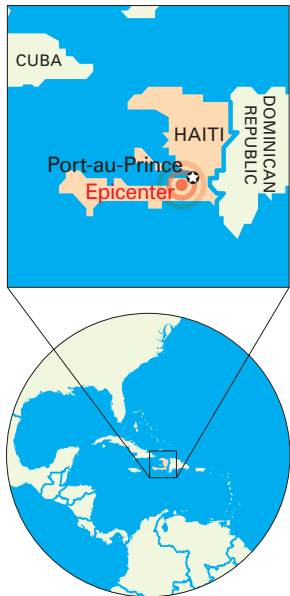


emergency relief

Haiti



Emergency Assistance in Haiti

The recent earthquake in Haiti has affected an estimated three million people, many of them children. UNICEF, operating in Haiti since 1949, is on the ground assessing this precarious situation and serving the immediate needs of women and children.

When an emergency strikes, UNICEF is ready with pre-positioned supplies in place in over a 150 countries worldwide. During the first 48 hours our field workers are often the first on the scene to provide children with clean water, food, shelter, and health care. In Haiti, UNICEF staff are hard at work, mobilizing local supplies and coordinating new shipments.

Haiti was already facing a challenging situation prior to the earthquake and is ill-equipped to respond to this devastating natural disaster. The poorest country in the Americas, Haiti has long struggled with political and economic crises. This condition was exacerbated by the hurricane season of 2008 and the global food crisis.

Even in stable situations, the chaos and insecurity caused by natural disasters hinder access to food, shelter, social support, and health care. This is why children are especially at risk to disease, malnutrition and exploitation during any emergency. UNICEF focuses on these children and their families—and on the essential interventions required to save lives and to ensure the rights and safety of all children.

UNICEF's Response

Along with food and shelter, safe water and sanitation are the highest priority interventions in emergency situations. Unless adequate water and sanitation services are quickly provided to emergency-affected children and their families, disease and death will follow. And unless good hygiene is consistently practiced by affected people, the danger

of diarrhea, cholera and other disease outbreaks persist. This is true in all types of emergencies, from rapid onset natural disasters to long-term crises caused by war and other complex factors.

UNICEF is deploying necessary supplies to Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas as quickly as possible to assist with recovery efforts, including clean water and sanitation, therapeutic foods, medical supplies and temporary shelter. We will also be focusing on children who have become separated from their families to protect them from harm or exploitation. Latest estimates suggest that 46 percent of Haiti's nearly 10 million people are under the age of eighteen. The special needs of children—for food, shelter and protection—must be factored in at the very outset of relief efforts and UNICEF will do everything in its power to make sure these needs are met.

In the coming days and weeks, UNICEF will continue to evaluate the situation in Haiti and will deliver services as needed, like hygiene kits, essential medicines, water purification tablets, portable toilets, family kits containing blankets, school-in-a box kits, emergency nutrition services, immunization services and more to aid in the relief efforts. As the relief and recovery efforts continue, UNICEF will also monitor the earthquake's long-term effects on children.

As you can see, the challenges are daunting. But rest assured that UNICEF will stay to help provide long-term recovery to the children and families that survived this crisis. UNICEF, with the support of partnering organizations and donors alike, has the global experience, resources and reach to give children throughout the region the best hope of survival.

Let's do whatever it takes to save a child.



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