

# HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

FOUR-YEAR UPDATE | JANUARY 2014



**American  
Red Cross**

## A Message From the President and CEO

From the moment the earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010, we knew the road to recovery would be long and complex. The Haiti earthquake has been a unique disaster response experience even for the Red Cross, due to the magnitude of its impact, the high levels of poverty in Port-au-Prince prior to the earthquake, the urban nature of the quake-affected region, and the ripple effects on Haiti's political, economic and social fabric. While the road to recovery has indeed been long, it has been met by the incredibly resilient spirit of the Haitian people and the commitment of Red Cross employees and volunteers.

To support the wide range of ongoing needs, the American Red Cross has worked on a variety of programs over the past four years. These include the relocation of vulnerable camp residents to safer homes, hospital construction, sanitation projects, economic programs to help people earn money, disaster preparedness training, and projects to make neighborhoods safer for returning residents. This spectrum of services is critically needed because, although millions were affected by this disaster, the needs of each individual are unique.

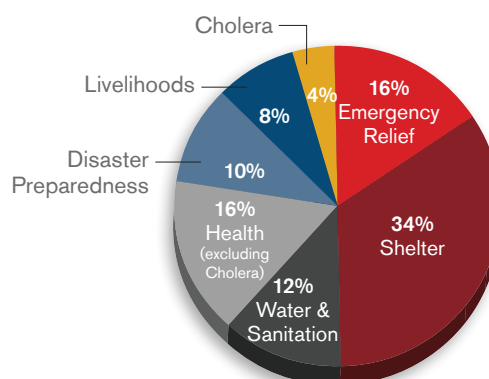
We continue to partner with the Haitian Red Cross and align our activities with the priorities of the Haitian people. Together, we are providing ways to rebuild lives: reestablishing community services, rehabilitating basic infrastructure and enhancing resilience in the face of future disasters. We also continue to seek ways to help people who are still living in camps.

This past year, we installed solar-powered lights in damaged neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince to improve safety and security. In partnership with the International Rescue Committee, we set up a referral system to help victims of gender-based violence get the medical and psychosocial services they need, and improve economic opportunities for women by increasing their access to credit and savings services. In northern Haiti, the American Red Cross launched a program this year to provide improved health centers, roads, water and sanitation facilities, and much more to these often overlooked communities. In addition, we continue to monitor and respond to ongoing health needs, such as teaching people ways to avoid contracting HIV and cholera.

Thanks to your generous donations, almost 4.4 million people have benefited from American Red Cross support since the 2010 earthquake, with many receiving multiple services year after year. Almost 90 percent of the funds donated to the American Red Cross in response to the Haiti earthquake—\$421 million of a total \$486 million donated—have been spent or committed to specific planned projects, with a small percentage of the \$486 million—less than \$20 million or 4 percent of all donations received—being held for unanticipated or emerging needs. Recovery from such a devastating disaster takes time, so our programs have evolved to address changing community needs. I want to assure you that the American Red Cross continues to utilize your generous donations wisely, efficiently and thoughtfully to help Haitians recover and rebuild their lives.

Gail McGovern

### Total Funds Spent and Committed



The American Red Cross received \$486 million in donations in response to the Haiti earthquake and has spent or committed to spend \$421 million on relief and recovery efforts to date. The remaining funds will be programmed over the coming years to support ongoing activities. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the American Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

## From Camps to Communities

After the earthquake destroyed Charite Estima's home, she lived in the Tapis Rouge camp in Port-au-Prince in a tent shared with her son and three of her grandchildren. But now it is time to start packing. Her son has found a house to rent, thanks to a relocation stipend from the Red Cross. "We are moving out on Friday; I am happy to be leaving," she said.

The earthquake's devastating impact on Haiti has made rebuilding neighborhoods a long process, hindered by hundreds of millions of cubic feet of rubble, unclear land ownership, a lack of enforceable building codes and other challenges.

The American Red Cross has spent or committed \$144 million for housing and neighborhood recovery over the past four years, ensuring that 108,900 people now have a safer place to live.

The Red Cross funded the construction and repair of homes and the upgrading of transitional shelter to permanent housing for tens of thousands of people. In cooperation with the government of Haiti, the American Red Cross is contributing to a large relocation effort, helping more than 5,400 families (or approximately 27,000 individuals) in Port-au-Prince move out of transitional camps and into long-term housing. We are subsidizing rents and supporting economic revival by distributing grants to help people reestablish small businesses and receive job training. Another program provides funds to help rehabilitate houses on the condition that the owners provide free or reduced room rentals to a family still living in a transitional camp.

About 90 percent of those initially displaced by the earthquake have moved back into communities, but an estimated 172,000 individuals remain in camps, where the American Red Cross continues to support improved basic health, hygiene and safety.

The American Red Cross helped the owner of this house in Port-au-Prince to make repairs after it was damaged in the earthquake.



## Creating Livelihoods and Jobs

Benita Saintil is a 34-year-old mother of two who serves as the president of a Haitian village savings and loan association. These associations, which are run by community volunteers and are part of a project supported by the American Red Cross, offer low interest rates and generous repayment plans that help members save for school, grow their small businesses, and build savings to buffer themselves against future emergencies. "There is an added value when you come together to do good in the community; collectively, we can do more," Saintil said.

This program not only helps individuals recover from the earthquake, but will also provide longer-term financial support into the future and help build a community's resilience. Through the distribution of cash grants, loans and other credit, as well as vocational training and short-term employment opportunities, the American Red Cross has offered critical assistance to almost 383,000 Haitians working to provide for themselves and their families. Moving forward, the focus of our work is shifting toward longer-term projects that build skills, promote the growth of small businesses and ultimately lead to further job creation.



The Red Cross distributed disaster preparedness materials so people will be better prepared for the next emergency.

## Improving Community Health

For 60-year-old Isemelie Bazard, the opening of University Hospital in Mirebalais was a miracle. After visiting a clinic in Cange to seek care for a lump in her breast, she was transferred to the hospital for cancer treatment. A team of Haitian doctors, in consultation with academic partners at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, developed a treatment plan for Bazard. She was the first patient to undergo surgery at the new hospital, which was constructed with American Red Cross support.

“It’s hard to believe that in a hospital this big there are doctors who understand people,” Bazard said. “They listened to me, they did surgery for me, and they really looked after me. Even my child was able to be here with me. For me, this is tremendous support.”

The earthquake weakened Haiti’s health services, destroying many hospitals and clinics and contributing to the spread of disease. The American Red Cross has dedicated significant resources to improving the quality and availability of vital health services nationwide. This includes making investments to prevent and treat diseases such as cholera, malaria and measles; supporting the operation of hospitals, mobile clinics and treatment centers; and funding the construction of several medical facilities—University Hospital in Mirebalais, Klinik Kay Kapab in Port-au-Prince and St. Michel Hospital in Jacmel—that are now, or will soon be, caring for thousands of people. The American Red Cross is also supporting local Haitian health organizations, Global Therapy Group and St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, to build a new physical therapy clinic and procure medical equipment.

Recognizing that some people do not have access to primary health care systems, the American Red Cross and its partners bring lifesaving health interventions directly into communities. From mass vaccination campaigns, mosquito net distributions, and cholera prevention to hygiene promotion, first aid trainings and mobile clinics, the American Red Cross has helped more than 665,000 people through community-based health services, including more than 300,000 people who have benefited from HIV education services. Almost 3.2 million people have benefited from cholera education and vaccinations. Because cholera is transmitted through water and poor sanitary conditions, the American Red Cross has also spent and committed \$49 million on projects that have helped provide more than 556,000 people with increased access to clean water and sanitation. Today, we continue to support essential sanitation services in many camp sites throughout Port-au-Prince.



Rodrigo, Ordenez/American Red Cross

Mosquito nets provided by the American Red Cross helped protect families against malaria.

### Program Highlights

**4.2 million people**

benefiting from hygiene promotion activities



**3.2 million people**

benefiting from cholera prevention and outbreak response services



**108,900 people**

reached through housing/neighborhood recovery



**484,000 people**

covered by disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities



**665,000 people**

benefiting from community health services



**556,000 people**

benefiting from access to improved water and sanitation



**383,000 people**

benefiting from livelihoods assistance



**4.4 million total people reached\***

\*Many of the people reached by the American Red Cross in Haiti received multiple services.

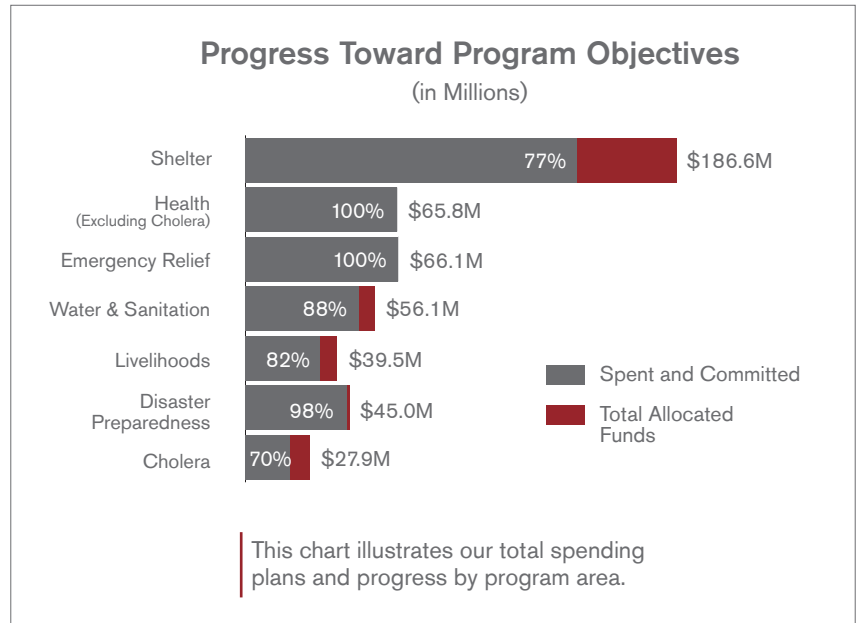


## Moving Forward: Preparing Urban and Rural Communities

Safer, more resilient communities are a countrywide need, felt as deeply in densely populated Port-au-Prince as in rural areas that are faced with limited economic opportunities, low access to basic social services and a high prevalence of health and disaster risks. The American Red Cross is working in urban and rural communities to address risks to health and well-being in a holistic way.

The American Red Cross is supporting two major programs that will increase the ability of communities to deal with these risks and bounce back when disasters and other events occur. In urban Port-au-Prince, the American Red Cross is contributing to the safe rebuilding of homes and other neighborhood infrastructure. It is also supporting initiatives that restore the social fabric of the community itself—such as training teams of community members and local organizations to be ready to react and coordinate with local authorities when emergencies occur, and teaching construction skills that help community members rebuild safely and increase their opportunities for employment. In total, this program aims to benefit more than 48,000 people.

This past year, field staff and volunteers collected data about a rural area in northern Haiti where the American Red Cross has recently launched a program to strengthen communities and the ability of the local Red Cross to serve those communities. The American Red Cross will work with communities, households and individuals to analyze the hazards they face, prioritize them, and identify ways to address them. Health centers, roads, and water and sanitation facilities will be improved and enhanced. Preparedness and prevention measures will reduce communities' exposure to natural disasters and health emergencies, protect them against food shortages and increase the financial security of families. In total, this program aims to benefit more than 180,000 people.



## Thank you

The American Red Cross would like to thank the many individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies that so generously support our work in Haiti. Your contributions are making a difference in the lives of almost 4.4 million people in Haiti that we have reached since the earthquake. We are committed to spending your donations wisely to help the Haitian people recover, rebuild and be better prepared for the future.



The American Red Cross continues to broaden its use of technology in Haiti, using tools such as GPS-enabled smartphones to collect and analyze information.

For more information on our work in Haiti, please visit [redcross.org/haiti](http://redcross.org/haiti).