

SERVING HAITI'S CHILDREN NOW, REBUILDING FOR THEIR FUTURE

SIX MONTHS AFTER
THE MASSIVE QUAKE



Save the Children

Haiti in Context

Life has never been easy for children of impoverished families in Haiti. Even before the January 12, 2010, earthquake, 1 in 13 children did not survive to the age of 5. Almost half did not go to school. Thousands of children were forced into lives of servitude, and girls in particular faced the threat of trafficking. The catastrophe the Haitian people experienced — a disaster unrivaled in the country's history — left hundreds of thousands of children and their families without the most basic necessities: food, water, sanitation, shelter, medical care and livelihoods.

The humanitarian response to the earthquake in Haiti represents the most challenging and complex emergency effort Save the Children has ever undertaken. The country's infrastructure was widely destroyed, and the quake significantly damaged large areas of the capital city, Port-au-Prince, where coordination during a humanitarian response needed to take place. Save the Children's Haitian staff, most of whom suffered personal loss during the quake, have been working under the most taxing conditions. Given the needs of children and families, Save the Children has scaled up operations rapidly, creating stress on the agency's financial, operational and human resource systems. Despite these difficulties, we have met the needs of hundreds of thousands of Haitian children and families without other means of support.

Over the past six months, and with an outpouring of donor support second only to that Save the Children received following the 2004 South Asia tsunami, the agency has coordinated with Haitian authorities, the international community, local and international organizations and communities to reach an estimated 682,000 children and adults — with lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance. Save the Children staff have worked nonstop since the early hours of January 13 to provide families in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, Jacmel, and surrounding areas with food, shelter, water, health and nutrition services, sanitation and livelihoods support as well as protection and educational activities for children.

With over 90 years of experience in providing relief assistance to children and families in disaster situations and through the compassion of its donors, Save the Children is one of the world's foremost humanitarian development and assistance organizations. Yet the aftermath of Haiti's earthquake has presented one of the most challenging emergency responses in the agency's history.

Life After the Quake

Six months after the quake, and despite the significant progress Save the Children and others have made to alleviate children's suffering and begin addressing longer-term needs, the magnitude of the destruction and damage is such that much remains to be done to assist children and families. Rubble still fills the streets of Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and Jacmel. Most people have little access to safe shelter, drinking water, electricity or health care. Approximately

ON COVER:

A young girl outside her tent at the Camp de Fraternite shelter camp in Tchawa, Haiti. Save the Children is providing temporary shelter, food and health services through a mobile health clinic to families in the camp. Photo by Lee Celano/Getty Images for Save the Children

BELOW:

Loudmillard, age 7, and her mother Guerline Telisme, stand in front of their family's tent in the Pinchinat Camp in Jacmel, Haiti. Loudmillard's four siblings also live in the tent. Some 5,000 people are housed at the camp. Save the Children provides water, sanitation, health and child-friendly space activities at the site. Photo by Susan Warner



1 million are still homeless, many living in substandard shelters. Children lost family, friends, schools and homes and are particularly vulnerable to disease, abuse and exploitation. The infrastructure essential to the process of rebuilding — electricity, sanitation, health facilities and schools — was largely destroyed in the quake, hampering efforts to provide services to needy families.

Under these precarious conditions, Haiti's hurricane season has officially begun. Heavy rains could spell another disaster for the country and its people. If, as predicted, Haiti experiences intense storms and hurricanes, already vulnerable children and their families will require a renewed surge of humanitarian aid, especially shelter, food, water and sanitation.

An Opportunity for a New Haiti

Haiti's people may feel anxious that another hurricane or earthquake could strike at any time, but the prospect of rebuilding and creating a new, better country offers hope. With support from unprecedented numbers of citizens and public and private organizations worldwide, Haitians have an historic opportunity to rebuild a nation that has struggled for centuries

with persistent poverty, exclusion and weak governance.

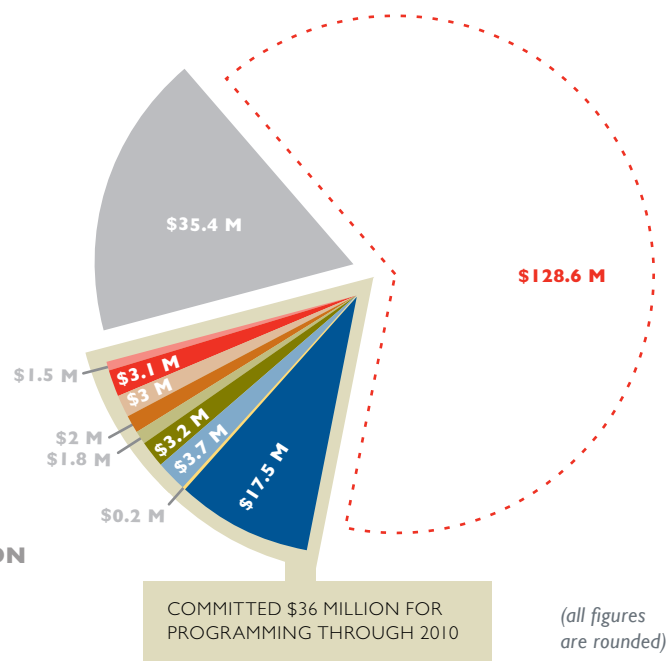
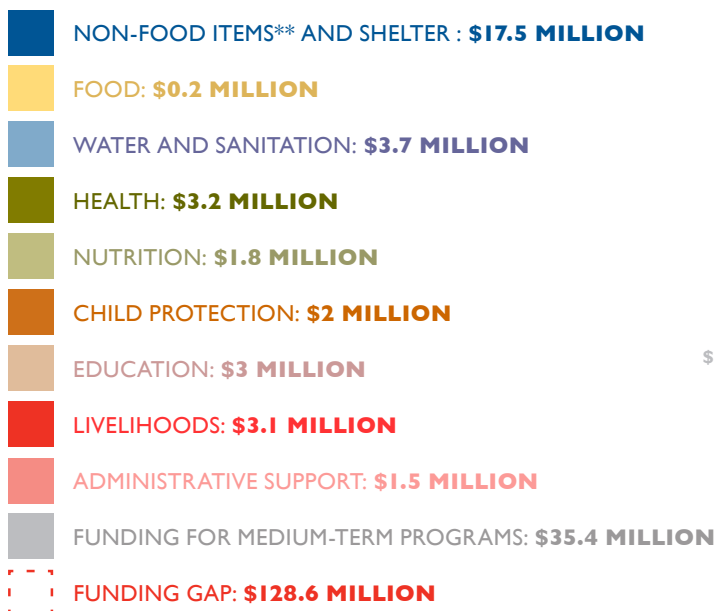
Save the Children has an ongoing commitment to Haiti that goes back to its first programs in 1978. Our current goal is to alleviate the suffering of 800,000 people (including 470,000 children) affected by the disaster. The agency also is preparing to assist Haiti through a 5-year relief-to-recovery effort to build back better. Strengthening the capacity of Haitians and their institutions — governmental and nongovernmental alike — will enable Haiti's people to play a more active role in managing their own future. If further crises arise, Save the Children will renew its emergency assistance.

Donor governments need to uphold their commitments and deliver on pledges to provide timely, robust and sustained support during this still critical phase of the emergency in Haiti, and for the recovery and long-term development of its people. Actors in the recovery need to be accountable for the use of aid resources. This will ensure that aid strengthens the institutions governing Haiti's recovery and development and fosters transparency and participation of all stakeholders, including children.

Funding for 5-Year Earthquake Response and Recovery

TOTAL RAISED AND COMMITTED: **\$71.4 MILLION**

FUNDING TARGET: **\$200 MILLION***



* Amount assumes one more medium or large emergency over the 5-year period of the strategy

** Hygiene kits (including soap, shampoo, diapers, toothpaste and toothbrushes, detergent) and household kits (e.g., plates, utensils, pots)

Assistance by Sector

Coordination and partnership are critical to emergency response and recovery efforts in Haiti. Save the Children has played an important role in the United Nations cluster system by leading the organizations that make up the child protection cluster and co-leading the education cluster. Collaboration with local organizations and international partners is essential. Above all, the organization works closely with the government of Haiti and, in particular, with the Ministries of Health and Education.

Save the Children continues to work throughout the earthquake-affected region and is focusing its efforts on the sectors that will have the most impact on the lives and well-being of thousands of children: education, health and nutrition, child protection, water and sanitation, shelter, the provision of food and non-food items, food security and livelihoods.

Education

As co-lead of the education cluster, Save the Children has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts of all education partners to help schools reopen and continue to function throughout the country. Half of Haitian children did not go to school prior to the earthquake, and more than half of those who did dropped out of school before grade 6. Since the disaster, Save the Children has encouraged a renewed commitment to education for Haiti's children. Save the Children has supported the Ministry of Education by reopening more than 270 temporary learning spaces in areas that were directly affected by the earthquake, allowing more than 45,000 children to go back to school during the official school period of April–August 2010. Within these temporary spaces, Save the Children has provided



First-grader Mihelitchy raises his hand in class at the Save the Children-supported Eddy Pascal school. Photo by Susan Warner

Ecole Eddy Pascal Takes Education Forward

Ecole Eddy Pascal was a cornerstone of the local community in Carrefour, Haiti, for over 25 years. Housed in an imposing three-story building, Ecole Eddy Pascal offered elementary and secondary school, classes for adults and a cultural club for the community. But the facility collapsed on January 12, and the school director, Eddy Pascal himself, began searching for a way to start over.

“The first thing we did was ask parents what they had and what they could contribute,” he said. “But then Save the Children arrived and gave us exactly what we needed.”

Soon there were tents for classrooms, blackboards, equipment and supplies. Children received school kits including a backpack, notebooks and writing utensils.

Save the Children has also been training the teachers on how to help children cope with the emotional stress children have suffered from the earthquake. In addition, teachers are coached on how to handle aftershocks that might occur during school hours, making them better prepared to respond in an emergency situation.

“I’m very happy for the opportunity to participate in the trainings,” says teacher Jean-Joab. “Psychologically we are much more prepared now.”

Jean-Joab hopes the children will be able to move forward despite the suffering they have experienced and the challenges they continue to face. He said, “I want the children to be able to live their lives with the tools they gain here so that education is practical for their lives. I am much more patient now. We have just come out of a nightmare.”

Since January 12, Save the Children has provided support and supplies to over 270 schools and access to education for more than 45,000 children in Haiti.

equipment, furnishings, more than 2,500 school kits and over 8,300 school bags for children.

The quake hit children the hardest, creating anxiety among them regarding their future, their well-being and that of their families. Returning to a normal routine in a safe setting is one of the best ways to overcome these fears. Approximately 1,600 teachers have been trained by Save the Children in psychosocial support, positive classroom management practices and disaster risk reduction.

What's Next:

In the coming year, Save the Children will ensure that children have increased access to quality education in a protective setting. In partnership with quake-affected communities, Save the Children will support early childhood development (ECD) programs, help strengthen teaching capacity, improve the quality of learning in primary schools and offer accelerated learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth so they can catch up on the school they have missed.

Ensuring that children are educated in a physically safe environment is a high priority. Save the Children has built its first semi-permanent school, designed to better withstand hurricanes and earthquakes and to serve as a model for other facilities, in Léogâne.



Additionally, as part of the agency's Healing and Education through Art (HEART) program, trained artists will work with students and teachers, introducing art through different media and helping students come to terms with their experiences and cope creatively.

"Lekti se lavni," a Save the Children literacy program already in place in Haiti's Central Plateau region, will be extended to areas directly affected by the earthquake to help rapidly improve reading and writing skills among young children and provide them with the basic tools needed for future learning and development.

Health and Nutrition

Before the earthquake in Haiti, 30 percent of children under age 5 suffered from chronic malnutrition (stunting), and 10 percent of children under age 5 suffered from acute malnutrition (wasting). Infant and young child feeding practices were less than optimal with low levels of exclusive breastfeeding. With 1 in 13 children not surviving to age 5, Haiti had the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the Western Hemisphere. Childbirth and early childhood are the most vulnerable time for children in the developing world, and a disaster increases threats to children. Save the Children is employing its global expertise to help Haiti's children get the lifesaving health and nutritional care they need.

Through a massive scale-up of programs, Save the Children has provided lifesaving nutrition support in over 80 locations in quake-impacted areas, providing both prevention and treatment for acute malnutrition. The agency has participated in a large-scale supplementary feeding program to prevent further cases of acute malnutrition. Save the Children has also played a major role in protecting and supporting safe and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices through widespread community breastfeeding promotion, peer support to women in need of breastfeeding counseling and the provision of ready-to-use infant formula for infants unable to be breastfed. In areas most affected by the quake and in rural areas without health facilities, Save the Children has been providing and continues to build the capacity of local health services to provide curative care to all community members, especially children and women of reproductive age. Priorities include comprehensive newborn and child health care, family planning, and antenatal and postnatal care in collaboration with partner agencies, Ministry of Health and health cluster members. In addition Save the Children is engaged in surveillance for communicable diseases in conjunction with the World Health Organization and

Community Health Worker Marie Quételie Clément takes the blood pressure of 9-month pregnant Delourdes Daus at a mobile health clinic at the Gaston Margron Camp in Port-au-Prince. Photo by Susan Warner

Centers for Disease Control, and is implementing other valuable preventative and community health services.

What's Next:

As Save the Children moves into a new stage of the response, the focus will shift to establishing long-term solutions, such as rehabilitation of health clinics, training of health care staff and continued supply of medications and resources to rebuild the primary health care, maternal and child care, and community health infrastructure. The organization is working toward sustainable integration of services and strengthening the health system. Save the Children will continue to provide treatment for acute malnutrition and will increase efforts to promote optimal child nutrition practices to prevent malnutrition and encourage healthy growth and development. In partnership with the government of Haiti, Ministry of Health and UNICEF,

Save the Children aims to immunize children against major vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, tetanus and polio.

Child Protection

In the wake of the disaster, children have been left vulnerable, separated from their families and at risk of exploitation and abuse in overcrowded camps that lack security. Many children who had been in domestic servitude before the earthquake were abandoned and left to fend for themselves. To protect these children as well as those whose parents need a safe place for them while they reestablish their livelihoods, Save the Children set up more than 50 child-friendly spaces. They enable children to regain a sense of normalcy through learning activities and play with their peers in a safe environment. Children are learning their rights and how to speak up when those rights have been



Eight-month-old Witslayenne receives ready-to-use infant formula at a Save the Children health clinic in the Gaston Margron Camp. Witslayenne's mother died in the quake, so breastfeeding to nourish and keep her healthy was not an option. Photo by Susan Warner

Witslayenne's Story

Meeting the Nutritional Needs of Babies Left Without Mothers

Eight-month-old Witslayenne lost her mother in the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. She was 2 months old at the time, too young to remember what happened that day.

Over the six months following the disaster, Witslayenne lost quite a bit of weight. A neighbor in the Carrefour area of greater Port-au-Prince told her father, Etienne-Michelet, about Save the Children's health clinic in Gaston Margron camp. The clinic, which provides specialized treatment to help combat Haiti's malnutrition and infant mortality rates, is critical for babies like Witslayenne who have lost their mothers. Early care and simple interventions, even in the most difficult of contexts, can help children survive and thrive.

Etienne-Michelet went to the clinic to get help for his daughter. She was admitted into the ready-to-use infant formula program, as breastfeeding to nourish and keep her healthy was not an option.

"Every eight days I bring her for weighing," explains Etienne-Michelet. After she is weighed to ensure she is growing at a healthy rate, he is provided with the next eight days' worth of formula for Witslayenne. Etienne-Michelet holds his small daughter close to him when he describes what he wants for her future. "In 5 years I want her to be in school. Without this," he points to his head, "you have nothing."

Save the Children's mobile clinic in Gaston Margron serves the camp population of 6,000, but also reaches out to others in the community and accepts any patient who comes to the clinic. Children suffering from malnutrition are admitted immediately into programs, and the child's caregiver is provided with therapeutic nutritional supplements, such as the fortified peanut paste Plumpy'Nut. Caregivers are then counseled on infant nutrition and encouraged to return weekly so that the child's progress can be tracked.

Having completed her weekly weigh-in, Witslayenne's growth is on track with the program. Etienne-Michelet smiles, "I'm very lucky. Not everyone has a child." Since the earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, Save the Children has been able to reach more than 100,000 people with health and nutrition programs.

violated. For girls and boys separated from their families, both before and after the earthquake, Save the Children and partners across the country have registered 1,740 children in family tracing and reunification programs. To date, 567 children have been reunited with their immediate or extended family.

What's Next:

As schools re-open, child-friendly spaces will transition into a broader community-based protection strategy. Save the Children will help to establish child protection committees and mobilize communities to provide social services for children and families. Protection services are especially important for the more vulnerable children and youth who are still unaccompanied and those at risk of gender-based violence and trafficking. Protection activities will take place in coordination with and alongside government programs for child protection.

Water and Sanitation

Save the Children continues to be one of the leading water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) organizations in Haiti. The country has long experienced poor water and sanitation infrastructure: Even before the earthquake, more than half of the Haitian population had no access to safe drinking water and 70 percent lacked safe sanitation facilities. Conditions following the earthquake worsened access to water and sanitation, posing a health threat, especially to young children.

More than 230,000 people have benefited from Save the Children's WASH programs. Currently, Save the Children is providing sanitation and safe water in 100 camps through water supply systems such as community water tanks, latrines, hand-washing facilities, bathing areas and the delivery of drinking water through water tankers.

Save the Children supports hygiene promotion with teams who educate women and children on maintaining personal and environmental hygiene. In addition, Save the Children has distributed literature and integrated water sanitation and hygiene promotion into the education, health and child protection programs to provide WASH services in schools, health centers and child-friendly spaces.

What's Next:

Save the Children will continue to deliver integrated WASH services to meet the basic needs of children and adults in spontaneous settlements and will also extend services to transitional shelters, schools, health centers,

clinics and child-friendly spaces. Through strategic planning, Save the Children will continue to fill the gaps in water supply and sanitation in Haiti, in particular through the transition to long-term solutions.

Food Security and Livelihoods

To address the immediate food gap after the quake, Save the Children distributed food to almost 300,000 children and adults. As local food stocks and suppliers stabilized, Save the Children provided almost 11,000 people with the means to rebuild their livelihoods so they could support their families. The agency has provided vulnerable individuals with cash in exchange for community rehabilitation work, such as clearing drainage canals to protect communities from the impact of the upcoming hurricane season. This payment then allows parents to cover their children's immediate needs. Other cash transfer programs offer additional ways for families to provide for their children while stimulating the local economy.

What's Next:

Linking with microfinance institutions to provide business development services to traders will strengthen small businesses, while support to small- and medium-sized enterprises will increase local employment opportunities. Over the longer term, linking farmers with appropriate agricultural inputs in conjunction with providing training and cash will sustainably increase the productivity and profitability of local crop production.

Shelter and Supplies

With the hurricane season already started, safe shelter has become more critical than ever. Save the Children has provided temporary shelter supplies and household kits to more than 31,000 households. Full toolkits, which are now being distributed to 11,000 households, will enable families to improve living conditions and construct temporary and transitional shelter. The organization has pre-positioned supplies to support 20,000 households should a major hurricane strike.

What's Next:

Should the earthquake-affected area of Haiti experience a destructive hurricane, Save the Children is ready to act. The organization has mobilized staff to distribute housing supplies when the need arises. Awareness-raising on safe construction practices is another Save the Children program for helping communities to rebuild in ways that will help mitigate future catastrophes.

A Better Future for Haitian Children

Save the Children Calls on the International Community to Deliver

Six months on, with the world's memory of Haiti's catastrophe beginning to fade, Save the Children urges donor governments to:

Deliver on promises.

The historical landscape of international donors' conferences is littered with unfulfilled promises of aid. Donors must deliver, now and over the years ahead, on the nearly \$10 billion in pledges made at the March 31, 2010, International Donors' Conference. The Haitian government and international community must ensure that treatment, including relocation, of the hundreds of thousands of internally displaced Haitians is in accordance with UN Guiding Principles, that child-friendly disaster risk reduction is a priority and that parts of the country less directly affected by the earthquake but still facing massive challenges are also targeted.

Lead in Children's Priority Sectors, ensuring that efforts:

- **Protect children.** The Haitian government's Action Plan for Recovery and Development underscores the importance of developing a social protection system and references the more than 100,000 children without protection of a family following the earthquake. Immediate and short-term measures to keep children safe, reunite families, improve institutional care and develop viable alternative care are greatly needed. Longer term, the government and development partners must allocate the financial and technical resources required to build a national system to protect children.
- **Improve child health and nutrition.** The government's action plan prioritizes access to and quality of primary health care, with an emphasis on maternal, infant and child health and nutrition. The international response must support the Ministry of Health and partners to restore and expand access to basic health care for women and children, including policy leadership to scale up proven lifesaving approaches.
- **Make education work.** The action plan sets the goal of universal access to basic education. In the immediate term, the government and development partners must

get children back into school. Longer-term, substantial and sustained investments are needed to strengthen the education sector and enable the Ministry of Education to assume an appropriate leadership and oversight role, supporting the range of education providers necessary to achieve better learning outcomes for increasing numbers of students.

Provide effective aid and accountability to the Haitian people.

Donors need to ensure that aid strengthens the institutions governing Haiti's recovery and development in a way that fosters transparency, participation of all stakeholders, including children, and accountability for the use of aid resources.

Save the Children is working to ensure that children's needs and rights remain priorities, that funding promises are kept and that aid is transparent, well-coordinated and effective.

Thanks to Our Donors

Save the Children is grateful to its global donors for their compassion and generosity in supporting the organization's immediate relief and recovery efforts for Haitian children and their families. Your contributions have enabled Save the Children to mount and now sustain the largest humanitarian aid response in the Western Hemisphere in the agency's 91-year history.

Save the Children is the leading independent organization for children in need, with programs in 120 countries, including the United States. Save the Children is made up of 29 member organizations working together worldwide.

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