



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

Haiti Earthquake Update



Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance

The most powerful earthquake to strike Haiti in more than two hundred years devastated that country on January 12, 2010. Nearly 250,000 people were killed, 300,000 injured, more than a million people left homeless.

All over the world, compassionate people responded instantly with an outpouring of generosity. Lutherans like you rushed to support ELCA Disaster Response, sending more than \$12.5 million to our Haiti Earthquake Relief fund. This Update is a snapshot of how those generous gifts have been at work.



ELCA Response—*Fast Action*

photo: Norwegian Church Aid/ACT Alliance

The ELCA has accompanied the people of Haiti for more than twenty years. Working through The Lutheran World Federation, our church assists communities as they work to reduce poverty and respond to disasters. In recent years, a Lutheran church has emerged in Haiti, which has been accompanied by the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA. The ELCA's longstanding, multifaceted presence has built a solid relationship of trust with the people and leaders of Haiti.

When the quake hit, your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response enabled the ELCA's companion church and partners to act quickly and effectively. The ELCA provided coordination among our longstanding partners.

The Lutheran Church in Haiti provided food, water, care and counseling to the nearly 6,000 people who gathered on the church's grounds.

The facilities of **The Lutheran World Federation** were not damaged in the quake. Staff members distributed health kits, mosquito nets, blankets, tents and tarps, and established water points and sanitation services. The Lutheran World Federation began services to a 10,000-person camp providing safety, security and needed shelter.

Lutheran World Relief shipped health kits, nursing kits and quilts from warehouses in the United States, supported by funds from ELCA Disaster Response.

Church World Service sent convoys of trucks bearing medical supplies, sanitation equipment and other necessities into the affected areas.

ELCA Disaster Response funds helped ease the impact of the quake in the United States as well. Lutheran Services Florida took a lead role in helping bring back Haitian-Americans who had been caught in Haiti by the quake. Lutheran Services Georgia coordinated a care program for family members of Haitians who had been brought to the U.S. for medical care.

Through our companion and partners, with the support of generous and compassionate Lutherans like you, the ELCA was able to respond quickly to help the people of Haiti in their time of need—and we will be there for as long as we're needed.

Food and Water



photo: Jonathan Ernst/ACT Alliance

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 distributions met the immediate need for daily bread.

Work and School

Disaster response is about more than handing out food and providing shelter. The work toward long-term recovery begins immediately with the promotion of work opportunities and education. In Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, many people have earned cash by clearing rubble. In the surrounding countryside, farmers have received seed and tools to help them plant new crops.

Renewing hope for tomorrow's leaders began as schools reopened—many in tents—in time for the new school year. Permanent school buildings are being rebuilt into safe places for learning. In hard-hit Léogâne, a model school has already been built with the help of community members, The Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Disaster Response support.



photo: Catianne Tjarina/ACT Alliance

Shelter and Medical Care



photo: Magnus Aronson/ACT Alliance

The Lutheran World Federation is well known for its expertise in managing camps for people displaced by disasters. Through coordinated efforts, camp managers like The Lutheran World Federation ensure access to health services for disaster survivors. In camp Narette, The Lutheran World Federation distributed mosquito nets and health kits to hundreds of families and has provided care and counseling for people suffering from trauma.

Disaster upon Disaster

In November 2010, Hurricane Tomas caused further destruction in Haiti. The deadly waterborne disease of cholera had already appeared in one area of the country, and the storm's floodwaters helped it spread.

With the help of ELCA Disaster Response funds, The Lutheran World Federation and the Lutheran Church of Haiti are working hard to contain the outbreak, teaching people about preventive measures and distributing necessary supplies. The Lutheran World Federation has also put doctors and nurses to work testing and treating those who are ill.



photo: Arne Grieg Rilsnaes/NCA/ACT Alliance



photo: Catianne Tijerina/ACT Alliance

Looking Ahead

Our long-term goal in Haiti is to help renew hope and rebuild lives and livelihoods, seeking to end the cycle of poverty and injustice. Individuals, households, local organizations and the government of Haiti have already decided on the next steps toward a new future: temporary and permanent housing for displaced families, education and professional training to equip society with strong leaders, and preparedness for future disasters. And at the core of the ELCA's long-term response is enabling people to earn a living that provides for their families.

In the months and years ahead, your partnership will enable earthquake survivors to rebuild their lives, access their rights and shape their futures. It's a big goal, but it can be achieved through many small opportunities: from raising chickens to starting a small business to managing a new dairy cooperative to learning plumbing skills. The ELCA has pledged to work alongside our companion and partners in Haiti for as long as recovery from the 2010 earthquake takes.

How You Have Helped

People like you have given more than \$12.5 million to ELCA Disaster Response to help the people of Haiti in their time of need. Every cent of your gift to ELCA Disaster Response designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief goes to support our effort there.

Your gifts and your prayers are deeply appreciated. Thank you.

For More Information

- You can learn much more about how the ELCA accompanies the people of Haiti at www.elca.org/haiti.
- Frequently updated information about our work in Haiti can be found at www.elca.org/haitiinfo.
- Also see ELCA Disaster Response at www.elca.org/disaster.
- The ELCA Disaster Response blog is at <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse>.



photo: Leah Gordon/Christian Aid



photo: Catianne Tijerina/ACT Alliance



photo: Magnus Aronson/ACT Alliance



photo: Jonathan Ernst/ACT Alliance

How You Can Help

ELCA Disaster Response stands ready to help whenever and wherever disaster strikes—and no one knows when or where that will be. Undesignated gifts to ELCA Disaster Response help make it possible to swing into action as soon as the news of a disaster comes out. Please prayerfully consider making an undesignated gift to ELCA Disaster Response and help our church to be ready to serve wherever it's needed.

Your donation will make a lifesaving difference.

By mail

You may send a check payable to "ELCA Disaster Response" to ELCA Disaster Response
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60690-9300

With a credit card

Donate online at www.elca.org/disaster

Through your congregation

You may place a gift in the offering plate—look for ELCA Disaster Response envelopes in your pew. Please make checks payable to your congregation and clearly indicate "For ELCA Disaster Response" in the memo line.

Thank you.

ELCA Good Gifts Disaster Response

Choose ELCA Good Gifts to celebrate birthdays and holidays and make a lifesaving difference at the same time. Visit www.elca.org/goodgifts to donate and find e-cards, certificates and greeting card enclosures you can send to friends and loved ones.

\$200
feeds a family for
two months



\$75
supplies a survival kit
(tarp, water jug, clothes, and
cooking supplies)



\$60
supplies a home
clean-up kit after
a disaster



\$40
helps a family keep
clean with hygiene kits
(towels, soap, toothbrush
and toothpaste)



\$10
supplies blankets
for a family of four



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

The ELCA is a member of

actalliance



previous page