

CWS Haiti Earthquake Response

Final Report

January 12, 2010 — June 30, 2013



CWS

Photo: Aaron Tate/CWS

Introduction

The Rev. John L. McCullough, CWS CEO, visits the Northwest cooperatives of Haiti in 2012.

Haitians were the true first responders to the January 2010 earthquake, using the lights of their cell phones to search for family, friends and neighbors as the aftershocks rumbled in that first dark night. And even when a massive international response began the next day, Haitians continued to respond, rebuild and recover. Those who focused on what relief agencies, the Haitian government and other international actors were (and were not) doing missed the most important point — what the Haitian people were doing.

It happened on a small scale, as families sorted through the rubble and as neighbors and family took in those who had lost their homes. But it also happened on a larger scale, as nearly every Haitian organization mobilized efforts to serve those affected by the earthquake.

CWS supported these efforts, working with local Haitian organizations in all areas of our earthquake response. While many talked of helping “Haitians rebuild Haiti,” CWS committed completely to this model, while realizing the challenges posed by such an approach. It was difficult in the beginning. But it paid off in the long-term, as CWS programs filled gaps and reached marginalized communities.

As organizations like CWS complete their 3 1/2-year response to the earthquake, it is clear what such activities can and cannot accomplish. CWS programs, projects and initiatives have saved lives, promoted recovery and had a real impact on communities. But there is still much work to be done.

Haitians will continue to develop their country, and CWS will continue to be there — supporting the best local solutions to local problems, focusing on long-term development and building on the successes and lessons learned since January 2010.



The Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO
Church World Service

Housing

The earthquake left thousands of families homeless, as houses were damaged or reduced to rubble. CWS responded with three separate initiatives to address urgent housing needs. In Port-au-Prince, CWS repaired homes for persons with disabilities living in displacement camps. The repair project was a logistical challenge, as the houses were spread throughout the city, and many were located in areas difficult to access. CWS also repaired and built new houses in Ganthier and Boen through a “camps-to-communities” project, which provided housing for many of the nearly 500 families living in a CWS-supported displacement camp.

Having extensive experience in the rural communities of the far Northwest Department, CWS was also keenly aware of how these areas were affected by the earthquake. These areas received an “aftershock” of migration, as thousands of people fled Port-au-Prince and went to join family outside the city. To help communities absorb this shock, CWS expanded, repaired and constructed homes in agricultural cooperatives in this area.



Photo: Aaron Tate/CWS

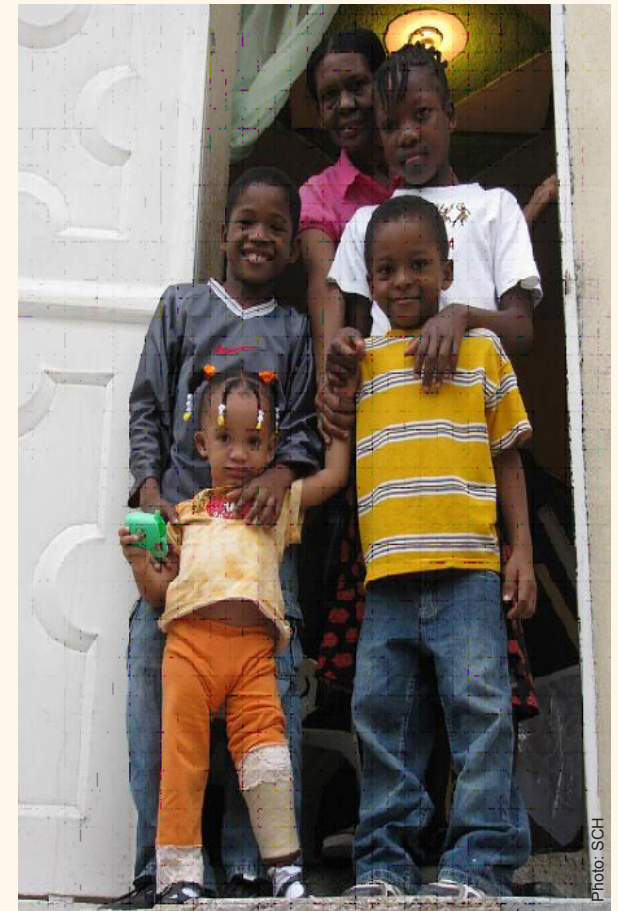


Photo: SCH

Laura, pictured at left, became an orphan and amputee. CWS helped her get a prosthetic leg, emergency cash assistance, repaired the house of her aunt so that the family could return home from a tent camp.

491 homes repaired or built:

- 213 houses repaired for persons with disabilities in Port-au-Prince.
- 94 new houses built and 36 houses repaired in Ganthier and Boen.
- 148 houses expanded, repaired or constructed in the Northwest and Artibonite departments.



Photo: Chris Herfingger/CWS

People with disabilities

In the days after the earthquake, CWS assessments determined that people with disabilities faced increased difficulties in accessing emergency aid. Also, thousands of Haitians became disabled because of the earthquake. They sought services to help them adapt to their new physical challenges and to deal with the accompanying emotional impact.

CWS responded with a program to address the need for emergency assistance, economic opportunity, community building and psychosocial support. This holistic approach included conducting outreach to people with disabilities in their homes, and empowering them through group and individual counseling, vocational training scholarships and resources to start a small business. The program also advocated with community leaders for a more inclusive society.

- **1,200 beneficiaries received emergency cash assistance.**
- **781 beneficiaries started small businesses.**
- **35 beneficiaries received scholarships for vocational training.**
- **150 beneficiaries received prosthetic limbs.**
- **More than 6,500 participated in program events.**
- **Over 1,000 received counseling from psychologists.**
- **More than 200 religious leaders participated in conferences on inclusion of persons with disabilities.**

A small grant from CWS allowed vendor Vital Joseph, who is blind, to open a small neighborhood store in Port-au-Prince. "Things are good right now," he said.

Material aid and logistics

Dominicans were the first to bring international aid to Haiti, arriving the day after earthquake. And with Haitian ports and airports damaged, the Dominican Republic soon became the primary entry point for delivering aid to Haiti. CWS supported this effort by establishing a system to transport international aid and staff between the two countries. This system was eventually used by dozens of Haitian, Dominican and international organizations.

CWS also distributed thousands of CWS blankets, baby kits, hygiene kits, school kits, tarps and other supplies. In addition, CWS provided two camps of displaced people with essential services, including food, water systems, community kitchens and cash assistance. Collectively, these efforts brought aid to more than 500,000 beneficiaries.

- More than \$1.2 million in donations given by Dominicans, transported and distributed in Haiti.
- 43 shipments of international aid transported to Haiti.
- 234 humanitarian workers transported between Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- Over 500 international and local volunteers provided transport, housing and other services.
- 39,300 hygiene kits, 8,600 blankets, 10,000 tarps, 5,000 school kits, 2,000 baby kits distributed.
- Provided essential services to over 3,000 individuals living in displacement camps.



Photos: Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance



Children's protection

The protection of children has long been a priority for CWS in Haiti. Following the earthquake, children faced increased vulnerability and limited access to services, as thousands of schools and children's organizations were destroyed or debilitated by the disaster. CWS responded immediately, supporting direct emergency services to children, including hot meals, food and shelter. In addition, CWS provided both emergency and long-term support to 18 grassroots children's organizations united through a national network.

The goal: help organizations recover from the disaster while supporting innovative initiatives to improve services to children and address long-term children's protection issues.

- **Provided schooling for over 200 children annually.**
- **Initiated project to develop a national policy and draft legislation for the protection of children in Haiti.**
- **Conducted regional exchanges between Haitian and Latin American organizations.**
- **Helped 21 children who had been living as "restaveks" (domestic servants) to return to their homes and families.**
- **Sponsored the annual advocacy event "National Day for the Abolition of the Restavek System."**
- **Provided capacity building for a network of 18 organizations serving more than 2,500 children.**
- **Provided holistic services to more than 200 Haitian children living in the Dominican Republic.**

Through the help of a CWS-supported organization, Venette Vergeon escaped abuse as an unpaid domestic servant and is now finishing school, completing carpentry training and volunteering as a peer health educator.

Food security

In the days after the earthquake, thousands of people fled the destruction of Port-au-Prince and went to live with families in rural areas. This became a challenge for rural communities in the Northwest and Artibonite departments, which were already vulnerable to food insecurity (the lack of access to food) and extreme poverty. In addition, those in rural communities faced a difficult situation: They had often survived off of the financial support they received from families working in Port-au-Prince. But those family members now returned to the communities, in need and without employment or money.

However, the 13 agricultural cooperatives CWS had supported for many years were strong enough to provide direct emergency services to the new arrivals. Co-ops provided food, clothing, shelter and even cash to the earthquake survivors, all initially without outside support.

CWS empowered this community-based response by providing additional micro-credit and other services to the cooperatives.



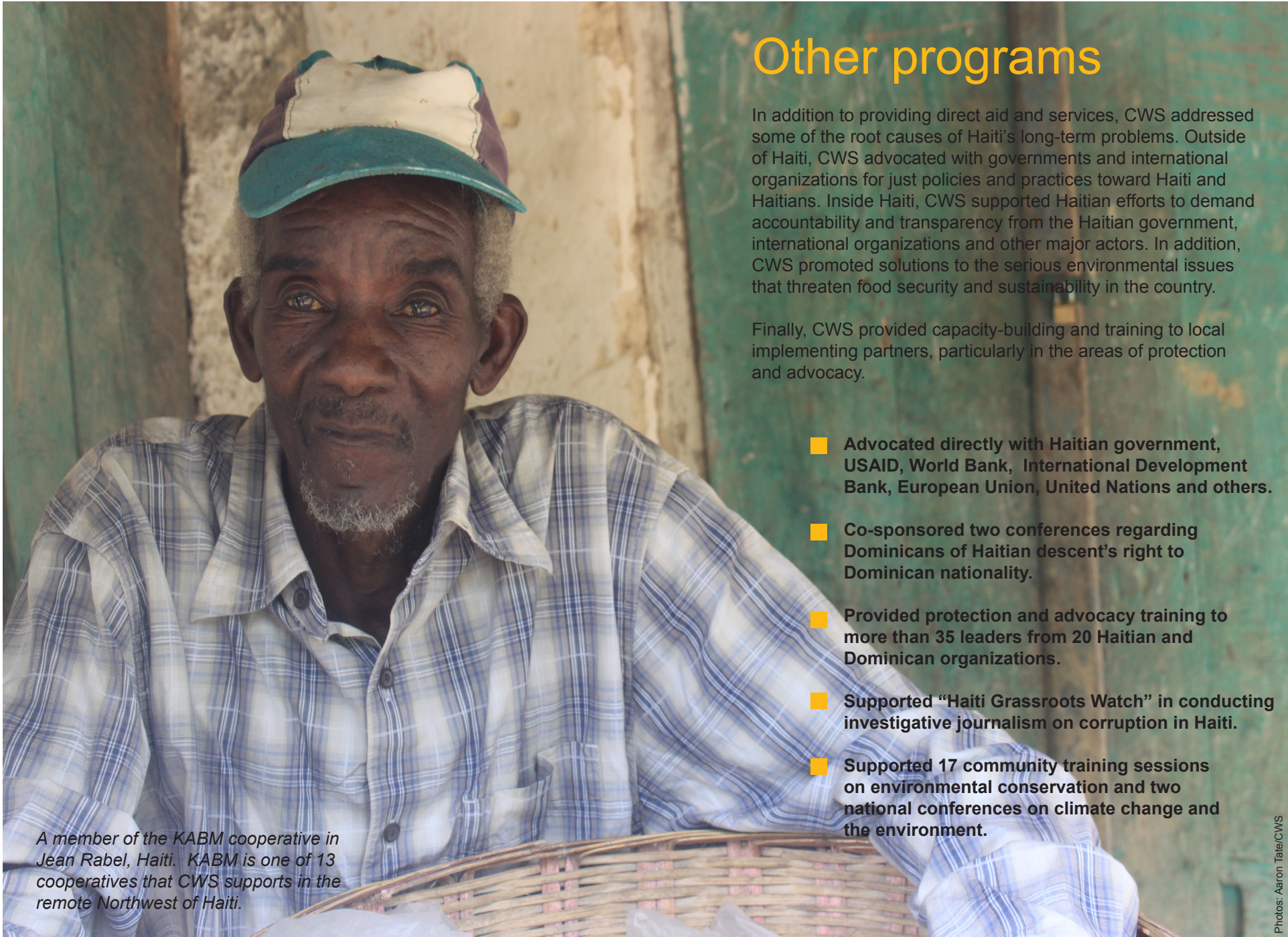
Photo: Aaron Taler/CWS

- Provided 40 percent more micro-credit in agricultural cooperatives.
- More than 2,000 co-op members received micro-credit for agriculture or small business.
- Over 1,000 people joined the co-ops as new members.
- Five co-op community centers constructed.



CWS-supported food co-ops met the challenge of providing food for their members and their families. "It means life to us," said Elvius St. Fulis, a member of the "Hand in Hand" co-op. "It was the co-op that came to rescue us by providing some money and food to survive. They also provided us some seeds to start the gardens."

Photo: Chris Herfingher/CWS



A member of the KABM cooperative in Jean Rabel, Haiti. KABM is one of 13 cooperatives that CWS supports in the remote Northwest of Haiti.

Other programs

In addition to providing direct aid and services, CWS addressed some of the root causes of Haiti’s long-term problems. Outside of Haiti, CWS advocated with governments and international organizations for just policies and practices toward Haiti and Haitians. Inside Haiti, CWS supported Haitian efforts to demand accountability and transparency from the Haitian government, international organizations and other major actors. In addition, CWS promoted solutions to the serious environmental issues that threaten food security and sustainability in the country.

Finally, CWS provided capacity-building and training to local implementing partners, particularly in the areas of protection and advocacy.

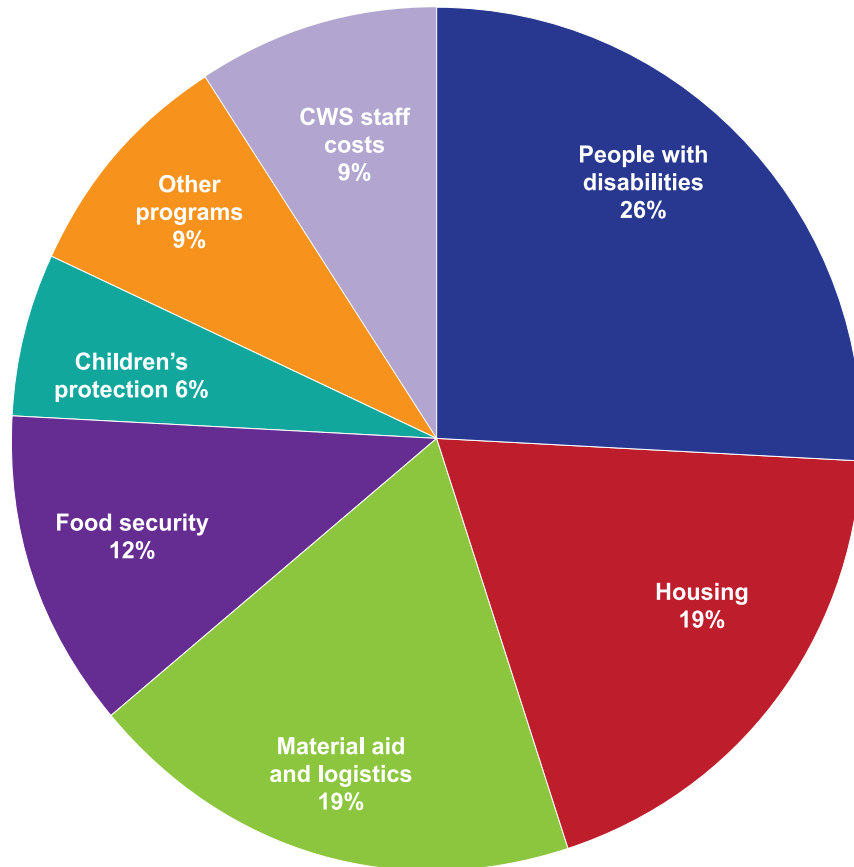
- **Advocated directly with Haitian government, USAID, World Bank, International Development Bank, European Union, United Nations and others.**
- **Co-sponsored two conferences regarding Dominicans of Haitian descent’s right to Dominican nationality.**
- **Provided protection and advocacy training to more than 35 leaders from 20 Haitian and Dominican organizations.**
- **Supported “Haiti Grassroots Watch” in conducting investigative journalism on corruption in Haiti.**
- **Supported 17 community training sessions on environmental conservation and two national conferences on climate change and the environment.**

Photos: Aaron Tate/CWS

Financials

Total Earthquake Response Expenses:

\$6,539,137



CWS thanks our implementing partners:

Aba Sistèm Restavèk Haïti

Fondation Œcuménique pour la Paix et la Justice (FOPJ)

Sant Kreyen Pou Devlopman Entegre (SKDE)

Service Chrétien d'Haïti

Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID)



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