

Port-au-Prince Earthquake Programme: Health Education and Orphanage De- Worming

On 12th January 2010, a 7.0 earthquake rocked Haiti, killing more than 250,000 and leaving more than 1.3 million residents homeless. European Disaster Volunteers (EDV) responded to the Haiti earthquake in early June 2010.

Haiti did not have a strong health system before the earthquake, and the disaster's effects have further weakened health infrastructure. Combined with lack of access to education, this means that many Haitians do not understand how to stay healthy.

With Thanks to:

- P.J. Pitts and Terry Hartmann for medication, medical expertise, and their help organising the day
- GrassRoots United for medical supplies – especially the more than 400 condoms distributed in the women's health training
- Students for Ayiti for sending volunteers

A healthy population is a strong population that is able to lead their own recovery – so health is key to long-term disaster recovery.

We are excited to make a sustainable contribution to health in Haiti by focusing on health education.

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Chronic poor health has far reaching negative effects – especially for children.

Public health facilities are also few and far between and private facilities are expensive and beyond the reach of most Haitians. Combined with lack of health education, this means that many Haitians have health problems that could have been avoided. We're addressing this issue by working educating Haitian community groups about how to stay healthy and holding basic health evaluations.

It is the education component of this project that we're most excited about. Many of the illnesses we see are preventable so education is the key to long-term improvement in health.



Women's group learning how to use condoms during a women's health training.