



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**RECONSTRUCTING HAITI
REBUILDING LIVES:
*Listening to Haitian Voices***

USAID, which led the U.S. Government’s emergency response to the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, is working with Haitians, the Government of Haiti, and implementing partners to help Haitians restart their lives. Below are some Haitians’ stories of how the efforts of USAID and other agencies across the U.S. Government helped to relieve their suffering in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, as well as how we are tackling Haiti’s longer-term development needs.

PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN



Photo: Kendra Helmer / USAID

Program: Medical and psychosocial care
Partner: International Medical Corps
Location: Bolosse

Funded by the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), the International Medical Corps clinic at Bolosse is always filled with school children. The clinic was created almost immediately after the January 12 earthquake to serve the four spontaneous settlements that now surround it, and offers medical and psychosocial care targeted to children attending the recently reopened school next door.

I have identified eight children suffering from mental problems [as a result of the earthquake]. There could be more. Some of the children might be too young for these problems to fully manifest . . . This clinic is really good. Before [the earthquake], when a child had a problem, we would have to find the resources to take care of it. Now we don't have to.

- Patrick Paillant, school principal

The clinic here has done a very good job. They are seeing many, many patients.

- Grandmother to Francesca, 6, who has received regular care at the clinic

HELPING IMPROVE THE FUTURE OF A YOUNG HAITIAN

Adrien Olguine, 25, is one of 40 graduates who have been trained in operating heavy machinery and equipment by CHF International as part of USAID’s OFDA-funded CLEARs program. Partnering with Haitian Tractor and Equipment Company (HayTrac), CHF is training 40 operators, many of whom will eventually be employed in rubble removal throughout Haiti.

After my training, I am now able to maneuver a mini-chargeuse [small bulldozer] with no problems. In all, I have really made a lot of progress. Before, I was suffering from stress and trauma (after the earthquake) . . . but today I am in great form and am very happy to have participated in this program. Because of this training, I now have a diploma that will guarantee employment for my future.

- Adrien Olguine, 25



Photo courtesy of CHF International



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GIVING HAITIANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND THEIR COUNTRY

Photo: Joan E. Kretschmer / U.S. Navy



Program: Cash-for-Work

Partner: CHF International

Locations: Petit-Goâve, Léogâne, Port-au-Prince

Through USAID's CLEARs program, CHF International is providing cash-for-work to assist Haitians who lost their livelihoods in the earthquake. Demolishing damaged buildings and removing rubble prepares the land for reconstruction, while giving Haitians an opportunity for employment and a chance to help rebuild their country.

Before the events of January 12, I owned a small business that was, unfortunately, destroyed. I didn't have anything left to do because everything I had was lost. But God saw fit that CHF was there to rescue the unfortunate victims in the affected areas. This program is very useful for me - it is the first time I have participated in such a program, and unfortunately it will only be for a month. With the money I earn, I will pay for part of my children's school tuition. Thank you to everyone responsible for this program.

- Jesulene Andre, 57, Petit-Goâve, mother of eight children, one of whom died at age 18 during the January 12 earthquake

Before the earthquake, I was a businesswoman - I sold charcoal and soap. After the earthquake, I have been left to my own devices and have had no relief. When I had the chance to participate in this program, hope returned for me and for my two surviving children.

- Paulette Pierre-Louis, 47, Léogâne, mother of three children, one of whom died during the January 12 earthquake

LENDING A HAND TO VULNERABLE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN CAMPS

Photo: Kendra Helmer / USAID



Program: Soley Leve Camps

Partner: World Hope International

Location: Port-au-Prince

USAID partner World Hope International-Haiti (WHI) is offering educational, health, and psychological support to women and vulnerable children. By establishing day camps near tent cities in the Port-au-Prince area, WHI set up one of the few safe spaces for children to go in the absence of schools and churches, many of which were destroyed. At WHI's *Soley Leve* (Sunrise) camps, every child is served a healthy breakfast and lunch, has access to clean drinking water and sanitary bathrooms, and receives medical treatment as needed.

With those camps, as a single mother and parent, I am [at peace] dropping my two daughters . . . we know [the WHI camps] are a safe place, [my daughters] are learning, playing, and they receive two meals per day. The camp/school allowed me to go out and search for life.

- Jeanette, Marie's mother



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CLEARING CANALS TO PREVENT FLOODING

Photo courtesy of CHF International



Program: Clearing canals
Partner: CHF International
Locations: Port-au-Prince

USAID is working with partner CHF to finish clearing the Grand Canal in the Solino neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. The canal is one of the largest and most important drainage mechanisms in the city; left uncleared and with the onset of the rainy season, the canal would have worsened sanitary conditions in the city.

The smell has been so bad for so long and we are very, very happy that they're doing this; it will be much better here now.

- Madame Moude, who was displaced along with her husband and children to a camp after the earthquake. She currently runs a small stall in the growing market that runs along the Grand Canal.

HELPING HAITIANS RESTORE THEIR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The Haitian American Institute lost three employees in the January 12, 2010, earthquake. In addition, the organization's oldest building collapsed completely, leaving a pile of debris in the middle of the courtyard, blocking the entrance, and destroying the Martin Luther King library.

The State Department's Public Diplomacy office at the U.S. Embassy gave the Haitian American Institute a \$95,000 grant to help clear and repair less damaged buildings.



Photos courtesy of Haitian American Institute

We were determined to get our program back up and running as soon as possible and the Public Diplomacy office of the U.S. Embassy helped us to achieve that goal. Thanks to a grant, we were able to clear rubble, repair buildings, and re-open our doors four months after the earthquake.

We are very [grateful] to have received the grant from the American Embassy.

- Scarlett Sassine-Maximilien, Director, Haitian American Institute