

Haiti • Earthquake Situation Report #3 February 5, 2010



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

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I. Highlights

- Shelter still prioritized as urgent need
- 100,000 people still displaced without shelter
- Ministry of Health begins vaccination campaign
- 19,440 Haitian-Americans have been repatriated through receiving sites in Florida
- The US Government continues to evacuate Haitians with critical injuries
- ELCA commits \$25,000 to Lutheran Services in Georgia to help medical evacuees
- Pastor Lauvanus of the Lutheran Church in Haiti returns to Haiti
- ELCA has given more than 20,000 gifts totaling 3.6 million
- Thrivent members can receive match funds now at www.thrivent.com
- ELCA Disaster Response blog at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/haiti>

II. International Situation

According to an ACT update from the Shelter Cluster, shelter assistance remains an urgent priority. Plastic sheeting is preferred over tents; this has been endorsed by the Government of Haiti. The rationale for this change is two-fold: 1) due to the lack of physical space, this solution allows people to remain close to their homes; and 2) plastic sheeting helps to ensure adequate shelter through the duration of the rainy season. Prioritized shelter supplies include plastic sheeting, tarpaulins, rope, fixtures, hygiene kits, family water storage and kitchen kits. The ACT update reports an increased in distribution capacity of relief agencies by 40% compared to January 27th.

Shelter support will be upgraded incrementally to transitional shelter that will last through the reconstruction phase of response. There is a concern that public spaces are at risk for becoming permanent slums as current shelter conditions are upgraded in order to be more durable.

While 92% of displaced persons will likely stay where they are, nearly 100,000 are still in need of shelter. The removal of rubble from affected areas will help to expand the available land to accommodate displaced. According to USAID, preliminary estimates indicate the presence of up to 20 million cubic yards of rubble to be removed from Port-au-Prince. The UNDP cash-for-work program has employed a little over 32,000 people, 40% being women. The program is working to put 100,000 workers into roles such as clearing rubble, cleaning public facilities, repairing infrastructure and supporting efforts such as water accessibility and communal wash areas.

As the rainy season nears, beginning in February, the Government of Haiti is reporting urgent need of seed, tools and fertilizers for farmers so that planting can begin in March. According to UN OCHA, the spring planting season usually accounts for 60% of Haiti's agricultural production. Farmers unable to migrate to temporary camps in order to tend to the planting of crops harvested from August-October, are not receiving needed assistance.

The Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF and WHO, began an immunization campaign on February 2nd, specifically targeting 530,000 children under the age of seven. Vaccines include diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis for children under seven, and diphtheria and tetanus for everyone over eight years old. The establishment of quality sanitation systems remains a priority activity as a way to mitigate the spread of disease.

III. Domestic Situation

The repatriation of Haitian-Americans continues at Sanford Airport, near Orlando, FL, but the number of evacuees being processed daily has declined. The U.S. State Department reports that 19,440 Haitian-Americans have been repatriated through receiving sites in Florida since the earthquake.

The U.S. Government, through a partnership of the State Department and Health and Human Services, has also begun to evacuate Haitian nationals with critical injuries to receive specialized medical care here which is not available in Haiti. In some cases, these so-called "Humanitarian parolees" are permitted to be accompanied by family members for the duration of their treatment. These evacuations were interrupted briefly last weekend while the issue of reimbursement for receiving hospitals was clarified, but with the February 1 enactment of the "National Disaster Medical System," hospitals were assured of an efficient reimbursement process. As of Monday, 526 patients had been evacuated to hospitals in Florida for specialized medical treatment.

On February 3, the "Humanitarian parolee" evacuations were expanded to Atlanta, GA, and a total of 5 patients have been evacuated to Atlanta hospitals so far, with dozens more expected in coming days. Officials in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Lyons, N.J. have been put on alert that patients may also be brought to those cities.

IV. Coordinated Response

The ELCA has supported a multi-national, multi-lateral response to the earthquake that includes the coordination of relief and development agencies through Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, to which the ELCA has been a member since 1995. Support has been provided to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for material aid, Church World Service (CWS) for material aid and distribution on the ground, and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to respond to the needs of affected individuals and families. The Lutheran World Federation has been present in Haiti for over two decades.

Efforts continue around the provision of shelter and the establishment of water and sanitation systems at settlements by LWF, while primary activities for post-crisis phase have already been identified. These activities include food security and livelihood through farming and cash-for-work programs, ongoing water and sanitation activities, community shelters, education and school assistance, psychosocial activities direct to individuals and training of civil society leaders, and disaster preparedness/risk reduction activities through assessments and community training. ELCA Disaster Response will be working with the LWF in the coming weeks to identify how the ELCA can respond to the immediate shelter needs of affected individuals and areas of long-term collaboration.

Pastor Joseph Livenson Lauvanus, president of the Lutheran Church in Haiti, returned to Haiti late last week with the assistance of ELCA Disaster Response. Through recent correspondence, it has been confirmed that some of the church's limited infrastructure has faced severe damage. Pr. Lauvanus is also reporting an absence of aid to parishioners who have formed settlements behind demolished churches; even with a commitment from the government for aid, these individuals are not being responded to. It is a priority that the church raise in witness and response to those in need now and in the rebuilding of Haiti through the development of leadership. The ELCA is committed to providing support through the sharing of financial resources and personnel expertise to the Lutheran Church in Haiti as requested by the church.

Domestically, Lutheran Services Florida continues to coordinate Creole- and French-speaking volunteers at the Sanford Airport (Orlando), providing hospitality and interpretation services for incoming Haitian-Americans being repatriated. A team of over sixty volunteers has been providing 24/7 coverage of that site since repatriation flights began.

Additionally, the state of Florida requested that Lutheran Services Florida expand its services to care for the accompanying family members of Haitian nationals who are receiving medical care here. For these clients, Lutheran Services Florida is providing housing assistance, emergency financial support, transportation, and interpretation. As of this report, Lutheran Services Florida is providing services for 22 such clients.

With the expansion of "Humanitarian parolee" evacuations into the Atlanta area, Lutheran Services of Georgia, another ELCA-affiliated organization, was tapped by the state of Georgia to play a similar role for accompanying family members. Lutheran Services of Georgia is preparing to provide housing, transportation, interpretation, and emergency financial support as the numbers of these inbound clients is expected to climb in the coming days.

On February 5th, a contribution of \$25,000 was sent to Lutheran Services of Georgia towards the costs of providing aid and accompaniment to inbound clients. Lutheran Services Florida received a grant in January for the same use.

ELCA Disaster Response continues to receive names and e-mail addresses for anyone interested in serving as a volunteer in Haiti. Coordination of volunteer teams may not start for six months or more, due to the instability of the situation in Haiti. ELCA Disaster Response kindly reminds all those interested that volunteers will be requested only at the request of our companions on the ground and priority will be given to those with particular skill sets that can not be found in Haiti, promoting the employment of local Haitians whenever possible.

VI. Fundraising

As of February 4, ELCA Disaster Response has received or been notified of over 20,000 gifts totaling more than \$3.6 million for Haiti Relief. Additional gifts are encouraged and anticipated as congregations hold special events and offering opportunities.

Gifts are needed for the work of continued relief and for long-term community rehabilitation and other recovery activities.

Thanks to the ongoing faithful giving of Lutherans for mission and world hunger, the ELCA pledges that 100% of these gifts will be spent for the Haiti earthquake response.

Contributions can be made to ELCA Haiti Relief by:

- Check or money orders sent to:
ELCA Disaster Response
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60694-9300
write "Haiti Earthquake Relief"
on your check's memo line.
- Credit card by phone to: 800-638-3522 or online at www.elca.org/haitiearthquake

Thrivent members may direct gifts through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, information is available at www.thrivent.com To date gifts transmitted through Thrivent have exceeded \$350,000, with a commitment to match gifts at an amount of \$1 for every \$2 given by Thrivent members. Please act while matching funds are still available.

V. Communication

The week of February 1, 2010, continued communication of thanks and ongoing regarding Haiti response contributions at work. These communications include:

- An updated bulletin insert
- Updated content and photos on elca.org/disaster
- Article added to elca.org/hunger and mentioned in *LifeLines* (World Hunger newsletter)
- Updated homepage spotlights
- New Releases

In addition, the ELCA Disaster Response blog about how the ELCA and our companions are responding to the Haiti 2010 Earthquake is live. The blog, hosted on elca.org, will feature contributions from a wide range of contributors bringing light to the situation in Haiti, stateside and here at the ELCA. The blog can be found at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/haiti>

Recognizing many close connections between ELCA congregations and individuals with Haiti, ELCA Global Mission has been in contact with a number of these contributors to provide and receive emerging news from and to Haiti. Other congregations and individuals with connections in Haiti are encouraged to email Mary Campbell in Global Mission with news they are receiving from their companions.

Websites:

- For more information on ELCA Disaster Response: www.elca.org/disaster
- For more information on ACT Alliance: www.act-intl.org
- For more information on international aid: www.reliefweb.int



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