



Earthquake in Haiti

LOOKING BACK ON  
**5 YEARS  
OF ACTION**

January 12, 2010 – January 12, 2015



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR  
**Development  
and Peace**

## An unprecedented catastrophe

On January 12, 2010, an earthquake devastated Haiti. It was the biggest tremor to hit the country in 200 years. In less than one minute, almost half of the homes in Port-au-Prince and its surroundings were reduced to dust.

### A major catastrophe:

- Magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter scale;
- The epicentre of the quake was in the most populated area of the island;
- Over 200,000 deaths and more than 300,000 injured;
- 1.3 million people were left homeless; and
- More than 200,000 homes were destroyed.

The fifth anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti is an opportunity for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE to honour all of the direct and indirect victims of this terrible earthquake and to reiterate our deep and ongoing commitment to the most vulnerable.

Our Haiti reconstruction program is the most extensive ever carried out by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE in one country, and remains one of our most important programs.

Considerable efforts were made from the start to determine and understand how best to provide humanitarian assistance in an urban environment like that of Haiti. Projects were continuously adapted to problems and situations specific to the context in which they were being implemented.

In the following pages, we present the projects that were carried out by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE with our partners in Haiti in the five years following the earthquake. These projects provided humanitarian aid, and addressed issues of reconstruction, human rights, food security and food sovereignty.

“The population of Port-au-Prince has grown very quickly and almost anarchically over the past 25 years. Many peasants have left the countryside to settle in Port-au-Prince, and due to their lack of resources and the general political turmoil, the city was not built safely for its inhabitants and houses were very fragile. The last earthquake in Haiti occurred many generations ago, therefore people did not think it could happen again, and it was a surprise for everyone.”

**Archbishop Guire Poulard,  
Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince**



## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Food for  
**1.2 million**  
people



Potable water for  
**75,310**  
people



Temporary shelters for  
**130,330**  
people



**18,221**  
hygiene kits  
distributed



Health care and  
psychosocial support for  
**102,031**  
people

**65**  
stakeholders trained in  
psychosocial support

In the hours following the earthquake, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and our partners immediately took action by allocating financial resources and deploying human and material resources to provide critical assistance to affected populations.

We teamed up with partners from the Caritas network, including Caritas Haiti and Catholic Relief Services, to come to the assistance of victims. At all times, human dignity was at the heart of our humanitarian response.

In order to successfully carry out its reconstruction program, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE set up a local office in Haiti. This local team has provided comprehensive support to partners and has ensured direct and ongoing relations with them.

# RECONSTRUCTION



Housing for  
**470**  
vulnerable families



**586**  
water tanks,  
reservoirs, wells and  
water supply points



A training  
centre for  
**140**  
seminarians

The reconstruction  
of 3 schools for  
**1,079**  
students



An experimental farm  
to provide training for  
**500**  
young entrepreneurs

After the earthquake, the reconstruction of housing and infrastructure was one of the most obvious priorities in Haiti. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE based its reconstruction program on the creation of local wealth and the use of local resources, the search for sustainable solutions for and by the Haitian people, and on the inherent dignity of all human beings. In addition, the prevention of violence and the recognition of human rights were integrated at every stage. The most vulnerable, especially women and children, were always prioritized in the planning and implementation of projects.

The approach of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and its partners is based on the reconstruction of the fabric of society: "We don't just offer a physical space for people; we try to develop a sense of belonging to the community, and provide services for families and children. We want people to find work, to have access to school, to a medical clinic, and to a large community centre."

Fr. Joseph, *Fondation haïtienne pour le relèvement et le développement*

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has notably contributed to the construction of a new campus for the Foyer Maurice-Sixto, a residence for children that have been placed into domestic servitude. These children, called *restavèk*, are placed in host families because their families are too poor to care for them. In their host families, they are tasked with housework, are often mistreated, and do not normally go to school. But at the Foyer Maurice-Sixto, they are considered full-fledged children. These new buildings, which replace the old premises destroyed by the earthquake, will shortly accommodate significantly more children than the previous building.

"I have a new school in Rivière-Froide, a very nice school. Next year, I will study in this new building. We will have much more space. It's a beautiful place built just for us!"

**Wislande, 16, *restavèk* child since the age of seven, that is hosted at the Foyer Maurice-Sixto**

One of the most important rural housing projects put in place in Haiti was carried out by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and its partner l'*Institut de technologie et d'animation* (ITECA). This project consisted of the construction of 400 permanent houses in the commune of Gressier, an area severely impacted by the earthquake. The new houses are built according to earthquake and cyclone resistant standards, thanks to technology that enables quick construction of low-cost housing with local materials.

Families had already lived in this sector prior to the earthquake. Rather than moving to a temporary camp or uprooting themselves to an "artificial village," they decided to stay and work together to rebuild their homes.

Micheline and Frantzé now live with their two children in their new home: "This house has allowed us to get out of the bad situation in which we had found ourselves for over three years now. Even if it rains, we can finally sleep like babies!"

# HUMAN RIGHTS



**3,124**  
female victims  
of violence  
received  
assistance

**6,369**  
people  
educated  
on gender-based  
violence

**Awareness, monitoring and advocacy on:** children's rights, humanitarian responses, prisoners' rights, and the judicial system.

The protection of human rights has always been a central concern of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. In the post-earthquake context, in which thousands of people were left homeless, the importance of defending human rights was felt more strongly than ever.

"After the earthquake, we witnessed systematic violations of the right to human dignity. Haitians were considered as victims, disaster victims, but it was totally forgotten that first and foremost they are human beings with dignity, who deserve to be respected."

**Alizar Vilès, program coordinator at the Réseau national de défense des droits humains (RNDDH)**

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports a number of human rights organizations that are working to prevent human rights abuses, support victims of violence, train professionals to support victims, defend the rights of homeless people facing forced evictions, promote vigilance with regards to arbitrary choices made within the reconstruction process, and advocate for reforms of the judicial system and state practices.

Supported by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, the *Réseau national de défense des droits humains* (RNDDH) has monitored humanitarian assistance provided by agencies following the earthquake. Due to the organization's efforts, it has been possible to report and document cases of human rights violations and intervene to restore respect for the rights of victims.

"In the response of humanitarian agencies, the distribution of goods is often poorly organized. For example, people sometimes had to wait in line for hours to receive what the humanitarian agencies were distributing. There are other situations in which agencies simply gave out whatever they had to offer, without finding out what people really needed. They had something to give so they just gave it."

**Alizar Vilès, RNDDH program coordinator**

A victory was achieved in May 2014, when the *Responsible Parenthood Act* was published in the

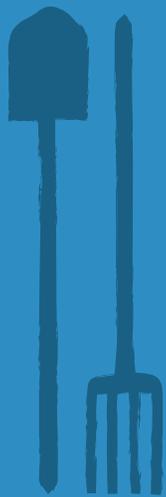
official journal of the Haitian government, after a long campaign led by groups such as RNDDH. This law guarantees equal rights for legitimate and illegitimate children, and requires fathers to recognize their children born out of wedlock, for example, as a result of adultery or incest.

"These two categories of children were the most marginalized in society because they could not affiliate themselves with their father. Now all children have the same rights, and women can demand that a father recognize his child."

**Rosy Auguste, RNDDH assistant program coordinator**



## FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

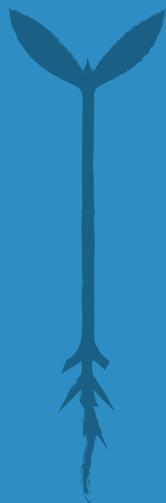


Agricultural tools for  
**2,658**  
people

Training related to agriculture, entrepreneurship, and the environment for  
**15,000**  
people



**8,997**  
animals  
(mules, poultry, goats, pigs)



Seedlings for more than  
**14,000**  
families

**38 tonnes**  
of seeds  
(beans, corn, peas, yam and millet)  
for almost  
**50,000**  
families

"Food sovereignty is to be able to produce our own food, with our own means and techniques, in order to feed ourselves."

**Guerlande Agella, facilitator,**  
*Fam Deside*

Food security and food sovereignty were major components of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE'S program in Haiti well before the earthquake of January 12, 2010. After the earthquake, food security became a growing concern, since most agricultural activities were massively disrupted, and many people left areas affected by the earthquake to resettle in rural areas.

Thousands of peasant families were able to resume their agricultural activities and counteract the negative impacts of the huge quantities of humanitarian assistance that arrived after the earthquake, which as a consequence weakened local agriculture. With the help of our partners, these peasants were equipped to cope with the inflation of prices on the domestic market.

Thanks to the activities of our partners, jobs were created, and peasant families increased and improved their agricultural production, diversified their sources of income and guaranteed better nutrition for their children. These activities were carried out while respecting ecological equilibrium and biodiversity.

After the earthquake, at least 1,500 families left Port-au-Prince to settle in Hinche, in the centre of the country, and in the surrounding area. In the last five years, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has strengthened its support to the *Mouvement Paysan Papaye* (MPP), a peasant association and long-term partner in this region.

"After the earthquake, people were panicking. They had no idea where they were going, they just got into the first vehicle they found and left."

**Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, founder of**  
*Mouvement Paysan Papaye* (MPP)

Since 2010, thousands of peasant families have participated in MPP's activities. Using a gardening technique which allows plants to grow inside used tires, families can now produce fresh and healthy vegetables for their own consumption and even generate a surplus to be sold at local markets.

Virginia Augustin, a member of MPP, proudly shows off her garden: "I did everything myself!" She grows tomatoes, cabbage and peppers, which she planted herself in the 10 tires supplied by the MPP.

"We really want to build a new Haiti, which will make people want to come and live here. And that's why we are proud to mentor the peasants, who represents 65% to 80% of the people living in the country."

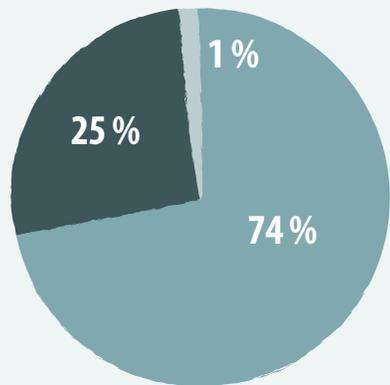
**Vilgar Jacques, animator,**  
MPP

## Social economy

A final component of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE'S reconstruction program is a proposed alternative social economy model of development whose goal is to ensure revenue for the regular activities of various organizations. The associated economic activities will guide partners towards more autonomy and sustainability, so that they can continue to pursue their missions well beyond the end of their funding.

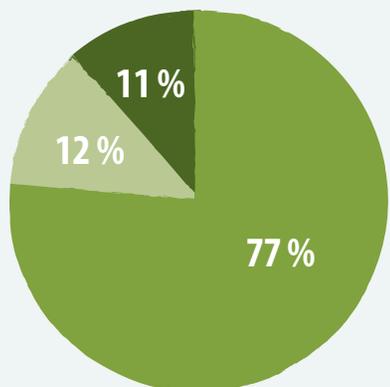
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is working alongside its partners to provide them with the support they need to start up and manage small businesses. Approximately 10 social enterprises are currently being set up, particularly in relation to poultry farming and agriculture. As a result communities will move from being recipients of funds to revenue-generating entrepreneurs.

## Financial breakdown



### Sources of funding

- Public donations  
**\$21,440,862**
- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada  
**\$7,134,280**
- Québec Ministry of International Relations (MRI)  
**\$250,000**
- Other donors  
**\$37,400**



### Use of funds

- Reconstruction and development\*  
**\$22,165,031**
- Humanitarian assistance  
**\$3,266,825**
- Administrative expenses  
**\$3,430,687**

**Total: \$28,862,543\*\***

\* Food security and sovereignty, human rights and socio-economic development

\*\*During this period, an additional \$2.93 million was allocated to regular development programming in Haiti, and is not included in this total.



# LOOKING FORWARD

Five years after the earthquake, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE continues its work in Haiti. The challenges remain enormous, but we are committed to working in partnership with civil society actors in the reconstruction and long-term development of Haiti.

This five-year program has allowed DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE to create new partnerships and strengthen its links with existing partners. Through our work in Haiti, our partners have developed a more solid base for future activities, and are more anchored in their communities. These communities have become their own actors of concrete change.

Further activities will be carried out to bring together lessons learned, evaluate the impact of programs, and determine how to improve DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE'S humanitarian responses and reconstruction programs in the future. We always strive to integrate humanitarian responses with a long-term vision towards sustainable development, in order to contribute to creating a new tomorrow for those who have been uprooted and have lost all hope for the future.



# Thank you for your support!

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE's reconstruction program in Haiti could not have been carried out without the support of its donors and the commitment of its partners in Haiti.

Donors from across Canada have shown exceptional generosity toward the people of Haiti following the earthquake. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for putting your trust in DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. Whether you represent a religious community, a school group, a parish, or you are a member of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, your support is invaluable!

We also want to thank our institutional partners, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) Canada, and the Québec Ministry of International Relations (MRI) and of the Francophonie.

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