

Two Years After

Successes, Challenges and Priorities



TWO years since its devastating earthquake efforts to help Haiti need to continue says children's organisation Plan International.

There are still some 500,000 people living in temporary shelters among them many tens of thousands of children and young people.

Haiti is a very young nation with around half of its population aged under 18. There are many vulnerable young people at risk if we allow this to become simply 2010's forgotten crisis.

Many of them in the camps lack the most basic of resources, proper support and protection. This resilient young generation needs continued support in quality education and employment to give them real hope for the future and the opportunities they deserve.

Plan, like many NGOs believes that it is the Government of Haiti's responsibility to take leadership on shelter, healthcare, education and economic growth. But with the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere still struggling to rebuild, the challenge facing the government is major.

Plan is concentrating its **focus on 3 areas:**

- Safe, quality education and opportunities for young people
- Full social participation for Haitian girls - this includes campaigns targeting education, gender based violence, youth pregnancy and work rights.
- Birth registration – to enable young people to participate and benefit from services such as education, as well as helping to reduce child trafficking and tackle child abuse.

If Haiti is to rebuild from this terrible disaster as a self-sustaining, successful country its young people need strong child protection systems and access to quality health care and education and we remain optimistic that, given time, this can be achieved.

John Chaloner

Country Director for Plan International Haiti



OUR RESPONSE



Income and Expenditures

- After January 2010 commitments to Plan Haiti totalled USD 43.5 million which included USD 13 million in gifts-in-kind. The gift in kind was in the form of medicines sent from Canada via the Haitian Ministry of Health.
- Since January 2010, Plan Haiti has spent USD 26.4 million and distributed USD 13 million worth of gifts-in-kind

Education

- Plan has helped over 138,000 children return to school by providing school kits, re-building classrooms, training teachers and supplying equipment for schools.
- Plan was one of the first INGOs to have plans for semi-permanent schools approved by the Ministry of Education. Thanks to these efforts, 257 classrooms have been constructed in Jacmel and Croix-des-Bouquets. Solid wooden and tin structures built on solid concrete foundations; these schools are earthquake and hurricane resistant and designed to last for up to 15 years. They provide a safe, comfortable space that is conducive to learning while the Ministry of Education finalises its design standards for the new permanent schools to be built.

Health

- Plan secured a \$13 million donation of essential drugs that enabled us to support the treatment of over 88,000 patients through our established health partners – as well as over 13,000 bottles of Pedialyte that have been used in cholera prevention.
- Through mobile clinics and health points in displacement camps, over 124,000 children were vaccinated for measles, diphtheria and tetanus.
- Plan provided access to psychosocial support for children, adolescents and care-givers (including the provision of more specialised care services for severely traumatised children and adults) to reduce disability and

social problems for over 14,000 individuals (12,000 of whom were children.)

Child Protection

- Approximately 5,000 children participated in activities inside the 30 safe and supportive child-friendly spaces Plan constructed after the earthquake.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Plan distributed hygiene-promotion kits and sent out public health awareness messages to some 16,000 people.
- Plan built latrines and showers in several of the camps for the displaced. Cash for Work beneficiaries have been charged with their upkeep and maintenance.
- Plan installed water tanks to provide clean water in displacement camps.

Cholera Response

- Plan Haiti's cholera response launched in October has so far reached over 400,000 people through prevention and awareness campaigns, hygiene kit distributions, water and sanitation assessments and improvements, and health interventions. Plan's work in this area has been fully integrated into our earthquake-response activities and is expected to reach thousands more.
- Plan created a cholera response task force comprising of national and deployed international specialists.
- Plan deployed a specialist team, comprising of WASH and medical experts, in all three of Plan's operational program unit areas: West, South-east and North-east.
- Plan conducted mass public health and hygiene campaigns, delivering cholera sensitisation and information messages.
- Plan distributed cholera prevention and hygiene kits to camp committees and trained youth groups on hygiene messaging.
- Plan supported the setup of ORPs, CTUs, and a CTC.
- Plan recruited, trained and deployed MSPP-approved health brigades in the program areas.
- Plan scaled up advocacy, media and visibility work.
- Plan strengthened partnerships with government authorities and local partners.
- Plan conducted a household-level and school-level KAP survey in communities in the three program areas.
- Plan regularly engages with the United Nations clusters, government officials and/or coordination mechanisms in all three departments.



Livelihood

- Plan provided work for over 36,000 persons to strengthen the economic coping capacity of families and communities by providing income to meet basic food and non-food needs and income support while rehabilitating and rebuilding community assets.

- Started cash-for-work programs at ORPs and camps, for cleanliness and disinfection.

Tracing Sponsored Children

- Before January 2010, Plan had 42,000 children in its sponsorship program. To date 97% of those children have been followed up on and work is ongoing to locate the remaining 3%.

Shelter/basic Provision Kits

- Over 22,000 people were provided with tents and basic living provisions in the direct aftermath of the earthquake. Plan Haiti partnered with the Irish NGO Haven to provide 100 small wooden houses to mothers with young children who'd lost their husbands during the earthquake.

POST-EARTHQUAKE CHALLENGES

CHOLERA

Cholera is a virulent fast-moving disease that can thrive in the insanitary conditions found in the temporary camps. It can kill within as little as 6 hours and children, elderly and infirm are particularly at risk. Plan and partners had to divert many resources and staff to head-off this devastating outbreak that has already killed more than 5,000 people and infected tens of thousands.

Plan has been carrying out cholera interventions in all its program areas and has also extended work into other previously unsupported areas in the North East.

Plan has reached over 400,000 people through prevention and awareness campaigns, hygiene kit distributions, water and sanitation assessments and improvements, and health interventions. Responding to cholera is an urgent matter which cannot be delayed but which has stretched Plan and other INGOs to breaking point.

POLITICS

In 2011 Haiti's general election saw a new President successfully elected, yet a subsequent refusal of the senate to approve his choice of Prime Minister resulted much time being lost in political deadlock. While this was disappointing for the progress of effective democracy in Haiti, the issue was resolved after several months of negotiations.

The sporadic violence and protests at election time have largely dissipated

and with the approval by the Senate of President Martelly's prime ministerial candidate we are optimistic that the political climate will continue to improve and furnish an environment for social progress and economic growth. With such events occurring in the context of weak governance and poor infrastructure, there are many issues to be addressed by this new government.

While it has been disappointing to have had to downsize some of our programs in affected areas during recent times, we are optimistic that the current stability will continue and the new government will be able to effectively implement measures to cope with Haiti's immediate humanitarian and long term needs.

CAMP CONDITIONS

Population density, continued movement to the urban centers land access problems and of course the delay of having a functioning government in place have all made progress difficult. Though significant improvement has been made during the last 12 months, the current housing problem has a complex range of contributing factors. International Crisis Group reports overcrowding, rapid urbanization and population growth contribute to pressure on sustainable housing availability. It should be noted that before the earthquake over 50% of Haiti's population were in inadequate housing (International Crisis Group). This is compounded by the recent governmental push to remove people from the Internally Displace Person

Camps. Housing appears to be a long-term issue for the Haitian people and while Plan Haiti is committed to improving living conditions, we work primarily in education, health and child protection.

COORDINATION

Pre-existing weak governance, massive damage to infrastructure including the government and the UN has created major challenges. Co-ordination has been difficult but Plan and other organisations are committed to better co-operation through the cluster system* and other partnerships in a way that will best serve the Haitian people. However, one of Plan's calls in conjunction with other INGOs is for the government to take swifter, more decisive action on: delay over decision for permanent school designs and ongoing problems with land deeds and access.

Following the 2010 earthquake, the total number of NGOs in Haiti peaked at more than 1,000, Plan Haiti has since seen this influx reverse with many of these organisations leaving during 2011. Given Plan's emphasis on long term community development, we have targeted our partnerships towards a range of international and local organisations whose goals are aligned with our own. For example, winning an European Commission grant which will allow for the implementation of a 3 year partnership with a local advocacy group working to improve child rights' in the North-East. This is just one example of a

large range of partnered programs and we enjoy good relations with many NGOs.

*The United Nations has implemented the Cluster System for use in humanitarian response in recent years. It is a way of designating responsibilities, avoiding duplication among organisations and creating better, more efficient organisation. It works by assigning an area of specialism, e.g., water, education or shelter – and appointing one major organisation to lead co-ordinated efforts for that cluster.

Plan is also represented by the Country Director – at management and steering committee levels - on the CCO a body of some 35 international NGO's. This group, which has a permanent secretariat and is funded by an ECHO grant and membership fees, meets fortnightly with the aim of co-ordinating activities, sharing information, conducting advocacy etc.

Sociopolitical and economic differences isolate the Haitian experience from others in the region. We are working closely with regional partners to learn from mutual experiences but we have to keep in mind the unique situation of

Haiti in order to adequately tailor our responses to meet the country's needs. Despite many challenges the situation is beginning to settle and we are moving towards stable development.



PRIORITIES

Plan has operated in Haiti for almost 40 years. We have almost doubled the amount of our staff on the ground to respond to the disaster, though these levels are now reducing and this experience and skill have been put to best use.

Plan is optimistic about Haiti's future. The last two years have seen an earthquake and a cholera outbreak which challenges the lives of many, but the opportunities for social development has also brought about promising signs of social engagement from the government and private sector alike. Having experienced large scale infrastructural damage and with a vast majority of the population under 25 years old, there are many problems still to be faced. Plan is encouraged by the early signs of change.

In August 2011 Plan started the mid-term hygiene promotion and prevention phase of the cholera response, complemented with a school nutrition component. All ORPs (Oral Rehydration Points) and UTCs (Units for Treatment of Cholera) have been handed over to the Haitian Ministry of Health, while our focus is now shifting towards CLTS and Nutrition.

In the case of CLTS, between August 2011 and December 2012 Plan will work in 78 schools in the 3 areas of work (North East, West and South East departments), developing a hygiene promotion training package, facilitating access to clean water and sanitation facilities (water points, latrines and hand washing stations) and the management of solid waste. For this component, Plan is working very closely with DINEPA (governmental office for water and sanitation). The main funding for this process will be provided by UNICEF and Irish Aid.

The school nutrition component also started on August 2011 and will last until December 2012. This initiative aims to improve the nutritional status of at least 10.000 children at 30 schools using a food-based approach (implementation of school gardens and school feeding programs) and will reach an additional of 35.000 children in 70 schools using a supplementary feeding approach (provision of Vitamin A, Iodine and Iron and de-worming). The children and their mothers will also be trained in good nutritional and hygiene practices, in order to strengthen behaviors toward food preparation at home. The main funding for this component is also provided by UNICEF and the Canadian National Office.

Plan continues to work with the government to encourage development in the following principle areas:

In accordance with Plan International's global campaign of "Because I Am A Girl" (BIAAG), Plan Haiti is working with the Minister for the Feminine Condition to promote full social participation for Haitian girls. This includes campaigns targeting education, gender based violence, youth pregnancy and work rights.

Plan is working in partnership with other INGOs to urge the government to enforce effective universal birth registration, an issue that is particularly pertinent given Haiti's high birth rate. It is hoped that this legal recognition of a child's identity will encourage a more inclusive society where all children are free to participate and benefit from services such as education, as well as helping to reduce child trafficking and tackle child abuse.

We are encouraging the government to promote education which is fully participative; that is, a school system which reaches marginalised groups such as the disabled and geographically isolated, which is gender inclusive, and which denounces physical punishment of students.

These exemplify the principle targets of Plan Haiti's advocacy in our bid to see an improved Haiti where the rights of the child are well respected. We urge the international community to support us in this endeavour.

SUCCESS STORIES



“David does not stop amazing me with his school performance since the installation of the comfortable semi-permanent school structure”, says his teacher Saint Surin Jean Jude.

David (his real name), 10 years old, is the eldest of a family of six children living in an area near to Croix-des-Bouquets. He is in 4th grade and his house is at about thirty minutes walk from his school, Ecole Bon Samaritain. Thanks to a generous donation from Plan Netherlands, the school was able to receive 4 semi-permanent classrooms after the devastating

earthquake. The semi-permanent classrooms structures are hurricane and earthquake proof and may last up to 15 years.

“After the earthquake my school was completely collapsed and I was so worry about my future and I had no hope,” shared David while pressing a hand to his cheek.” “But only a year after”, he explains, “here I am inside this very spacious classroom of a semi-permanent school structure built by Plan Haiti. I have nothing to fear here. No other earthquake can worry me now and besides I have a bright future.”

David’s teacher, Saint Surin Jean Jude, affirms that a good learning environment positively influences the school results of a student. ” Since the installation of the comfortable semi-permanent school structure, I noticed that the margin of progress of David increased. Saint Surin Jean Jude says

that David is very brilliant in biology and believes that he could become a very good doctor in the future.

David wants to be a doctor so he can give back to Haiti. "In nine years I will finish with my secondary school and I dream of becoming a famous doctor in order to participate somehow in the reconstruction of my country, which was struck so hard by the powerful earthquake. That’s the reason why I work so hard at school in order to reach my goal,” says David.

Before the interview finishes, David says: “I would like to show all my gratitude towards Plan Haiti which allowed me to return to school in a complete spirit of peace. The children are the future of the country and Plan believes in us firmly. Thank you one more time.”



"I have no brother or sister," Rachelle, age 10, says. "My parents do everything to help me succeed." Before the earthquake, Rachelle was already struggling to pass into the next grade, and had to repeat her courses. And then, after the earthquake of January 2010, things only got worse. Rachelle grades went down dramatically. Her mother, thought, once again she would have to pay for Rachelle to repeat the year. But then she found out that Plan Haiti was offering free school support for children living in areas affected by the earthquake. "My mother took the news as a great relief," Rachelle says.

"Before this project began, children were left to themselves after the formal activities of school," says Fritz Jean

Baptiste, Plan Haiti’s education officer in the South-east department, and one the people who came up with the concept for the school-support initiative. "And the parents were requiring maximum performance from their children without taking into account the trauma that they had experienced just after the earthquake," he continues. It was in the offices of Caritas—who shared their office with Plan staff after the earthquake badly damaged the Plan Haiti office—that the project emerged from Plan Haiti in May 2010. It was intended to facilitate a better adaptation of school materials by children living in camps and communities affected by the earthquake, and to promote their success in school even after what they had lived through.

Implemented as a first step in the months of June and July 2010 in the South-east, the project was so successful that it was repeated again this year, with the support of Plan Canada, and was extended in other vulnerable communities in the South-east and in the West.

The teachers, some of whom live in the camps themselves, after appropriate

training from Plan Haiti, in such things as hygiene promotion and psychosocial support, gave support to children in specific activities that had been worked on in the classroom. School workbooks are also given to facilitate improved learning.

Two weeks after the program ended in 2010, 80% of the student participants who shared their report cards at the Pinchinat camp for the displaced in the South-east had not only progressed but they had also passed their end-of year exams successfully. It gave a lot of satisfaction to the parents and to the teachers too.

"More recently, three children have come up to me to thank me for helping them pass into the higher grade," says Tony Dumercy, one of the teachers. "This profoundly touched me. It was a positive experience and I liked helping them to succeed," he added. Happy for her success last year, Rachelle returned to participate in the program this year but now is accompanied by a friend. "For next year, I would like us both to be in 5th grade together," she says with a smile.



Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realize their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity.

For more information: www.plan-international.org

