

Haiti Earthquake Relief Appeal

Haiti was struck by a disastrous earthquake on Tuesday 12 January, rocking the capital Port-au-Prince (PAP). The Haitian government estimates that 50% of the buildings in PAP have been destroyed and the death toll from the earthquakes at 112,250 deaths and 194,000 injured. People have been reduced to number as bodies are being burned or dumped into mass graves and no longer counted as individuals. Haitians are camping in whatever open parks or spaces are available. The government of Haiti continues to encourage the evacuation and relocation of quake victims out of PAP. It is estimated that 800,000 people are currently living in temporary shelters in PAP while over 235,000 people have left.



There is total lack of any government structure as well as the lack of economic infrastructure. Most of the government members have been killed and any government or commercial records have been destroyed. Banks are closed; commerce has ceased to exist although some small on-the-road food stands are operating. The population in Haiti lived day-by-day, buying supplies one day at a time and is now wondering where food for tomorrow is coming from.

Shortly after the earthquake, the GAIN team went into Haiti and started relief project. They decided to focus in an area northeast of PAP called Croix Des Bouquets (flower of the cross), this area encompasses approximately 30 to 40 smaller villages and communities that no one else (including the larger aid agencies) are going to focus on. This is an area where one of the GAIN staff has been working with 35 local churches over the years. Primary needs identified were water, trauma counselling and training of trauma counsellors, shelter, food, security and looking after the injured. GAIN is setting up medical clinics and providing relief to these fringe areas of the city. These clinics will also become the destination for the injured people that line the streets of



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Port-au-Prince with broken limbs and major lacerations that are waiting for help.

Although the news reports are trying to make it look like life is returning to normal in Haiti, this is not the case. Aftershocks continue on a daily basis, the people are severely traumatized and the situation in the "tent cities" is inhumane as there is no privacy, few supplies and an increasing concern over the security of the women and children.



God loves the people of Haiti and we can impact these people's lives with the love of Christ in spite of all of the disaster. We need to be praying for these people as they begin the slow process of healing and rebuilding their lives and their nations.

GAIN is in need of urgent financial contributions in order to respond to the needs of the Haitians. Without immediate food, water and medical supplies to treat the injured, many more will not survive. Donations can be made at

**Commonwealth Bank, account name: Global Aid Network,
BSB: 062-271, Account #:1011-5657**

Or mail cheques to **Global Aid Network PO Box 838 Chester Hill NSW 2162.**

Please stipulate: **Haiti earthquake relief.** Name and Address are needed if you require tax receipts for your donation.

The GAIN Team

Mobilising Resources to Help People