



Haiti Earthquake

The U.S. Catholic Church Responds

Special Report #2

Haiti's Reality

CRS has worked in Haiti for over 50 years. Even before the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake, Haiti was a country in need. The nation is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere with 80 percent of the population falling below the poverty line. Estimates are 150,000 people were killed and 800,000 were left homeless.

Latest News from CRS/Caritas Haiti

"It may look to many in the rest of the world that those in need are not receiving any aid, but actually thousands here in Port-au-Prince are getting help," said Karel Zelenka, the CRS country representative in Haiti. To date, CRS has:

- Provided food to 74,458 people, and non-food items to 15,692 people, distributing an average of 62 metric tons of food per day.
- Sent in medical teams that are treating 300 people per day.
- Supported 2,500 people at Missionaries of Charity centers.
- For up-to-date information visit www.crs.org or crs-blog.org.



The U.S. Catholic Community Responds

Examples of the enormous compassion and generosity of the U.S. Catholic community:

- CRS has received \$26 million in cash donations and commitments.
- Parishes are reporting extremely generous second collections for Haiti, throughout western Washington and elsewhere in the country. Concerts, Run/Walks and other events are happening in our archdiocese. (www.seattlearch.org/missions)
- Catholic universities responded immediately by setting up special websites. Others held special masses, prayer services and concerts. Seattle University students cancelled a previously planned trip to Haiti and are now raising funds. (<http://crscollege.org>)
- Catholic youth and schools are responding with prayers and fundraisers such as dress down days wearing the Haiti colors of red and blue. Some have contributed money in lieu of lunch snacks. Many teachers are using a CRS lesson plan to teach about Haiti. (<http://education.crs.org>)

How You Can Help

Visit: www.crs.org for prayers, resources and info about the Haiti Earthquake. See us on [Facebook](#).

Call: 877-Help-CRS (877-435-7277) or Text RELIEF to 25383 to donate \$10 on your phone bill.

Mail: CRS/ Missions Office, 710 9th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104 (note "Haiti" on check)

Advocate: Join the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* legislative network to advocate for issues including international assistance reform, relieving Haiti's debt, and help for Haitian refugees.

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/>

Thank you!