

# Haiti

## 1 YEAR LATER

JANUARY 2011



### > The Long Road to Recovery

The Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti decimated the capital city of Port-au-Prince, killing more than 230,000 people. It was a tragic blow to a country where 55 percent of the population already lived below the poverty line of \$1 a day.

Buoyed by the world's attention and support, Haitians showed courageous optimism as they restarted their lives. Mercy Corps was on the ground just two days after the disaster, and we remain there to help survivors realize their dream of building a strong, prosperous nation.

Thanks to your generosity, Mercy Corps has provided more than 700,000 people with emergency food, clean water, household necessities and shelter materials, as well as post-disaster trauma support and temporary jobs.

#### Addressing Basic Needs and Root Causes

A recent hurricane, cholera epidemic and political unrest have worsened the situation in Haiti, and families still urgently need emergency aid. In response, Mercy Corps continues robust relief programs for families in Port-au-Prince and in the underserved provinces of the Central Plateau and the Artibonite, where an estimated 140,000 survivors sought refuge.

Our challenge now is to continue relief activities while helping families gain a solid foothold to lift themselves out of poverty. We recognize that in Haiti, emergency needs for food, water and shelter will never end unless we simultaneously address their root causes, especially unemployment and poor infrastructure. Your support is allowing us to do that.

#### Laying the Foundation for the Future

Shortly after the earthquake, Mercy Corps expanded our programs to the rural Central Plateau and the Artibonite region. Under the leadership of country director Brian Oakes, an agricultural expert with some 30 years in Haiti, we're helping local families and displaced earthquake survivors turn subsistence farming into profitable businesses. It's an important shift that will give these resilient people the ongoing means to improve their lives.

The road to recovery remains a difficult one, but together with the people of Haiti, we continue to move toward their vision for a more productive and peaceful country. Your gifts have made this work possible – **thank you.**

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## > Key Accomplishments to Date

### Urgent Help to Earthquake-Affected Families

- Supplied clean water, latrines and showers, along with hygiene information and materials, to 25,400 survivors living in 25 Port-au-Prince camps.
- Created temporary jobs to provide wages to support 172,000 people and improve basic infrastructure for 45 communities.
- Distributed vouchers worth \$225 in household goods to families hosting displaced earthquake survivors, improving the living situations of 7,000 women, men and children.
- Provided families with monthly \$40 stipends to supply 55,400 individuals with essential food staples.

Thanks to your generosity, Mercy Corps' programs in Haiti have improved the lives of more than 830,000 people.

### Focus on Youth

- **Comfort for Kids:** Taught practical skills to help kids recover from the trauma of the earthquake to 3,070 teachers, parents and other caregivers, who have gone on to reach approximately 61,400 kids.
- **Moving Forward:** Trained 62 mentors and supported sports programs at 25 Port-au-Prince youth organizations, serving 1,650 kids.
- **Public Awareness:** Reached an estimated 50,000 Haitians with information on topics such as emergency preparedness and mental health through open-air cinema events and educational children's television programs.

## > Responding to Cholera

In mid-October, cholera reappeared in Haiti after a 50-year absence. Mercy Corps immediately launched an emergency response to help contain the epidemic, delivering hygiene supplies, along with lifesaving prevention and treatment information, to vulnerable communities in Port-au-Prince camps and the Central Plateau.

### Efforts to Date:

- Reached more than 75,500 people in high-risk rural areas with cholera prevention and treatment information and a two-week supply of water-treatment tablets.
- Ensured 14,000 residents of Port-au-Prince camps have ongoing access to soap, clean water and latrines.
- Aired radio messages to relay key cholera information to 310,000 people.

### Next in the Central Plateau:

- Distribute water-treatment tablets, oral rehydration salts and soap to 22,500 families.
- Establish 100 kiosks that provide regular chlorine supplies to 155,000 people to disinfect drinking water and household items.
- Employ a 40-person team to disinfect cholera-contaminated households.



*Cholera has created a new emergency in Haiti that Mercy Corps is working quickly to address.*



## > Help for Haiti's Homeless

After his house collapsed in the earthquake, Junior Moise, 30, had no better option than to move his wife and daughter to a tent camp near Frere Road in Port-au-Prince.

Unfortunately, Junior Moise's situation is not unique. An estimated 1.3 million people still live in tent camps across Port-au-Prince. Lacking adequate housing, they are vulnerable to disease, crime and severe weather. Before the earthquake, 86 percent of metropolitan Port-au-Prince was living in slums. Post-earthquake, the situation is further complicated with land tenure issues, a housing shortage and enormous amounts of rubble.

### Improving Camp Conditions

Since shortly after the earthquake, Mercy Corps has provided clean water and proper sanitation to families in 25 Port-au-Prince camps. We also gave temporary jobs to 14,500 households, including Junior's, to help families meet their immediate needs. "As someone who has a family, the money is very

important and useful for me," he says. "As long as I am working, then there is hope."

We continue to work in coordination with the Haitian government and aid community to help families return to their old homes or find new ones.

### Investing in an Economy That Supports Everyone

Mercy Corps' first priority in Haiti is economic development, because for the homeless, a steady income is the most sustainable way to shelter and provide for their families.

In the rural Central Plateau and the Artibonite regions, we continue to aid earthquake survivors who left Port-au-Prince to live with family or friends. Here we are supporting the growth of a regional economy that can provide new opportunities to displaced survivors and give them the option to remain in their new home. By helping people find ways to earn a living outside the city, we're helping to reduce the pressure on weakened urban systems as the capital struggles to rebuild.



Mercy Corps supplies clean water to 25 Port-au-Prince camps, a service that is critical to preventing the further spread of cholera.



Junior Moise, 30, was one of 14,500 earthquake survivors to whom Mercy Corps gave temporary jobs to improve camp conditions.

## > The Source of Haiti's Success



Having lost nearly everything in the earthquake, Junie Louis-Jeune, 30, and her sisters moved to the small house their parents left them in the Central Plateau.



Though the earthquake left her disabled, Magguie Louis-Jeune, 27, is eager to collaborate with her sisters to start a business in their new home.

Junie, Nadia and Magguie Louis-Jeune live in a small house with their eight children in Haiti's Central Plateau. The three sisters lived in Port-au-Prince until the earthquake destroyed their homes. Junie and Magguie lost their husbands. Falling rubble broke Magguie's legs. When the earth stopped shaking, all they had was each other, and a humble country house they had inherited.

Shortly after the earthquake, an estimated 140,000 survivors like the Louis-Jeunes fled the city for the rural Central Plateau and the Artibonite regions. Despite their own impoverished circumstances, local families opened their homes and hearts to the displaced.

### Supporting Displaced and Host Families Today

For displaced and host families struggling to get by, Mercy Corps offers a variety of cash assistance programs here, including temporary employment and stipends for food, household supplies and school fees. Junie is one of 20,000 people who worked on a community-selected infrastructure project. "The job made a big difference," she says. "The money went mainly toward food." The sisters also received \$225 to spend at a Mercy Corps-organized market fair. They paid school fees for two children and bought a mattress and cookware.

### The Desire to Succeed

Now, the sisters are trying their hand at farming, planting peanuts, eggplant and beans. In the city, both Junie and Magguie had market stands. Junie sold cosmetics; Magguie sold everything, they say, with laughter. The sisters voice their desire to start businesses here, in their new home.

In these fertile agricultural provinces, Mercy Corps is helping Haitians use their talents to create their own prosperity. We're providing 5,000 unemployed people, predominantly women, with \$175 grants to buy items such as farm tools or sewing machines to start their own small businesses.

Mercy Corps has helped introduce brand-new technology in Haiti to deliver cash assistance via mobile phone (see opposite page) and give families first-time access to the financial services that will improve their economic stability. And we're beginning to work with farmers to improve yields, reduce post-harvest losses and boost incomes.

After years of hardship, these rural communities are eager for change. Their energy is the catalyst of our work — and will be the source of Haiti's success.

“ In these fertile agricultural provinces, Mercy Corps is helping Haitians use their talents to create their own prosperity. ”



# INTRODUCING HAITI'S FIRST MOBILE WALLET

Mercy Corps has teamed with mobile operator Voilà and Haitian bank Unibank to introduce Haiti's first "mobile wallet," a cellphone account that can store savings and work like a debit card. Mobile banking – which has already taken off in Kenya – has great potential in Haiti, as few Haitians have bank accounts, but 85 percent have access to a cellphone. Mercy Corps is helping drive the technology's development and adoption by using it to deliver cash assistance to earthquake-affected families so that millions of unbanked Haitians can gain first-time access to financial services.

## HOW IT WORKS

### 1 ACCOUNT ACTIVATION

Marie, a Mercy Corps program participant, types in a code to activate her account and receives a message with her PIN. If her cellphone is lost or stolen, the PIN protects her account.



### 2 PAYMENT

Mercy Corps sends Marie an electronic payment.



### 3 OPTIONS

Now Marie has the option to:

- make purchases
- deposit money
- withdraw money
- transfer money
- store money safely

### 4 PURCHASE

Marie types in the code for "make a purchase" (123), her PIN, the vendor's phone number, and the amount of her bill.



Marie instantly receives a message with a unique transaction ID. She tells it to the merchant.



The merchant types in the code for "accept a purchase" (987), his PIN, the transaction ID, and the amount.



In seconds, both Marie and the merchant receive messages confirming the transfer of funds.



## > The Power of Play

Herma Pierre, 13, is beating the odds. She survived the earthquake. And she's growing up in Port-au-Prince's toughest slum. Six years ago, Cité Soleil was a war zone. Violence has subsided in recent years, but for girls like Herma, guns and gangs still pose a serious threat.

Today, Herma is on the field of the Pax Christi Haiti youth organization, participating in Mercy Corps' Moving Forward sports program. "I love everything we do here," she says. "The mentors treat us great!" She grins at Frantz Francois, the program's local Mercy Corps – trained mentor.

For both Herma and Frantz, Moving Forward does more than give kids a chance to play – it helps them develop as individuals. Games teach skills in constructive communication and teamwork. Playing builds resilience and self-esteem. The goal is to equip young people to overcome incredible obstacles – natural disaster, conflict or, in Herma's case, both.

"After the earthquake, I was very discouraged," says Herma, who connects her experiences and Moving Forward

**Thank you** for continuing to care about the people of Haiti. The road to recovery has been challenging, but your generous support, is improving thousands of lives in Haiti in meaningful ways.

with surprising insight. "There's this game where you fall down but you have to get right back up," she says. "That's a life lesson! They're showing us a lot about life here, including never losing hope."

Frantz, who grew up in Cité Soleil, notices the way Moving Forward has transformed the neighborhood. "Cité Soleil has always been this infamously dangerous place," he says. "But look now." He gestures at the kids happily playing. "These activities have changed these kids."

Moving Forward changes adults, too. "Mercy Corps gave me more [professional] training," Frantz says. "I want to say a big thank you to Mercy Corps, because this program invests in people, in children, in who they are."

He points to a banner strung up next to a goal post. "That's part of the positive message we're showing them." It says: Haitian children are Haiti.



Mercy Corps' Moving Forward mentors "are instilling good values in us," says Herma Pierre, 13.



"The kids have developed a belonging to this program," says mentor Frantz Francois. "It's a safe place where they are happy."

### HOW WE WORK

Mercy Corps helps people in the world's toughest places turn the crises of natural disaster, poverty and conflict into opportunities for progress. After meeting the most urgent needs, we begin working to help families recover and gain long-term stability and prosperity. Driven by local needs, our programs provide communities with the tools and support they need to transform their own lives. Our worldwide team is improving the lives of 16.7 million people in more than 40 countries. For more information, visit [mercycorps.org](http://mercycorps.org).

> To learn more about Mercy Corps' work in Haiti please visit [mercycorps.org/Haiti](http://mercycorps.org/Haiti)

## Haiti 1 Year Later

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