

2010 Haiti
Earthquake:

**10
YEARS
LATER**



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Thank you

In January 2010, the most powerful earthquake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years struck the country, killing an estimated 300,000 people, injuring 300,000 others, and leaving more than a million people homeless.

You responded instantly with an outpouring of generosity. Through Lutheran Disaster Response (then ELCA Disaster Response), compassionate people like you gave more than \$13 million for Haiti earthquake relief.



COVER IMAGE: A boy bounces a soccer ball on his head in a model resettlement village constructed by the Lutheran World Federation, which was supported by gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response. The village, housing 150 families who were left homeless by the 2010 earthquake, represents an intentional effort to “build back better” and create a sustainable, democratic community.

Powerful partnerships

Lutheran Disaster Response works with companion churches and other partners around the world, whose deep knowledge of local needs and how to address them helps make our work relevant and effective in each community. Through this network, we accompany survivors from the time a disaster strikes until communities are rebuilt. We are particularly grateful to:

Church World Service

Lutheran World Relief



Lutheran Church in Haiti

The Lutheran World Federation

The ELCA's longstanding work in Haiti through these partners enabled it to have a quick response, as well as an enduring one.



Paul Jeffrey, ACT Alliance

The response

When the earthquake hit, your gifts went to work quickly, supporting immediate relief needs that included:

- Blankets
- Health kits
- Medical supplies
- Mosquito nets
- Tents
- Tarps
- Water and sanitation

Within days of the quake, water systems were up and running, bringing clean water to thousands of thirsty people. Hundreds of thousands of water purification tablets and jugs were distributed. Organized food distribution met immediate needs.

In camps for people displaced by the quake, health kits were supplied, and spiritual care and counseling was provided to survivors suffering from trauma.

REMEMBERING BEN SPLICAL LARSON



On Jan. 12, 2010, Ben Splichal Larson died after the earthquake toppled the highest two floors of St. Joseph's Home for Boys, just up the mountain from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Ben, a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary, was in Haiti that January with his wife, Renee, and his cousin Jonathan. These three seminarians were walking with the Lutheran Church in Haiti, to learn from the church and to teach Lutheran theology.

Ben, Renee and Jonathan were together inside the building when it collapsed. Renee and Jonathan escaped; Ben was trapped in the rubble, where he died after singing a verse from the Agnus Dei (ELW, p. 208).

At Ben's funeral service, the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of Global Mission, remembered Ben's solidarity with the people of Haiti. "[Ben] became one with them in their pain, even as his God was one with their pain," he said. "He emptied himself in love and service for them. And he gave until there was nothing else to give but his own life."

Building back better

Your gifts helped not only to meet immediate needs, but to help end cycles of poverty and injustice for people in Haiti. People displaced by the earthquake moved into new, low-cost, more disaster-resistant houses.

In the long term, Lutheran Disaster Response's work also focused on vocational training to help Haitians improve their livelihoods, so they would be less vulnerable to future disasters. Training workshops and an awareness campaign highlighted disaster risk reduction, providing safety tips and informing people about signs of hurricanes. One LWF meeting participant remarked, "No matter what happens, we are better prepared now!"



Reseha Rosier and members of her family stand in front of her house in a model resettlement village constructed by the Lutheran World Federation, made possible in part thanks to your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Paul Jeffrey, ACT Alliance

THE RESPONSE ALSO INCLUDED:



Intervention for cholera
treatment and prevention
reaching nearly 1 million people



Two of the first Haitian-based
cooperative dairies



Multiple livestock and agricultural
development projects for
displaced residents



Organizing a vocational school
for home construction
graduating 30 students



An expanding number of deep
well projects with solar pumps



Rehabilitation of a local
primary school with
special work in trauma



Looking ahead

Building back better has created greater resilience and effectiveness for response in a subsequent disaster. Lutheran Disaster Response also addressed the destruction after Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in 2016. As part of this response, 16 new homes were built and 125 farmers belonging in 10 cooperatives learned agricultural techniques to help increase and diversify their food production. Long-term agricultural sustainability work continues in Haiti through ELCA World Hunger. We're also working to build the resiliency of the Caribbean region, which often experiences natural disasters, by helping churches and communities become better prepared for disasters and respond to current and future needs.



Lutheran Disaster Response ENDOWMENT FUND

To give a gift that will support Lutheran Disaster Response in the long term whenever and wherever disaster strikes, visit community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse and select "Lutheran Disaster Response Endowment."

Paul Jeffrey, ACT Alliance

Together as a church, we can continue to support our neighbors in Haiti as well as others facing the threat of disasters around the world.

Ways to support
other responses
like this

ONLINE

ELCA.org/disaster

BY MAIL

Make a check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

BY PHONE

Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time.



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