



RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE OF AUGUST 14, 2021 PESTEL, GRAND ANSE, HAITI



The response to the earthquake of August 14, 2021, continues to be a complex humanitarian emergency marked by political instability, gang violence in key parts of the country (not the intervention area), severe economic crises (inflation, devaluation of the Haitian Gourde), short supply of basic goods and building materials, recurrent fuel shortages, and accelerated emigration patterns to the Dominican Republic and the United States.

Despite these challenges, significant progress is being made and program activities are reaching those impacted by the disaster. In the past six months, more than 1,000 individuals have participated in or benefitted from the work of CWS and our local partners. Highlights include:



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Since trauma can impact a student's ability to learn, local school directors identified psychosocial support training for teachers and support sessions for students as a critical part of the recovery process. Activities targeted 62 teachers and community leaders, and 824 students. Activities include: provision of intensive training for teachers and community leaders, group and individual support sessions, and events including bio-energetic therapy using dance and play.



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Five family cisterns, benefitting 20 individuals, are nearing completion. Many families are planning on sharing their water with neighbors as well. CWS's construction methodology and community approach are similar to the one used for housing (community participation, provision of training, and capacity-building for community partners). Construction of a 40.5 m³ water cistern at a rural school is also underway.



SHELTER AND PERMANENT HOUSING

15 houses, benefitting 79 persons, are under construction in coordination with two grassroots organizations. Families with members who live with illness or disabilities, are older, or have younger children have been prioritized. In this reporting period, CWS also coordinated with a local community organization to distribute emergency tarps to 50 families.



EDUCATION

After hurricane Matthew, CWS reconstructed safe public schools in three communities. These schools withstood the earthquake, but families are unable to meet the other needs of their children for a productive learning environment. After consultation with school authorities, a total of 332 students from three rural public schools received 2,642 books and other basic school supplies.

In the next months, training on trauma awareness and resilience will continue, as well as psychosocial activities at schools. Psychological follow-up will be provided to those identified for individual, specialized support. Mobile clinics will be organized for those who are not able to get to a hospital. Construction of houses and family cisterns will continue, as well as the construction of a community cistern. Preparations for water catchment at the source of Calizon will start with an environmental assessment.