

Haiti Earthquake Six-month Report

July 2010

A Message From Our President

I traveled to Haiti a few weeks after the earthquake struck. Now, six months later, I'm back again.

There has been some progress since my last visit. Some rubble has been removed. People have moved their shops out on to the streets. Most of the tent camps have latrines, drinking water and tarps.

People are surprisingly healthy, given the conditions. That's a testimony to the resilience of the people, the hard work of groups like ours and God's grace.

While people are surviving, progress, unfortunately, has been slow. Many people in Haiti are going to suffer for a very long time.

With your support and God's grace, we're going to do all we can to help the people of Haiti recover from this disaster in the months ahead. We'll send volunteer teams, rebuild clinics, provide prosthetics and physical therapy to those who lost arms and legs, restore hope for those traumatized by what they have experienced and help prevent disease among children and the vulnerable.

Thank you for your gifts and prayers for the people of Haiti. They continue to need our help. We cannot – we must not – forget them.



Bas Vanderzalm
President



SEVEN SECONDS

Seven seconds. That's all it took for a 7.0-magnitude earthquake to hurt a country with more than 230,000 deaths and millions of Haitians hurt and left homeless. In seven seconds, Haiti experienced the worst disaster in 200 years...

This catastrophe has affected people already living in an area ranked by the United Nations as the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. It is a chronically unstable region in economic decline. Haitian families are poorer now than they were 40 years ago. The United Nations Development Program estimates that nearly 80 percent of Haitians live on less than \$2 per day.

Quick Look

Since January 12, 2010, Medical Teams International has:

- Sent 18 volunteer teams with more than 100 Medical Teams International doctors, nurses and other health professionals
- Shipped more than \$5 million worth of donated supplies and medicines
- Provided more than 186,000 people with medical services and shipments of supplies and medicines
- Established a field presence in Haiti for the transition from relief to recovery
- Developed a psychosocial disaster trauma training curriculum which has been approved by the Haitian Ministry of Health

Caring Through Health Care

During the first 24 weeks after the earthquake, we sent 18 volunteer teams - the first one arriving three days after the disaster. In total, more than 100 Medical Teams International doctors, nurses and other health professionals have been working in Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Les Cayes and Carrefour.

Medicines and supplies were also distributed at local hospitals, tent cities and rural communities. The shipments include three Interagency Emergency Health Kits, one Interagency Diarrheal Disease Kit, orthopedic equipment and supplies, suture materials and a broad range of medicines, including antibiotics.

A Mother's Faith

When the earthquake hit, Phedeline Mon-Fleury, a 12-year-old Haitian girl, ran for her life. She slipped and fell beneath a car.

Phedeline severely burned her head, face, neck and a part of her back on a hot car muffler. Her family tried to care for her in an open-air tent city as their home was destroyed by the earthquake.

Unfortunately, days after her injury, Phedeline was much worse. Her mother, Janita, took her daughter to King's Hospital. She heard her daughter could receive free treatment from our volunteer doctors there.

As our doctors and nurses tended to Phedeline's severe burns, Janita said, "I know God will make things better for us in the end."

Our doctors told Janita that Phedeline needed more sophisticated treatment to avoid life-threatening infections and scarring. That day, Medical Teams International found a way to airlift Phedeline to Miami Children's Hospital.

Andy Davidson, CEO of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems and our volunteer hospital administrator on the scene, went the extra mile for Phedeline's family.

Davidson found a man, Evans, who had walked miles to find Phedeline's relatives. These family members did not know if Janita and Phedeline survived the earthquake, let alone in the U.S.

"They talked on the phone ... there were tears of joy. They had never been separated as a family..." said Candace Pineda, Trauma Program Manager for Miami Children's Hospital. "All are alive and well."



Program Highlights

- Deployed mobile medical units to various tent cities and rural communities serving nearly 23,000 people.
- Helped 162,000 people with more than \$5 million worth of supplies and medicines.
- Supported Quisqueya Crisis Relief through funding, medical staff, medicines and supplies.
- Supplemented hospitals with medical staff, supplies, medicines and emergency orthopedic surgeries.
- Transported critically ill and injured people to the U.S. for lifesaving treatment.

Providing Complete Support

Injuries sustained from disasters are sometimes more than skin-deep. We strive to provide well-rounded support through our Psychosocial Services. Goals for our disaster trauma counseling program include:

- Facilitating recovery from the effects of disaster, post-conflict related trauma, depression, anxiety disorders and violence by training local caregivers in culturally appropriate intervention.
- Building resilience by teaching effective ways to increase safety, support and coping skills.

To date, we have been able to develop a psychosocial curriculum approved by the Haitian Ministry of Health and translated into French and Creole. Nearly 150 community health workers, hospital staff and community leaders from Leogane and Port-au-Prince have received training on dealing with post-disaster trauma management.



Realizing the Possibilities

Dr. June Hanks is no stranger to Haiti. Since 2001, she has been working in Les Cayes through the Advantage Program, an assistance program for people with physically disabling conditions.

Since the earthquake, the number of physically disabled people in Les Cayes has multiplied many times over as more than 88,000 survivors moved into the region from Port-au-Prince. With our support, the Advantage Program has reinforced its prosthesis and orthotics shop with additional staffing and supplies. This shop provides survivors with locally fabricated prosthetics and the necessary adjustments, along with physical rehabilitation and counseling.

For the next two years, the Advantage Program will:

- Provide Haitian-made prosthetics, equipment, rehabilitation and emotional support to people with disabilities.
- Conduct seminars and training sessions with community leaders, teachers and pastors to help raise awareness and increase support for disabled communities.
- Improve the quality of life of people with disabilities at the community and government levels.



Working Together to Change Lives

Two ten-year-old girls, Bethlie Paul and Naika Etienne, barely survived the earthquake. They escaped near-death and amputation of their severely damaged legs when they were airlifted out of Haiti to San Antonio, Texas.



The girls were saved thanks to Medical Teams International volunteer paramedics from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R) Dan Livengood of Salem, Ore., and Chad Ledson of Portland, Ore., and other aid agencies.

The girls were first treated with orthopedic care at the Lumiere Hospital in Haiti. Naika sustained traumatic injuries to her right leg when she was trapped under cinder blocks at her home. Bethlie received medical attention immediately after she was pulled from the rubble of her school in Port-au-Prince where 12 of 21 of her classmates died. Medical Teams International volunteers Livengood and Ledson provided care for the two girls at the Lumiere Hospital wound care unit. However, it soon became apparent that the girls would lose their legs if they did not get more help.

Several organizations sprang into action, moving them quickly to the U.S. for treatment. Dr. Rick Westermeyer, a Portland, Ore. anesthesiologist who volunteered with Medical Teams International after the earthquake, worked with an aid group, Healing the Children, to expedite the trip.

The Michigan/Ohio chapter of Healing the Children made arrangements to fly Bethlie and Naika to San Antonio. Paramedics Livengood and Ledson, both fathers of young children, volunteered to fly with the girls.

While in Texas, the two young girls will receive extensive care at the University of Texas Medical Center in San Antonio. During their stay, Bethlie and Naika will receive additional support through host families who have generously welcomed the girls into their homes.

When their treatment is complete, Medical Teams International will once again accompany them. This time, back to their homes and families in Haiti.

Our Partners

We have been coordinating daily with the United Nations and other non-governmental organizations. We also have been working with local Haitian churches and community groups for logistical coordination, transport services and medical referrals.

Special thanks to our following partners:

- 82nd Airborne
- Apostolic Christian World Relief
- Christian Aid Ministries
- Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
- Covenant World Relief
- Haiti Foundation of Hope
- Healing the Children
- Hope International
- Humedica
- International Orthodox Christian Charities
- Ministe pou Developman Kreyen
- King's Hospital
- Quisqueya Crisis Relief
- St. Croix Hospital
- Surgical Implant Generation Network
- TearFund UK
- World Relief

Help Comes in All Shapes and Sizes

The amount of support and encouragement we have received from all over the world has been overwhelming. Generous contributors have come through in many different ways... many in the tiniest packages.

“Change” for Haiti

Elisabeth Culton decided she wanted to do something to help make a difference for Haiti. That same weekend, “Change” for Haiti was born.

Elisabeth, her best friend, Alexa Morris, and their school mates from North Marion High School and Woodburn Academy of Art, Science and Technology raised money for Haiti. 100 percent of all proceeds were given to Medical Teams International to benefit the Haitian people.

They got creative and pulled out all the stops to raise as much as they could. “Change” for Haiti raised gifts for earthquake survivors by placing collection jars all over their schools and communities, asking the North Marion High School mascot carry a bucket around during basketball games, staging a pop can drive, giving haircuts for as little as \$10 and selling “Change” for Haiti bracelets for \$2 each.

To date, North Marion High School has donated nearly \$3,000 and they have promised to do more! If you would like to help these extraordinary young men and women, please e-mail info@medicalteams.org. We will accept orders for bracelets and get you in touch with Elisabeth and her friends.



If you would like to support us with your own fundraiser, please visit medicalteams.org/fundraising for details.

To ensure accountability for contributions, we are a member of the Better Business Bureau and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. We are a 4-star charity as awarded by Charity Navigator.



A Rock Star in His Own Right

Meet Noah. He's nine years old. A little soft spoken... quite shy... and he's a Medical Teams International rock star.

Recently, Noah celebrated his ninth birthday. When he invited all of his friends to come to his birthday party, instead of asking for video games or sports gear, like most kids his age, he asked for something different.

Noah asked for money. He asked for money not for himself, but for Medical Teams International. His birthday wish was to be able to help people all over the world in whatever way he could.

Friends and family granted his wish and donated more than \$50 in honor of Noah. He visited us at our headquarters last week with the biggest smile, his birthday money and one request: “I did my best... I know this will help.”

Financials

We have received overwhelming support from individual and corporate donors. To date, more than \$4.6 million dollars has been raised for the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. More than \$5 million in medicines and medical supplies has been shipped to Haiti.

97 percent of gifts go to our programs and services. The contribution of thousands of hours of volunteers' time and millions of dollars in donated medicines, supplies and equipment helps Medical Teams International keep its overhead at 3 percent.

To learn more about our work in Haiti:
medicalteams.org/haiti



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