



Haiti

18 Month Update

July 2011

A Song of Hope For Earthquake Survivors

“The name of CRWRC is a song of hope in the mouths of many in this country,” reported Jules Byn Bazile, an agronomist working with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) in Haiti.

Since January 2010, CRWRC has been working alongside the Haitian people to help them recover from the horrific earthquake that shocked the world on January 12. Eighteen months later, people are beginning to feel like their lives really can have a hopeful future.

In the early days after the earthquake, CRWRC and other agencies of the Christian Reformed Church worked with their local partners under the umbrella of “Sous Espwa,” which means “source of hope.” They responded to the immediate emergency needs for food, water, and shelter.

“A few months later, we moved into psycho social support,” said Willys Geffrard, CRWRC’s Program

Manager in Haiti. “To date this program has assisted close to 1,700 men, women, and children in five communities in Leogane. In even the most acute cases of people who have been traumatized by the earthquake, their trauma seems to have been resolved somewhat. People are coming more to grips with the effects of the earthquake and going on with their lives.”

As donations began to pour in, CRWRC was able to set up a long-term disaster response presence in Haiti. The next phase of response included building and repairing wells, setting up latrines, and building more than 1,890 wood-framed, earthquake resistant homes (as of June 30). Currently, CRWRC has enough funding and funding commitments to build a total of 2,400 homes by December 2011.

Now, a third phase of the response is underway. CRWRC has started livelihood restoration programs, called LEAP (or Livelihoods for Earthquake Affected People in Haiti), that are helping people get back on track for supporting themselves and their families.

The programs are being carried out in partnership with a European organization called ZOA Refugee Care. ZOA has committed to funding the project for three years. Canadian Baptist Ministries has also committed significant support.

“After the earthquake and after CRWRC had finished doing the initial response, CRWRC in partnership with ZOA decided to conduct a livelihood assessment to see if there was a need for people living in this area,” said Jeff Cosico, a ZOA staff member who was seconded from the Philippines to work as Livelihood Program Manager for CRWRC in Haiti. “We conducted a survey and visited most of the villages in the Leogane area. We looked for areas where most other non-government organizations were not able to visit and give assistance.”

Following this assessment, CRWRC developed a program that includes providing seeds, tree seedlings and tools to 2,353 farmers in remote, rural areas. It also includes loans to 400 business people, goats to replace those that were killed in the earthquake or slaughtered for food soon after, and rebuilding some small and medium-sized businesses. This report outlines a few stories of people who are benefiting from the LEAP program.

When a Smile is Enough

By Kristen deRoo VanderBerg

“I tried to get a good picture of him but it seemed I was not really successful — three pictures and no smile,” said Jeff Cosico, CRWRC Livelihood Program Manager in Haiti about 74 year-old George Sauver. “In a place where farming is difficult and people are still struggling to stand after the devastating earthquake, who can easily smile?”

George certainly fits this description. He lives in Bousejour near Leogane, Haiti. During the quake, his house collapsed. Although none of his family died, ten of his friends were killed. He also struggled to feed family members who moved home after the quake.

“Thousands of people from the cities went to rural communities to seek relief after the earthquake,” said



Cosico. “In Bousejour, most of the seeds that farmers had been saving to plant were depleted to feed unexpected additional mouths.”

After living through such a harsh year, George’s face may not easily break into a grin. Yet, he recently has more to be happy about. George is the vice president of a 100-person farmer’s association in Bousejour. This association is one of the target groups that are being helped by CRWRC’s livelihood program.

They received a series of trainings on farming and agricultural practices and built a vegetable nursery with CRWRC assistance. In April, George’s group also received a loan of eggplant and leek seeds to begin their crop. When the crop is harvested, farmers will be asked to repay their loan of seeds so that others can be helped.

“After the earthquake, a few organizations came but they just dropped their goods and left,” said George. “I am happy with CRWRC because the Agriculturists are here teaching us, being part of us.”

To show their appreciation for this support, George’s group gave CRWRC staff some newly harvested corn cooked with young coconut juice.

“I offered to pay for the corn, considering the financial difficulties George and these farmers had faced,” said Cosico. “George just looked at me and said ‘you came here from a very far place to help us, these are nothing compared to your sacrifices.’ I shook his hand and thanked him. He smiled — the much awaited smile, and maybe the first smile he showed for a long time.”

Let Them Dream Again

By Jeff Cosico, CRWRC Livelihood Program Manager

In a tent which the people use as a temporary church, 50 people gather. It is almost 11 o'clock in the morning and I am sweating. It is hot, but those who are sitting are excited and their moods are all jovial. Why not? Today they will receive their first loans.

As they wait for their names to be called, a lady seems happier than the rest and I ask the loan officer if I can talk to her.

Her name is Rosana Joseph. She is 33 years old and is a mother of two small children. She and her family live in a rented house in Macombe. Before the quake,

they lived in a house in Carrefour, about 45 minutes away. They would come to Macombe on Sundays to attend church.

The earthquake destroyed her home and her business. With nothing left, the family went to Macombe and rented a small house.

When CRWRC gave small amounts of cash to the residents of Macombe after the earthquake, most people used theirs to buy food and household supplies. Rosana used hers to restart her business. She bought and then sold chicken meat, biscuits,



Earthquake Response At A Glance

CRWRC's Disaster Response Team is focused on five target communities near Leogane, Haiti: Masson, Luitor, Macombe, Croix des Peres, and Flon.

To date, CRWRC has provided:

- food to 4,603 households
- emergency funds to 2,331 households
- toolkits to 1,400 households
- 3,500 tarps to provide immediate shelter until homes can be rebuilt
- 22 temporary community latrines
- 19 wells
- 1,890 wood-framed, earthquake resistant homes
- 74 home repairs
- two water filtration units installed at two hospitals
- training in leading psycho-social trauma-counseling to nine men and nine women
- 33 psycho-social sessions and trauma-counseling activities, which benefitted 1,686 people (691 women, 550 men, 445 children)
- \$250,000 to help Haitian partner agencies rebuild
- Loans to 280 business people
- Farm tools such as hoes, machetes, and knives to 125 farmers
- Black bean, lima bean, corn, eggplant, leek and mung bean seeds and banana seedlings to 2,353 farmers

New videos of CRWRC's work in the Leogane area are online at www.crwrc.org/haiti. Contact CRWRC to request a DVD copy.

drinks and other cooking ingredients. Now, she has a makeshift store where she sells small things.

Today, in this church tent, she and her husband will receive a loan from CRWRC. They are among the first batch of micro-entrepreneurs from Macombe to receive these loans. She plans to use hers (worth approximately \$375 USD) as additional capital for her business. She hopes that as the business continues to grow, she'll be able to buy land in Macombe and build a house she can call her own.

"I am happy and excited because CRWRC helped us before and now they are helping us again," said Rosana. "Now we can expand our business and hopefully even if CRWRC cannot give us a house because we do not own land, we can have one. That is my dream."

CRWRC is providing loans to 400 Haitian business people such as Rosana. These small loans enable business men and women to purchase new supplies or equipment to get their small businesses started. As these men and women invest in their business, it also helps to jump start the local economy. So far, loans have been provided to 280 people.

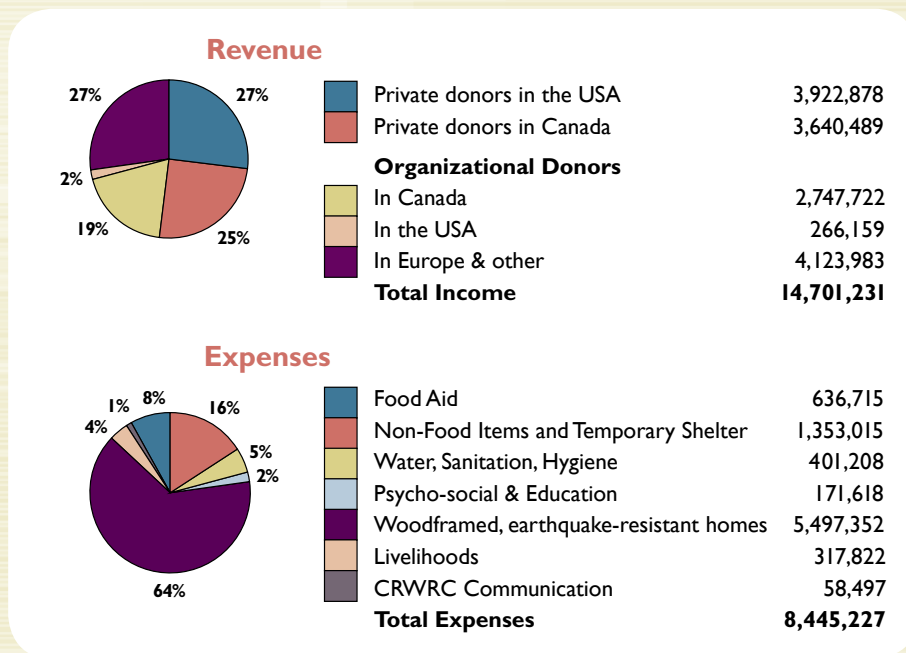
Financials

Revenue

Through May 31, 2011 CRWRC had received over \$14.7 million for our Haiti earthquake response. This included \$7.56 million in donations from individuals and churches. These donations were leveraged through CRWRC's membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its partnerships with outside funders and aid organizations to bring in an additional \$7.13 million.

Expenses

Through May 31, CRWRC had spent \$8.4 million (57.44%) of the funds it had received for the Haiti earthquake response. This included \$636,715 (7.54%) for food aid; \$1.3 million (16.02%) on non-food items including temporary shelter and support for Sous Espwa partners; \$410,208 (4.86%) on water, sanitation, and hygiene; \$171,618 (2.03%) on psycho-social support and education; \$5.5 million (65.09%) on home reconstruction; \$317,822 (3.76%) on livelihood programs; and \$58,497 on communications. The remaining \$6.25 million is available for future use as CRWRC continues its home reconstruction and livelihood restoration programs and as Sous Espwa continues its earthquake recovery work with its local partners.



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