Haiti Progress Report 2010: Summary

January 2010’s earthquake in Haiti killed more than 220,000 people, injured over 300,000, and left more than one million homeless—many of whom are still living in tents or beneath tarps. The relief operation has been one of the largest and most complex Oxfam has ever undertaken. Public support for survivors has been overwhelmingly generous. Our Haiti team has worked tirelessly from day one throughout this difficult year. Yet, as we mark the first anniversary of the tragedy, there is no getting away from the huge challenge that lies ahead for the Haitian people, their government, and aid agencies. Oxfam, and others, are committed to the long-term effort to support Haitians in rebuilding their country.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene

Oxfam has...

- Provided clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to approximately 400,000 displaced people in Port-au-Prince and neighboring areas and outside the capital in Grand-Goâve, Gressier, Léogâne, and Petit-Goâve.
- Provided over 79 million gallons of clean, chlorinated water monthly.
- Built 2,500 latrines and 1,032 bathing shelters, which the camp residents and local people maintain.
- Distributed hygiene kits (containing items like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary pads, and towels) to more than 120,000 people.
- Included health promotion as a vital part of our work. Community members have been recruited and trained to work as “mobilizers” in the camps to reinforce messages about good health and sanitation.
- Worked with the municipal solid waste authority to improve its policies and technical capacity. Provided waste disposal kits (i.e., to dispose of solid waste hygienically) to 400 households—an initiative that has been supported by a public health campaign.
- Worked closely with the Haitian national authority responsible for supplying water to deliver safe drinking water more sustainably by drilling boreholes, installing water pumps, and repairing water networks.
- Worked to prevent flooding in response to the threat of hurricanes in late 2010.
Cholera response

Oxfam has...

• Reached 1.2 million people with cholera-prevention education or activities. This includes programs in Port-au-Prince and wider-ranging activities to prevent the spread of the disease in the northern city of Cap Haitien and the central region of Artibonite.

• Provided life-saving clean water, oral rehydration salts, sanitation services, and hygiene education as part of our program. We have continued to reinforce an information campaign on safe hygiene practices and to monitor the health of people in camps in Port-au-Prince.

Emergency food security and livelihoods

Oxfam has...

• Reached 41,819 households (209,095 people) with livelihood and food security programs.

• Provided basic needs grants: A total of 2,936 families have received grants of $175 to meet their basic needs and replace lost assets. Of these, 87 percent have managed to start or restart small businesses with the combination of food and cash support.

• Launched cash-grant projects to give vulnerable community residents who were operating small businesses before the earthquake an opportunity to earn income or replace lost business assets. Grants ranging from $125 to $250 have been given to 23,374 families. Evaluations are under way.

• Hired earthquake survivors for a total of 25,319 work days in cash-for-work programs to enable them to earn money while cleaning up rubble, clearing drains, and digging ditches to carry rainwater away from landslide-prone areas.

• Supported local street food sellers in Port-au-Prince. Of these vendors, 249 committed to feed the most vulnerable people in their communities for two months. In total, over 19,000 people received hot food over a two-month period.

• Provided market support to 210 stores through a mixture of grants and loans that aim to reinstate essential community economic activity. (Assessments in February 2010 showed that many communities had lost their supply of basic food products because their local grocery stores had collapsed.)

• Revitalized small businesses through a program that provided cash and vouchers for tools for 1,441 workers—such as plumbers, carpenters, and masons—so they could respond to reconstruction needs. (A labor market assessment in February 2010 showed that the pool of skilled construction-related professionals in Haiti, already limited, was further weakened as a result of the earthquake.)

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By not empowering people, resilience can become resignation…for me now, resilience is not enough…if that means only stay in conditions unacceptable for human life.

—Yolette Etienne, Oxfam program director in Haiti
Behind the bottle-storage shed where Marie Carole St. Juste now lives, the land drops off, plunging into a ravine crowded with buildings much like her own—cobbled together from cinder blocks, sheets of corrugated metal, and plastic tarps. This is Carrefour Feuilles, an area of Port-au-Prince hit hard by the earthquake that destroyed so much of the Haitian capital—and its commerce—one year ago. St. Juste’s house—also her place of business—once stood here, too. Now it’s in the ravine, one of about 105,000 houses that collapsed across the city. But the land remains—land that she owns, a testament to the hard work St. Juste invested in building her packaged-goods-and-drinks business into an enterprise profitable enough to allow her to buy this plot.

Now, on this chunk of hard-won security, sits her hope for the future: a trucking container provided by Oxfam and retrofitted to serve as a small shop so she can get started again.

“It really put joy in my heart… I’m on my way. I know I’m going to be able to make it back.”

It’s that kind of confidence that is critical to Haiti’s recovery, and that Oxfam is helping to seed with a series of strategic small-business grants offered to people in Carrefour Feuilles.
• Produced a report, “Planting Now: Agricultural challenges and opportunities for Haiti’s reconstruction,” which outlines ways in which the government’s national plan for reconstruction could be improved by fully involving women, for their strong production and marketing skills, and rural farmers, on whom the development of the nation’s rural economy depends. In the October 2010 report, Oxfam calls on international donors and governments to invest in the plan as an essential poverty-reduction strategy and urges them to look at and amend unfair trade and agricultural policies that keep Haiti poor.

• Has joined with many organizations in lobbying the International Monetary Fund, which on July 21, 2010 announced the cancellation of Haiti’s outstanding debt of approximately $268 million and the approval of a three-year loan to support the country’s reconstruction.

How money was spent

The biggest focus of Oxfam’s spending in this first year has been on relief supplies and materials, with $19.5 million spent on emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities. Another $11 million was used to help people reestablishing their livelihoods and food security. Over $5 million was used for shelter and the distribution of other non-food items.

We spent $8 million on logistics: ensuring that vital supplies and equipment were purchased, transported, and stored safely in warehouses for distribution. Approximately $10 million was spent on the staffing necessary to carry out our operations. Although expatriates from around the world have supported recovery, providing technical expertise and humanitarian program management, over 90 percent of Oxfam’s staff in Haiti are Haitian.

Another $6.5 million was spent on capital items, such as vehicles, accommodation, and office space—essential for the smooth coordination of a large and complex operation, especially over this length of time. Another $3 million was spent on other program activities, including disaster risk reduction, advocacy, campaigning, and media activities.

Finally, $4 million—seven percent of the overall budget—was spent on management support, providing the external support, supervision, monitoring, and reporting that our program needs to deliver in these conditions. Oxfam’s earthquake response program will continue for another two years—making use of the funds generously given—to continue the reconstruction and recovery process in Haiti.

Oxfam’s Sources of Funding for Haiti

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oxfam America*</td>
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<td>UK DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee)</td>
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<td>SHO (consortium of leading Dutch Agencies)</td>
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<td>Other Oxfam affiliates</td>
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<td>All other sources*</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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*Oxfam America accepts no US government funds

All figures are in US dollars, and all data (including spending figures) are through December 31, 2010.

To learn more

For the full text of the Haiti Progress Report 2010, go to oxfamamerica.org/haiti-update.
For more stories and videos about Oxfam’s work in Haiti go to oxfamamerica.org/haiti-earthquake.
For more information about the challenges of reconstruction, read Oxfam’s report at oxfamamerica.org/haiti-recovery.

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