

Latest CRS/Caritas Haiti Efforts

It is over 10 weeks since the January 12 earthquake devastated Haiti leaving more than 200,000 people dead. To date, more than 4.3 million people have received food assistance and 1.2 million people are receiving a daily water distribution from the network of government and aid agencies.

CRS/Caritas Haiti earthquake response emphasizes three overarching priorities: *saving lives*, *supporting sustainable livelihoods*, and *strengthening civil society*.

Comprehensive activities are underway to restore food security, create basic shelter, generate incomes, improve health and hygiene, and build long-term stability. For lasting impact, we will help strengthen the capacities of people and local social service entities, and rebuild infrastructure in a manner that encourages the empowerment of Haitians throughout their recovery.



Photo by Sara A. Fajardo/CRS

Catholic social teaching serves as the foundation of CRS' humanitarian response.

Our recovery effort will adhere to principles of solidarity, human dignity, good stewardship and subsidiarity. Our approach will take place through mechanisms that promote full transparency and accountability.

CRS is committed to the long-term recovery of the Haitian people. The scale of devastation in the region is enormous and unprecedented, and full recovery will take many years. CRS anticipates contributing to the reconstruction of Haiti for a decade or more.

The Haitian Church is an agent for change. The recovery of Haiti depends on a robust civil society that defends, promotes and responds to the interests and needs of poor and marginalized Haitians. The Catholic Church of Haiti, although debilitated by the earthquake itself, continues to be one of Haiti's most influential leaders within civil society. CRS commits to deepening its decades-old support of the Haitian Church at a time when the need for its proactive leadership in favor of the poor and marginalized is at its greatest.

CRS takes a holistic approach. We understand from our experience in disasters around the world—including the 2005 Pakistan earthquake and the Indian Ocean tsunami—the importance of meeting a person's cultural, economic, political, social and spiritual needs. CRS will use a holistic approach – an understanding of the root causes of poverty and injustice to address the complex situation in Haiti today.

New Resources for Parishes, Schools, and Individuals

- [Shoring Up Haiti's Water Resources](#) - Paul Hicks, CRS' coordinator for the Global Water Initiative, is currently in Haiti. He speaks about the importance of water in an emergency.
- [Helping Hands for Haiti](#) is a new page on the CRS website where helpful resources, multimedia, blogs from the field and the latest stories will be housed.
- A [Bulletin Announcement](#) for the weekend of March 27 & 28 for parishes.

Thank you for all you are doing! Please share this Special Report with others.

Visit: www.crs.org for prayers, resources and information about the Haiti Earthquake. See us on [Facebook](#).