

# Compassion at work in Haiti in 2010



# One-Year Report: Compassion's Response in Haiti

For nearly 60 years, Compassion's work has focused on releasing children from the strongholds of poverty. Consistently, experience has shown there is much more to poverty than economics.

This is certainly true of Haiti. Forty years into our work there, Compassion partners exclusively with the local church to address the needs of the whole child—spiritual, economic, social and physical—and create change for good in the families and communities of those children.

Yet on Jan. 12, 2010, the heart of this nation came tumbling down, literally, plunging its people into deeper need than ever. The massive 7.0-magnitude earthquake rocked capital city Port-au-Prince, leaving at least 230,000 people dead and some 300,000 people injured. An estimated 1 million Haitians were left homeless.

The road to recovery will be long, but Haiti is resilient, and by God's grace the Body of Christ remains a beacon of [hope](#).

## The Aftermath

Once news of the earthquake hit international headlines, the world watched intensely, reaching out with unprecedented generosity. But the quake had destroyed virtually all communications, transportation and infrastructure. Massive piles of rubble made roads impassable, creating a logistical nightmare that frustrated the delivery of life-saving aid sent by a global community, praying that help would quickly reach the victims.

Haiti's reality was no longer under the radar: The country's infrastructure had been weak prior to the catastrophe. After the quake, there was nothing at all.

## Impact to Compassion's Work

Like countless others, our staff experienced significant personal and material loss. Compassion Haiti employee **Farcine Désir** died of injuries sustained in the quake. While Compassion USA's **Dan Woolley** was rescued alive after being buried 65 hours under Hotel Montana's rubble, contract videographer **David Hames** did not survive the hotel's collapse. Of nearly 65,000 Compassion beneficiaries in Haiti, more than one-third live in the area affected by the quake. Comparatively, the number of lives lost—62—is a testament of God's protection.



Worldwide, Compassion raised a little more than \$28 million dollars to support short- and long-term objectives in response to the earthquake in Haiti.

The Compassion Haiti staff and church partners pressed on, mobilizing quickly and heroically to:

- Set up makeshift offices in Compassion Haiti’s parking lot.
- Contact all church partners to assess their situation.
- Determine a response strategy to address short- and long-term needs.
- Create a systematic census to account for each of the nearly 23,000 affected babies, children and students in Compassion’s care.

## Highlights from Compassion’s Response in Haiti

While Compassion’s response to the earthquake reached far beyond child development and deep into relief work, through it all, God was faithful, allowing our long-term model—working through the local church—to address short-term needs and save lives. These highlights and a comprehensive overview of Compassion’s response tell how the Church and Compassion’s heroic Haitian staff brought eternal hope to thousands during their nation’s most difficult time of need.

### Short-term Response: Relief

#### Survival/Damage Control: January – April 2010

2 Corinthians 8:2b-4 (NIV):

“Their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this serve to the saints.”

#### The Church Remains Compassion’s Story

While these urgent relief activities were getting underway, across the border Compassion’s Dominican church partners initiated an extensive supply chain of volunteers, warehouses and transportation to procure relief supplies over land to their brothers and sisters in Haiti. This gave logistics teams in the United States, Haiti and the Dominican Republic time to procure life-saving supplies for distribution through local church networks on the island.

For a child development organization, it is daunting to imagine a relief effort on this scale. Yet without Compassion’s church partners stepping up in such a critical role, many more could have perished. We stand in awe of God’s hand at work!

Back in Haiti, Compassion staff and church partners were determined but depleted, in need of their own refueling and encouragement. They received resources in the form of trauma counseling, financial aid, food, water and temporary shelter. This began an extensive staff care plan that continued throughout the year, enabling crucial work to continue as staff and church partners coordinated to locate and serve Compassion-assisted children and families.



As supplies began to arrive from Miami, our church partners in the Dominican Republic committed to assembling the kits for the first two rounds of emergency food distribution for 15,000 families.

“The earthquake was grave. We were hit hard here. We thought that life was over for us. But Compassion gave us food, water and shelter. It gave us hope even in the presence of disaster.”

— Pastor François Gerard Boutin

## Compassion’s Holistic Child Development Model at Work

Child development is a long-term commitment. It is [up-close and personal](#), deep rather than broad. In Haiti, this approach is likely what saved the most lives. One writer reports that every Compassion-sponsored child and parent he spoke with on a recent assignment in Haiti credited their survival to the one-to-one care they received through Compassion’s church partners.

### Census: Knowing Each One By Name

Ezekiel 34:12 (NIV)

“As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.”

Given the scale of the disaster, the only place to start for Compassion Haiti staff was at the beginning. The obvious questions were the hardest to answer: “Where are our children?” “Have they survived?” “Where are they sleeping?”

Haitian staff set out to conduct a census on the nearly 23,000 babies, children and students Compassion served in the quake-affected area. Compassion staff and church partners searched diligently day after day, going tent to tent among the tent cities in Port-au-Prince, and sometimes traveling into the countryside to locate quake victims who had left the city to escape the aftermath and aftershocks.

This labor of love, which continued over a six-month period, tallied how many victims had been injured, died, lost homes and/or relocated. Wherever they were, Compassion teams went to them, encouraging them to return to the program—if in the city, to centers holding revitalization camps; if they had moved to the countryside, Compassion reassigned them to a center nearby. Once they’d returned to the quake-affected area, church partners supplied returning families with needed provisions, such as food kits and shelter materials that had been distributed in their absence.

Today, we praise God for a 99 percent success rate in locating those babies, children and students. Fewer than 100 remain unaccounted for.

## Mid-term Response: Recovery

### Moving Toward Stability & Normalcy: March - December 2010

As the year progressed, our church partners brought increased stability to those in Compassion’s care. By March, nearly all centers were conducting regular program activities, albeit in temporary facilities.

Church partners restarted program activities from large containers that served as each center’s office, and they conducted activities in temporary classrooms made of sheet metal and wood.



“We thank Compassion for the [recovery & rehabilitation] camp. It helped to get away from my neighborhood and the anguish related to the earthquake. Here, not only did I have fun with other children—learning new songs and games and eating together—but I was also equipped with new skills regarding how to behave when there is an earthquake. It was more than therapy. I wish it could just go on.”

— registered child Lemaguerre Edouard

There, center staff provided support such as:

- transitional shelters for children and families
- mobile clinics, hygiene kits, and training
- water-treatment systems
- ongoing trauma counseling

Since the quake, housing prices had skyrocketed, making lodging cost-prohibitive for students in the Leadership Development Program (LDP) who did not have family in Port-au-Prince. Compassion provided living arrangements that allowed most LDP students to return to their studies by May.

Many LDP students played a critical role in mentoring their juniors for emotional health. With help and training from two hired psychologists, students like [Eustache Salomon](#) worked with children who exhibited high levels of stress. Parents and center staff also received care and learned stress-management techniques.

Encouragement and vision-casting kept pastors motivated as they collaborated with Compassion to plan for their future and the future of their nation.

## Long-term Response: Rehabilitation

### Rebuilding for a Better Haiti: January 2011 - December 2013

Compassion's commitment to the child is longstanding. For nearly 60 years—more than 40 years in Haiti—we have strived to attack poverty at its roots by addressing the spiritual, economic, social and physical needs of each child we serve.

Now that our relief phase is complete and programmatic stability is in place, the long-term work truly begins. More than just rebuilding structures, this multi-year strategy requires helping people rebuild their lives and plant seeds of hope for their families and communities.

Planning for the long-term rebuild started in early 2010, when Compassion Haiti initiated a comprehensive strategy to [address relief, recovery and rebuilding](#).

Elissaint Jean-Jacques—a former Compassion-sponsored child, a graduate of the Leadership Development Program, and a Fulbright scholar—was one driving force behind the strategy to help Compassion Haiti rebuild. According to Elissaint, for long-term success and stability, “The most important strategy, in my mind, is to help parents generate income,” adding that rebuilding church partner facilities is also a top priority.



After pastors and LDP students received training at an Equip conference on leading in times of crisis, the students thanked organizers with this message:

“We are now positive that despite the devastating earthquake, the Lord will use us to restore and rebuild the broken walls of Haiti.”

Rebuilding sanctuaries is critical to resuming normal church life and to the community outreach that our church partners do through their child development centers. In Haiti, many of Compassion's church partners also operate schools where classrooms double for center activities, so providing new school buildings will allow those churches to reopen and operate as before, this time in earthquake-resistant, seismic-code-compliant structures.

External audits are built into the plan to ensure integrity during construction and through to completion of long-term strategies.

Since the week after the quake, Compassion Haiti has received many visitors (nearly every week since late January 2010) for documenting our work there, learning from consultants and third-party partners and providing media and global partner access as Compassion Haiti works toward returning to normal operations.

Sponsor visits were limited, however, due to the need to focus all resources on carrying out normal programming for the 40,000-plus beneficiaries in the unaffected two-thirds of the country and executing earthquake response strategies in hard-hit areas.

Compassion Haiti estimates that by October 2011, normal field-visit processes will be back online. These include processes related to sponsor visits.

## The Church is the Light of the World

Matthew 5:14,16, NIV

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Compassion is blessed to partner with pastors and churches that have opened their arms wide and made the Body of Christ a safe haven for children and for their community. They are indeed the light of the world.

Haitian Pastor Mathurin Ménard of the Wesleyan Church of Léogane (HA-152), located at the quake's epicenter, says, "As Christian leaders, it is more than ever the time to band together towards one goal, allow people to experience the love of Christ, no matter what. I think Jan. 12 has given us the opportunity to reconsider our approach as the Church of Christ in a distressed world."

Emerging leaders from Compassion's Leadership Development Program share that motivation. After attending gatherings to reunite and encourage LDP students, Wesly Hyppolite says, "Our meetings have rekindled the flame of our belief, which tells us that the future is still very promising and we have a big role to play in the rebuilding of Haiti."

By God's grace and with His help through leaders like these, Haiti's future looks brighter.



Deb Clarke, co-founder of Colorado Springs Nursing Students for Haiti, an organization with no Compassion affiliation, returned in April from a service trip in Port-au-Prince, where she witnessed up-close Compassion's work at a church partner. "The differences between the children that we treated throughout the community and those under the care of Compassion were remarkable. The children of Compassion were well nourished, neatly dressed, and emotionally stable... They appeared healthy, happy and exhibited faith even in the aftermath of the recent disaster. This was a pleasant surprise given recent events."

# Compassion International Response Strategies – Haiti Earthquake

As of 1 December 2010 (Visit [Haiti.Compassion.com](http://Haiti.Compassion.com) to learn more)

	Short-term: RELIEF January - April 2010	Mid-term: RECOVERY March - December 2010	Long-term: REBUILDING (Rehabilitation) January 2011 - December 2013
Staff / Office Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trauma counseling</li> <li>Hardship assistance</li> <li>Food, water and temporary shelter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engineering firm EMI's assessment of Compassion Haiti office</li> <li>Complete office repairs</li> <li>Hiring Disaster Response Coordinator</li> <li>Formation of Haiti Rebuild Team. Dismissal Disaster Response Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rented building for Disaster Response and engineering teams for ICP* rebuild.</li> <li>Add staff to oversee long-term strategies</li> </ul>
Child-focused	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A census was created to provide a framework for locating each child, determining their status and reporting systematically to sponsors.</li> <li>Emergency food and water kits—37,018 total—were distributed in two waves, along with medical care. Each food kit was designed to feed a family of five for two weeks.</li> <li>A medical team deployed from the U.S. one week after the quake and provided emergency care to those who could not be seen at clinics. Medical supplies procured and shipped to Haiti equipped 69 church partners and 17 hospitals and clinics with supplies such as bandages, scissors, gloves, oral hydration solutions and basic pain medicines like ibuprofen.</li> <li>Revitalization camps helped centers bring normalcy and safety to beneficiaries' lives through hot meals, social activities and hygiene training for beneficiaries and families. Stress-management activities helped victims cope with ongoing tremors and trauma. Approximately 1070 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine and 5000 doses of tetanus vaccine were provided.</li> <li>Temporary shelter in the form of 490 tents was distributed immediately. Within a few months, vouchers for other construction supplies were issued to 4,822 families who had lost their homes.</li> <li>All beneficiaries received psychological assessment and trauma counseling at the camps. Seventy-one of those in need of counseling receive individualized ongoing therapy, while 789 beneficiaries and family members received group therapy.</li> <li>Earthquake training helped children in all centers learn how to respond in the event of another earthquake.</li> <li>Upon locating Leadership Development Program students, Compassion engaged them in meaningful activities to contribute to their education and professional development until they could return to their studies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplies for transitional shelters were distributed to 4,822 families initially and to another 1000 families in September. Materials included sheet metal, nails, wood and tarps.</li> <li>Furniture (desks, benches and blackboards) was issued to eight church-partner schools that had been completely destroyed. Children were soon able to return to school there.</li> <li>Mobile clinics provided checkups for 14,345 at centers affected by the quake. The clinics also administered 4,378 immunizations (Hepatitis B and tetanus) and provided health training and 4000 hygiene kits to beneficiaries and their families. Also trained on hygiene and water treatment were 130 tutors. Fifty church partners received water treatment systems.</li> <li>Ongoing trauma counseling brought increased emotional health and stability to quake victims in Compassion's care.</li> <li>By May, most LDP students had returned to university studies after Compassion had found and provided housing for students who did not have family in Port-au-Prince.</li> <li>Success rate of 99% in finding Compassion-assisted babies, children and students: The census allowed Compassion to notify sponsors throughout the year, as children were located. By the end of September, out of nearly 23,000 beneficiaries that lived in the impacted area, fewer than 100 remained unaccounted for.</li> <li>Compassion hired a specialist to develop the child protection strategy and began drafting plans and responses for all highly vulnerable children (disabled, orphaned, etc.).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct repair and construction of buildings at ICPs* with classrooms that house program activities as well as primary and secondary schools the children attend.</li> <li>Devise plan for homes needing repair (to be determined).</li> <li>Determine long-term solutions for Highly Vulnerable/Disabled children with help of specialist-consultant.</li> <li>Install playgrounds at 35 impacted ICPs*.</li> <li>Household Stability: Income Generating Activities to help restore parents' livelihood: Approximately 2000 families will receive training on income generation, business plan creation and microloan eligibility.</li> <li>Grow each program with additional beneficiaries.</li> </ul>

\*Implementing Church Partner

\*\* Direct partnerships between church congregations:

<http://www.compassion.com/churches/The+Church+to+Church+Vision.htm>

LDP = Leadership Development Program

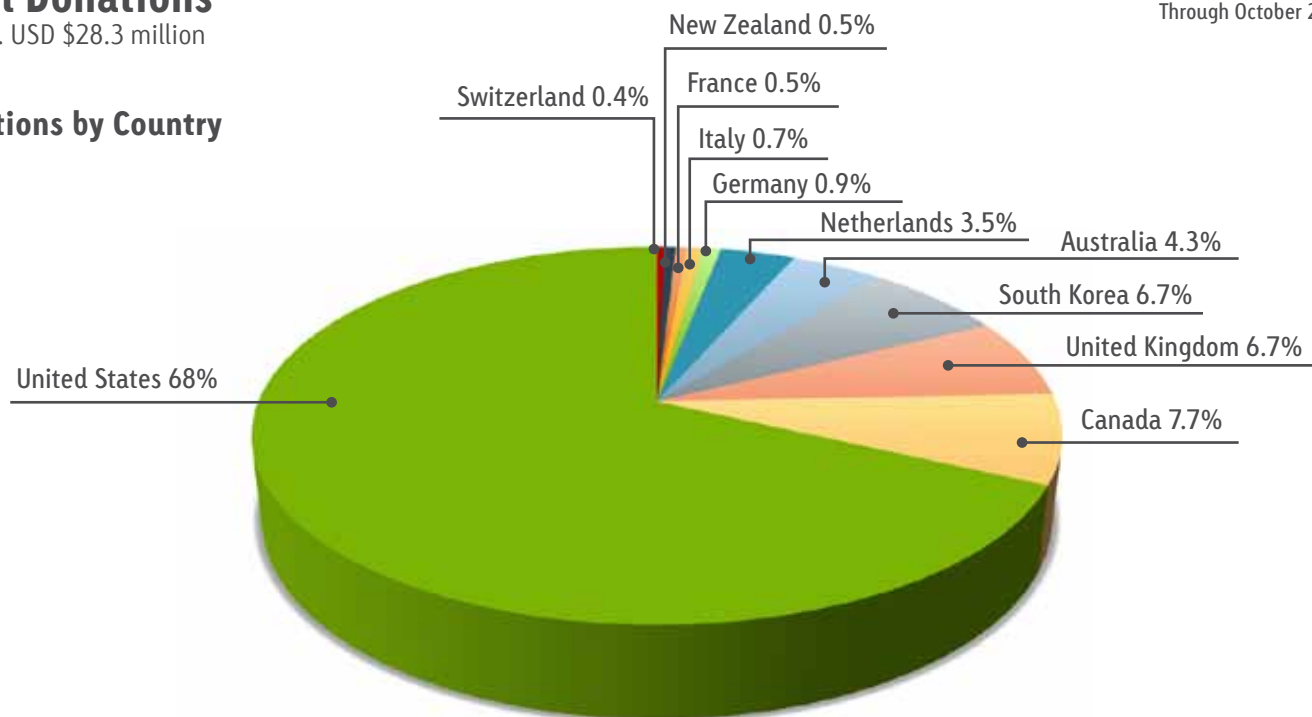
	Short-term: RELIEF January - April 2010	Mid-term: RECOVERY March - December 2010	Long-term: REBUILDING (Rehabilitation) January 2011 - December 2013
Church-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hardship assistance to staff</b></li> <li>• <b>Food, water, household items and 53 temporary shelters</b> (sheet metal and wood) were issued to church-partner staff who had lost their belongings. A total of 2,880 food kits were distributed to the center: 448 to project staff; 532 to committee members; 1900 to tutors.</li> <li>• <b>Trauma counseling</b> helped center staff with their own healing and refueled them for continued service.</li> <li>• <b>Temporary facilities for restarting programs</b> were built from canopies, tarps and sheet metal provided to 26 ICPs.*</li> <li>• <b>Activities to help restart programs</b> took the form of camps and mobile medical clinics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transitional classroom materials</b> were provided for schools at 40 ICPs*. Materials included sheet metal and wood.</li> <li>• <b>Containers</b> were provided and converted to offices for 15 church partners.</li> <li>• <b>EMI assessed damaged structures</b> and advised on which were safe to use.</li> <li>• An external technical team began drafting <b>plans for Rebuilding ICPs*</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assist in rebuild and repair of sanctuaries</b> that were destroyed or significantly damaged.</li> <li>• Provide schools for the churches so they can reopen and operate as normal in quality, safe buildings built to new seismic code. The ICP* rebuild will repair and/or build school facilities at 44 ICPs over the next two years.</li> <li>• Establish <b>10 Church-to-Church**</b> relationships.</li> </ul>
Christ-centered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pastor Encouragement:</b> In March, nearly 600 pastors gathered for prayer and encouragement in Port-au-Prince with Wess Stafford and Compassion International Board President Robert Hawkins. Pastors received resources and training on trauma, grieving, healing, peace and faith at this event. .</li> <li>• <b>Project activities</b> helped beneficiaries and their families gain a sense of normalcy. For many weeks, activities like singing, art, playing games and eating hot meals together brought stability through much-needed social interactions.</li> <li>• <b>Retreats and activities for LDP students</b> engaged their emerging leadership skills in activities that benefitted other beneficiaries while it enhanced LDP student development.</li> <li>• A <b>retreat for Compassion Haiti staff and families</b> made it possible for 115 people to participate in a post-trauma weekend retreat in April.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sent 25 pastors to the <b>Willow Creek Leadership Conference</b> held in Haiti in November.</li> <li>• <b>Pastor encouragement</b> events included mobilizing and training Compassion alumni in trauma response to assist in their churches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anniversary events</b> to commemorate the earthquake's victims, survivors and God's faithfulness have been planned.</li> <li>• A special <b>Anniversary Worship Service</b> will be held for all Port-au-Prince-impacted ICPs* and beneficiaries.</li> </ul>
Committed to Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compassion's <b>audit and risk management</b> teams were invited to advise on controls and process improvements.</li> <li>• A communications strategy was created to <b>address sponsor and donor needs</b>, VIP and media visits and documentation of fund use and response activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compassion hired an <b>external engineering team to oversee the rebuild effort</b> and train Haitian crews on building facilities according to new seismic code.</li> <li>• An office auditor was hired to conduct <b>regular audits of strategies</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Global Scripture Impact (GSI)</b> was contracted to conduct an impact assessment.</li> <li>• Compassion's Office of Risk Management is scheduled to conduct an <b>audit of the short-term strategies</b> the week of Feb. 20.</li> <li>• A consultant was contracted to draft an <b>Income Generating Strategy</b> and will be retained for the duration of its two-year implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Audits of long-term strategies</b> will take place at appropriate intervals.</li> <li>• Contract services to <b>audit the construction strategy</b>.</li> <li>• Request additional <b>third-party impact assessments</b> as deemed necessary by Rebuild Team.</li> <li>• <b>Reopen Haiti to Compassion sponsor and group visits</b> in 2011. By October 2011, the country should be operating normally with respect to all visits.</li> </ul>

## Total Donations

Approx. USD \$28.3 million

Through October 2010

### Donations by Country

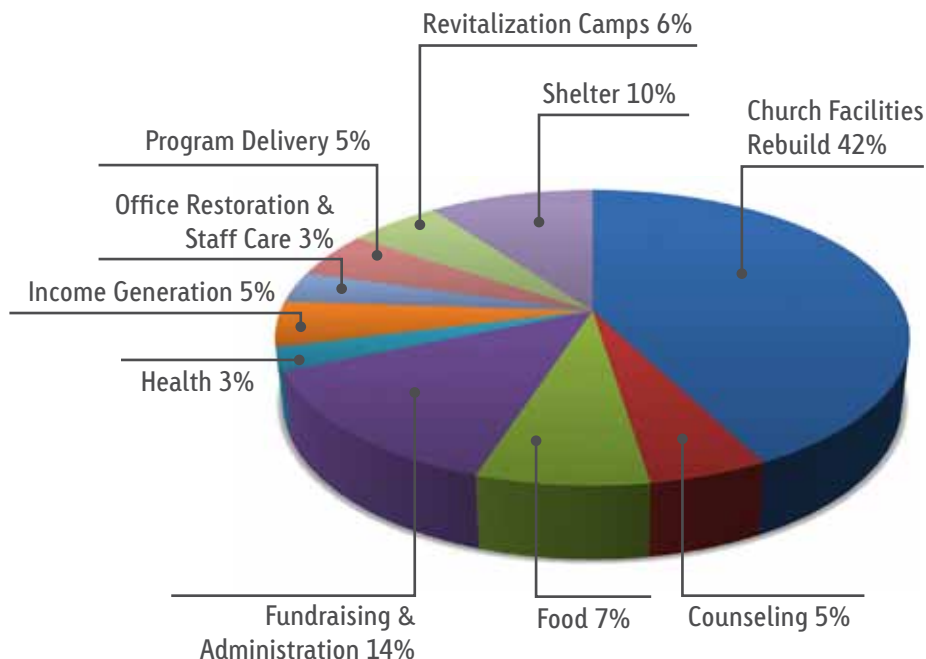


## Total Expenses

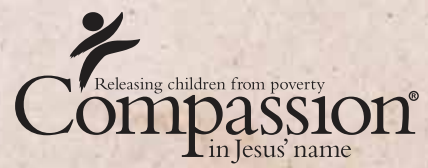
Approx. USD \$28.3 million\*

### Haiti Expenses by Category

Church Facilities Rebuild	\$12,000,000
Counseling	\$1,460,000
Food	\$2,110,000
Fundraising & Administration	\$3,850,000
Health	\$708,000
Income Generation	\$1,400,000
Office Restoration & Staff Care	\$959,000
Program Delivery	\$1,415,000
Revitalization Camps	\$1,573,000
Shelter	\$2,830,000



\*As of October 2010, \$12.8 million remained to be spent, primarily on helping church partners rebuild and beneficiaries' families generate income.



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