



Karel Zelenka, CRS Country Representative in Haiti: "I've been in earthquakes before. This was a major hit. And it was direct."

Haiti

Situation: A 7.0 magnitude earthquake has ravaged the island nation of Haiti. The quake occurred 10 miles southwest of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince just before 5pm EST. Port-au-Prince, with a population of over 2 million, has been devastated. CRS Country Representative Karel Zelenka reports that "Port-au-Prince was covered with a plume of dust from damaged buildings. We should be prepared for many thousands of dead and injured."

Catholic Relief Services is responding to this disaster. We are committed to helping our brothers and sisters as they struggle to come to grips with this tragedy. CRS is mobilizing food and gearing up our emergency capacity, and deploying prepositioned emergency shelter and hygiene kits in Haiti, as well as bringing supplies in from the neighboring Dominican Republic.

For more than 60 years, we have been helping people as they struggle to survive natural disasters. **CRS is committed to bringing our experience—and our compassion—to quickly and effectively respond to this string of emergencies.** And we are just as committed to being there **long after the headlines fade**, helping communities build back in a way that ensures they are better equipped to handle future shocks.

But we cannot do this critical work without your help. The needs will be tremendous. [Please give generously to help the thousands of victims on the wake of this disaster](#) and restore their hope as they dig out of the rubble to rebuild their communities—and their lives.

How to Help:

Donate via phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS

Donate online: www.crs.org

Write a check:
Catholic Relief Services
Archdiocese of Seattle
710 Ninth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Memo portion of check: Haiti Earthquake