



HAITI 10 YEARS

after the earthquake

This Canadian Red Cross (CRC) report summarizes the last 10 years of humanitarian work in Haiti, where the organization has been active since the 1990s. You are encouraged to read through it and visit our website for more information. Detailed statistics are provided in the appendix section.



2010

the earthquake



On January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake destroyed part of Haiti and changed the lives of its people forever. Complete chaos ensued, with entire communities deprived of basic necessities. Here in one of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged countries, millions of Haitians saw their homes, schools, hospitals, jobs, and above all, their loved ones disappear before their very eyes.

In terms of the human toll, about 500,000 people, or 15% of the country's population, were directly impacted by the earthquake, with the capital, Port-au-Prince, virtually half destroyed. Approximately 300,000 people died and even more were injured, not to mention the 1.3 million people who had to live in temporary shelters around the country's main city.

In terms of the material toll, 313,000 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged, as were approximately 1,300 schools, 50 health care facilities and various health services rendered

inoperable. Added to that were unusable port services and the presidential palace, the parliament, and many ministry and public administration services buildings that had been reduced to rubble.

Simply put, the country's already considerable needs made rebuilding a colossal undertaking. The total value of the damage and losses that year is estimated at \$7.9 billion, which is equivalent to 120% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2009.

From the outset, Canadians responded generously to the CRC's appeal. As a result, funds raised in support of the population of Haiti led to the largest single-country disaster response in Red Cross history. The most urgent needs would quickly be met, from humanitarian aid for millions of people to clean drinking water, emergency medical care, shelters and basic necessities.



Three months after this national tragedy, Dany Laferrière, a Haitian-Québécois writer who was there for the 2010 earthquake and who would become a member of the Académie française five years later, took an eloquent and sensitive look at the local population's tragic situation in *Tout bouge autour de moi* (*The World is Moving Around Me*) (Grasset, 2010). We have taken the liberty of quoting him here; although he witnessed horrors, he casts an eye on events with a survivor's hope:

"Everywhere I go, people lower their voices when talking to me. Conversations are interspersed with silence. People lower their eyes and stroke my hands. It is obvious that, through me, they are reaching out to the injured island that is becoming ever less remote. They ask me for news. They are quick to understand that they know more than me.

I have decided to distance myself from the rumour mill in order to preserve the images that live within me. The little girl who, the night of the quake, worried about whether there would be school the next day. Or the woman I saw after the quake sitting on the ground, with her back against a wall, trying to sell a pile of mangoes. When people talk to me, I can see in their eyes that they're trying to talk to the dead, so I hang onto the least living thing, even if it's merely a fly."



Although the earthquake was certainly devastating, equally devastating tropical storms and hurricanes were still to come. The CRC, one of the first non-local National Societies to quickly get on the ground, joined forces with the Haitian National Red Cross Society to, among other things, assist the population by vaccinating thousands of children. In addition, the cholera outbreak that followed created health needs of all kinds. The CRC would be among the first to deploy a specialized cholera treatment centre. Lastly, the task of quickly rebuilding homes for a large portion of the homeless population rounded out the CRC's list of concerns. The following years would bring their share of additional challenges, including hurricanes Sandy (October 2012), Matthew (October 2016) and, more recently, Irma (September 2017).

For example, Sandy resulted in a hundred deaths, almost half of which were due to cholera, and floods that affected several cities and much of the road network, isolating numerous regions. Yet again, thousands of homes and shelters were partially or entirely destroyed. The material damage in the agricultural sector was immense, and nearly 200,000 people ended up on the streets. The damage was valued at \$74 million USD.

Four years later, Matthew claimed approximately 500 lives, mainly in Jérémie, in the Grand'Anse department. Southwest Haiti was hit the hardest, with a bridge collapsing near Les Cayes. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that 750,000 people needed assistance. Lastly, important rice, rye and bean crops were wiped out along with export crops such as cacao, coffee and fruit trees, raising fears of urgent food needs or even an imminent famine.

Continuing its work without interruption, the CRC developed programs tailored to meet urgent needs in partnership with local communities and the Haitian National Red Cross Society. These collective efforts fostered empowered and resilient Haitian communities. Thanks to the generosity of Canadians, tens of thousands of Haitians were housed, received care and were able to return to their communities. (Details of the support provided can be found in the appendix.)

Priority: Integrated Health Program

Providing health care to the most vulnerable people affected by the quake was a top priority for the CRC in Haiti. It implemented a \$35-million program in the Southeast department to make quality health care more accessible for mothers and children, as well as improve community-based health and first aid capacities. As a result, Canadian donations have made health care and first aid more accessible nationwide. In addition, the CRC strives to support the recovery of communities through empowerment. This includes training hundreds of volunteers and health professionals, equipped with first aid kits (with applications in Creole coming in March 2020),

to enhance their knowledge as well as the delivery and quality of medical care in the region. This program was implemented in cooperation with the Haitian government's Ministry of Public Health and Population and the Haitian Red Cross, with the support of expert Canadian partners that have been working in Haiti for years: the Sainte-Justine University Hospital Centre, the University of Montreal International Health Unit, and the Montreal Health and Social Services Agency (a former administrative designation at the Ministry of Health and Social Services). The Integrated Health Program consisted of four key components:

1

Promoting best practices to protect health and improve community-based health services.

3

Rebuilding the Saint-Michel Hospital, purchasing equipment and training professionals.

2

Converting three dispensaries in Marbial, Lafond and Séguin into health centres and building a new health centre in Gaillard.

4

Strengthening public health institutions at the department and commune levels.



Ossé Emmanuel Recule, a regional coordinator of the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the Southeast and one of the CRC's major partners, is seeing results on the ground and is pleased to see such effective collaboration. Since health is an area of focus at the Haitian National Red Cross Society, the CRC is helping the young volunteers involved by providing on-the-ground training throughout the Southeast department. As a result, youth in Lafond, La-Vallée-de-Jacmel, Séguin, Marbial and Ternier can now provide health support to their respective communities. More specifically, adds Ossé Emmanuel, they are responsible for cholera prevention and awareness, and people are looking to them to support sick individuals at health centres or the new Saint-Michel Hospital.

A Rising Tide of Violence

Unfortunately, the “Pearl of the Antilles” is having severe problems with violence of all kinds.

According to Max Renaud Lubin, the senior coordinator of the violence prevention program at the Haitian National Red Cross Society, the local population is passively coexisting with violence without even realizing that it is affecting people everywhere and that they may sometimes even be contributing. It has become normal, commonplace, an unbreakable cycle, as if mob justice ruled the streets. In short, violence is seen as inevitable at all levels of society. Numerous assessments of the situation have shown that violence in displaced persons camps, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, remains one of the most serious humanitarian threats, especially for women and children (both girls and boys). The increase in domestic violence and rape is real. As a result, violence prevention programs had to be implemented. The CRC’s anti-violence strategies mainly target youth and women through training, partnerships with local organizations, and community activities largely held in Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Léogane and Les Nippes. Through its programs, the CRC has reached over 420,000 people.



For its part, the *Haiti en Scène* project, implemented in 10 displaced persons camps, gives people the tools they need to find their own solutions to prevent and effectively protect themselves from violence.

The goal of this local initiative, which is supported by both the French and Canadian Red Cross, is to use a psychosocial approach to enable youth to learn skills and connect with others through discussion, theatre, dance, music, sports and engagement activities.



Additionally, *Fanm Deside* (Committed Women), an organization that promotes the rights of women and girls in three communes, received support from the CRC, as did the *À l'écoute* (Active Listening) project, which involved a series of consultations with children and youth to learn about their vision of violence prevention. Other concrete actions include:

- safety and violence prevention training within the Haitian National Red Cross Society,
- violence prevention capacity building for 125 teachers in 43 schools,
- monthly violence prevention awareness activities led by CRC community facilitators, reaching thousands of households per month as part of the community health care program,
- radio broadcasts on violence prevention and non-violent conflict resolution.

2017-2019

pivotal years

Pierre Lacerte, a CRC humanitarian worker since March 2017 and expert in the field, has been working hand in hand with the various partners involved in rebuilding the country. The first step was to rebuild the hospital in Jacmel; second, rehabilitate four health centres; third, train health care professionals and community volunteers; and fourth, develop health education programming and strengthen the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Health as concerns planning, management and evaluation. This ambitious and multifaceted project was completed in February 2018.

Objective in Port-au-Prince

Another important project for Port-au-Prince since Pierre Lacerte arrived on the scene, which he has helped revive, is improving emergency services in urban areas.

However, he explains, fund management and fundraising for the project remains limited, as does staffing.

In fact, he is now on his own, but can still count on a dozen locals, including one field coordinator. This is now the CRC's largest project in Haiti and is expected to last 18 months. Despite the ups and downs, major advances and significant challenges, CRC delegate Pierre Lacerte confirms that the results since December have been convincing, with numerous training sessions held and schedule delays caught up.

The CRC is now financing its presence in Haiti using its own regular funding resources, doing so voluntarily and out of respect for its long history of involvement in the country.

The Red Cross at a Crossroads

The organizations that are striving to rebuild Haiti work together in whatever way they can. Seven National Red Cross Societies have stepped up since the tragedy in January 2010 and are active on the ground. In addition to the Canadian and Haitian Red Cross, the German, American (which has the most funding) Spanish, French, and Netherlands Red Cross have offices in Haiti. As a result, most National Societies have a core area of focus. Since 2019, they have gone back to working in a central location.

Although each National Society was previously headquartered in the Haitian capital, they reunited six months ago at the Haitian National Red Cross Society's "Base Camp". This has markedly improved their coordination, and the various local beneficiaries have been seeing results. Each Society works on a project within its own area of expertise, but shares said expertise if the need arises. The CRC focuses on health and first aid projects, while the Dutch team, for example, works on resilience and livelihoods. The American Red Cross and most of the other Red Cross Societies focus on disaster management, an area that was also addressed by the CRC in the first few years after the earthquake.

Foreseeable Disaster Scenarios

The CRC is constantly planning for natural disaster scenarios, such as the hurricanes that normally occur in August and are increasing in frequency and intensity. Contingency plans need to be developed, starting with the advance crisis teams. The CRC has worked to implement them alongside the Haitian National Red Cross Society, which is now more empowered than ever to take action.

Continuing Our Work

Ten years of intensive work and collaboration between the CRC and the other National Societies, first and foremost the Haitian National Red Cross Society, have yielded lessons for the future. Preparedness and disaster response capacities have greatly improved not only since the 2010 earthquake, but also since hurricanes Matthew and Irma. About 12,000 schoolchildren and members of nine vulnerable communities were trained and given tools to mitigate disasters. In addition, 230 Haitian National Red Cross Society staff and volunteers were trained in crisis management, and 60 volunteers received training on search and rescue techniques.

Funds provided to the CRC were used to finance the mobile hospital; restock relief items distributed shortly after the earthquake, particularly to displaced persons; support the shelter program in Jacmel and Léogane; and the International Federation emergency appeal and its shelter construction program in Port-au-Prince.

All funds raised through the Haiti Earthquake Appeal have been spent. The full financial summary is included in this final report to mark the 10th anniversary of the event. The CRC report published eight years after the disaster contains a financial summary as of October 31, 2017. The Society's other audited financial statements on the subject can be found on our website.

In conclusion, a decade of maintaining a presence certainly begs the question: stay or go? The message we have heard from Haitians is clear: they hope that the CRC will remain in the country. The CRC must maintain a local presence and offer support in this at-risk country, and must do so with regular funding resources now that the Haiti Earthquake Appeal funds raised after the 2010 earthquake have been completely spent. Thanks to recent funding, the CRC will complete its project to improve emergency services in urban areas in March 2021 and is already undertaking phase II. Working in health is still its main priority, with a focus on violence prevention.

The Haitian people, who are hoping to close this chapter, want to remind the international community that it has other concerns, without losing sight of the main issues that arose after January 12, 2010. Of these, food insecurity is at the front and centre. According to the World Food Programme (WFP) at the United Nations (UN), one third of the population is facing food insecurity. This situation has been brought about by decreased agricultural production, increased prices and socioeconomic turmoil. It goes without saying that the CRC will need to adapt its local activities to this new reality.





THANK YOU

Thank you for helping improve the lives of Haitians affected by the 2010 earthquake and other disasters in recent years. Your donation has had a positive impact and will continue to do so in the coming years by enabling the CRC to remain active and meet the needs of the population.

For more information about the Red Cross in Haiti and to learn about our progress, please visit

redcross.ca/haiti.

Appendix

Summary of our 2010-2020 activities in Haiti in facts and figures

Overview of the Canadian Red Cross response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

SHELTER

- The CRC, with support from the Government of Canada through the matching program, provided safe shelter solutions to over 20,000 families by building new houses, supplying rental assistance and arranging for families to return to the areas where they were living prior to the earthquake.
- **2,125 displaced families** received cash grants to cover rent for a year or to resettle in the province of their choice.
- **7,500 homes that meet or exceed standards for an earthquake and hurricane** were built in the Jacmel and Léogane areas.
- The CRC also worked with the German NGO Diakonie to **build 600 homes** in La Vallée.
- Over **3,000 Haitian workers were hired and trained** to build houses.

An occupancy survey undertaken in November 2011, and again in December 2012, indicated that 90% of the homes were still occupied and the remaining 10% were not occupied because:

- they were undergoing modifications/improvements by the beneficiary/owner,
- the beneficiary/owner was not home at the time of the survey,
- they were being used for other purposes (e.g. a business).

The 7,500 homes are spread out over a large area that is rural and often remote, with 12 areas in Jacmel and 12 in Léogane.

Through the implementation of this project, the CRC demonstrated its capacity to deliver housing solutions in a difficult post-disaster context through robust logistics and appropriate human and financial resources.

CASH GRANTS

Additionally, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) conducted an internal evaluation on the impact that the return and relocation program had on people from Port-au-Prince. People were provided with a grant to cover 12 months of rent, along with an additional unconditional grant after attending a livelihood session that looked at household economy and small businesses. Out of 500 people surveyed, the evaluation found that the program had many successes.

Grantees reported a major improvement in their living conditions and personal satisfaction, particularly in regard to social well-being. They also felt physically and mentally better outside of the camps, and 98% reported profits from their income-generating activities that they started with their unconditional grants. Almost 70% of families were able to pay their children's school fees, and approximately half were able to pay back debts.

HEALTH

- The only departmental hospital in the Southeast, Saint-Michel Hospital, was **reconstructed and handed over** to the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population to operate.
- A **community health centre** was constructed, and three rural dispensaries were converted into health centres, thus improving access to health care in remote areas.
- **Over 700 Haitian volunteers and supervisors were trained** in community-based health, first aid and prevention.
- **10,000 households were educated** on family planning, hygiene, sanitation, first aid and prevention.

Health Program Evaluation

The final evaluation of the Red Cross health programs in response to the 2010 earthquake was commissioned to determine the success of the program in rural and remote communities. It considered the success of the Saint-Michel Hospital and the four health centres in Gaillard, Lafond, Marbial and Seguin.

The Saint-Michel Hospital was rebuilt in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Two buildings were constructed — one by JICA, and the other by CRC with support from the American Red Cross, which is open plan with an outpatient department and two wards with kitchen and laundry facilities.

Key Report Findings

Successes of the wider Integrated Health Program in Haiti include (based on the evaluation) an increased use of latrines, built in cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross, which reduced the risks associated with waterborne illness. (The CRC had two latrine projects with the Netherlands Red Cross — one to provide latrines along with the construction of homes, the other for latrines in areas where health clinics had been rehabilitated as part of the Integrated Health Program.) Through the project, 150 volunteers were trained in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) and conducted home visits in the Lafond and Marbial areas, where families and students received ongoing education about good hygiene practices.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- More than **420,000 people were reached** through community activities, partnerships with local organizations and training targeting mainly youth and women.
- Support and capacity building in violence prevention was provided to **125 teachers in 43 schools**.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Final Financial Summary



The Canadian Red Cross received \$226.99 million from generous individuals, corporations, provincial and local governments and the Government of Canada to support Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti. This total also includes \$10 million USD from the American Red Cross to assist with Canadian Red Cross efforts in rebuilding the hospital in Jacmel.

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS

Activity	Amount Spent
Support to Red Cross Red Crescent Movement emergency activities; contributions to IFRC and ICRC emergency activities as part of the larger Haiti earthquake response (i.e. relief item distribution, emergency shelter items, medical assistance, family reunification and water and sanitation activities.)	\$26.86 million
Emergency Relief Supplies, including relief support to internally displaced persons in Port-au-Prince	\$3.02 million
Emergency Response Unit Hospital	\$3.12 million
Deployment of relief and recovery personnel	\$2.22 million
Cholera outbreak response	\$3.45 million
Canadian Red Cross shelter program in Jacmel and Léogane	\$64.96 million
IFRC Shelter Program	\$25.17 million
Camp Resettlement Program	\$4.11 million
Disaster Risk Reduction and Capacity Building program	\$9.14 million
Health Programs, including Saint-Michel Hospital rebuild	\$40 million
Other recovery programming and support, including violence and abuse prevention and National Society development	\$39.94 million
Cost of Fundraising	\$5 million

TOTAL FUNDS SPENT

\$226.99 million

100% of the total funds received for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal were spent as of March 31, 2019.

