

Haiti

3 Year Update

January 2013



One of 165 mountain houses that World Renew built.

Haiti Earthquake Response: Three Years Later

Three years after the earthquake of January 2010, World Renew (previously known as CRWRC) is still at work assisting victims of this massive and tragic event. Throughout 2012, World Renew's major activity was related to the construction of earthquake and hurricane resistant homes. The World Renew team is delighted to report that, as of the end of October, our construction program has drawn to a close and 3,425 families are now living in newly built, safe homes.

Though the focus of the construction activities was near the earthquake epicentre in the Leogane plains, 165 houses were also built in the mountains, which required a creative new strategy and design. The partially-prefabricated structures used elsewhere could not be carried along the mountain paths to this community so a new design was adopted that could be built on location, incorporating elements of the traditional mountain home.

In addition to home reconstruction, World Renew assisted with the resettlement of 139 families from a tent community in Port-au-Prince, and supported the reconstruction of the office of PWOFOOD, a long-time partner of World Renew in Haiti.

While these projects are now complete, World Renew will continue its Haiti earthquake response program during the next calendar year (2013) by focusing on efforts to restore livelihoods through its LEAP (Livelihoods for Earthquake Affected People) program. The LEAP program assists local business people, micro-entrepreneurs and farmers through several projects and partnerships that aim to increase knowledge, skills and access to much-needed resources.

This brief report will share some of the accomplishments of the last three years and will encourage you to give thanks to God, the instigator of generosity and the source of hope.

Tropical Storm Response

In the midst of the reconstruction efforts, Haitian families faced another disaster. In August 2012, Tropical Storm Isaac brought extreme winds and heavy rains throughout the country, leading to extensive flooding, wind damage and several deaths. Just two months later, Hurricane Sandy swept past the country, leaving more flooding and destruction in its wake.

Once again generous Christians responded and World Renew received over \$400,000 in funding to support new projects in response to these storms. The team in Haiti is working with partners to provide reconstruction materials to families whose homes were damaged and has started an exciting project to promote livelihoods and rural community resilience with funding from Tearfund UK.

Promoting Livelihoods for a Brighter Future

World Renew is promoting livelihoods in Haiti through a long-time community development partner, PWOFOOD (Program for Training Diaconal Organizations). The livelihoods restoration (LEAP) program will strengthen PWOFOOD's ongoing community development work in the region.

One part of World Renew's LEAP program involves training and loans for micro-entrepreneurs. The LEAP program is also working with a North American organization, Partners Worldwide, to provide business training, mentoring support, and small loans to qualified Haitian Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurs (SMEs). There are currently 40 SMEs receiving support and the program continues to expand. One such entrepreneur told World Renew: "[My mentor] not only gives me ideas but always encourages me to be innovative, we started as friends but now he looks like a father to me" and in response his mentor corrected "a brother, not a father."

The third component of the LEAP program aims to enhance the livelihoods of local farmers through crop production, goat distribution, tool replacement and environmental rehabilitation. Through this program, farmers are trained to be "Local Agriculture Technicians" who can then train and educate other farmers in their communities. Already 2,698 families in 21 communities have benefited from this program.

When World Renew's livelihoods manager in Haiti, Jeff Cosico, was asked how Haiti is doing almost three years after the earthquake, his first response was "Pa pi mal" (not too bad). And indeed, while there is still work to be done, the Haitian communities where World Renew is working are once again hopeful of a bright future.

Despite the Disaster, Dreams Can Still Be A Reality

By: Daphnee Pierre, LEAP Administration Officer

"One of my biggest dreams is to have a big store where people come and buy from me. Now, by the grace of God and because of the loans I received from PWOFOOD, my dream has started to become a reality."

Before the 2010 earthquake struck Haiti, Lourdy Guilloteau, a young 32-year-old woman with five children, supported her family by selling vegetables harvested from her garden in the local market. Life was difficult then, but she never expected how much more difficult it could become until the earthquake destroyed her house and most of her assets. She, like most of her neighbours, became dependent on the charitable institutions that rushed in to assist victims of the quake.



Lourdy Guilloteau in her store.

Then Lourdy attended an orientation and training for micro-entrepreneurs offered by World Renew's partner, PWOFOOD. After the training, she received a loan of \$250 USD and was able to restart her small business. Due to her diligence in paying off her loan, she received a second and third loan, totalling \$1,875 USD. *"The second loan allowed me to open a bank account. Before I only hid my money under the bed, now I have my own bank account...wow!!!"* exclaimed Lourdy with dazzling eyes.

Lourdy is one of the 702 micro-entrepreneurs (470 women and 232 men) that World Renew and PWOFOOD are helping in 17 different communities. *"The PWOFOOD credit program not only helps affected earthquake people to survive, but if you know how to manage the loans, it is also an opportunity to start realizing your dream. Mesi Bon Dye! (thank you God!)"* Lourdy concluded.

Community Resettlement

Following the 2010 earthquake many families were forced to find refuge in make-shift tents, erected in any open space they could find around the city. One such settlement grew up right next to World Renew's office in Port-au-Prince.

During 2012, World Renew partnered with the local Mayor's office to provide a temporary rental subsidy



World Renew assisted its long-time partner, PWOFOOD, in rebuilding their office space



Make-shift tent settlement in Port-au-Prince

Haiti Earthquake Response At A Glance

To date, World Renew 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 could be rebuilt
- 21 wells
- 121 home repairs
- two water filtration units installed at two hospitals in Port-au-Prince
- training in leading psycho-social trauma counseling and provision of counseling sessions and activities for women, men and children
- loans to 702 business people; 105 of these received second loans
- 40 small and medium enterprise groups will graduate this year from Partners Worldwide training
- 11 communities have constructed seedbanks
- 2,259 families received farm tools such as hoes, machetes, shovels and picks
- seeds and seedlings for farmers including: black beans to 1,896 families, lima beans to 1,534 families, corn to 98 families, banana seedlings to 1,883 families peanuts to 125 families, coconut seedlings to 819 families
- additional vegetable seeds such as carrots, cabbage, eggplant, leek and peppers to 15 communities where they were planted in community nurseries
- 18 communities received four sacks of yams for communal gardens
- 2,088 female goats and 78 male goats to 17 communities
- 16 communities built tree nurseries
- 101,185 linear meters of contour canals constructed to prevent erosion
- \$250,000 to help Haitian partner agencies rebuild
- assistance to long-time partner, PWOFOOD, to rebuild their office space
- 3,425 wood-framed, earthquake resistant homes

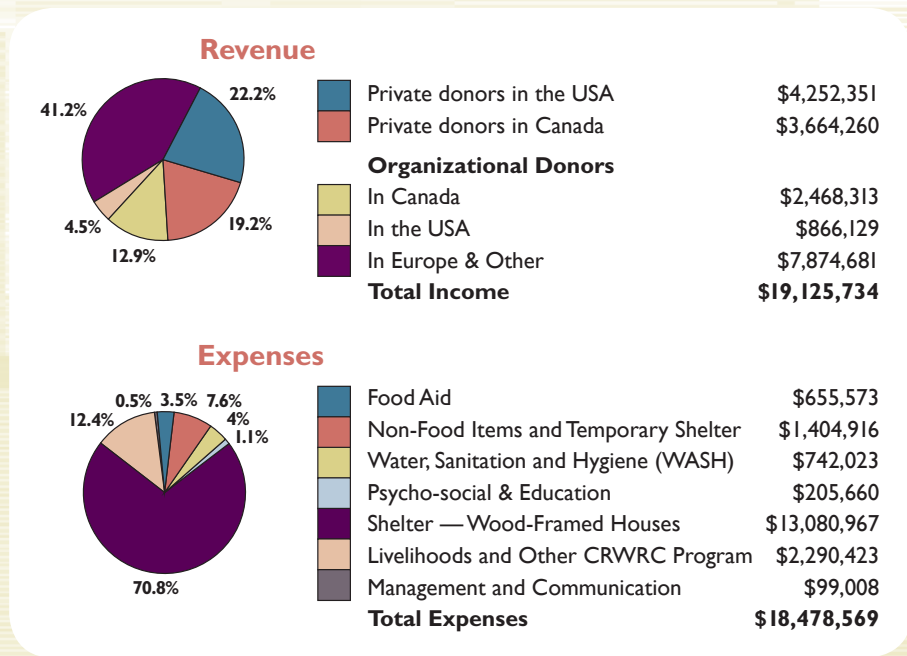
that would allow families to move into new accommodations. However, when “moving day” arrived, they discovered that one person in the community had not been identified in the survey they conducted. They were told that a young disabled orphan girl named Jesula, who had been living in the community, would be abandoned if the resettlement project was carried out.

“Unknown to us, God was already busy in Jesula’s life last January” explained Lunise Cerin-Jules, World Renew Country Consultant. When a group from the Calvary Church of Holland, Michigan came to visit World Renew projects in January 2012, Jules accompanied them on a visit to an inclusive community for vulnerable people called L’Arche. “It wasn’t until moving day for the displacement camp and the very moment that I saw Jesula crouched in that hot, dark tent, that I understood why we had visited L’Arche with the women from Calvary Church.

Jesula was to find her home there—God was directing us beforehand to help accomplish his work in her life. L’Arche accepted Jesula with open arms.”

The partnership with the Mayor’s office was a success and all 139 families were resettled. World Renew’s Haiti office, however,

feels that the real success was the long-term change they made in Jesula’s life. She is now part of a loving community where she is provided with the care she needs for the rest of her life.



Special Thanks

World Renew would like to thank the following for contributing to its Haiti Earthquake Response over these last three years:

- individuals, churches, schools, and businesses across the United States and Canada
- ACT for Peace Australia*
- Canadian Baptist Ministries
- Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund
- Disciples of Christ USA*
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Crossroads Christian Communications
- Dorcas Aid International**
- ERDO
- ICCO & Kerk in Actie*
- Manitoba Council for International Cooperation*
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada
- Methodist Relief and Development Fund, UK

- Netherlands GG Woerden
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), USA*
- Presbyterian World Service and Development Canada*
- Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund*
- Reformed Church in America
- United Church of Canada*
- United Nations Development Program
- World Diaconate Relief Committee
- World Vision Canada
- YCARE – UK*
- ZOA **

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* Donated through World Renew’s appeal to the ACT Alliance

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