

## Changing Lives in Haiti

The major earthquake that hit Haiti on 12th January this year had a devastating impact. And yet, through the course of our work in Haiti we have met earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince who, even in the tragedy of losing so many and so much, are hopeful for a new Haiti.

Thanks to the support of people like you, who dropped everything to help, we are beginning to help Haitians set about creating this new Haiti. Your donations, fundraising events and continuing support for Mercy Corps' work is making a difference.

With your help, our Haiti team continues to help families and set longer-term recovery in motion. We're improving camp conditions, providing water and giving survivors temporary jobs. We're giving teachers and parents the support they need to address the emotional need of children affected by the earthquake and restore their sense of well-being. In the impoverished Central Plateau, we're working with communities to build a viable economy that supports everyone, including thousands of displaced earthquake survivors.

This six month report is part of our commitment to keep you updated on our work. Thanks to the resources you have so generously donated to us, we continue to bring our unwavering dedication, best ideas and 30 years of experience to help Haitians rebuild their country.

Thank you.

## Emergency Relief to Port-au-Prince Camps



Tents fill every open space in Port-au-Prince: public parks, wasteland, even roadsides. For thousands of earthquake survivors, these crowded camps are the only housing option.

More than 1,500 families live in a camp called Carradeux. "Life is not easy in Carradeux, but people get by any way they can," says resident Etzer Dumond, 30. "Thousands of us have had to set up camp here because our homes have been destroyed. We've lost loved ones, jobs ... and it's hard to know where to begin."

Every day, Mercy Corps is working at Carradeux and 27 other camps to improve conditions and offer survivors a way to begin again. In all, we have provided water, hygiene and sanitation services to 22,000 people. We've distributed 3,450 hygiene kits, each containing a month's worth of household cleaning supplies and toiletries. We're teaching good hygiene practices like hand-washing and treating water so people can stay healthy even in crowded conditions.

For months, our priority has been to help families in the camps prepare for — and survive — Haiti's rainy season, which began on 1st May. Our engineers created flood-mitigation plans to protect Carradeux and other camps. Residents continue to work to

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Etzer Dumond (above) is one of 1,500 people employed by Mercy Corps' cash-for-work programme at Carradeux camp.



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prevent flooding by digging trenches and building retaining walls through Mercy Corps' cash-for-work programme. Our cash-for-work programme gives survivors temporary jobs for four weeks to complete clean-up and infrastructure projects.

"Before we started the cash-for-work programme, Carradeux was covered with debris and rubbish, and had not received much help since 12th January," says Etzer, who has been employed in the programme. "We've cleaned up debris and covered stagnant puddles that could breed mosquitoes. For better drainage, we cleared out existing ditches and dug new ones. Mercy Corps has helped us create a safer environment for everyone living here, and most importantly they put some money in our pockets to help us get by."

For many families, cash-for-work has been the first opportunity they've had since the earthquake to earn income.

Mercy Corps prefers cash-for-work over traditional emergency distributions because it allows families to make their own decisions about what food and supplies they need. Also, their spending then directly benefits the local economy. Useful work boosts morale in camps and also offers families a reprieve from the daily stress of working out how to get their next meal, so they can begin to plan for their future.

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— camp resident  
Etzer Dumond

## A New Way to Deliver Water

Water is available to families living in camps, but it can take 30 minutes on foot to reach a vendor — and often they sell water that is not clean. To address this issue, Mercy Corps has helped set up vendors to provide water to 12 camps and we're distributing vouchers that families can redeem there. This voucher system is an improvement over delivering water to camps by truck because it reinforces economic structures already in place and, in some cases, helps form a water market where there wasn't one before.

Here's how it works: Mercy Corps identifies a water vendor near the camp and ensures that they can sell enough clean water to meet the camp's needs. In some cases where there isn't already a vendor, we find a nearby household that has access to water and is interested in starting their own business.

Mercy Corps gives every family in the camp vouchers to exchange for 10 gallons of water a day. Vouchers are distributed weekly. At the end of the week, Mercy Corps pays the vendor for all the vouchers redeemed.

The voucher programme's strength is in its sustainability — we're creating a market-based system to distribute water. And it's a system that will stay in place after Mercy Corps leaves.





## Providing a Lifeline

Elianne Lazard supervises her cash-for-work team at the Carradeux camp as they clear a drainage ditch under a glaring sun. Like many other survivors, she is grateful to have work to do together. “We help each other through the day,” says Elianne, 34.

Everyone here is struggling to start over. “Before 12th January, we weren’t rich, but we were doing okay,” Elianne says of her family. “Life is very different now. I’ve lost my home and my husband. My five children have lost their father. Sometimes I feel like getting angry, but all we can do is accept the challenges life brings and move forward. We’re still here — we have to be thankful for that.”

Before the quake, Elianne sold foods like canned milk and rice to support her family. Today, her cash-for-work wages will go first toward feeding her children. Then, she says, “The number-one thing I plan to do is to start my small business again. I have to think ahead and somehow make this money grow. It’s the first lifeline I’ve been blessed with since that tragic day. Thank you to everyone who supported Mercy Corps to make this happen.”

## EMERGENCY RELIEF DISTRIBUTIONS (AS OF 20 JUNE 2010)

### WATER

- 862,500 gallons of clean water, approximately a one-month supply for 7,255 people (ongoing).

### FOOD

- One-month food supply to 5,500 families. In all, 315 tonnes of food, benefiting 33,000 individuals.
- Two-week rations of rice for 5,000 families, benefiting 25,000 individuals.
- One-month supply of food for 1,000 patients and personnel at Port-au-Prince General Hospital.
- 68,000 packages of high-energy biscuits.

### SHELTER

- Tarps to 1,535 families to improve camp shelters.

### EMERGENCY INCOME

- Income to 5,960 families through cash-for-work. Our goal by September is to employ 12,000 families.

### HEALTH/SANITATION

- Hygiene kits to 3,450 families, including a one-month supply of clothing detergent, soap and other toiletries.
- 114 temporary latrines in 25 camps (ongoing).

### TOOLS

- 9,660 tools — such as wheelbarrows, shovels, and sledgehammers — to camps for site improvements (ongoing).



## Microfinance Partner Fonkoze

Mercy Corps has partnered with Fonkoze, Haiti’s largest microfinance institution, to help build a stronger economy in Haiti. To date, Mercy Corps has provided:

- 500 Fonkoze clients with disaster insurance, retrospective to 12th January, granting them £85 to use for emergency needs and clearing the balance on their loans. With this assistance, 335 clients have already applied for a new loan.
- Start-up funding to Zafèn (zafen.org), an online microfinance programme that connects lenders with small- and medium-sized enterprises in Haiti. Already, 200 entrepreneurs have lined up loans for their business ventures.



Parents in a Comfort for Kids workshop learn how to best respond to their children's post-earthquake emotional and physical needs.

## Youth Programme Accomplishments to Date:

- 1,230 caregivers trained through Comfort for Kids to offer psychosocial support to 24,600 children. In all, we'll train 3,150 adults, assisting some 63,000 children.
- 3,000 Comfort Kits delivered (containing a blanket, toys, and toiletries).

### Upcoming Distributions:

- 5,000 copies of the Comfort for Kids facilitators' guide "What Happened to Our World" to hospitals, schools and other organisations.
- 10,000 copies of the "My Earthquake Story" children's workbook to local organisations.
- 1,000 Sesame Street DVDs to local organisations in partnership with Sesame Workshop, featuring original content that addresses the

## A Youthful Vision for a New Haiti

Harnessing the energy of young people is instrumental in rebuilding a stronger Haiti. Our programmes for young people put that belief into action by addressing young people's unique psychological, emotional and social needs and investing in their development.

### Comfort for Kids

Immediately after the earthquake, Mercy Corps began Comfort for Kids training for parents, teachers, paediatricians, psychologists, social workers and other childcare professionals.

These workshops offer practical ways to help children heal from the psychological trauma they experienced, so they can go on to lead healthy lives.

Mercy Corps will train a total of 3,150 parents and professionals in delivering the Comfort for Kids programme. They, in turn, will help some 63,000 children.

Next, Mercy Corps is launching Moving Forward, a programme that will train 50 youth workers and coaches at 25 organisations to use sports and play with 1,500 children to restore their self-confidence and sense of normality.

Mercy Corps has used Comfort for Kids and Moving Forward to help children recover from many other disasters, including September 11 (2001), Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005), as well as earthquakes in Peru (2007), China (2008) and Chile (2010).

### Re-imagining Haiti

Even before 12th January, Haiti struggled with a weak economy, limited educational opportunities and severe environmental problems. The destruction caused by the earthquake only added to those challenges.

But many Haitians agree that if there were ever a time to start over, it's now.

Mercy Corps is working with Haitian young people to become active participants in what many are calling the "re-imagining of Haiti."

This autumn, our young people's programme plans to bring together 100 Haitian artists and educators to offer arts workshops to 1,500 young people and cultural events to more than 5,000. Through photography and storytelling, they will learn to communicate their personal vision for change. Their artistic self-expression is a powerful first step to taking ownership of the challenges their communities face.

Mercy Corps is also bringing Cinema Under the Stars (*Sinema Anba Zetwal* in Creole) to communities across Haiti. Cinema Under the Stars is a series of multimedia street events that use short films, skits and music to share positive, educational messages — including those in our Comfort for Kids programme — with the public. These interactive events will reach 100,000 people over two months, building morale and strengthening their community bonds.



Fleurismus Valine, 10, who attends the art therapy programme Children's Place, is just one of the many children we've helped through Comfort for Kids.



## Bringing Help to Haiti's Rural Economy

An estimated 90,000 earthquake survivors fled Port-au-Prince to Haiti's Central Plateau. Even before the earthquake, this was one of the country's poorest regions. Its agricultural economy has suffered from ongoing environmental problems and poor infrastructure. Many families lack access to even basic toilet facilities and walk great distances for water.

Yet, following the earthquake, these households opened their doors to homeless friends and family from Port-au-Prince — even, in some cases, to strangers. At times, there is nothing they can offer except a blanket and a spot on the floor.

In an attempt to improve life in the Central Plateau, Mercy Corps is providing immediate financial assistance through cash-for-work programmes for both the displaced earthquake survivors and the families who took them in.

The strategy behind all our activities in the Central Plateau, however, is long-term: to revitalize the rural economy so people can make a living. If there

are jobs, people can choose to stay, rather than returning to the crowded conditions in Port-au-Prince.

Mercy Corps is now hiring the first of 20,000 families for cash-for-work projects in Central Plateau. These projects give a member of each household 30 days of employment on a community-selected project geared at improving infrastructure or agricultural production, such as repairing roads, farmland or irrigation systems. We are also giving cash grants of £85 to 7,000 host families to take care of their urgent needs for food and household supplies.

In the next 12 months, Mercy Corps also plans to provide materials to 10,000 displaced and host families to improve their homes and temporary shelters in the cities of Mirebalais, Hinche and Saint-Marc. Families will receive a voucher they can redeem from local sellers for tools, building supplies, mattresses, or cooking equipment. During that time, we also plan to give vouchers to another 5,000 families for supplies that will help them begin a new trade or business, such as sewing machines or beehives.

### CENTRAL PLATEAU RESPONSE

#### By December 2010

- Cash-for-work for 20,000 households of displaced earthquake survivors and host families.
- Cash grants of £85 to 7,000 host families to meet the urgent needs of their expanded households.

# Voices of Hope and Resolve

One of the first groups that Mercy Corps assisted in the Central Plateau was displaced students who left Port-au-Prince after their universities collapsed. We gave them temporary cash-for-work employment surveying local families to find out how many displaced people they were hosting and what their needs

were. With the wages they earned, the students bought food and other necessities. Some sent part to family members living elsewhere. The students valued the work — as well as what they learned about their country and neighbours in the process.



## Moïse Mackendy, 23

“Everyone is suffering. When a host receives a displaced person, both live with a little more difficulty. But at the same time, the hosts are doing it wholeheartedly. Some are selling possessions or livestock to help these people. And they do it with a smile. Before the earthquake I was disappointed with how things were going in Haiti, but now I understand I must take a position and be one of the people who will make Haiti different.”



## Cassandra Augustin Georges, 22

“One woman I spoke to said that she lost all three of her kids on 12th January. No goodbyes. These kids had been taking care of her by sending money from the city. So now she has nothing, no way to get by. I gave her some of my own money, I was so touched by her situation. The experience changed me. I understand the necessity to do good to others. If I have something more, I must share it.”



## Buldrine Pierre, 24

“I came upon several poor farmers who had received a lot of family from Port-au-Prince, but really did not have any means to feed them. The drought is hard. They can’t plant. They can’t find water. It saddens me when I see that people don’t have any way to make a living. Before 12th January, I studied agronomy in Port-au-Prince. I hope to help put this land to productive use so it feeds people. I want to be a leader for development in Haiti.”

## CRISIS TO OPPORTUNITY

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 programmes provide communities with the tools and support they need to transform their own lives. Our worldwide team of 3,700 professionals is improving the lives of 16.7 million people in more than 40 countries. For more information, visit [www.mercycorps.org.uk](http://www.mercycorps.org.uk)

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

## Update from Haiti

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