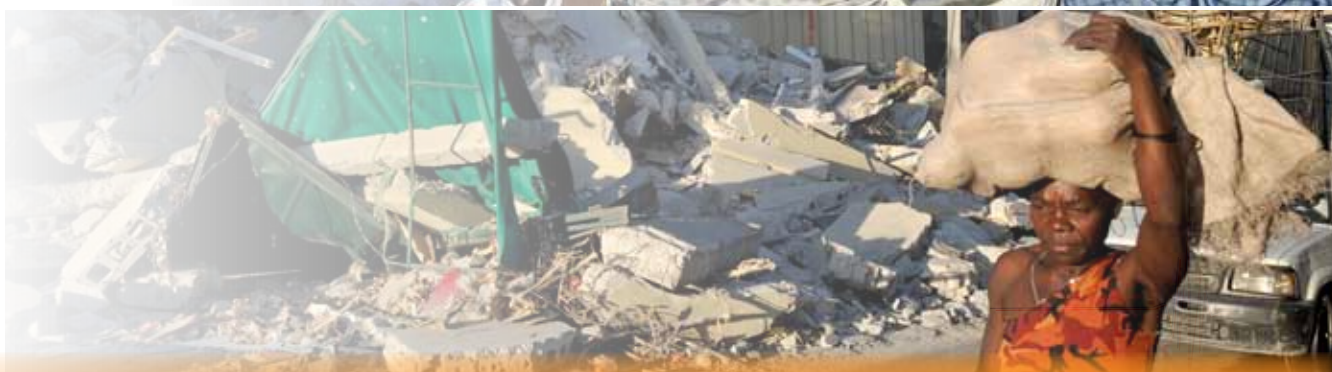


REALITIES and RESPONSES

World Vision's
three month
Haiti quake
review



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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



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Published April 2010 by World Vision International
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Realities:

The impact in numbers of the Haiti earthquake on January 12 already puts it among the worst single-country disasters of all time. Any country would struggle to recover from a blow of this magnitude. Haiti's situation is exacerbated by generations of political uncertainty, entrenched poverty and limited opportunities.

Killed: More than 220,000

Injured: More than 300,000

Displaced: At least 1.7 million

Migrated to rural areas: More than 500,000

Registered at displacement camps, urban area: More than 600,000

Homeless and unregistered, urban areas: More than 600,000

Responses:

World Vision has already reached around 1.8 million people with much-needed relief and shelter supplies. But the scale of this disaster means that **the recovery phase is only just beginning.**

In the first three months after the disaster World Vision has achieved the following for the people of Haiti:

- Food distribution: Around 1.5 million people
- Shelter and household items: 33,515 tarpaulins and 5851 tents, 12,456 blankets and 16,697 mosquito nets, as well as other basic household supplies, have helped over 120,000 people
- Water and sanitation: Drinking water, toilets and drainage in camps have helped around 50,000 people
- Health: Five camp clinics, and three mobile clinics, provide free consultation and medication to the camps where World Vision is working
- Livelihoods: Cash-for-work activities in camps involve local labour and encourage ownership of water and sanitation projects
- Children in emergencies: Child-friendly spaces are attended by over 3,000 children every week; caseworkers are searching for the families of nearly 300 separated children

A chance for change

World Vision believes that lasting change is possible when our relief and development work is supported through advocacy, to open channels for justice and rights at household, community and government level.

For each sector where World Vision is working in Haiti, we are also calling for change from others. As we partner to rebuild Haiti, now is the time to create new opportunities. Government can change policy; local leaders can change priorities; families and communities can join and influence campaigns to protect their rights and reduce their vulnerabilities to the patterns of poverty.

More information on our advocacy in Haiti is contained in boxes like these throughout the report. For a more in-depth analysis, go to:

[http://www.wvi.org/wvi/wviweb.nsf/272A45E3414F256C882573DB006D5814/\\$file/Haiti_Report_-_Futures_in_the_Balance.pdf](http://www.wvi.org/wvi/wviweb.nsf/272A45E3414F256C882573DB006D5814/$file/Haiti_Report_-_Futures_in_the_Balance.pdf)

Introduction: Harsh realities for recovery phase

Nearly three months after the quake, urgent areas for response include shelter, healthcare and livelihoods.

Much has deservedly been

said about the resilience of the Haitian people in the aftermath of the January 12 earthquake. But for many, finding this strength is a daily challenge. Earthquake survivors are still at risk; the problems they face are increasingly complex and interlinked, and threaten to create new patterns of vulnerability for Haiti's poor.

An assessment of six affected communities across Haiti by World Vision in February shows emerging patterns that call urgently for action:

- The **lack of access to adequate shelter**, compounded by insufficient toilets in most camps has led to **spiraling declines in health**. Particularly vulnerable are children, the elderly and pregnant women, all exposed to similar unhealthy conditions, and for the most part unable to access medical care.
- **Loss of access to income** has also had a severe impact on tens of thousands of families. Many who lost productive assets used for petty trade do not have the means to restore those assets; likewise, those who counted on casual labor jobs are without work. The result is an **inability to meet basic needs**, including food, water, health care and shelter.

Children most vulnerable

Children are considered the most vulnerable groups in target Port-au-Prince communities, principally because they are living outside without proper shelter and because they are getting sick without access to effective medical care.



Outside Port au Prince, World Vision was already working in the regions of La Gonave, South, Central Plateau and North when the earthquake struck. A common and chronic problem for communities in this region was scarcity of food, for a variety of reasons including poor crops and poorer market opportunities.

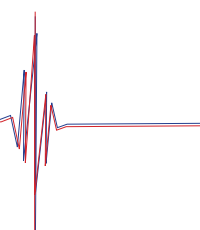
With over half a million displaced people now estimated to have left Port au Prince for the provinces, finding enough nutritious food will become even more of a problem. Many miles away from the epicentre, the earthquake's impact is still felt, as the resources of communities are pushed to their limits.

Clear community priorities

Recognising the realities is the starting point to solving them. World Vision's assessment results showed common patterns and priorities for displaced communities. Their needs and opinions have provided essential guidance for World Vision as they contribute to the recovery phase in Haiti.

The assessment showed that communities prioritise their own needs in the following order:

1. **Shelter**
2. **Food**
3. **Water**
4. **Healthcare**
5. **Income**
6. **Education and a future for children**



Safety, security and stress

The World Vision assessment revealed that around 80% of Port-au-Prince respondents reported concerns regarding the safety, security and protection of their families, primarily related to the following three themes:

- fear of aftershocks and the potential of another devastating earthquake
- living exposed without proper shelter or privacy among strangers
- absence of security support with authority and resources to protect families from theft, rape, fighting or attacks

The same survey found that a quarter of respondents in Port-au-Prince feel at risk even in receiving aid. They report:

- fighting and struggles when distributions are not sufficient for all families
- violence when there is not enough security during distributions
- the need to protect goods and distributions from others not living in the camp

The sense of hopelessness or depression caused by the combination of these pressures should not be underestimated. The struggle to rise above the daily challenges of rebuilding, coupled with the stresses these challenges bring with them, can be overwhelming. In the rush to provide survivors with their basic physical needs, psychosocial rebuilding and recovery must not be overlooked.

Resilience for the future

Clearly, the priorities above must be addressed immediately for Haiti's recovery. But a common thread across all these sectors must also be addressed as a priority.

This thread is disaster resilience: the need to rebuild a resilient Haiti and to support Haitians to become even more resilient themselves.

Many studies have demonstrated the returns which investments in pre-disaster preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) can yield. The economic cost of reducing risk is far less than the cost of dealing with the aftermath of disasters. According to UN estimates, every dollar spent on risk reduction avoids between five and ten dollars in economic losses.

World Vision believes that even as a country regularly struck by natural disasters, Haiti can learn to protect itself against future devastation. This requires action at all levels of society:

- **Government** has a responsibility to invest in disaster-resilient infrastructure, building codes and policy reforms, and to partner with communities to ensure knowledge and early warning systems are in place.
- **Community** should be empowered as the principal drivers of disaster resilience, with greater understanding, recognition and evacuation or response capacity to potential threats.
- **Children** must take part in disaster resilience activities, not only to protect them as the most vulnerable, but also as advocates for safe practices and protection. Nearly 50% of Haiti's population is aged under 18, and the ideal way to introduce disaster resilience quickly and sustainably is through a standard school curriculum.

World Vision conducts disaster risk reduction activities in almost every community-based project it delivers worldwide. Now is the time for Haiti to take up the challenge and prioritise community-based resilience to save lives in the future.

Priority: Shelter

Shelter is Haiti's biggest priority in order to protect children's survival and rights.



Realities:

- Around 1.3 million people are now homeless in Port-au-Prince. Over 650,000 are registered in the camps, but up to as many more are unregistered and untraceable. The IOM estimates a total 2 million are in need of shelter materials of some sort.
- Living outside the safe walls of a home, children are doubly vulnerable. Their health is at risk from water-borne diseases, respiratory illness, malnutrition, injuries or infections caused by harsh and unsanitary living conditions. Their rights are challenged through lack of privacy or protection from neglect or abuse, the inability to attend school and restricted opportunities to play or develop socially.

Responses:

- Over 120,000 people have benefited from emergency shelter and household items, including:
 - Tarpaulins 33,515
 - Blankets 12,456
 - Tents 5,851
 - Mosquito nets 16,697
 - Flashlights 4,063
- World Vision considers the term shelter to refer not just to a roof, walls and bedding, but also to essential basic services that protect health and wellbeing. A holistic approach to camp services includes child protection measures, water and sanitation, risk reduction activities and access to free health services, until more permanent solutions can be found.
- Urgent rain damage protection work is under way in IDP camps where World Vision works, a cash-for-work initiative that concentrates on drain maintenance and repair. Over 300 displaced men and women are earning money by taking part.

Next steps:

- For many displaced families, reconstruction of their damaged home is their first hope. Some have not moved to camps at all, but have built tents and shelters outside or near their house. World Vision welcomes the government's commitment to evaluate 100,000 homes for structural safety by June 1. Plans are under way to partner with WFP in supporting returning communities through cash-for-work and food-for-work activities.
- Transitional shelter is a recognised and shared responsibility for the Haitian government and all agencies working long-term in Haiti. World Vision is part of the UN Shelter Cluster, working to determine where transitional housing should be built, how the infrastructure (water, sanitation, health services, job opportunities) can be provided to those areas, and the most durable materials and structures to withstand Haiti's hurricane seasons.
- Some camps where World Vision is working are unlikely to find transitional support before the rains arrive. Preparing these areas for better resilience against weather is still an urgent need. On behalf of longer-term camp communities, World Vision will continue to provide and repair tarpaulins and other shelter materials. Community members will be the first source of labour; nearly 20% of the displaced workforce were previously employed in trade and construction, and their involvement creates essential income opportunities for households.

A chance for change: Land rights and protection

For most of those displaced from houses and land, issues of land rights remain unclear. The need for transitional space further complicates this issue, with the Government of Haiti providing land without clarity on the length of tenure.

Around 30% of Port-au-Prince's camp residents, or around 200,000 people, are at extreme risk of flooding or landslides. For these people, movement out of the camps is necessary for their own safety. However, their consultation and participation in the move, including input into where they go, is an important humanitarian right that will contribute to the success of the relocation strategy.

World Vision continues to raise these issues as part of ongoing discussions on medium and long-term housing with the government and other agencies.



World Vision's aluminium frame transitional shelters are designed with longevity in mind. They are easily assembled, pliable and portable - in fact, they may even be moved to form the basis of permanent housing when the family is ready.

World Vision plans to build around 7500 of these shelters, using community labour, on land provided by the government. Training for staff and labourers is complete. Negotiations continue between the Haiti government and agencies including World Vision around the terms of the Haiti government's shelter strategy, including land tenure, land rights, services and infrastructure, and livelihoods.

World Vision will commence constructions in April as land becomes available.

Priority: Food

A regular supply of food remains beyond the reach of most of the internally displaced in and around Port-au-Prince



Realities:

- There may be food for sale on the streets of Port au Prince, but there is very little work available to help pay for it. Prices have increased slightly; the average household size has increased and household income has plummeted. For families living in camps, the cost of transport to areas where food is available adds a further limitation to accessing food for themselves. Food preparation also poses a problem - after the quake, the majority of families no longer had a kitchen, pots or a fireplace to cook regular meals.
- The regular supply of food year-round was an existing challenge for Haiti even before the quake. As new arrivals to rural areas claim their share of already limited supplies, there is a very real threat to community harmony.
- In any emergency situation, general food distributions must eventually make way for more sustainable or targeted solutions. But the government's decision to cease WFP food distributions less than three months on is too early. Families, especially those headed by single women, widows or grandparents, will struggle without additional support.

Responses:

- World Vision has partnered to assess camps and deliver food distribution with WFP (nearly 12,000 tonnes) and USAID (1660 tonnes). In total, these distributions have helped around 1.5 million people.
- Cooking sets, including pots and food storage containers, were part of non-food-item distributions; in total 19,080 have so far been distributed
- Holistic development work continues in the 21 Area Development Programmes already in operation through World Vision Haiti's National Office



Meritane Priniold's twins, born just four days after the quake, were among the first babies of this displaced generation.

Meritane gave birth in very unsterile conditions without any medical assistance, helped only by her husband. She did not know she was having twins, and thinks she passed out before the second baby arrived.

Remarkably, the two little babies, now aged nearly three months, are in good health. The boy is called Claude and the girl Claudine. Meritane is breastfeeding both of them, and receives regular household visits from World Vision's camp health workers to check on their progress.

"It is my own health that concerns me," says Meritane. She has two other children, but says she has never felt this exhausted or weak before.

"I only eat once a day. We have our food rations but we need to make them last all month, and there are six adults to feed as well as my children."

World Vision's health clinics report a high level of anaemia in girls and women, usually associated with poor diet and especially dangerous when women are pregnant or breastfeeding. Meritane is almost certainly anaemic – she complains of dizziness and a chronic lack of energy.

"I am tired because I am hungry and I hardly ever sleep. The babies cry during the day because the tent is too hot for any of us to sleep in. At night they sleep through but my neighbour's babies cry."

Next steps:

- World Vision will find ways to continue forms of food distribution for as long as it is needed, in partnership with WFP and others. Distributions will become more targeted, especially to female-headed or child-headed households where earning an income may create new risks, or to families where children are not receiving appropriate, nutritious food.
- As part of this strategy, World Vision is about to commence a school feeding programme in partnership with WFP. Schools are used as a distribution point for two very different groups; children aged 6 to 14 who are in school, and children aged 6 to 14 who are not. This strategy has shown good results in other contexts for encouraging early dropouts back to school.
- Livelihoods recovery is a key strategy in urban areas to relieve the reliance on food aid and make it possible for families in camps or transitional communities to meet their own needs. World Vision's construction work will, wherever possible, employ local labour.
- World Vision has been working in Haiti for over 30 years. They have concentrated development efforts on rural communities and in particular on agriculture, bringing skills, equipment and new varieties of food to farming families. This work continues and may even expand, helping Haiti to break its dependence on expensive imported foods and grow enough to feed its people.

Lack of water and sanitation still poses one of the biggest risks to community health and harmony in Haiti.

Realities:

- A lack of investment into Port au Prince's infrastructure over many years has left the city with very basic human waste disposal even before the quake. Since then, for those displaced from their homes, going to the toilet cleanly, in an enclosed space, has simply not been possible.
- Water supply, both urban and rural, was disrupted by the earthquake – existing water pipes broke, and a large exodus of homeless migrants into rural areas placed a strain on an already limited water supply. Repairing the thousands of water leaks, increasing water storage capacity in the IDP camps and constructing water supply systems in rural areas is a major job and has many challenges.
- Multiple agencies have launched efforts to build water supply systems, toilets and washing areas in camps, but the need continues to outweigh the response due to lack of construction materials, space and complicated land tenure issues.
- Drinking contaminated water, coupled with a lack of water to wash with, contributes to diseases including diarrhoea and skin infections
- Extremely unsanitary living conditions, especially around going to the toilet, washing hands afterwards and keeping toilets clean, also contributes to an increase in infections, as well as a loss of dignity and personal distress
- Families, often children, must collect and carry water several times a day. This is not just timeconsuming, but for children, exhausting. Some communities report that they fear fights breaking out over limited water supply.
- In most cases, families must buy safe drinking water. This has a huge impact on families' budgets, especially considering the crash in average household income after the quake.



Responses:

- World Vision has hired water tankers to supply treated water, not just in camps where we are working but to other managed camps also. By increasing water storage capacities and delivering 300,000 litres of treated water per day, World Vision has reached 24 camps over the last three months, with enough water for around 14,000 people per day
- Distribution of 10 litre and 20 litre water containers has made collection and safe storage of water easier for nearly 25,000 people
- As of March 25, World Vision has constructed (through cash-for-work programs) 255 toilets and 126 showers. In 16 camps, water supply systems are in operation and sanitation cleaning teams have been appointed.
- With safety a concern, especially at night, World Vision has installed night lights in latrine cubicles
- Because facilities were limited even before the quake, some behaviour change is also needed to keep communities healthier. At Child-Friendly Spaces, children learn how to wash their hands through fun games and songs.



Games for children at a Child Friendly Space in Port-au-Prince remind them of the importance of washing their hands after going to the toilet.

Next steps:

- World Vision is waiting to confirm its role in the Haiti Government's plan for transitional shelter. We are poised to provide large-scale water and sanitation solutions to new communities on government-provided land.
- On transitional land, as well as in the camps where it is likely that hundreds of thousands of people will remain short term, a non-negotiable objective will be the reliable supply of safe drinking water and sufficient water for household use (bathing, washing and cooking).
- World Vision will continue cash-for-work construction of toilets, handwashing, showers and water supply system in camps along with hygiene promotion messages to encourage residents to use water well. Priority will be given to camps that contain high numbers of children and low existing services.
- Further research is being conducted into the best way to keep camp toilets odourless and increase their longevity. Because water cannot be part of the equation, a natural product called "AZAcomp" is now being used. It reduces human wastes into water, nitrogen, micro-nutrients and clean methane gas. The water produced is clean enough to sub-irrigate agricultural fields.
- World Vision is currently carrying out detailed water and sanitation assessments in other areas where World Vision is working, including in community development areas. They reveal high needs for safe and adequate quantities of water and toilets. Facilities will be constructed for public use, in schools, health clinics, markets and other public institutions, using and training local people with the view of supporting local livelihoods in water supply and toilet design and construction.
- Disaster risk reduction is also part of planning for appropriate sanitation designs in Port-au-Prince. For long-term displaced communities, assessments are now under way to find the best designs and locations to build toilet/bathing blocks that will survive the rainy season beginning in May.

Priority: Healthcare

Haiti's children are dying from preventable, treatable illnesses.



Realities:

- A combination of unsanitary conditions, lack of clean water and inadequate nutrition has potential to claim many lives, especially among children, pregnant women and the aged.
- In the days after the quake, many lactating mothers struggled to continue breastfeeding because of shock or stress. As a result, babies went without food or were weaned too early, leaving them very vulnerable to disease or dehydrating diarrhoea.
- Due to the distractions and pressures of camp life, deterioration in children's health may easily go unnoticed by parents or caregivers.
- All of Haiti is a malaria and dengue zone. Without shelter, children are extremely vulnerable to these diseases.
- The onset of the rainy season in April/May will make conditions even worse, with the potential to cause a major humanitarian health crisis.
- The younger the child, the more vulnerable he or she is to infections and disease becoming life-threatening.

A very adult reality:

Weekly health reports from the clinics where World Vision is working show an alarmingly high incidence of sexually transmitted infections in girls and women. Haiti has the highest rate of HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean, teenage pregnancy is common and sexual violence and rape purportedly high. Whether forced, transactional or consensual, the conclusion must be that unprotected sex adds a further risk to camp life.

World Vision clinics keep information on STI/HIV prevention and other health and lifestyle messages for teenagers and adults who come there. The messages are also mobile - a theatre group touring the camps includes safe sex messages in its performance, and teams of health workers visit households to talk to women in particular about sexual health. Condoms are available through the clinics, as well as post-rape treatment kits (though as yet, no cases of rape have been referred to World Vision).

Responses:

- Fixed or mobile health clinics have been set up or planned in 13 of the 17 camps where World Vision works, providing a variety of health services, nutrition monitoring and vaccinations to all ages. Both doctors and nurses have been employed and trained to work in this environment.
- World Vision is providing 10 public hospitals and clinics with medical supplies. The condition of provision is that these are made available to patients for free.
- World Vision has negotiated with the government garbage collection unit to ensure areas around camps and World Vision food distributions have regular garbage removal.
- Pregnant mothers living in camps have received “clean delivery” kits in preparation for giving birth.
- Baby-friendly centres encourage mothers to breastfeed in a secure, women-only environment. Up to 50 women will attend these sessions each day, and any problems that they report are followed up with a more private house visit.
- Children found to be malnourished are referred to partner organisations specialising in supplementary feeding.

Next steps:

- Bad drainage and mounting garbage piles pose extreme health threats within the IDP camps in the coming rainy season. In exchange for cash, residents will be asked to clear out garbage from camps, dig garbage pits where necessary, and to carry out other maintenance projects to create a healthier environment now and during the rainy season.
- Public health messaging and basic medical advice need not be expensive. The next step for camp health is to train volunteers to take a regular role in public health. In exchange for a daily stipend, these volunteers will provide timely and accurate advice to their community, with referrals to a doctor or nurse for more complicated health issues they encounter.

A chance for change: healthcare

After the earthquake, the Haitian government suspended public medical fees until April 12. This meant that if patients could access a clinic, their treatment was free. Removing this suspension would put additional pressure on families struggling to regain stability of income and living conditions.

After urgent calls by World Vision and other agencies to recognise this, the Government of Haiti announced on April 5 that they would continue with the suspension for another three months.

- Performances are an ideal way to capture attention and get health messages across. A 10 person drama troupe employed by World Vision makes its way regularly through the camps, performing songs and plays about health, hygiene and HIV. They have also produced a CD “soap opera” of 10 episodes, to be played in camps and, hopefully, broadcast regularly through local radio.
- An exciting side project for the drama troupe is to train young people in the camps to take over from them longer term. As well as having fun and discovering their talent for acting or music, these young people will become passionate advocates for health messages including HIV protection.
- In rural areas, health needs are also under-resourced. Some clinics were damaged; others are too small or understaffed to deal with the influx of migrants to the area. World Vision sees their role in rural areas as strengthening existing services, rather than starting new ones. This may include new ambulances (or, for La Gonave, a boat ambulance), repairs, nutritional surveillance and deworming for children, or provision of supplies and equipment.
- The psycho-social impact of a disaster like this can take as long to heal as a physical injury. Facilitators of many World Vision initiatives, for instance the health and hygiene teams, the Child Friendly Space staff and the Mothers’ Club leaders, are learning about psycho-social group therapy and how to recognise when somebody, whether a child or a mother, is particularly distressed.

Priority: Livelihoods

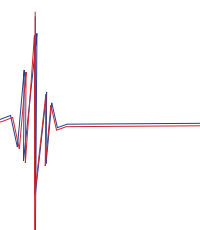
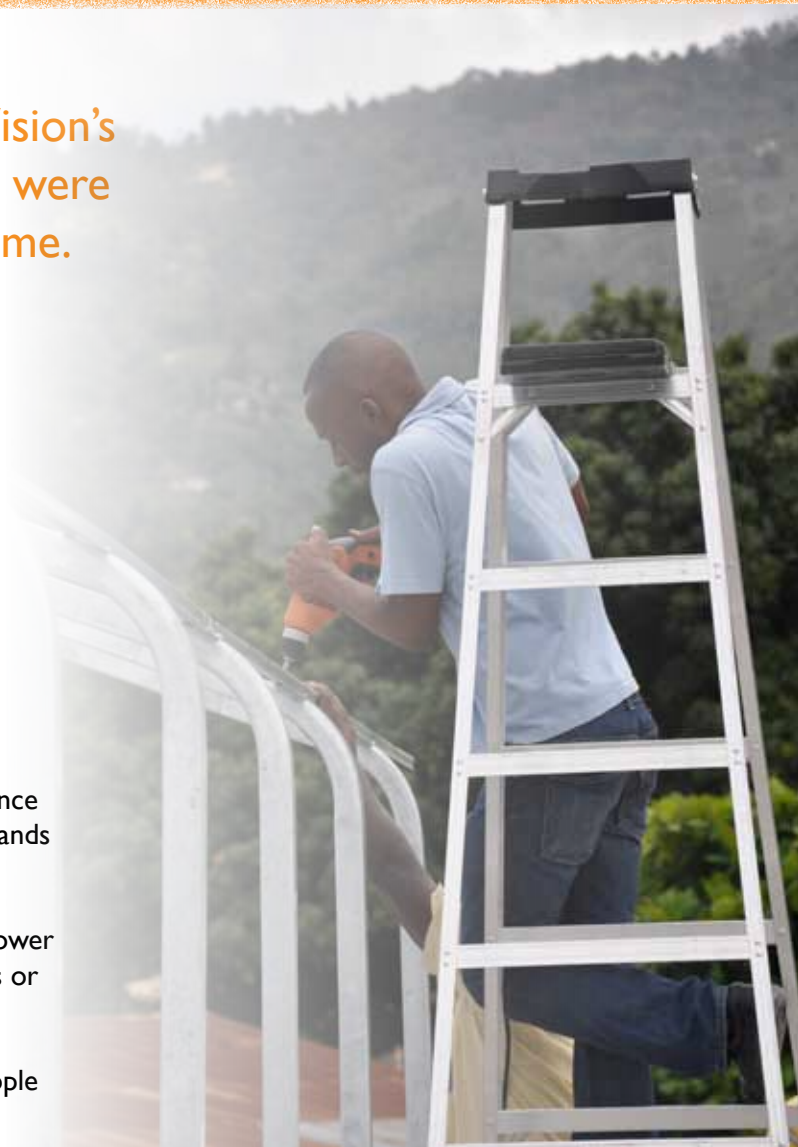
Of all respondents in World Vision's February assessment, only 6% were currently able to earn an income.

Realities:

- Business and construction ground to a halt once the earthquake hit, leaving hundreds of thousands out of work.
- Many people working for themselves at the lower end of the economic scale have lost the tools or premises needed to continue their business.
- Injuries or disabilities have stopped many people from returning to work.
- The inability to work or to protect family members from the effects of household financial crisis is a source of great personal distress and despair for many. An increase of theft and personal attacks, both within and outside camps, can be attributed to lack of work opportunities.

Responses:

- Cash-for-work initiatives throughout World Vision's response involve community members in their own reconstruction while providing income and a sense of purpose.



Cash-for-work brings hope to unemployed communities

Silvina, a 75 year old grandmother, watched helplessly as her home in Impasse Bazil collapsed on January 12.

Her new shelter in a settlement known as Enaf 2 is built on land where they used to harvest corn and bananas, from corrugated metal sheets taken from the rubble. It's the second in as many months that they have built.

She says life is not easy, food is hard to come by and hunger is normal.

"You know, we are poor people. We do what we can with what we have," she says simply.

Every day, Silvina and her neighbor, 49-year-old Claudette Vendredi, work together to maintain the camp's latrines. World Vision built these latrines, and now pays the women a small stipend for their upkeep.

The women take pride in their work. The latrines are spotless and surprisingly odorless. Silvina explains that World Vision has given them special enzymes to put into the pits. It breaks down the waste and helps to keep the area free from the sorts of smells you might expect.

For a 75-year-old woman to be the breadwinner for her family of three children and several grandchildren, pride is tinged with sadness. Even her 26-year-old grandson, who stays with her in the tiny home, cannot find work. Still, the cash-for-work program has helped Silvina see the bright side, too.

"We can now say we have hope," she says with a smile. "Before, we didn't know where we would get any money."



Next steps:

- There continue to be many opportunities to provide cash-for-work as part of World Vision's short and medium term response. They include clearing of land and rubble removal, construction of camp and neighborhood sanitation and drains, construction or rebuilding of homes and public buildings and disaster-proofing camps.
- WFP distributions will also increasingly emphasise a cash-for-work or food-for-work component. However, this will not be at the expense of appropriate recognition of skills. For instance, in construction of new transitional shelters, skilled labourers are likely to take lead roles through contract employment, while those without previous experience will join cash-for-work teams.
- A special project aims to bring livelihood opportunities to adults living with disabilities. This project combines cash loans with vocational or business skills training to tailor a small business or employment opportunity to the unique situation of each applicant.

Priority: Education and a future for children

Getting children back to school is a slow and painstaking process; protecting them in the meantime is an urgent priority.

Realities:

- Many children remain separated from their parents or caregivers
- The quake closed over 80% of schools in Port au Prince. Many of them, especially government schools, have not reopened.
- Teachers and other school staff were among those killed in the quake, contributing to a shortage of qualified staff.
- Haiti's education system was mainly privatised before the quake. Reduced family income makes it substantially harder for children to access affordable quality education.
- With children on the street instead of at school, they are vulnerable to many other child rights abuses, for instance child labour, exposure to violence or sexual assault
- Outside school, children also have little access to information about their rights and other life skills that can contribute to making them more resilient in looking after themselves



Responses:

- World Vision has opened 19 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) in displacement camps across Port-au-Prince and surrounds
- Some of these Centres offer early childhood development curriculum, with plans to introduce more as teachers and supervisors are trained
- Special workshops are being held for children in reading and drawing, theatre and debate
- Attendance at CFS continues to rise daily. As well as games and play, the spaces are used to teach children important messages, including child rights, environmental issues and good sanitation/hygiene practices
- World Vision has partnered with local organisations and institutions in their efforts to register displaced children. As a result, so far nearly 300 separated children have been identified; World Vision caseworkers are searching for families and relatives and several successful reunions have already taken place.

A chance for change: education

Schools officially started again on April 5. But many schools were not in a position to reopen. The demand for education means that, more than ever, Even before the quake, standards, quality and expense of education varied widely. Haiti needs a system to accredit educational institutions and the teachers and boards that manage them.

World Vision believes the government of Haiti now has a unique opportunity to create a stronger country starting with the education of its children. As schools reopen, World Vision is calling for:

- The Ministry of Education to introduce school and teacher accreditation and a standard curriculum for all levels
- School fees in government primary schools to be abolished to ensure families living on the edge of poverty continue to prioritise education

Next steps:

- World Vision is already partnering on inter-agency child protection initiatives, including anti-trafficking, child registration, cross-border protection and separation prevention training. These initiatives will continue and expand as the longer term view of quake rehabilitation emerges.
- An innovative way to address the current gap in education facilities is with community education, introduced through camps and temporary settlements by World Vision in partnership with the Global University of Lifelong Learning. Young people with secondary school education will be invited to become qualified community educators at a pace and in a discipline that they choose. As part of their qualification they need to teach others; at higher levels they will also design and run community programmes to attain their next certificate. It is possible to achieve a Masters or even PhD through the GULL.
- Through GULL, World Vision is strengthening the qualifications and knowledge of CFS session coordinators. Usually chosen from the community without early childhood qualifications, these coordinators or “animateurs” will soon have the opportunity to work towards a teaching degree.
- Over the next six months, Child Friendly Spaces will expand to become community resources for all ages. Sessions for parents and teachers concentrate on psychosocial aspects of children’s care. A weekly session at CFS encourages inclusion of children with disabilities. In some camps, professional musicians teach singing, dancing and a variety of musical instruments. For the older children (13 to 18), drama and jewellery making workshops are planned. Until schools reopen, this parallel curriculum will keep children busy, stimulated and safe.
- World Vision is ideally placed within the community to contribute to tracing and reunion activities. What started as a post-disaster response is now becoming a longer term partnership between World Vision, Save the Children, UNICEF and several local NGOs. Working together, they are able to identify separated children, remove them from vulnerable situations into temporary care and commence tracing activities throughout Haiti on their behalf. Some of these children were orphaned or separated by the quake, but others were already lost or abandoned by their family beforehand. World Vision caseworkers manage the process of returning children safely to parents or other caregivers, depending on what is best for the child.

A chance for change: child protection

Post-disaster, children are more vulnerable than usual to exploitative conditions and more in need of protection through appropriate prohibitive legislation against their exploiters. Haiti's laws do not currently provide this level of child protection.

World Vision believes the revision of child protection laws should be an urgent priority in this context.

At a minimum, the Haiti Child Protection Code should expressly outlaw all forms of child abuse, including bonded labour; provide for the close oversight of crèches and orphanages and limit their enrolment to 'true' orphans; and make available an adequate number of emergency and long-term safe havens for abandoned or street children.

Reunification brings joys, challenges

Stephanie*, 11, was the oldest of four children huddled together in the street the night after the January 12 earthquake – two girls and two boys, the youngest only six. Still in shock, the children knew their mother was dead but had no idea of where their father Armand might be. They were found by neighbours, who took them along with them to a displacement camp in Plateau Centrale, a rural district around 50 kilometres distant.

When World Vision case worker Louissaint Joseph visited the Plateau Centrale camp to search for unaccompanied or separated children, Stephanie and her brothers and sisters were able to give their father's address as well as that of their aunt, Yolaine. Louissaint registered them on the UNICEF database, but he also went to the neighbourhood where the children had been living.

It took only two days to find both Yolaine and Armand. They were both living in the same house, just a few doors down from the ruins of the children's home.

Both Armand and Yolaine had stopped looking for the children, believing that they must be dead. Yolaine had taken in family and neighbours already – in total, she was looking after 14 people in one house.

Reuniting the family will not be as easy as it sounds. The children are eager to come home, and their aunt to have them, but there are challenges for the children's wellbeing in an already overcrowded household.

Before World Vision brings the children home, Louissaint needs to be sure that they will be better off, not disadvantaged, by being with their family.

Some support by way of food or other items will be given to Yolaine, and Louissaint will facilitate the reunion personally to gauge the reaction and the need for ongoing support or monitoring of the children.

The reunion is likely to happen in April.

** Name changed for protection reasons*



World Vision caseworkers start the process of reunification by combing through camps and orphanages to locate, interview and register separated children.