

Haiti Moves from Loss to Life

As we look back at Haiti six months ago, we recall images of suffering and the utter collapse of the familiar landscape. Today, as we look ahead, knowing that strides have been made, we recognize the challenges facing the Haitian people are immense and emotional.

Build Back Better

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is committed to supporting the ongoing development of leaders in Haiti so that what is rebuilt is sustainable in the long-term.

In order to maximize our reach, and guided by our global practice of partnership, CRS is implementing relief and recovery efforts through close partnership with the Haitian Catholic Church. In addition to working through our more traditional relationships with Caritas Haiti and with the local Bishops and dioceses, CRS is also supporting dozens of smaller Catholic institutions across the country.

CRS, with 164 Catholic partners in Haiti, is well positioned to ‘fill in the gaps’ with all types of interventions, ranging from the supply of food and materials to a single school to larger, more complex rebuilding projects such as our plans for St. Francois de Sales Hospital in the Archdioceses of Port-au-Prince.

Right now the new transitional shelters - much more resistant to the elements than temporary shelters such as tarps and tents - are under construction in an industrial yard where they are pre-fabricated and transported in sections to designated locations. Twelve skilled carpenters and other tradesmen and women, in addition to 20 Cash-For-Work beneficiaries, are employed full time at the shelter pre-fabrication yard. CRS and partners plan to erect 8,000 of these shelters. Recently, CRS expedited the delivery of shelters to several religious orders running schools and orphanages.



Completed transitional shelters in downtown Port-au-Prince.

Getting Help to Those with Special Needs

After the earthquake hit, many damaged orphanages, schools and community centers run by religious orders in Haiti were able to stay on their premises by moving outdoors. Together the sisters and staff focused on getting ‘normal’ activities back on track as soon as possible. Kitchens, classrooms, playgrounds and dorms were defined by rope and tarps; but as the rainy season began, more substantial materials, especially housing, were needed.

The Sisters of La Congregation St. Therese de l’Enfant Jesus Riviere Froide, and the Sisters and staff at Sacre Coeur parish were among the first to receive temporary shelters. Ten shelters went to each location. CRS is working with the Conference of Haitian Religious to identify and respond to other needs.

Resources for Parishes, Schools, and Individuals – www.crs.org

- [Letter From Haiti: A Church Building in Ruin](#) *Madeleine Philbin, regional director for CRS-Midwest, recently finished a 30-day temporary assignment in Haiti.*
- [Haiti Reflection: ‘Saved by Love’](#) *Major gifts officer Douglas Ryan was CRS country representative in Honduras during Hurricane Mitch.*
- [Haiti Earthquake: 6 Months Later](#) *A story looking back at the January 12th earthquake and how the Catholic community in the U.S. is responding.*

Thank you for all you are doing! Please share this Special Report with others.