# BUILDING BACK BETTER, SLOWLY BUT SURELY

# From emergency response to long-term development

It has been two years since a devastating earthquake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010. ACT Alliance¹ members Christian Aid and Church World Service (CWS) have been working through local partner organisations to respond to the needs of the people most affected by the devastation, helping them to rebuild their lives and plan for the future.

In 2011, Christian Aid and CWS resolutely worked in a challenging context<sup>2</sup> towards their goal of reconstructing and demonstrably building Haiti back better. In 2012, we shall continue supporting the Haitian government's strategy of decentralisation to support displaced Haitians to settle outside the capital Portau-Prince, as well as efforts to facilitate the rebuilding of the capital and other earthquake-affected areas.

Christian Aid and CWS have a combined experience of more than 80 years working in Haiti. We have worked exclusively through local Haitian and Dominican Republic organisations since the earthquake, collaborating with government ministries where possible and providing direct support to almost 70,000 people (49,295 and 17,162 primary beneficiaries respectively) whose lives and livelihoods were shattered.

We mark the second commemoration of the 2010 earthquake by looking towards the future development of Haiti, building on the emergency response and recovery work of our partners.

## Main achievements

In 2010, Christian Aid partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic supported the immediate needs of **60,063** people (12,013 households) in the sectors of food security,<sup>3</sup> water and sanitation, shelter, and livelihoods.

In 2011, Christian Aid and CWS emergency programmes shifted towards longer-term goals. Christian Aid's programme has been expanded to reflect the lesson learnt from the 2004 tsunami programme that strongly recommended combining livelihoods

programmes with permanent shelter programmes for maximum effect.

#### **Beneficiary numbers**

In total, Christian Aid and CWS partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic directly supported **66,457 people** in 2011.

## Support for livelihoods

**Christian Aid:** The livelihoods of almost 9,000 people were supported in a variety of ways, from provision of livestock, seeds, tools and training, to supporting people with cash grants to help start small businesses.

**CWS:** In Port-au-Prince, **696** people received money to help restart their businesses. In rural areas, small loans were given to **641** families to restart agricultural production and to **928** women (many of them displaced from their homes) in order to start up small businesses.

#### **Shelter**

Christian Aid: Access to shelter was improved and the government's strategy of decentralisation was supported by Christian Aid partners who helped people displaced from their homes to settle outside Portau-Prince. In rural areas, 160 permanent hurricane- and earthquake-resistant houses were built or rehabilitated.

**CWS:** In rural areas, 148 homes were repaired and expanded to help house displaced people; and a Christian Aid and CWS partner ensured that repairs were carried out on 36 homes in the rural communities of Gantier and Boen.

# **Protection**

Christian Aid: Human rights training was given to 5,140 people in Haiti and to 213 displaced people and migrants in the border area of Jimani in the Dominican Republic. Protection from gender-based and domestic violence, and health education were offered to 6,988 women who are still living in camps in Leogane in Haiti.

## People with disabilities

**CWS:** People with disabilities were supported with cash assistance, received training and tools to help earn a living, took

'Haiti was already in a difficult situation when the earthquake brought more pain and suffering. Haitians have shown enormous courage in pulling their lives back together and in trying to lift themselves out of the trap of poverty.' Prospery Raymond, Haiti country manager, Christian Aid





part in psycho-social activities and were offered counselling. The support includes:

- successfully completing repairs to the homes of 213 people with disabilities in Port-au-Prince
- ensuring that more than 2,500 people with disabilities received psycho-social support and trauma counselling through access to psychologists and social workers
- providing monthly cash assistance for six months for 1,200 people with disabilities.

#### In-country advocacy

Christian Aid: The right to a secure future for the disaster-affected population was strengthened through awareness raising for 25,080 individuals. The training tackled issues such as human rights, housing rights, and conflict management, and activities included press conferences, radio broadcasts to an estimated audience of 20,000 listeners, an international symposium on housing rights, and meetings with Dominican partners and local authorities to promote housing rights.

#### Additional activities

**Christian Aid:** Election monitoring was successfully carried out by more than 300 individuals trained as election observers. Training in disaster-risk reduction (such as identifying evacuation routes) was given to 5,920 people. Training in environment protection to prevent soil erosion was given to 361 people.

# **Future plans**

**Christian Aid:** Accountable governance and increasing accountability will be key themes of our work with civil society organisations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic as part of Christian Aid's progression from short-term emergency response to longer-term development. Its focus areas for 2012 will include:

- helping approximately 400 households get permanent shelter
- supporting more than 4,000 individuals to rebuild their livelihoods
- training more than 5,000 people in genderbased violence protection and disaster risk reduction.

CWS: In 2012, CWS will:

- support 500 people with disabilities through a livelihoods-building programme and psycho-social care
- repair five major buildings including schools
- support children's rights organisations and disabled people's organisations
- build 40 new houses along the Dominican-Haitian border for Haitians who have been displaced from their homes
- support displaced people and 13 farmers' cooperatives through the provision of small loans, training, and technical assistance to expand their co-op services, and construct cooperative centres that double as hurricane shelters
- support organisations working to abolish the restaveks system<sup>4</sup> in Haiti through national and international advocacy, protection, education, and emotional assistance.

In 2012, both Christian Aid and CWS will work with local partners to help strengthen their capacity on advocacy. Partners will learn to develop a strategy that they can apply to any of their ongoing social programmes.

**UK, EU and US advocacy** 

In 2012, Christian Aid and CWS will strive to keep Haiti on the agenda of policymakers in the UK<sup>5</sup>, in the EU<sup>6</sup> and in the US<sup>7</sup>, working with their combined international development and foreign-policy staff, parliamentarians, members of Congress, and multi-lateral organisations, so as to influence their Haiti policies. These include gender-based violence, land and housing rights, disaster risk reduction, agriculture, climate change, respect for the human rights of migrants and displaced people, protection, tax, increasing accountability, and budget monitoring.

By working through platforms and coalitions in collaboration with other UK-, EU- and US-based NGOs, we can strengthen our messages, and urge donors and multilaterals to consult with and fully include civil society organisations in the rebuilding of Haiti.

'As Haiti continues to build back better slowly but surely, ACT Alliance members are there to support efforts to have a Haiti without absolute poverty in 20 years.' Prospery Raymond, Haiti country manager, Christian Aid.

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#### **Endnotes**

- **1** Action by Churches Together (known as the ACT Alliance). actalliance.org
- 2 Haiti is currently ranked 158th out of 187 countries in terms of

development. http://hdr.undp.org/ en/media/HDR\_2011\_EN\_Table1.pdf

- **3** 'Food security' refers to the availability of food, including production, distribution and consumption.
- 4 A restavek is a child from the

countryside who is given to a family in the city with the expectation that the child will have a better life. There is a spectrum of treatment, but the children are almost never treated as part of the family. restavekfreedom.org/index. cfm?fuseaction=cms.home

- **5** Haiti Advocacy Platform for Ireland and the UK (HAPI-UK).
- **6** Coordination Europe-Haiti (CoE-H).
- **7** Washington-based Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG).

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality. We urge you to join us.

CWS is a cooperative ministry of 36 denominations and communions working to eradicate hunger and poverty worldwide.

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