likely to be victims; when you're in a wheelchair, it's hard to evacuate by yourself from a collapsed house filled with debris. Although people with disabilities have the right to work like any other citizen, they often have a hard time getting a job. Peace Winds has been providing items like crutches to disabled Haitians in need following the earthquake, and our beneficiaries have been extremely grateful. We hope to continue to support their recovery process."

Delivering Mobility Aids to People with Disabilities

Project Timeline

Beginning in January 2022, Peace Winds conducted a needs assessment survey with the help of facility personnel and found that they were in need of 15 walkers, 41 crutches, and 32 white canes (for the visually impaired). Peace Winds provided all of these tools, in addition to wheelchairs.



The state of the facility following the earthquake; the hallway and reception area were destroyed



Peace Winds staff meet with facility representatives



Mobility aid examples



Unloading supplies for distribution



Explaining the distribution process to the beneficiaries



Handing out mobility aids and confirming beneficiaries know how to use them correctly



Peace Winds local staff in Haiti pose for a group photo

Beneficiary Interview #1: Ultima Charlens

"I broke my leg in the earthquake, and it has been hard to move on my own. My parents took me to school by motorcycle, but I couldn't go to school when we couldn't refuel it. Staying home from school was lonely and depressing. Now with the crutches I received, I can walk on my own, go to school, and play with my friends. The crutches are a very nice gift."



Beneficiary Interview #2: Joseph Pierro

"When I was nine years old, I lost both legs in a car accident. Suddenly I was handicapped which was very difficult both physically and mentally. Before the earthquake, we sold processed products such as peanut butter to support our four children and their families. Then when the earthquake happened, the factory where I worked collapsed, and I lost my job. Haiti's unemployment rate has worsened after the earthquake, making it even more difficult for us with disabilities to find new jobs.



"As you can see in the photo [to the left], the wheelchair I was using was very old and the seat was torn, making it difficult to move and use for long periods of time. I needed a new one wheelchair but couldn't afford it, so I am very grateful to Peace Winds for providing me with one. After the earthquake and losing my job, I have felt very depressed, but the new wheelchair makes it easier for me to move freely on my own, and I feel a little more positive about the future.

"Now I want to find a new job to support my family as soon as possible. I want my four children to eat delicious food and have fun going to school."

Beneficiary Interview #3: Michelangie Nonce

"I live with my grandmother and younger brother. People with disabilities like me are not often socially accepted in Haiti; there is discrimination and prejudice, and everyday life is not easy.

"After the earthquake, the wheelchair I had been using for a long time had its wheels broken on the bumpy road. I needed my family's help for even small moves, which made me feel uncomfortable and frustrated. I was happy to receive a new wheelchair so now I can move freely on my own with less help from my family."

