

CRS Haiti and Children

June 1st is International Children's Day, a day when the world turns its attention to the health and welfare of children around the world. Catholic Relief Services keeps much of its focus on children, and in Haiti we've been working for over 50 years to improve the lives of children.

Before the earthquake, CRS Haiti provided food and support to more than 100 orphanages and child-care centers in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes. In the weeks after the quake, CRS brought food, water, hygiene kits, child-care materials and counseling support to affected centers. CRS protection teams established "child-safe spaces"—with large tents, recreational and educational materials, and trained staff and volunteers—in the sprawling urban settlements and tented cities. These spaces kept children active and safe while schools were closed. Over the last two weeks, an average of 1,075 children attended the 'child friendly spaces' each week. CRS teams are also registering unaccompanied children and helping with family reunification efforts. In the long term, we will continue to support vulnerable children and families, especially orphans, unaccompanied minors and displaced people, to help prevent child trafficking and dangerous border crossings.



In the week after the earthquake, CRS delivered food to the Foye Ti Zanmi Jezi Orphanage. The orphanage and its adjacent school completely collapsed in the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that ravaged the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. "The building had three strong shakes," says Missionary Servant of the Sacred Heart, Sister Elizabeth Eloi, "and then it collapsed." All 52 orphans, ages 3-19, ran out of the building when the earthquake started and no one was injured. An additional 32 children were dropped off by either their parents or concerned neighbors in the aftermath of the earthquake. They are sleeping outdoors or in the two large tents the sisters have erected.

Resources for Parishes, Schools, and Individuals

Stories about children in Haiti:

- [Setting the Stage for Haiti Youth Jobs Project](#)
- [New Friend, Impromptu Lunch in Haiti](#)
- [Foundation Renmen Centre de Recuperation](#)
- Videos of the recovery [CRS' YouTube Channel](#).
- [Helping Hands for Haiti](#) - CRS webpage where helpful resources, multimedia, blogs from the field and the latest stories will be housed.

Thank you for all you are doing! Please share this Special Report with others.