



CARE staff and community volunteers work together to build transitional shelters in Carrefour, one of the hardest-hit communities in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.

Haiti Earthquake Emergency Response Fund

January 2010 – July 2010

Background

More than six months after a 7.0 earthquake shook Haiti to its foundations, the nation continues to need large-scale support in its struggle to recover. CARE's is continuing our response to meet the immediate needs of hundreds of thousands of people affected while supporting medium- to long-term recovery and reconstruction. Our commitment is to help Haiti meet the challenge to rebuild – and to achieve longer-term goals such as educational opportunity, social justice and economic self-reliance. Haiti's ongoing vulnerability to heavy rains and tropical storms makes it even more crucial to build back better, rather than simply replace the same infrastructure.

The quake struck during the afternoon rush hour on January 12, centered in the densely-populated capital region of Port-au-Prince. Buildings across the city collapsed or were extensively damaged, including the main hospital, the Presidential Palace, United Nations headquarters, schools and homes. The nearby

communities of Carrefour and Jacmel and other areas to the west and south of Port-au-Prince were also affected, with the town of Léogâne more than 80 percent destroyed.

Haiti's deeply entrenched poverty and social injustice, and the country's severe environmental degradation, all conspired to make for an unprecedented crisis. Three million people were directly affected, and the government reports that 1.5 million people were displaced from their damaged or destroyed homes and are living in spontaneous settlements in the greater Port-au-Prince area.

There has also been an exodus into outlying regions of the country, placing a burden on families and communities that are now tasked with feeding thousands of additional mouths and providing assistance. Although some economic activity has resumed in and around Port-au-Prince, most people affected by the earthquake, and the hosts who have taken them in, face serious challenges in earning a living and returning their children to school.

CARE's Response



CARE's immediate response reached more than 300,000 earthquake survivors with items such emergency shelter materials, hygiene kits, delivery and newborn kits, food and safe water.

Within hours of the earthquake, CARE began responding to the urgent needs of survivors. Our existing staff of 133, the majority of them Haitian citizens, switched their focus from our longer-term development programming and worked tirelessly on the earthquake response. Many had experience in previous emergencies, including the aftermath of Hurricane Hanna in 2008.¹ Fortunately, all CARE staff survived the earthquake, though many suffered the loss of family members, including children. CARE provided immediate assistance to affected staff and their families, and CARE employees from around the world made personal contributions to a solidarity fund to help support their Haitian colleagues. Since the

quake, CARE has nearly tripled the size of our staff in Haiti to 385, including bringing in specialists in areas such as shelter, water and sanitation, health, and gender issues.

Thanks to generous gifts from you and other donors to CARE's **Haiti Emergency Response Fund**, we have made important strides in alleviating the worst of the crisis. But our response is far from over. With more than 56 years of continuous operation in Haiti, CARE has renewed our commitment to working with the people of Haiti as they face the enormous challenges still to come.

Throughout our multi-year response strategy, CARE will support the most vulnerable disaster-affected communities both in the immediate areas struck by the quake, including Port-au-Prince and Léogâne, and in outlying and rural areas where displaced people have relocated. This principle aligns with the Haitian government's recommended policy of giving people the option to move out of Port-au-Prince to reduce the tension and stress in the capital.

¹ CARE's other programs in Haiti focus on governance, HIV and AIDS, reproductive health, maternal and child health, education, food security, and water and sanitation.

Beginning immediately after the earthquake, CARE implemented a large-scale emergency response addressing issues including shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene; education and psychosocial support; reproductive health and prevention of gender-based violence; livelihoods and food security. Working with the Haitian people, the government of Haiti and local partners, we continue to refine our 5-year strategy, which includes many of the same elements.

This report provides highlights of CARE's response over the last six months. These accomplishments were made possible by the generous support of institutional and private donors from around the world, including donors to the Haiti Emergency Response Fund.

January to June 2010

Immediately following the earthquake, we CARE focused on meeting the most urgent needs of people who had been displaced from their damaged or destroyed homes and were camped in spontaneous shelters in squalid conditions on private or public lands in the greater Port-au-Prince area. Working primarily in the districts of Carrefour, Léogâne and Pétienville, we reached more than 300,000 persons with items such as tents, tarps, shelter kits, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, delivery and newborn kits, food and safe water.

Working hand in hand with communities of internally displaced persons (IDPs), CARE's emergency response programs have recognized the following key accomplishments:

Shelter:

CARE distributed emergency shelter materials to 17,057 families, to provide immediate protection from rain and wind and ensure privacy and dignity. Tents were distributed where there was sufficient space, but CARE and other humanitarian agencies recognized that plastic tarps are more practical, provide greater living space and flexibility in tight areas, can be reused and are cheaper. CARE developed instructions in Creole with graphics instructing in proper installation – e.g., how to secure tarps with nails and washers to prevent fraying.

We recognized that mass relocation of IDPs to planned communities removed from the city center is unlikely – among other reasons, because families do not want to move far from their community and economic networks. CARE and other humanitarian agencies have been focusing on supporting IDPs as they choose among the following options:

- Returning to original homes when they can be determined to be safe;
- Returning to a safe plot from which the debris has been removed, with assistance such as transitional shelter or repair kits as needed;
- Staying with a host family;
- Staying temporarily in a site near or in the spontaneous settlement; or as a last resort,
- Relocating temporarily to planned sites identified by the government.

CARE's growing shelter team has invested considerable time and effort in community engagement, training and sensitization, including providing community members with skills in safe building



CARE conducts training sessions promoting safe building techniques.

techniques. Many other humanitarian organizations now look to CARE as a leader in understanding the complex social aspects of working with displaced communities in need of shelter.

Promoting self-help along with technical support, CARE is helping families leave spontaneous settlements by providing them with prefabricated materials and instruction in building techniques. A pilot group of 100 families will serve as a model, improving IDPs' understanding of good construction practices and preparing them to join with the government of Haiti to "build back safer." These transitional shelters, while not designed as a permanent solution, will offer protection against severe natural disasters and prevent further loss of assets for a minimum of three years.

Water:

CARE and other humanitarian organizations reacted quickly to the critical lack of water at the spontaneous settlements. CARE assisted the government's water and sanitation department by installing 18 temporary water points and contracting for the trucking of safe water, **servicing an estimated 44,550 displaced people with clean water on a daily basis.** CARE also distributed water purification products along with careful instruction about proper usage, to supplement drinking water supplies in areas where government-subsidized bottled water kiosks were not available. **We provided 14,167 families with jerry cans** to collect and store water supplies.

Sanitation:

The need for proper sanitation facilities was, and continues to be, a pressing concern. **We have constructed over 800 latrines** at spontaneous settlement sites. These public facilities are kept clean and tidy by "latrine attendants" that are trained, equipped and supported by CARE. We have purchased 10 vacuum trucks for "de-sludging." Once these have cleared customs, they will assist with the emptying of CARE-constructed latrine sites and other emergency sanitation facilities in the greater Port-au-Prince area.

Hygiene:

By the end of June, **CARE had distributed 37,378 hygiene kits**, including items such as soap, towels, toothbrushes and sanitary napkins. We had completed construction of 242 bathing spaces at the camps to afford privacy for residents. In all cases, sanitary and hygiene facilities are planned taking into account the particular needs of women for privacy and security.

CARE's hygiene team, consisting of staff and volunteer hygiene promoters and committee members, goes from shelter to shelter at 130 spontaneous settlements with key messages on topics such as safe water collection, storage and handling practices. CARE has also organized women's clubs at 63 sites where issues relating to hygiene and health are discussed. These groups have been instrumental in deciding where latrines and waste bins are placed. In Léogâne, a "child-to-child" methodology is being introduced that encourages peer promotion of good hand washing practices. CARE took advantage of the nationally recognized International Women's Day with a campaign that consisted of radio messages on hygiene, and banners, community performances, skits, dance and singing at four sites in Carrefour and one site in Léogâne **reaching an estimated 4,300 mothers and children with hygiene information.** These channels conveyed the importance of washing hands and keeping the settlement sites and latrines clean.

Waste Management:

CARE's hygiene team also established, trained, and equipped volunteer cleaning and waste management committees at 119 spontaneous settlements. Our staff conducted three-day workshops to increase committee members' awareness about personal and community hygiene, use of key messages and promotion techniques and proper cleaning practices. They were then provided appropriate cleaning tools

and materials, including protective gear, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, brooms and trash containers. The committee and additional site residents were paid to do an initial thorough cleaning day. They continue, on a volunteer basis, to oversee collection and disposal on site and assist with hygiene promotion and health education activities.

Field monitors report that camps with the committees appear cleaner and free of debris. **An estimated 165,305 displaced people living at 110 sites benefited from CARE's camp waste management activities.** Surrounding communities also benefited from improved sanitation and better management of solid wastes.

To address the lack of income faced by many of the displaced families, cash-for-work programs have been implemented, injecting much-needed cash into the local economy while employing affected people to accomplish crucial cleanup and restoration tasks. In the urban area of Carrefour, **the project is on schedule to hire over 5,000 workers to assist with site cleaning and waste management** in crowded spontaneous settlements.

Psychosocial Support:

CARE's initial assessment disclosed that children have faced a number of common issues during the emergency including symptoms of distress, lack of understanding of their reaction to stress, insufficient or inappropriate support from parents and community members, and fewer activities to occupy them. The psychosocial component of CARE's strategy feeds into a wider initiative to improve the well-being of children and help them rebuild their lives and return to school.

CARE is focusing on children living in temporary camps in Carrefour, Pétionville and Léogâne, among the areas most affected by the earthquake. Our psychosocial approach is twofold, with distribution of recreation kits that include appropriate sports equipment and games, and training of caregivers on how to support earthquake-affected children. In the first phase of the project, we have identified 22 training sites in Léogâne. In the first five sessions, 161 families have received psychosocial support instruction on how to cope with children exhibiting signs of post-traumatic stress. These participants are in turn spreading the messages to other families in their neighborhoods.

With input from parents, recreation kits were designed to include a backpack that could serve as a school bag with jacks, jump rope, a ball, drawing and writing pads, pencils, crayons, and marbles. We are procuring 8,000 kits. Play committees have been established at three sites; these volunteers will plan fun activities for children.

Education:

CARE is assisting with promoting and accelerating the re-establishment of schools and psychological well-being of affected children, both in the immediate earthquake zone and in rural areas where displaced families have relocated. CARE's education strategy focuses on four pillars of Haiti's national plan for education: access, quality, governance and community participation.

The education team has identified 70 schools in quake-affected Léogâne and in host communities in the departments of Artibonite and Jérémie, for activities including psychosocial training for teachers and caregivers, provision of school kits and materials, support for improving the learning environment at damaged schools and promotion of recreational and psychosocial activities.

School kits designed with input of the Ministry of Education have been procured and will be distributed to 20,000 primary-school age children in the next months, with the new school term

starting in October. We have assessed needs at 70 public and private primary school, both those affected directly by the earthquake and those affected indirectly by serving children from displaced families.

Reproductive Health:



CARE is helping community health committees organize at spontaneous settlement sites to open women's centers.

CARE is supporting earthquake-affected women with access to comprehensive and quality health and protection services. Responding to the needs of displaced families identified in the early emergency phase, CARE distributed 838 safe delivery kits, 1,066 newborn kits to pregnant and lactating women, 30 traditional birth attendant kits, 780 hygiene kits, 1,000 water bottle filters and 1,000 bed sheets.

Our health team is working to build the capacity of community health committees to establish 20 women's centers near the spontaneous camps. The centers will serve as a base for reproductive health promotion outreach activities and provide a package of services including counseling on reproductive health and gender-based violence; awareness-raising on sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS; sensitization on the importance of prenatal care,

nursing, neonatal care and family planning; and referral and assistance where necessary to appropriate medical centers. The space may be used for mobile reproductive health service providers.

As a result of community awareness-raising activities, **around 2,832 individuals, mainly women, received messages addressing sexual and reproductive health** along with relevant supplies and instruction, such as in the use of condoms. Solar flashlights were distributed to 3,314 vulnerable women living in unlit camps in response to reports that they feared to use toilets at night.

Food Security:

To address the need for both additional income and food security, CARE is supporting affected families in rural areas, including families hosting displaced people, to ensure that sufficient food is locally produced during the spring and fall crop seasons. Our objective is to avert widespread food insecurity and minimize the early return of displaced families to quake-affected urban areas. In Léogâne, our cash-for-work project is linked with improving household diets and agricultural livelihoods. By the end of June, we had paid 2,410 members of earthquake-affected households, 1,099 of them women, to clean irrigation ditches, build feeder roads linking communities to health services and markets, and construct erosion control measures. CARE provided vegetable seeds or seedlings to 1,671 families with available garden plots, to grow produce they can use to improve their household diets and/or sell for additional income. Seeds were procured from local farmers' cooperatives. An innovative idea was to create nurseries on community-donated land for raising seedlings, providing a venue for the cash-for-work component and a training ground for home gardeners.

Coordination:

Given the vast need in terms of coverage and scope and the large number of formal and informal humanitarian groups coming to Haiti, CARE recognized and actively supported coordination efforts, promotion of humanitarian standards, codes and sector standards, and continued support to the

government of Haiti that had been decimated by the loss of officials and buildings. The CARE Haiti team has been actively involved with coordination bodies on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, shelter and other activities. In addition CARE serves as the lead agency for local-level coordination bodies in Léogâne and Carrefour to promote cooperation and information sharing among the aid organizations working in the area.

CARE is working hard to ensure that our response is integrated and that beneficiaries receive quality assistance in a range of services that complement one another. With this in mind, we are reviewing and strengthening our integrated medium-term and long-term strategies with regard to locations, beneficiaries, sectors and partners to ensure that our projects last well beyond the initial emergency response.

Looking Ahead

With little change in the status of the large number of displaced families, the next six months will require extended emergency assistance as well as support for Haitians as they try to return to normal life and a resumption of livelihoods and education. With the onset of the rainy season, water, sanitation and hygiene remain critically important. It is hoped that decongestion of overcrowded sites and movement of affected populations towards transitional spaces identified by the United Nations and the Haitian government will intensify in the next six months. The following sections outline CARE's ongoing activities according to each sector.



Workers in CARE's cash-for-work program plant peppers, eggplant, tomatoes and other vegetables to eat and sell in local markets in and around Léogâne.

Shelter:

CARE's shelter strategy will continue to focus on providing the people most affected by the earthquake with shelter and supporting them in their choice of a durable solution to transitional shelter, including building back safer and reducing their vulnerability to natural disasters. CARE's shelter response envisions a variety of scenarios based on a number of situations. For people who are able and who choose to return to their own land, CARE will continue to provide transitional shelters that are resistant to earthquakes and high wind. For people who cannot return to their own land, but who have identified another plot away from the camps – either on a relative's land or through a private rental agreement – and who can provide proof of permission to build, a provision of transitional shelter may also be offered. CARE is also considering support to sites planned by the Haitian government, depending on whether assessments deem the sites appropriate. In the next six months, CARE will implement the following shelter-related activities:

- Continue to provide transitional shelters using local labor for the prefabrication process;
- Reinforce emergency shelters for people who are unable to leave the spontaneous camps before the rainy and high-wind season;
- Assist with housing repairs for people living with host families;
- Provide tool kits to families in need;

- Distribute household items such as mattresses to families leaving the camps;
- Conduct an educational campaign on safe construction techniques; and
- Participate in disaster preparedness with humanitarian community and maintain a contingency supply of emergency shelter items.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

CARE will continue to support people affected by the earthquake in meeting their water, sanitation and hygiene needs in places where they live, both within and outside of camps. CARE's activities will continue to focus on the municipalities of Carrefour and Léogâne, with particular emphasis on families living in spontaneous settlements. During next six months, the following activities are planned:

- Provide settlements with tanked water supplies until alternative solutions can be found to ensure adequate water supplies, such as repairing water mains, drilling boreholes or constructing rainwater catchment systems;
- Continue construction of 700 additional pit latrines and support maintenance and cleaning of the latrines;
- Continue strengthening community hygiene and waste management measures; and
- Continue hygiene promotion activities supporting volunteer promoters and the child-to-child program at the settlements.

Food Security, Livelihood and Local Development:

CARE will continue to mobilize resources to assist affected families to improve food availability and productive assets. Activities planned for the next six months include:

- Continue cash-for-work activities including the cleaning of drainage canals in Léogâne, which will help prevent flooding during the rainy season; and
- Provide vegetable seeds including okra, pepper, tomato and eggplant to with a target of 7,500 local farmers in Léogâne, and extending to rural Artibonite, during the two growing seasons

Reproductive Health and Protection against Gender-Based Violence:

CARE seeks to support earthquake-affected women to prevent sexually transmitted disease and ensure access to comprehensive and quality health and protection prevention and services. In the next six months CARE is focusing on the following activities:

- Work with community committees to plan and establish women's centers;
- Continue to conduct outreach activities at the spontaneous settlements to provide information on preventing sexually transmitted infections and ensure continued access to family planning and other reproductive health services with the implementation of the minimum initial service package;
- Facilitate capacity-building for health facilities in Léogâne and Carrefour to provide emergency obstetric care and comprehensive post-rape management and support;
- Raise awareness to ensure that gender equity is made a priority across emergency response sectors by training CARE teams, committees and government employees on promoting equal participation of women, men and youth in decision making;
- Continue awareness-raising sessions and campaigns on gender and sexual-based violence;
- Assist committees in spontaneous settlements to develop and implement an action plan that includes equal participation of men and women in decisions pertaining to relief interventions and actions to prevent gender-based violence.

Education:

To promote the reopening of schools, school attendance and improved learning environments, the following education activities are planned during the next six months

- Distribute school kits;
- Facilitate participatory planning at 10 of the most affected schools, involving parents as well as school officials in planning actions to meet priority needs and barriers to children returning to school; and
- Provide school furniture and supplies to 70 identified schools, contracting with local artisans as possible to build the furniture.

Psychosocial Support:

To improve support for children affected by the earthquake, the following activities are planned:

- Distribute recreation kits;
- Continue educational sessions for parents on coping with their child's stress;
- Provide skills-training for teachers to better attend to psychosocial needs of their students;
- Visit families with identified children to provide support; and
- Monitor use of recreation kits and activities of camp play committees.

Five-Year Plan

CARE has been working to develop a longer-term strategy for reconstruction focused on the needs of the Haitian people and working in partnership with the government, civil society organizations and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). We have identified several populations that must be considered for any rehabilitation efforts to have lasting impact. Among those who will be considered are: vulnerable children (out-of-school children, adolescents fulfilling domestic service roles, street children and those displaced); young people living on less than \$1 per day; vulnerable women (those living on less than \$1 per day, young mothers, women heads of household); and populations with special needs (people with physical limitations, people living with HIV and AIDS, displaced families and people who do not own land).

We also know that inequalities in the country increased the devastation caused by the earthquake. Social exclusion, poor governance, inadequate access to education and other social services, limited economic opportunities and environmental degradation are some of the main underlying causes of poverty in Haiti that must be addressed for the country to succeed. In some respects, the earthquake unveiled deep inequalities in Haitian society. This resulted in many sectors of the population realizing the need for greater social cohesion. Fortunately, Haiti has a large number of young people and numerous active women's groups; the government has also committed to a decentralization process. All of these factors will help further Haiti's rehabilitation and assure that it is led by the Haitians themselves.

With regard to the most strategic roles that CARE can assume in Haiti to address underlying causes of poverty and promote the country's potential, we commit to the following:

- Working in partnership with the government of Haiti and civil society to develop models for local development and governance, based on good practices and learning;
- Advocating in conjunction with civil society networks based on evidence from successful models;
- Supporting the development of capacities of Haitian society; and
- Promoting dialogue at all levels of reconstruction efforts.

CARE's long experience addressing underlying causes of poverty worldwide will strengthen our ability to help Haiti emerge stronger. Details on this phase will be included in CARE's five-year emergency response strategy for Haiti, which is currently under development.

Human Interest Story

Birth and Rebirth

by Loetitia Raymond, CARE communications officer



Nadine Beaujour Bouilly gave birth to a baby boy six months after the earthquake. She lost a five-year-old daughter in the disaster.

It's scorching hot and the air is heavy as lead in Nadine Beaujour Bouilly's small tent, making it hard for her to breathe. She's tired and has no space, and her lower abdomen is aching. She has given birth, six months to the day since the January 12 quake, to a baby boy called Ajusthomme.

Sweat is beading on Nadine's forehead. No wonder given the 122°F temperature that fills the air. The young mother is moving slowly; her child was born at 5:00 this morning, and at 10:30 she was already home from the clinic. Overcrowded hospitals cannot afford to keep young mothers too long, so they are sent home right away, without anything to eat. "My stomach has been empty since yesterday, except for a cup of coffee and a piece of bread my husband brought me," Nadine says.

Her face is marked with fatigue, even though sadness from previous days has started to fade away. Nadine lost everything during the earthquake: her house, her little grocery shop, her belongings – except a few utensils, a bag of clothes and a mattress. Worst of all, she lost her five-year-old daughter, buried under the rubble of their house. Her three other children are alive; the youngest one just broke her leg. All three deeply miss the little one. "When my youngest sees a baby girl, she looks at her sadly and asks for her sister. She was her best friend. The 16 year-old started to wet her bed; never before did she do that. They will cry for no reason. They have been disturbed," she says sadly.

Like 2,000 other parents selected by CARE among the most impacted, Nadine is participating in the psychosocial support project that aims to train parents to help their children traumatized by the disaster. In all, 20,000 children will benefit from the support.

Whatever this training does to help children, it's clear from what Nadine says that these sessions will also help parents. Nadine tells of her own feelings during the weeks before training: "I wouldn't eat, I wouldn't sleep. As soon as I heard a song reminding me of my little one, I was crying," she recalls. Her pain turned into depression. Impatient with her condition, her husband started to leave the house to play endless card games. "I was feeling even sadder to see him leave, and the less I saw him, the more I cried," says Nadine. After the second day of training, relief and comprehension came together. "I could put a name to my emotions; I could understand why I was feeling so low."

The training relieves her and rebuilds the links with her husband. "During the training sessions, I realized others were experiencing the same thing; I realized I had to speak to somebody, and with my husband too. Before, he was often away from home; he would leave because he could not stand to see me like this. We came to understand each other better now, and we feel bound to each other. Feeling better and understanding my sadness helps me to understand my children's state of mind."

The children targeted in the psychosocial support project are between 6 and 10, do not go to school and have either lost their parents or are very vulnerable. By targeting the adults in their lives, CARE made the choice for lasting support. Adults will be able to help the younger ones over the long term once training is done. A committee made up of five parents will check individual progress and will train other parents, explains Leslie Guerrier, a CARE psychologist with seven years' experience in emergency situations. Since the program has just started, it's too early to assess the results. Yet Leslie already sees signs of progress. "At the beginning, few parents would be enthusiastic about the program, given their immediate needs. Interest arose during training, as early as the second day. Then they start realizing how interesting it is. They spread the word and now people come and ask us how to join. It's promising."

Training has exceeded Nadine's hopes. "After the session, I felt alive again. I could feed myself. I knew my daughter was dead but life was still here, and I could feel it entering me while I was eating."

Nadine starts smiling as she looks at her child, this little creature that clung to life, whatever her mother was feeling. Nadine's children will soon receive a backpack full of pencils, marbles, cards and exercise books that will be distributed during the second half of the program. Then, they will be able to draw, write, play and silence the old demons thanks to games, pleasure and dreams. And Nadine will be there to guide them toward recovery.

Conclusion

Faced with unprecedented disaster, the people of Haiti have responded with courage and resilience. But the challenges they face are enormous. CARE stands with them as they emerge from the initial crisis caused by January's earthquake and attempt to rebuild their homes and recover their livelihoods. With the help of generous donors, including those who have given to CARE's **Haiti Emergency Response Fund**, we have addressed the immediate suffering of hundreds of thousands of people and are continuing to work both in communities directly affected by the quake and in outlying areas that are hosting displaced families. CARE is committed to remain for the long term, both to address the impact of the disaster and to address the underlying issues affecting Haiti's long-term development. Thank you for your donation to support these important efforts.

August 2010