
HAITI EARTHQUAKE 2021



TOP PICK CHARITIES



MSF Canada / Doctors Without Borders

Haiti is asking for what Doctors Without Borders does best; for doctors, both generalists and bone specialists. It is asking for medical supplies like anesthetics and orthopedic supports to take care of the injured. MSF Canada is a fast responder, 100% of funds spent in Phase 1.

To [donate to MSF Canada](#)



Samaritan's Purse

Haiti is asking for logistic help. It's hard to beat the large US Evangelic charities that own a DC-8. It flew out August 15 with a Tier 1 trauma unit and field hospital. Heavy construction equipment will be needed to clear the rubble and roads. Just note, if accountability matters to you, Samaritan's Purse has not reported its disaster spending in past disaster responses.

To [donate to Samaritan's Purse Canada](#)



World Vision Canada

World Vision Canada's aid has the largest direct cash component, typically around 30%. World Vision Canada is a fast responder, it aims to spend 70% of funds within two years. It best meets the needs of people with 65% of spending in what people say is their biggest need.

To [donate to World Vision Canada](#)

INTRO

Picking the right charity to support for a disaster relief is the absolute hardest task. Forgive our delay to run through the ground reports – what aid Haiti is asking for, the needs, the area of damage – and a review of how charities have performed in the past – their speed in getting aid money out, their accountability in reporting, and their results.

Let's be honest – Haiti's 2010 earthquake response clearly showed what happens when a disaster response goes wrong.

Today the situation in Haiti is even worse than before. It's a country going backwards.

But this disaster response can be better. We can do this by giving differently this time.

BACKGROUND

On 8:29 in the morning local time on Saturday August 14th a major earthquake struck the southwestern coast of Haiti near the town of Nippes.

At 7.2 magnitude, this earthquake was bigger than the 2010 earthquake. Yet Haiti's southern district has lower density. Far, far fewer people were killed or injured. The current reports say 1,419 killed compared with estimates ranging between 160,000 and 300,000 in 2010.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Its GDP per capita is US\$1,150 and its Human Development Index ranks at 170/189 in 2020 – one of the worst in the world.

Despite billions of dollars in aid, Haiti has slipped down global development rankings. Violence is widespread and its civil institutions were already in turmoil when President Jovenel Moise was assassinated by mercenaries.

Gangs control the main road between the disaster area and the capital Port-au-Prince.

All these factors will complicate this disaster response.

THIS TIME BUILD BACK BETTER

We will not repeat the same things that were done in 2010. A lot of donations were made to the country, and a lot of the money was spent without seeing the impact.”

Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry

The biggest mistakes from the 2010 disaster response:

- UN peacekeepers brought cholera to Haiti. This initially killed 5,000 Haitians who had survived the earthquake.
- Over 1 million earthquake survivors lived for years in makeshift tent camps crammed into Port-au-Price, exposed to the weather, lawlessness and the cholera outbreak.
- Foreign aid of free food and goods damaged Haiti's farming and commerce.
- Oxfam International's team leader and WASH staff were in a sex scandal with under-age girls in exchange for food and gifts.

This time the aim is to co-ordinate disaster aid and let the Haitian government control it, rather than undermine the Haitian institutions.

Although not wanting to be named, one diplomat expressed confidence that the ad hoc government Haiti had assembled seemed to be taking a “big leap forward” in coordinating aid efforts.

The Haiti government is preparing a needs list.

It's important that charities provide what aid Haiti asks for, rather than what the charities have in inventory or think is best.

Laura Gottesdiener and David Graham, [“Haiti quake revives anger over aid response to past disasters”](#) Reuters, August 16, 2021



DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Doctors Without Borders specializes in health. It doesn't dig wells, sponsor children, or send goats. It is the world's ER team. It has a global team of doctors on call who respond to medical disasters, whether it's an Ebola outbreak or team units on the frontlines of war zones.

Doctors Without Borders has a permanent team placement in Haiti. It provides health care, maternal health and operates cholera teams.

Doctors Without Borders works fast. It typically spends the donations it receives quickly in Phase 1. It doesn't save up donations for long term development.

Doctors Without Borders:

- is on the ground in Haiti, with local knowledge and local partners,
- has expertise in what Haiti is asking for,
- has the best track record of any disaster response charity in speed, transparency and accountability.



WORLD VISION CANADA

World Vision Canada is mostly an international development charity through its sponsor a child program. Emergency response is a smaller program. Yet World Vision Canada consistently has good results in disaster response.

World Vision's aid is fast and its spending mix has had the highest proportion going to the priorities of those affected. In the Nepal earthquake response, 69% of donations were spent in 20 months. 62% of program spending was on the priority needs compared with 40% at Plan International.

This earthquake has caused the most devastation in the Sud district. World Vision was the sector lead for the neighbouring Nippes district in Hurricane Matthew's recovery efforts. With this proximity, it should have an established local network to respond best.

World Vision Canada and Doctors Without Borders have the best follow-up reports on how much they spent in disaster response with detailed breakdowns. Donors should appreciate this best practice in accountability.



SAMARITAN'S PURSE

New and controversial pick: Samaritan's Purse is a large US evangelical Christian charity that espouses strong views about gay rights, Voodoo, sinners and God's wrath as Samaritan's Purse's Assistant to Vice-President of Programs and Government Relations [Edward Graham \(grandson of Billy Graham\) articulated in a NewsMax interview](#). Its largest program is sending Christmas boxes of presents to children around the world where we see low impact.

However, when it comes to disaster response, Samaritan's Purse has a strong record of results. Its disaster response work in the Nepal earthquake was strong. People affected by disasters, whether it be wildfire in California, flooding in High River Alberta, or

hurricanes in the Bahamas, commend Samaritan's Purse. While some charities stand around in vests with clipboards, Samaritan's Purse workers do the heavy lifting.

Samaritan's Purse's own DC-8 flew to Haiti with a medical team, field hospital, and supplies on August 15. While other charities are waiting for a flight to Haiti, it's on the ground and working.

International Federation of Red Cross arrived August 19 in Port au Prince and is looking at how to get the supplies to the affected areas.

Samaritan's Purse provides no accountability of its disaster responses. Its follow up reports contain no figures on money spent.

PAST DISASTERS

| Disaster Relief Statistics | Dead | Injured | People Displaced |
|--|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Haiti Earthquake – 2021 7.2 magnitude earthquake *as of August 19 | 2,189 | 12,268 | 61,000 houses destroyed |
| Haiti Earthquake – 2010 7.0 magnitude earthquake | 160,000 – 316,000 | No estimate | 895,000 people homeless with 280,000 buildings collapsed |
| Nepal Earthquake – 2015 7.8 magnitude earthquake | 8,900 | 26,700 | Destroyed 800,000 buildings and 2.7 million people homeless |
| Syrian Civil War 2011 – ongoing | 220,000 | | 6,500,000 million displaced |
| Philippines Typhoon Haiyan 2013 | 6,340 | 28,689 | |
| Asian Tsunami 2004 9.2 magnitude earthquake | 227,900 | 500,000 | 1,700,000 million displaced and homeless |

SOURCES

Charity Intelligence, [Nepal Earthquake Relief: Three Years Later, Which Charities Performed Best](#), April 20, 2018

Charity Intelligence, [Hurricane Matthew in Haiti](#), October 13, 2016

Charity Intelligence, [Nepal Earthquake Update](#), April 30, 2015

Charity Intelligence, [Giving to the Philippines in response to Typhoon Haiyan](#), November 14, 2013

Charity Intelligence [Disaster Response section](#) of website with a variety of articles
[Situation Reports: Haiti Earthquake](#) August 2021 by Pan American Health Organization. These daily updates are the most important documents to read.

Laura Gottesdiener and David Graham, [Haiti quake revives anger over aid response in past disasters](#)”, Reuters, August 16, 2021

Ground Truth Solutions [Haiti: field perspectives on the Grand Bargain](#), February 2019

NECESSITIES

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