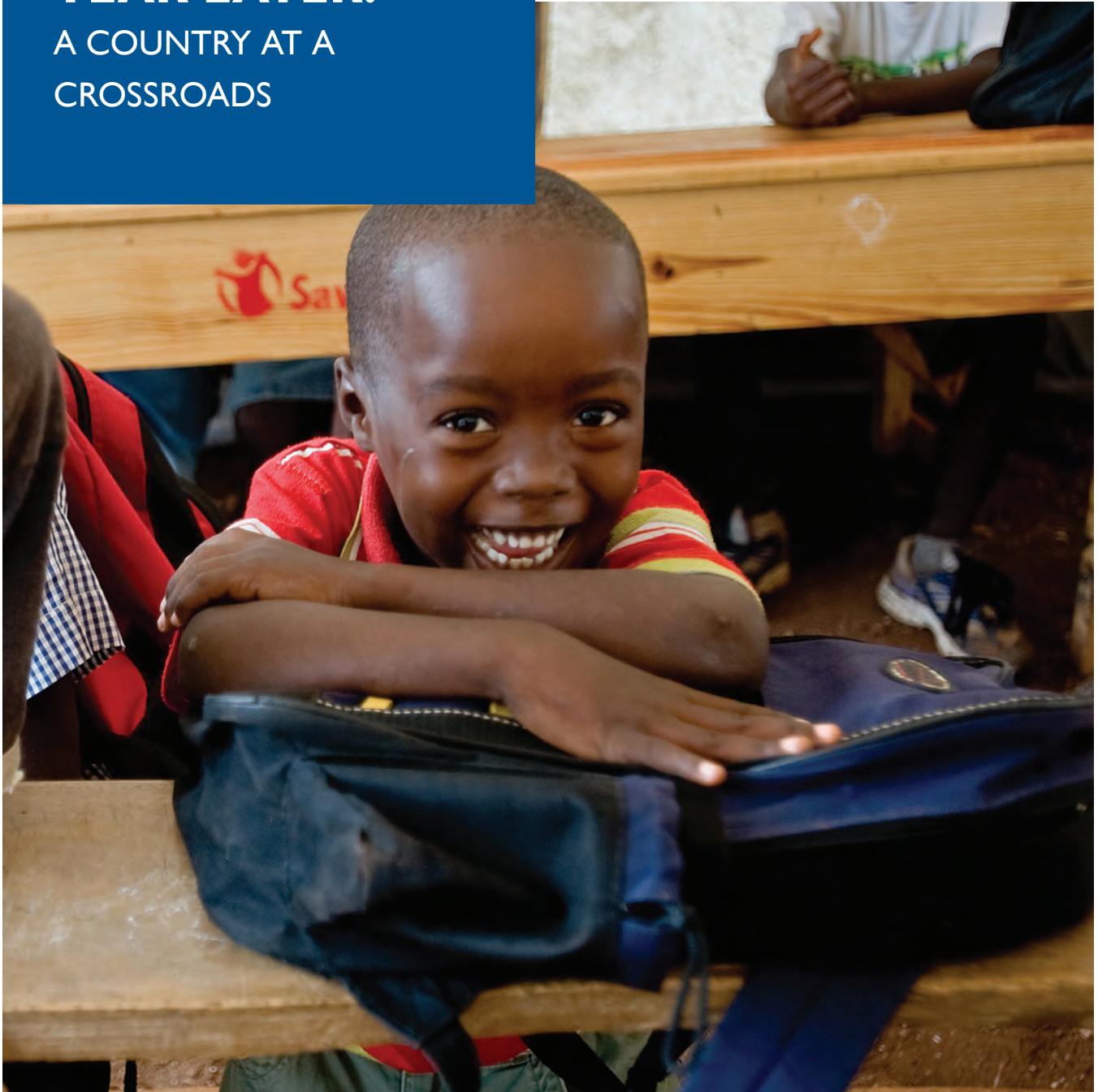


# HAITI'S CHILDREN ONE YEAR LATER:

A COUNTRY AT A  
CROSSROADS



**Save the Children**

## Haiti: The Will to Move beyond the Past

In any emergency, children are always the most vulnerable. This has been particularly true for children in Haiti since January 12, 2010, when the devastating 7.0 earthquake reduced buildings to rubble, destroyed much of the nation's fragile infrastructure and extinguished the lives of 230,000 people. Approximately 46 percent of Haiti's population is under the age of 18<sup>1</sup>, making Save the Children's efforts to meet their unique needs a critical element in the country's larger emergency response and subsequent recovery.

Nearly one year later, the children of Haiti are still very much at risk — of natural disasters, such as Hurricane Tomas which flooded Port-au-Prince and other areas in November 2010; and epidemic disease, most recently the outbreak of cholera that quickly spread through all 10 of Haiti's geographic departments since late October. A country that continues to reel from destruction and loss is a very dangerous place for children. With 500,000 children living in camps and many others living in slums, all lacking the protection of social and police services, children are under continued threat of exploitation and abuse.

Since 1978, Save the Children has worked in Haiti to improve children's well-being through health care and education programs. And for 91 years, we have provided assistance to children and families during emergency situations around the world. Supported by contributions from citizens and institutional donors worldwide, we were able to immediately launch efforts to bring food, shelter, health care and other assistance to more than 879,000 survivors of Haiti's earthquake. We sent in supplies via planes from Miami and trucks from the Dominican Republic. To protect children, we established 50 child-friendly spaces and reunited children with their families. And we will continue to help the children and families of Haiti to improve their conditions.

Save the Children remains committed to working with the Haitian government and other partners to build a new Haiti. But this is not a simple rebuilding effort; we aspire to a transformation that will lift Haiti into a future where children have access to health care and education

### ON COVER:

First grader, 7-year-old Woudline at his desk in school, currently housed in tents in Jacmel, Haiti. A new school will be built through Save the Children's cash-for-work program.

and have safe places to learn and play. We want to enable Haitian families and institutions to give their children the opportunity to be children. But we cannot do it alone. This transformation requires years of investment, support and commitment — from the Haitian government, donors, nongovernmental organizations like Save the Children and most importantly, the people of Haiti.

### Haiti before January 12, 2010

Prior to the earthquake, Haiti faced a plethora of serious challenges related to governance, health, nutrition, and the lack of a viable public education system. It was and remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with more than half of Haitians living in extreme poverty on less than USD \$1 per day and 78 percent of the population living on less than USD \$2 per day.

Children in Haiti also suffered from the impact of poverty. Less than half of school-aged children were enrolled in school. The infant, child and maternal mortality rates were among the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean. The longstanding practice of child domestic servitude, in which more than 225,000 children<sup>2</sup> are forced to work, threatens their rights on a daily basis, leaving children and youth at risk for neglect, sexual abuse and trafficking.

### Haiti after January 12, 2010

January 12, 2010 marked a particularly tragic day in Haiti's history. The effects of the earthquake on the country's already impoverished population and infrastructure were immediate and catastrophic; out of a population of at least 10 million, an estimated 3 million people were directly affected by this tragedy. The quake shattered the capital and neighboring cities, leaving families to mourn the devastating loss of more than 230,000 lives. More than 400,000 households (2 million individuals) were displaced. And more than 1.6 million people set up spontaneous settlements in any available space they could find, creating an untenable living situation for more than 15 percent of the population.

Post-earthquake Haiti presents a new reality. In the year since this tragedy changed millions of lives, the country is

<sup>1</sup> Source: UNICEF, 2010, "Children of Haiti : Milestones and looking forward at six months." [http://www.unicef.org/info\\_bycountry/files/UNICEF\\_Haiti\\_-\\_Six\\_Months\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/info_bycountry/files/UNICEF_Haiti_-_Six_Months_Report_Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Source: UNICEF, "Children of Haiti."



*Nearly three days after an earthquake flattened much of Port-au-Prince, a baby girl was pulled from the rubble of a house near our office. Save the Children medical experts determined that the girl was dehydrated but otherwise unharmed. Unfortunately, Winnie's parents were killed in the collapse of the family's home. Her uncle, Frantz Tilin, has taken her in. Nine months later, Tilin says, "Winnie is doing fine. She can say few a words, she can ask for food, she is making a lot of progress but at night she has so many problems getting to sleep. When there is a loud noise, she wants to run."*

struggling to move onto a new footing. For Save the Children, the numerous challenges now encumbering Haiti and the sheer scale of this emergency have made this one of the most difficult humanitarian responses in our history. And the breakdown of Haiti's infrastructure has impeded the recovery process, particularly in the largely urban, congested and impoverished setting of Port-au-Prince. The displacement of people and destruction of property were immense and the task of reconstruction is complex with many interests involved.

What has been lost in the midst of these and other challenges, such as land tenure, inequality and lack of funding, is the urgent plight of Haitian children and families unable to help themselves without the assistance of others. Only a small percentage of what can and should be done has been achieved. The reasons for the very slow pace of recovery are complicated, but they should not be insurmountable if we, as a global community, make the well-being of those whose lives were turned upside down our overriding priority. With the government of Haiti taking the lead, Save the Children and other local and international

nonprofit organizations as well as donor governments and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and UN will be able to work together to build strong national institutions and community infrastructure.

All of this takes time. As Save the Children's Country Director Gary Shaye says, "It's a marathon, not a sprint. And you might even call it a triathlon."

**Today, Haiti is at a crossroads.** Despite the untenable living conditions and lack of jobs and basic services, many children are back in school. Many of those who are living in camps have access to clean water now, which they did not have before the earthquake. Pregnant and lactating mothers who have never had access to health facilities are seeing doctors, nurses and midwives, learning for the first time what better health care can provide them. **In partnership with the government and the people, we have taken the first steps toward progress in rebuilding access to health, nutrition, education and sanitation for children and their families.**

At the same time, we are still operating in emergency mode, spending precious resources on continuing services in camps and on responding to the most recent crises brought about by Hurricane Tomas and the outbreak of cholera.

**To improve children's quality of life, we must make Haiti's recovery a nationwide campaign that will enable its citizens to achieve greater economic security and rebuild homes and communities.** In some cases, but not nearly enough, families have been able to recover their livelihoods and build for their children's future. **The move to help the people of Haiti get back on their feet cannot be sustained without the ongoing support and investment of donors.** Our goal over the longer term is to empower and enable Haitians to shape their own future with their own hands.

On this one-year anniversary, we must recognize that not nearly enough has been done to alleviate the misery of Haiti's people. The needs of the country's children, in particular, remain urgent. The global community must seize the opportunity and honor its obligation to support the well-being of some of the world's most vulnerable children. Save the Children is committed to Haiti for the long-term, and the promises that the international community has made to Haiti's children must be kept.

## Thanks to Our Donors

Save the Children is grateful to our global donors for their compassion and generosity in supporting the organization's immediate relief and recovery efforts for Haitian children and their families. From the in-country teams to Save the Children staff around the world, we are thankful for your support and desire to help the people of Haiti. Your contributions have enabled Save the Children to mount and now sustain the largest humanitarian aid response in the Western Hemisphere in the agency's 91-year history.

The charts below illustrate how much money Save the Children has raised to support its relief efforts in Haiti, and how much has been spent in our key areas of focus for children.

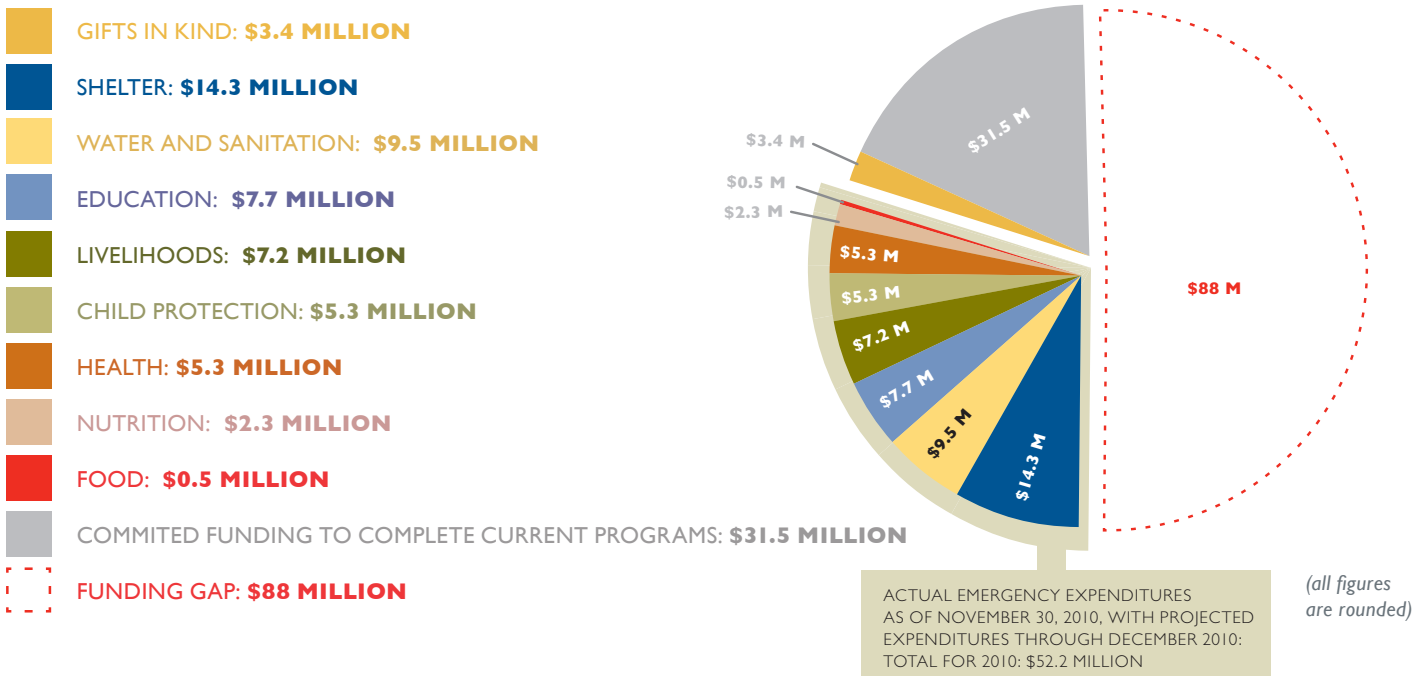


*Dr. Hary coordinates health programs including life-saving clinics, family planning, vaccinations and screening activities. It's because of staff like him that Save the Children has been able to reach 165,000 children and adults with medical services and more than 230,000 women and children with nutrition services. A doctor for nearly seven years, Dr. Hary was visiting family in Haiti when the earthquake struck and he stayed on to help with the relief effort. He said, "I have to be here with my people. I am proud of being able to give hope to people who have felt hopeless."*

## Funding for 5-Year Earthquake Response and Recovery

TOTAL RAISED AND COMMITTED: **\$87 MILLION**

FUNDING TARGET: **\$175 MILLION**



## A Look Back: Save the Children's Impact by Sector

### Health and Nutrition

#### Health Care Services

Haiti has among the highest child and maternal mortality rates in the Western Hemisphere and struggled to meet the health and nutrition needs of its people well before the earthquake. The nation's already weak health infrastructure was shattered by the earthquake just as thousands of people sustained injuries and desperately needed medical care.

To meet the overwhelming demand for health care, Save the Children coordinated with local and international partners to open 80 clinics and nutrition support facilities in areas most affected by the earthquake. As of December 2010, we have reached nearly 165,000 children and adults with medical services and more than 230,000 women and children with nutrition services. Where existing health services were insufficient, Save the Children sent teams, some traveling on foot for hours, to deliver medical services to remote populations that had no other access to medical care. Focusing on direct delivery of services in mobile clinics in rural and urban locations, in camps and in communities, Save the Children responded on a large scale alongside the



#### Raising Her Sister's Son: Learning about Child Care in Haiti

At age 19, Manoushka is barely out of childhood herself, but she has taken on a monumental task. Her nephew, 3-month-old Antoine, lost his mother on the day of his birth, so Manoushka is raising him as her own child.

"I don't know much about taking care of babies," Manoushka explains, "My sister had a caesarean section and something went wrong. She died right after he was born." The maternal mortality rate in Haiti is very high, among the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean at 630 per 100,000 live births.

Manoushka has brought Antoine to the Save the Children clinic at Camp Pinchinat in Jacmel. He has had diarrhea for several days. At the Save the Children clinic, Chericia Clermont gives Manoushka some practical advice about taking care of Antoine.

"Coming here was very helpful," says Manoushka. "I feel much better now and I really appreciate the service."

"The nurse told me that I need to always boil water because here water is not treated well and can make him very sick. I also know now that when he has bad diarrhea I have to give him oral rehydration salts so he doesn't get dehydrated.

"It has been very difficult for me to raise my sister's son. It took me three hours to get here because I live far from any hospital. I pray that he stays alive and that someone will help me support him."

In areas most affected by the quake and in rural areas without health facilities, Save the Children has been providing and continues to build the capacity of local health services to deliver curative care to all community members, especially children and women of reproductive age. Priorities include comprehensive newborn and child health care, family planning, and antenatal and postnatal care. An estimated 230,000 visits to Save the Children health clinics have taken place since the earthquake. Save the Children has provided lifesaving nutrition support through both prevention and treatment for acute malnutrition to more than 230,600 women and children. Save the Children has also played a major role in protecting and supporting safe and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices through widespread community breastfeeding promotion, peer support to women in need of breastfeeding counseling and the provision of ready-to-use infant formula for infants unable to be breastfed.

Save the Children will continue to provide treatment for acute malnutrition and will increase efforts to promote optimal child nutrition practices to prevent malnutrition and encourage healthy growth and development.



## Claire Heureuse Hospital in Dessalines

Claire Heureuse Hospital is a small hospital — there are only four doctors — and the only ambulance lies broken down in the courtyard. Yet the hospital is filled to capacity. Chickens roam the floors. Patients fill up the corridors, admissions area and even outside in the courtyard and family members gather around the sick beds to care for their relatives. In the span of just one week, 70 people in Dessalines have died from cholera, and the hospital is strengthening its capacity to manage the increased case load of patients. With only 45 beds, the hospital has closed its doors to non-emergency cases.

Sixty-five children under the age of 5 have been admitted to this hospital suffering from suspected cholera and two have died.

Twelve-year-old Maurisette lies in bed listlessly, while her mother Remezé keeps a watchful eye on the intravenous rehydration solution used to stabilize Maurisette's diarrhea. Like many children, Maurisette had been drinking untreated water from the nearby Artibonite River — water that is used for drinking, bathing, laundering clothes and washing food. Now Remezé is increasingly worried about her other two children.

Save the Children has been engaged in hygiene promotion and health support since the earthquake and has ramped up activities since the cholera outbreak. To date, more than 340,000 people have benefitted from clean water, better sanitation and hygiene activities that can help them stem the outbreak and prevent infection.

Also, Save the Children has delivered medical supplies, such as intravenous rehydration solution, intravenous needles, aquatabs (to purify water) and plastic buckets to meet the needs of the increased case load of patients at this hospital, which is in desperate need.

Ministry of Health and other health cluster organizations to meet the immediate health needs of children and families.

Save the Children remains committed to the overall objective of rebuilding Haiti's health care infrastructure through staff training, provision of equipment and supplies and improving the supply chain of essential medicines. This includes important ongoing programs such as vaccination programs for pregnant mothers and young children to protect them from life-threatening diseases such as measles, tetanus and polio.

But even as we worked with the Ministry of Health and local authorities to meet the health needs of the Haitian population, a second emergency swept the country.

### The Cholera Epidemic

For nearly a year, humanitarian agencies worked together and succeeded in avoiding the outbreak of communicable diseases. However, cholera first struck in October 2010. The global support Save the Children received allowed us to respond to this disease, which had not been seen in Haiti for decades. Many people have lost their lives and thousands of cases have been reported nationwide as of the release of this report.

As cholera continues its deadly spread, Save the Children is intensifying efforts to prevent and treat additional cases in the areas where our health and hygiene teams already have a presence and have relationships with communities. Because of these relationships, Save the Children has been able to quickly prepare for outbreaks while setting up cholera treatment units in several locations.

Our health workers — reinforcing an intensive education campaign spearheaded by the government of Haiti and other international organizations — are broadening prevention and education activities to provide families with information about the importance of washing hands with soap, boiling water and seeking medical support at the first sign of illness.

### Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition

Save the Children is providing lifesaving services for malnourished infants and children while also educating families, particularly mothers, on how to breastfeed and prevent malnutrition from the start. Networks of community health agents conduct door-to-door screening to identify malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers who need nutritional support.

The community health agents ensure that caregivers bring acutely malnourished children to the health facility for treatment with ready-to-use therapeutic food and follow-up services. This integrated approach of linking health care with nutrition services contributes to the overall well-being of children and mothers.

Immediately after the earthquake, international aid organizations and the government were extremely concerned about orphans and mothers now unable to breastfeed their infants. Save the Children was asked by the United Nations Nutrition Cluster to provide temporary nutritional support to infants less than six months of age who were orphans or for those whose mothers were not able to breastfeed. Our health workers gradually phased out the use of formula milk but continue the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding as well as best practices for infant feeding. Save the Children's "baby tents" program is set up primarily in the settlement camps and provides safe spaces where mothers can share information and support one another with trained staff on hand to assist them.

### Health and Nutrition through 2015

**Save the Children has responded to the outbreak of cholera** with cholera treatment units, provision of rehydration salts and other supplies and an all-out campaign to improve hygiene and sanitation in communities and camps. These programs will continue to serve Haiti's population while cholera is present in the country. But proper treatment is not enough: Without a major investment in improved hygiene practices and sustainable sanitation systems, cholera could afflict Haiti's citizens for many years to come.

**To combat Haiti's high child mortality rate, Save the Children will continue to provide mothers, newborns and children with quality community-based integrated health and nutrition services** in partnership with Haiti's Ministry of Health, as well as international and local organizations. We will promote and support international standards of care across all program locations.

**Save the Children will continue to deliver services for malnourished children**, such as supplementary foods. And as families move back into communities, Save the Children will continue to advocate for their needs and provide essential lifesaving health and nutrition support.

**We will also continue to place a strong focus on the rehabilitation of health facilities**, training of health care staff and continued supply of medications and resources to ensure a primary health care infrastructure that Haitians

can sustain, and that provides lifesaving services to mothers and children. We are working with Haitians so that they can take leadership over these programs and provide quality, sustainable support.

### Education

Education is a core factor in building a better future for Haiti's children, and it remains one of our top priorities.

Prior to January 12, 2010, more than half of Haiti's school-aged children did not have access to education. Resuming a normal routine is one of the key strategies for healing a population that is traumatized by natural disaster, and for children, returning to school is a critical step in this process. Save the Children provided tents, furniture and supplies so schools could reopen as quickly as possible, allowing children to learn in safe surroundings and regain a sense of normalcy. In addition, 2,300 teachers received training in disaster risk reduction to be prepared in the

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*Max is 10 years old and a sixth grader at the Institut Abellard. He says, "In this school we're protected from the rain and the sun. Even when it rains, we can still have class. I feel good right now because I'm in a safe place, if it rains, or if there is another earthquake, we won't be afraid."*





## Andrise's Story

Andrise lost her home and relatives in the historic Haiti earthquake. Aid workers first met Andrise while Save the Children's emergency response team was providing immediate relief to the hundreds of families, including hers, who took shelter in a temporary camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital.

Over the past year, we've kept in touch with Andrise, supporting her and other families still camped in the neighborhood of Carrefour Feuilles, where Save the Children provides clean water, latrines and showers. Nearly a year later, we talked to Andrise about how she is coping with her tenuous situation.

Andrise and her mother still have no permanent home. Their tent is one of hundreds in this temporary settlement, and like all families camping in tents, they are exposed to the elements, often battered by rains. There is garbage strewn near their tent and when we visited, a stray dog was eating the refuse.

Andrise proudly shows us her new pink school uniform — in early October, she returned to school for the first time since the earthquake. She has just started fifth grade. Being back in school is something she's very excited about. And she's proud to tell us that she's one of the best students in her class. She even dreams of becoming a doctor.

"I like to study science. I would like to be a doctor because it's a career that I love. And you can save people's lives. I study hard and I like mathematics."

But, Andrise and her family do not feel secure in this camp.

"I don't feel right here because there is always something happening. Like when the rain falls and the thunderclaps explode right over my head — and I'm afraid," she said. "Life in a tent is not a normal life. When I go to sleep I'm afraid, because there are thieves. I would like for us to live in a house and not in a tent — a house that hasn't been destroyed by the earthquake."

On October 29th Andrise turned 10. Her birthday wish? A new house.

event of another earthquake. They also learned positive classroom management practices and how to recognize the psychosocial needs of children, many of whom suffered from anxiety following the earthquake. School kits including a backpack, notebooks, pencils and other essential supplies were distributed to more than 38,500 children.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, Save the Children has co-led the UN Interagency Education Cluster, coordinating the efforts of partners across the country to help schools reopen and continue functioning. Save the Children has supported more than 270 schools, enabling more than 45,000 children to return to their studies.

Prior to the earthquake, Save the Children conducted a literacy program, *Lekti se Lavni* ("Reading in the Future"), in the Central Plateau region and Port-au-Prince. We are

pleased to report that this program has resumed activities in the capital, improving reading and writing skills among young children and providing them with the basic tools needed for future learning and development.

Children respond well to the arts, especially in times of crises. Save the Children's *Healing and Education through Art (HEART)* program brings trained artists to work with students in Jacmel, introducing them to art through a variety of media and helping them to cope with their experiences through creative expression.

### Education through 2015

**Increasing children's access to quality education in safe environments** remains a top priority for Save the Children. In partnership with local communities and the Ministry of Education, we will continue to expand our ongoing education programs that provide children with access



to learning. We will also support the construction of 30 innovative school buildings in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, Jacmel and outlying areas, such as the Institut Abellard, our model school which is designed to be more hurricane and earthquake resistant.

**Save the Children will support early childhood development (ECD) programs**, help strengthen capacity of school directors and teachers, improve the quality of learning in primary schools and the level of parents' involvement in school. The *Lekti se Lavni* and *HEART* programs will expand to reach more children.

## Child Protection

Even before the earthquake, some 1.2 million children were vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation, and approximately 225,000 children lived as *restavek* in unpaid domestic servitude.<sup>3</sup> The earthquake made children more vulnerable than ever. Many children are separated from their families or caregivers, and the rugged living conditions in the camps often lack security. To address this immediate need, Save the Children established more than 50 child-friendly spaces where children could play and start to regain a sense of normalcy in safe environments supervised by trained facilitators. These child-friendly spaces are important to helping children understand and believe that life can return to normal.

For the many children separated from their families by the earthquake, Save the Children also stepped in to protect them through family tracing and reunification programs. To date, of the 4,630 children registered as separated from their families, more than 1,135 children have been reunited with their immediate or extended families through the Family Tracing Network which Save the Children leads. We expect that number to increase.

As schools have slowly reopened and Haiti moves into a period of recovery, we are transforming child-friendly spaces into clubs where children and youth can play and organize discussion groups to find support from their peers and develop life skills. These clubs, rooted in their communities, will be linked with agencies and peer organizations providing key services or support.

## Child Protection through 2015

**Save the Children will work to ensure children's long-term safety and well-being** through support for children's clubs, community-based child protection groups and networks. This network will enable community members to identify vulnerable children, link them with support



*Constructing safe schools is at the center of Save the Children's plans for rebuilding in Haiti. The Institut Abellard in Léogâne is a model of the innovative techniques we are using to build earthquake- and hurricane-resistant schools. Principal Madame Abellard remarked, "Before the earthquake, we didn't have this style of building. My generation inherited wood structures, but then in Haiti we built cement block schools. But it was especially these cement block buildings that collapsed and killed quite a number of people. We've done away with that now."*

services, and monitor and address child protection issues. We will also work with the government protection services to help children stay with their families and out of orphanages, and to prevent the exploitation and abuse of vulnerable children.

## Shelter and Supplies, Safer Construction and Disaster Risk Reduction

Shelter has been and will continue to be a major challenge facing Haiti. From the outset of its emergency response, Save the Children was on the ground distributing temporary shelter supplies and providing household toolkits to help families construct temporary and transitional shelters and improve their living conditions.

Haiti's people were tested yet again by the hurricane season, when Hurricane Tomas struck the country in early November 2010. But Save the Children had prepared in advance: Our on-the-ground team had pre-positioned supplies, assessed and repaired sites that were affected by rains and supported affected families by extending the hours at health clinics.

The many challenges of rebuilding — including clearing rubble, establishing land tenure and finding housing for the hundreds of thousands of people in camps who had rented accommodations prior to the earthquake — mean that families will be forced to live in the camps longer than any of us want. These are issues that must be resolved by the new Haitian government, with support from the international

<sup>3</sup> Source: UNICEF, "Children of Haiti."

community. Until then, children will continue to suffer. Save the Children will continue to help families while they remain in the camps and in returning to permanent locations as soon as it becomes possible.

### Safer Construction and Disaster Risk Reduction through 2015

As recovery efforts get under way, Save the Children's focus is on safer construction, particularly in the building of schools in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and Jacmel. Our team is employing innovative design and construction techniques to ensure that school buildings are able to withstand moderate hurricanes and earthquakes, as part of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies. The 30 new schools that Save the Children plans to construct in coming months will be safer structures where children can learn in a secure and protected environment.

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*High up in the mountains above the city of Léogâne, Save the Children's cash-for-work project is transforming the lives of vulnerable families. One worker, Bertony Blanchard, describes how he and his family benefit from this project: "I recently had an accident, and because I have this job, I was able to pay my hospital bill. I am now able to pay for my daughter to go to school as well. This job is helping me a lot."*



## Food Security and Livelihoods

Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, with an unemployment rate of 70 percent and approximately 75 percent of the population living in poverty. But the nation's frail economy came to a halt in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, when many shops and vendors lost their supplies.

Getting food to the families living in spontaneous settlements was an immediate priority for Save the Children, which distributed food to nearly 300,000 children and adults.

In the long term, one of the major repercussions of the earthquake was the loss of incomes and assets belonging to small business owners. And in Haiti, where a large majority of the population is engaged in informal labor, loss of livelihoods meant that many parents cannot provide food for their children, rebuild their homes or send their children to school.

Cash for work, cash grants and asset recovery vouchers are among the programs that Save the Children supports, specifically targeting the most vulnerable families as identified by their own communities. The most vulnerable include female-headed households, families with one or more chronically ill family members or persons living with disabilities.

Some cash-for-work projects also reduce future disaster risks, for example, stabilizing river embankments in Jacmel and protecting assets by cleaning canals in Léogâne. Through our support for farmers, fishermen and other small traders, Save the Children is contributing to economic recovery in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and Jacmel.

### Food Security and Livelihoods through 2015

Save the Children will support both urban and rural Haitian households to grow their income and assets, which will increase children's access to education, health and better nutrition. In urban areas, especially Port-au-Prince, we will aim to provide families with access to sustainable business and employment opportunities through cash grants. We will support business development training for women market traders, small and medium enterprises and youth livelihoods. In rural areas, we will work with small farm families to improve agricultural productivity and incomes.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Most Haitians had no access to clean drinking water after the earthquake — which would be an inconceivable crisis for most of us. In fact, even before the earthquake, Haiti lacked a basic infrastructure for water and sanitation. More than half of the population had no access to safe drinking water and 70 percent lacked safe sanitation facilities.



Angeline, age 11, uses the Save the Children handwashing station at the Maynard camp in Jacmel, Haiti. While living at the camp, she participated in our child-friendly space program before she returned to school at the beginning of the school year in October. Save the Children provides water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs as well as health and nutrition services to the camp residents.

The cholera outbreak that began in October 2010 testifies to the vulnerability of communities due to lack of sanitation, as the outbreak originated in an area not directly affected by the earthquake.

Since the earthquake, Save the Children has reached nearly 348,000 people with critical water, sanitation and hygiene programs. In camps where children and their families are most vulnerable, Save the Children is providing safe drinking water and we are building and maintaining latrines, showers and handwashing stations. Good hygiene is crucial to avoiding further spread of disease, so Save the Children teams are working directly with camp committees to train volunteer hygiene promoters. In camps, in schools and at health clinics, children are learning how to wash their hands properly with soap — a simple action that can prevent life-threatening diseases.

Access to improved sanitation facilities is currently being provided in neighborhoods to help encourage families to move out of camps.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene through 2015

Save the Children will continue to provide water, hygiene and sanitation programs to vulnerable children and families living in temporary settlements as long as necessary, and ensure access to clean drinking water and latrines at home and at school, where children will learn key hygiene behaviors that can prevent illness and other health issues.

We will work with communities, schools and health centers to improve their facilities and infrastructure, and will also work alongside the government of Haiti's National Directorate of Potable Water and Sewage (DINEPA) to build their capacity.

### Next Steps for the Future:

Save the Children Calls on the Government of Haiti & the International Community to Accelerate Efforts

As we approach the first anniversary of the devastating earthquake that rocked Haiti on January 12, 2010, Save the Children urges donor governments to:

### **1) Provide effective aid, ensure accountability to the Haitian people and build Haitian capacity.**

Donors should stress accountability in the use of aid resources and ensure that aid strengthens the institutions governing Haiti's recovery and development, and fosters transparency and participation of all stakeholders, including children. Donors' aid should be supplemented by budget allocations from Haiti's own resources and reflect the priorities established by the government of Haiti's *Action Plan for Recovery and Development*. Save the Children has put forward innovative ideas about how the Haitian government and donors, in partnership with universities and nongovernmental agencies operating in Haiti, could help nurture the skills and talent of Haitian civil servants and public institutions to better manage the needs of Haiti's people. All stakeholders should explore innovative approaches to building Haitian capacity over the longer term.

Save the Children is working to ensure that children's needs and rights are a high priority, that funding promises are kept and that aid is transparent, well-coordinated and effective.

## 2) Galvanize the International Community

The new Haitian government, the UN and the United States government should reconvene stakeholders, including civil society, early in 2011, to take stock of Haiti's recovery, adjust priorities and chart a future course.

**Donors must deliver urgently on the \$5.75 billion in pledges that the top 24 donors committed for 2010–2011. As of November, only 42 percent of pledges made in 2010 had been disbursed, and an additional 29 percent committed for 2010–2011.**

The Haitian government and international community must ensure the well-being and protection of children through:

- The care, treatment and prompt relocation of the more than one million internally displaced Haitians is in accordance with UN Guiding Principles;
- Making child-friendly disaster risk reduction a priority;
- Targeting recovery and reconstruction programs to areas of Haiti that were less directly affected by the earthquake but facing massive challenges.

The cholera epidemic now spreading across Haiti will not be stopped without massive efforts to improve health services, water, hygiene and sanitation. **Donors must urgently fulfill the \$174 million emergency appeal issued by the World Health Organization to help stem the spread of cholera and reduce the loss of life caused by this epidemic.** As of mid-December 2010, the appeal had only met 20 percent of the target. The necessary manpower, supplies and infrastructure must be mobilized in order to prevent the continued spread of the disease and possible loss of outcomes anticipated in the Haitian government's *Action Plan for Recovery and Development*.

## 3) Take the Lead in Children's Priority Sectors

- **Protect children.** Short-term measures to keep children safe, reunite families, improve institutional care and develop viable alternative care must be implemented immediately. The *Action Plan for Recovery and Development* underscores the importance of developing a social protection system, particularly with reference to the more than 100,000 children who have no families to protect them. Over the long term, the government and development partners must invest the financial and technical resources in building a national system to protect children from abuse and trafficking.

- **Improve child health and nutrition.** Prioritizing improved access to and the dependable delivery of quality primary health care, with an emphasis on maternal, infant and child health and nutrition and related hygiene and sanitation is an essential priority, dramatically demonstrated by the outbreak of cholera which has spread nationwide. The international response must support the Ministry of Health and partners to restore and expand access to basic health care for women and children, as well as access to potable water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and facilities — truly the only sustainable way to rid the country of cholera. The dissemination of equipment to hospitals and health centers is also necessary so proven lifesaving approaches and health services reach peri-urban and rural families.

- **Make education work.** Expanding universal access to basic education must be an immediate goal of the government and development partners, particularly for the minority of children who still have not enrolled at the beginning of the school year. Longer-term, substantial and sustained investments are needed to strengthen the education sector and enable the Ministry of Education to assume the leadership and oversight role required to achieve the goal of universal education.

Funding dedicated to the reform of the education system needs to address the constitutionally mandated universal coverage at the primary level and the initiation of an Early Childhood Development component. In recognition of the range and diversity of education providers, it is necessary to achieve better learning outcomes for increasing numbers of children.

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Save the Children is the leading independent organization for children in need, with programs in 120 countries, including the United States. Save the Children is made up of 29 member organizations working together worldwide.

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