



HAITI HOSPITAL APPEAL

January 2010

Bringing hope to life

Earthquake emergency relief fund

On Tuesday 12th January the tremors of Port-au-Prince's (PAP) devastating earthquake rippled through the whole country. Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city where we are based fell into a silent daze of disbelief, horror and fear.

Estimates of the number killed could be over 200,000, and around 1 and a half million people are already reported homeless. For those of you who have followed our appeal over the last few years, you'll be more than aware of the poverty that has crippled this country for many years already. This recent catastrophe is a devastating blow not only for PAP, but the whole country.

Within two days of the disaster striking, the Haiti Hospital Appeal had launched an emergency relief appeal and was already in the heart of the suffering providing some of the first international aid. Our CEO Carwyn Hill was one of the first aid workers on the ground, and reports what he saw.



HHA provide some of the first aid

'As we drove into the heart of the city the scale of this atrocity began to unfold. Piled along many of the streets lay the rotting bodies of victims. Most were covered in old, dirty sheets scarcely large enough to hide the tragic images below, and certainly not to stop the mass of flies. We had been warned that the city stank of death, and such warnings hadn't been false. The majority of the population walk around with masks covering their faces. The smell is potent, and a constant and cruel reminder to all those who survived that beneath the piles of rubbish and destroyed houses, schools, offices and the like lay their loved ones.

Port-au-Prince has always had some of Haiti's poorest slums, but now it seems the whole city has transformed into a community of make do tents; a shanty city for thousands upon thousands.

There is a severe threat of a second tragedy exploding through the risk of major sickness epidemics such as Cholera, Diarrhoea, Typhoid, Malaria and various other illnesses if we don't respond quickly with water and food. Already I have accounts of people washing and drinking from the gutter, though this I have seen before in Haiti.



Our appeal's ambulance was filled with water sachets, medication, first aid equipment, clothes, and some small supplies of food rations. Such aid was but a speck of dust amidst this great ocean of suffering. However, with aid only just arriving from abroad, it was a welcome respite to many. Even over one sachet of water that costs less than 5p, I watched as women and children danced and sang before me singing their thanks to those who'd provided them with this welcome relief. Our little 4x4 ambulance soon became a powerful magnet of need. Women, children and men of all ages would stare through our window pleading even for one small bit of food.

Some roads had been closed whilst one of the few remaining hospitals discharged the mass of patients they couldn't help any more. Those hospitals that did survive are dangerously low on medication, most from my understanding completely out of supplies. People are turned away, even a child I saw carried in desperately by his mother. Tragically the doctors just had to say 'we can't do anything, you must look elsewhere.' Deep down we all knew unless this child was seen rapidly he would die. At the moment though there simply isn't anywhere to go.

The scenes are traumatic and horrific, and it's impossible to describe. Many people walk through the streets aimlessly with nowhere to go, carrying the few bags and possessions they have left. Many cram onto any vehicle available desperate to leave. The mass exodus of PAP has begun, and on our way out we followed cars full of the injured, and in some cases even the dead.'

If you'd like to read more from our on the ground blog in Haiti please visit:
www.haitihospitalappeal.org/blog.html

Our three step relief plan

Our response is needed urgently. After many meetings with the UN and Government officials we have developed a three step plan. Money we raise for this disaster will only be used to support this strategy:

1 Provide aid to Port-au-Prince

Until sufficient supplies of water, food, medication and the like are finding their way to those who need it by major organisations, HHA is committed to transporting large amounts of aid from the North of Haiti to the South. It costs less than £1 to provide over 50 sachets of water to a community.



2 Provide aid to refugees

Thousands of Haitians are heading up North as refugees. We're committed to providing them with urgently needed health care. Many have open fractures, and severe injuries. Our hospital will receive these casualties and also provide food and water to others who have come to Cap-Haitian with nothing.



3 Provide Haiti with a hope

Our hospital has always been urgently needed, and it has been sad to see what a difference it could have made if completed during this time. However, it will still open in its half finished state. We believe that beyond the immediate aid relief, it's vital for Haiti to be offered a long term future hope. The completion of our hospital will provide this, especially when so many of Haiti's leading hospitals have now been destroyed. This part of our work is even more urgent than before.



Bringing hope to life

How can you help Haiti?

We'd like to thank all those who have already supported us so generously, but would encourage you to continue helping us in this tragic time if at all possible. We are now at a critical stage in our relief effort, and desperately need your support to ensure no more lives are lost. Here's a few easy ways you can help:

- 1 Are you a medical professional and willing to spare some time to go to Haiti? The country is crying out for medics, and we need your help.
- 2 Could you encourage your church, school, company, friends or family to get behind this appeal? We need individuals to spread the word.
- 3 Pray. Please join with us in the coming months to pray this nation through this desperate time.
- 4 Corporate support. Do you know of any corporate or companies who would be interested in sponsoring this work?
- 5 Could you make a one off donation towards this emergency relief fund, or commit to supporting our long term plans through our direct debit scheme?
- 6 Set up your own fundraising page on www.justgiving.com set a target and organise your own sponsored silence, fast, funrun, pub quiz, sleepover whatever takes your fancy.

If you feel you could join with us in offering this urgently needed care through any of the above please contact us today: info@haitihospitalappeal.org. We need your help to continue the great work already started by you, our supporters, as without you we can do nothing. Please consider giving your time, energy or money generously in this tragic time. If you have any questions or would like some further information please don't hesitate to contact us. Many thanks in advance – The Haiti Hospital Appeal team.

To donate online please visit www.haitihospitalappeal.org/donate.html. You can do this securely through our PayPal account. All donations will go straight to where they are most needed.



To get involved or find out more please contact us:

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To make a donation, please go to our website www.haitihospitalappeal.org/donate.html. Please make cheques payable to 'Haiti Hospital Appeal'. Taxpayers can download a gift aid form from our website, so we can claim back 25p from every pound given.

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