



# Haiti two years after the earthquake

## United Nations response

UN Department of Public Information Fact Sheet

6 January 2012

### Highlights: Providing homes, schools, food and a better future for the Haitian people

- The UN continues to provide and coordinate wide-scale humanitarian assistance in response to the 12 January 2010 earthquake and cholera epidemic.
- Donors pledged \$10 billion at the UN donors' conference to make a difference in the lives of suffering Haitians.
- Almost 90 per cent of the \$4.6 billion pledged for 2010 and 2011 is coming through for those who need it (disbursed or committed).
- 100,000 temporary shelters have been constructed.
- About two-thirds of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) have left the camps (IDP camp population down by 65 per cent).
- 50 per cent of rubble has now been removed.
- 600 + schools have been reconstructed or repaired.
- More children go to school now than before quake – including 80 per cent in IDP camps.
- 400,000 Haitians have been provided with short-term employment in labor-intensive projects.
- Legislative and presidential elections have been held and a peaceful transfer of power ensured.
- UN peacekeepers provide security and combat sexual and gender-based violence at IDP camps.
- The cholera fatality rate has been lowered to 1.3 per cent.

On 12 January 2010, an earthquake struck Haiti and killed over 200,000 people, injured more than 300,000 and displaced 2.3 million – nearly one quarter of the country's population. It leveled the capital, Port-au-Prince, destroyed 70,000 homes, damaged or destroyed more than half of the country's hospitals, delivered a heavy blow to the already weak economy and infrastructure, decimated the civil service and impeded nation-building efforts.

At the height of the crisis, **the UN system** – 18 agencies, funds and programmes and the peacekeeping operation, MINUSTAH – **led international efforts to help shelter, feed, provide clean drinking water, sanitation and medical assistance to more than 1.5 million displaced Haitians.** 4.4 million people were provided with food rations in the months following the earthquake. Within weeks, more than 100,000 tents and a million tarpaulins had been distributed. By May 2010, 900,000 vulnerable people received vaccinations and hundreds of thousands of medical kits were provided. MINUSTAH provided security for the distribution of this life-saving humanitarian assistance. Two years later, the UN continues to provide wide-scale humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people, including the displaced, children, pregnant and lactating women, orphans, the elderly and persons suffering from HIV/AIDS.

The United Nations co-hosted with the Haitian Government a highly successful donors' conference at its Headquarters in March 2010. Nations and organizations pledged nearly \$10 billion in immediate and long-term recovery aid to Haiti, including \$4.6 billion for the initial 18 months. **Today, almost 90 per cent of the \$4.6 billion for the years 2010 and 2011 have been either disbursed or committed.**

In the past two years, the UN has coordinated international efforts to help the country and its people recover and rebuild. **In cooperation with the Haitian authorities, the private sector, local NGOs and international partners, the United Nations has made tangible progress on education,**

**health, job creation and infrastructure, among others sectors, through reconstruction projects that are currently scaling up.**

Close to 5 million cubic metres of debris – 50 per cent of the total left by the collapse of 70,000 structures – has been cleared. **Hundreds of kilometers of roads have been built.** Some key government buildings have been reconstructed or temporary ones set up. More than 600 schools have been rebuilt or repaired and 150 cleared of rubble. The international community is also providing support to the building of 10 emergency obstetrical and neonatal clinics. The construction of more than 100,000 temporary shelters has contributed to a decrease in the population of IDP camps by 65 per cent to just over 500,000 inhabitants.

More children go to school now than before the earthquake, including over 80 per cent of children in IDP camps. **More than one million school children receive daily meals** and more than 470,000 students in quake-related areas have received school materials.

To address the cholera epidemic, which broke out on 19 October 2010, a national response and alert system has been put in place with the support of the international community, including the setting up of hundreds of cholera treatment centers and units across the country. **The UN continues to provide clean drinking water,** purification tablets and water filtration systems, as well as conducting hygiene promotion programmes. The fatality rate has been lowered to 1.3 per cent from a peak of 2.4 per cent in November 2010.

To kick-start economic recovery, **more than 400,000 people, 40 per cent of whom are women, have been employed** in labor-intensive jobs such as rubble removal, watershed management and basic community infrastructure projects. In addition, **the UN has worked to foster a better environment for foreign investment,** which is crucial to the long-term development of the economy. An industrial park is planned and could create 20,000 jobs. In 2011, Haiti's real GDP grew at an estimated 6.1 per cent.

**The UN supported the holding of presidential and legislative elections** in 2010 and 2011, which allowed the transfer of power from one democratically elected president to another from the opposition for the first time in the country's history.

**More than 10,000 MINUSTAH military and police personnel officers help provide security throughout the country.** Hundreds of peacekeepers are assigned to specifically work with the Haitian National Police (HNP) to provide security at IDP camps and special efforts are being taken to address the continuing problem of sexual and gender-based violence.

MINUSTAH has supported major operations by the HNP against criminal gangs responsible for kidnappings, drug trafficking and other serious crimes, as well as efforts to recapture hundreds of prisoners who escaped during the earthquake. Furthermore, MINUSTAH has strengthened the capacity of the HNP through equipping and training them. It has also worked to improve relations between the police and the communities they serve. Also on the rule of law front, **the UN has helped reconstruct or build detention facilities, train corrections personnel as well as promote human rights and push to decrease the number of juvenile detainees.** It is also working on judicial reform.

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