



Haiti Earthquake

Two Years On

Foreword

The first time Islamic Relief set foot in Haiti, as an organisation, was in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. This resulted in extremely challenging conditions; we were entering a new country and culture for the first time while simultaneously attempting to help its communities during their most difficult time in recent history. We set up a new office while circumventing the damage and destruction of banks, government buildings, telephone and internet providers, development agencies and suppliers.

But we managed to successfully set up our office and, despite being so new to Haiti, we established the first organised camp for displaced people on a football pitch. We overcame our challenges by employing Haitian staff with superb local knowledge to help us navigate the highly damaged infrastructure and we are extremely grateful to them.

In the aftermath of the tremor, we focused on saving lives and protecting vulnerable groups by providing food, water, hygiene and emergency shelter to survivors of the earthquake. After establishing three camps, our focus shifted to ensuring sustainable conditions which would help survivors to recover and to be able to help

themselves and rebuild their own community by providing them with training, job opportunities and working with them to constructing schools and durable shelters.

After two years, it is the time for the programme to tackle the root causes of vulnerability, which makes people less able to withstand environmental shock. Our work will now be managed by Islamic Relief's Development Department. This will ensure a more sustainable way of reducing vulnerability with a focus on capacity building and empowerment. We look forward to continuing to work with communities in Haiti and I hope you continue to support these valuable projects.



Moustafa Osman

Head of Humanitarian Department
Islamic Relief Worldwide

Content

<i>Overview of the disaster</i>	4
<i>Summary of our work</i>	6
<i>Protecting lives and dignity: Emergency Relief</i>	8
<i>Empowering communities: Recovery</i>	10
<i>Empowering communities: Development</i>	12
<i>Challenges</i>	14
<i>Plans for the future</i>	15
<i>Summary of activities</i>	16

Overview of the disaster



Photo: Destruction caused by the earthquake.

It has been two years since a powerful earthquake struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti.

On January 12, 2010, over 200,000 people died and 1.5 million were made homeless. The tremor, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, destroyed everything from schools and hospitals to government buildings and the presidential palace.

The earthquake affected 3.8 million people. Over the past two years, Haitians have endured cholera and monsoon rains as well as violence in the aftermath of the presidential elections.

Damages and destruction caused by the earthquake is expected to cost the country 15% of its GDP and has pushed the country's development back by 15 years.



Summary of our work

Islamic Relief began working in Haiti with a focus on protecting lives. We set up the first organised camp for displaced people in Port-au-Prince and provided residents with shelter, food, water and household and hygiene items to assist them in the aftermath.

Our focus shifted to recovery and securing stability, so we built toilets, showers and drainage systems in the three camps that we were running. We also began a rubble clearance project to offer employment to vulnerable people and provided temporary school shelters to over 9,000 children so they could resume studying.

As we began to focus on long-term development and empowerment, we built transitional shelters for displaced people, many of whom left camps and were returning to their land. As such, Islamic Relief handed over work in these camps to committees organised by camp residents and reinforced our efforts in the development field.

Islamic Relief constructed a school and repaired three more, allowing children to resume their education away from the powerful monsoons and blistering heat. We also offered training in carpentry, tailoring and computer to equip young unemployed people with the skills they need to secure jobs and continue to rebuild their livelihoods.

Collaboration was an important aspect of our work in Haiti. During the last two years we have worked with a number of agencies and local authorities and ministries to ensure that our intervention was aligned with the strategy set out by the Haitian authorities. We regularly attended United Nations cluster meetings in order to avoid overlapping work and to reach as many vulnerable people as possible.

Opposite left to right from top:

Parc Sainte Claire, the first organised camp for displaced people in Haiti.

Michael Domestene participates in a vocational training course in Port-au-Prince.

Shower and latrine facilities constructed by Islamic Relief in Yasin Community area of Port-au-Prince.

Islamic Relief team marking the location of tents in Parc Sainte Claire camp.

Camp residents provided with clean drinking water.

Aims and objectives

Haiti was a nation in which we had not worked prior to the earthquake, but we felt it was important to respond to it as our work is based on need, regardless of nationality or religious beliefs. Over the past twenty-four months, Islamic Relief has supported Haitian communities at all stages of recovery.

We aim to protect lives and dignity during humanitarian crises and, as people recover from disasters, to help communities to empower themselves.





Impact of our work

Protecting lives and dignity: Emergency relief

Islamic Relief provided life-saving basics in the first three months following the earthquake. We were one of the first agencies to respond to the earthquake; our emergency staff arrived in Haiti within 72 hours of the tremor and eight days later established Parc Sainte Claire, the first organised camp for displaced people in Port-au-Prince. Shortly after, we set up two other camps, Accra Nord and Yasin Community in the Haitian capital. During the emergency phase, Islamic Relief distributed around 4,000 large plastic sheets to protect survivors of the earthquake from the rainy season.

We also provided over 1,000 families with regular food and water. Food packs that were distributed included a month's supply of rice, beans, oil, spaghetti, powdered milk and sugar.

Hygiene kits and cooking sets were also distributed, providing displaced Haitians with blankets, soap, toothbrushes, towels, female hygiene items, pots and pans, and cooking utensils.

In numbers

Assistance	People reached
Shelter	3,000
Water	200
Hygiene kit	7,200
Plastic sheeting	4,000

Top: Islamic Relief providing essential clean water to survivors of the earthquake.

Stories from Haiti

Françoise Luc

Two years ago Françoise Luc, 38, was a teacher of maths and social sciences. In the afternoon she would teach students to crochet hats, belts and skirts. But when the earthquake struck, Françoise's home was damaged and she was forced to leave her old life behind. Françoise and her two sons, Laurence and Rogers, took refuge in the camp for displaced people which we set up in Parc Sainte Claire, Port-au-Prince two weeks after the tremor. "Of course I want to go home," she told us during the aftermath of the earthquake, "but I can't...it is unstable".

In the weeks following the tremor, Françoise ran a small business from her tent, selling crocheted items. "I am trying to busy myself to take my mind off things," she explained, speaking in the aftermath of the earthquake "so I spend my time crocheting and selling the skirts, hats and belts I



create. I also sell soap and washing powder to other people in the camp, so that they can clean themselves and their clothes."

Fortunately, Françoise, like many others, has since been able to move out of the camp for displaced people which we were running.

Stories from Haiti

Alexandre Monteau

"Before the earthquake I was a barber and a painter," said 42-year-old Alexandre Monteau. Alexandre, his wife Ketia, and their six-year-old son, Samuel came to Parc Sainte Claire after their home was destroyed in the earthquake.

"Four months ago I lost my ID, my phone...everything," said Alexandre. "At first, I didn't know what was happening, it took me a while to realise that it was an earthquake. I was at home when the earthquake struck. When the building began to collapse, I tried to jump out. I managed to move out of the way but part of my body got stuck and I lost consciousness. When I came round, I saw that I had lost my leg and I started to cry."

"When I woke up, I had been rescued by my neighbours who told me that my wife and child were safe and that God had saved them - this made me happy. Six days later I came to Parc Sainte Claire, which is where Islamic Relief found us living in tents made of sheets. It wasn't a good life."



Alexandre was one of the many people who told us Port-au-Prince needs employment opportunities to help empower Haitians to rebuild their lives themselves. He explained, "I would like to be able to support myself and my family. We don't just want donations, we need jobs."

Following these requests from the community with which we were working, Islamic Relief began to work towards creating recovery opportunities, including jobs, training and supporting education.



Impact of our work

Empowering communities: Recovery

Three months after the earthquake, Islamic Relief progressed to projects focusing on helping communities to recover. To support survivors of the earthquake getting back on their feet, we constructed 16 temporary school structures in the Ouest province, enabling over 2,000 children whose schools were destroyed to restart their education while their schools were being repaired. We also provided the students with course materials, stationary and school lunches.

During this recovery phase, Islamic Relief constructed latrines, showers, drainage systems and washing points in the three camps which we established, to prevent flooding and the outbreak of diseases during Haiti's monsoon season. The latrines were cleaned, emptied and repaired as required. We initiated a rubble clearance cash-for-work project, which provided around 300 people per week with an income, for ten weeks. By collecting and clearing rubble, earthquake survivors were provided with a method to make a living, while helping to clear their communities of the visual scars of the tremor. The

rubble clearance project, which lasted ten weeks, removed over 200,000 tons of rubble.

After supplying earthquake survivors with water in the days and weeks after the earthquake, we provided regularly refilled tanks of drinking water for ten months to camp residents during the recovery phase.

In numbers

Assistance	People reached
Temporary school shelter	9,000 (16 schools)
Rubble clearance cash- for work project	300 / week
Shower facilities	5,700
Drinking water	5000

Top: Islamic Relief's cash-for-work rubble clearance project.

Stories from Haiti

Sadiana Andre

"It was break time during the second school shift of the day and I was playing with my friend Cathy," 17-year-old Sadiana recalled. "The school building suddenly started to shake and we quickly ran outside. Most of the children were already there so fortunately no one was hurt. We were so lucky, because the whole school then collapsed."

Sadiana and the 1,000 other students at Lycée Dumay had lost their school. Sadiana and some of her classmates continued to attend school but were forced to study in tents on the roadside. "I didn't like the tents, it was miserable; they were too hot and we were near the road so we had too many distractions. I was not able to focus at all."

But Sadiana's teachers encouraged her to continue studying and not to give up on her education. "Our teachers told us the earthquake was a natural disaster and that we need to focus on the future."



Islamic Relief provided Sandiana's school with a temporary shelter to accommodate the school in order to minimize the effect of the earthquake on the children's education. Metal sheeting and tarpaulin helped to shield them from extreme weather as classes continued, and provided an alternative to studying in hot, enclosed tents. As our work progressed, we returned to clear away the rubble and then rebuilt Sadiana's school, constructing additional classrooms and improved facilities. "I don't know how to thank Islamic Relief for giving us our school," said Sadiana, "It is better and bigger than our previous school."

Stories from Haiti

Oxe Jean Yves

Oxe Jean Yves is the headteacher at Lycée Dumay, a secondary school in Port-au-Prince. Oxe had been planning an extension for the school before the earthquake hit two years ago. Even before the tremor, the school was forced to teach morning and afternoon shifts to accommodate all the children who wanted to study.

When the earthquake hit, the nine classrooms of Oxe's school were destroyed. "My first thought was that there was no more hope." But Oxe was determined to ensure that his students continue their education post-earthquake, so set up three study tents under a mango tree in the grounds of the school.

"The first time I met Islamic Relief was in a school tent," Oxe recalled. "Speaking to them rekindled the dreams I had for my school's future."

Islamic Relief provided Oxe's school with plastic sheeting to protect students from the heavy monsoon rains. Although this was helpful, Oxe explained, "They supplied us with



materials to make temporary shelters but I wanted them to rebuild our school so that the children would have a good environment in which to study."

So Islamic Relief returned to Lycée Dumay, cleared the rubble and reconstructed the school building, with improvements. We built 20 new classrooms- eleven more than the school used to have- allowing classes to run simultaneously, without having to squeeze into shifts. Oxe is glad that his dream school was able to be built, "It took some time but my dream is now a reality. I don't know how to thank you."



Impact of our work

Empowering communities: Development

By the six month anniversary of the earthquake, Islamic Relief had shifted focus to long-term development of affected areas and communities. This remains the priority for our continuing work in the Caribbean nation. We repaired three schools which had been damaged in the earthquake and fully reconstructed a fourth school. Students who had been studying outdoors, enduring heavy winds and monsoons, were provided with a calm, indoor space in which to resume their studies.

We constructed 453 transitional shelters for over 2,000 people, helping them to leave behind the post-earthquake tent shelters which they had been living in. These shelters were large enough to house a family of 6 and were waterproof and wind resistant, which has helped survivors of the earthquake to endure the powerful monsoon seasons. We also constructed 20 latrines in key locations for families returning home to newly-constructed transitional shelters.

In addition to continuing to improve long-term living conditions, Islamic Relief remained flexible to the changing demands in Haiti. We responded immediately to the outbreak of cholera, preventing it from spreading to the camps we were running.

As we helped people affected by the tremor to empower and develop their communities, we offered vocational training in computer skills, tailoring and carpentry. Students in the computer class learned to use office and business programmes. Sewing students were taught to the level of being able to work in, or set up, a tailoring business. Carpentry students learned to construct wooden structures and shelters which help in the reconstruction of earthquake-affected communities.

In numbers

Assistance	People reached
Transitional shelters	2,700
Hygiene awareness training	5,000
Cholera prevention	5,000
Computer training	450
Tailoring training	92
Carpentry training	55
Community latrines	5,000
School repair	2,300

Top: Girls play outside their school during break at Lycee Dumay school which was constructed by Islamic Relief.

Stories from Haiti

Medor Marie Yolande

Medor Marie Yolande is a primary school teacher at Application De Damien school in Port-au-Prince. “I teach Maths, French, Social Sciences and Creole,” explained Medor. Her school was badly damaged in the earthquake and she was forced to teach her students under plastic sheeting. “We used to work in the school yard in tents. At about 10.30 in the morning, the sun would become unbearable for the students and for me. We also used to have to fit four or five students to a bench which is meant to seat three.”

Medor’s students also found it difficult to concentrate because of the noise from the nearby traffic. “When the classes were outdoors, passers-by often disrupted my classes. Neither student nor teacher was able to focus. The students were really happy with the repair. The building is completely renovated.” Medor said, “I told my students that if it weren’t for Islamic Relief’s support, we might have spent



the entire year in tents, enduring hurricanes, extreme heat and all kinds of weather.”

Medor sent a message to everyone who has supported Haitians through Islamic Relief, “Thank you for the work you do in Haiti and I hope God gives you the strength and courage to continue.”

Stories from Haiti

Fleurisma

“I never thought that life would be as difficult as it is now,” 19-year-old Fleurisma explained why she wanted vocational training. “Before the earthquake, my days were happy; I would go to school and play with my school friends. I don’t go to school anymore and have nothing to do except for help my mother tidy our tent”.

Fleurisma Flore’s family lost all their belongings in the earthquake and, with little money to survive off, Fleurisma was forced to drop out of school.

She wants to be able to work so that her mother to be able to stop working so that she and her elder brother can take care of the family. Islamic Relief offered Fleurisma training in tailoring skills, which she began in April.

“When I come to Islamic Relief’s training centre I pay full attention to the teacher’s instruction on how to make the pattern and sew the school uniform. It was a bit difficult in the beginning, but now I have been able to make a skirt and very sure I can make the school uniform that we are supposed to complete by the end of our training.”



Fleurisma still hopes to finish her final year of school if she is able to find money for the school fees. She successfully completed her training and said that she loves sewing and wants to own a tailor one day.



Challenges

Haiti has been an extremely challenging place to work in for every international agency. In addition to a lack of security which is expected after a disaster on this scale, the earthquake caused staggering damage to governmental offices, infrastructure and even development agencies, which crippled the day-to-day running of the country.

Looting was common in the days following the tremor and it was difficult for foreign workers to assist without creating a risk for themselves and their work. Islamic Relief combated this by employing local staff to advise our international team and to ensure that we could begin work quickly and securely.

The insecurity in Haiti eventually stabilised but resurfaced during the presidential elections in December 2010, which forced most international

workers to evacuate to neighbouring Dominican Republic for six days, before projects resumed successfully.

Islamic Relief had not previously worked in Haiti, which presented practical obstacles in beginning our work. But within 72 hours we had our staff in Haiti who managed to establish the first organised camp for displaced people in Haiti, just eleven days after the devastating disaster.

The damage was so crippling and affected all segments and sectors of society that the need for assistance was huge. After overcoming security, logistical and political challenges, humanitarian organisations then had to respond to a devastating outbreak of cholera.

Top: Insecurity in Haiti intensified the challenges faced by aid agencies helping the survivors.

Cholera outbreak

6,700 people have died in Haiti as a result of the cholera outbreak and over 500,000 people were diagnosed with the disease. Over a year since the outbreak of cholera, around 200 Haitians a month currently die from contracting cholera, according to government figures, although mortality rates have decreased.

Cholera is spread when people drink water that has been contaminated by someone who has already contracted the disease. To help combat the spread of cholera, Islamic Relief continued to supply clean water to residents of the three camps we were running. 25,500 litres of clean drinking water were distributed on a daily basis and 12 water tankers were set-up, six for drinking and six for washing, each clearly marked and separated from the others.

Islamic Relief also conducted training on good hygiene practices and distributed hygiene kits to



all residents of the three camps we ran in Port-au-Prince. These hygiene kits included detergents and soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, toilet paper, towels and a washing basin. Each of the camps that we were coordinating had showers, toilets and clothes washing areas. There are also extensive water channels to combat flooding in the camps, which can help prevent the spread of all waterborne diseases.

Plans for the future

Islamic Relief will be continuing to work in Haiti, but our assistance will be managed by our Programmes Department. This will focus our work on long-term development and empowerment of Haitian communities. As our Haiti office switches to the Programmes Department, we have a number of projects in line. We are about to start reconstructing five destroyed schools in Port-au-Prince and build an additional 200 transitional family shelters for earthquake survivors.

Jean Paul is the Logistics Manager for Islamic Relief Haiti. He has been working with us since our first day and has been with us through all our challenges. "Islamic Relief came and established the first camp, and now, two years after the earthquake, I can say that people used to have no hopes, but now you can see with the changes that



are being made within people, hope has come back. The people really want to get out of this situation and work to change their conditions."

We plan to continue to work in Haiti for as long as we are needed and able to work in the Caribbean nation.

Top: Islamic Relief providing camp residents with Jerry cans, hygiene kits and training on cholera prevention and control.

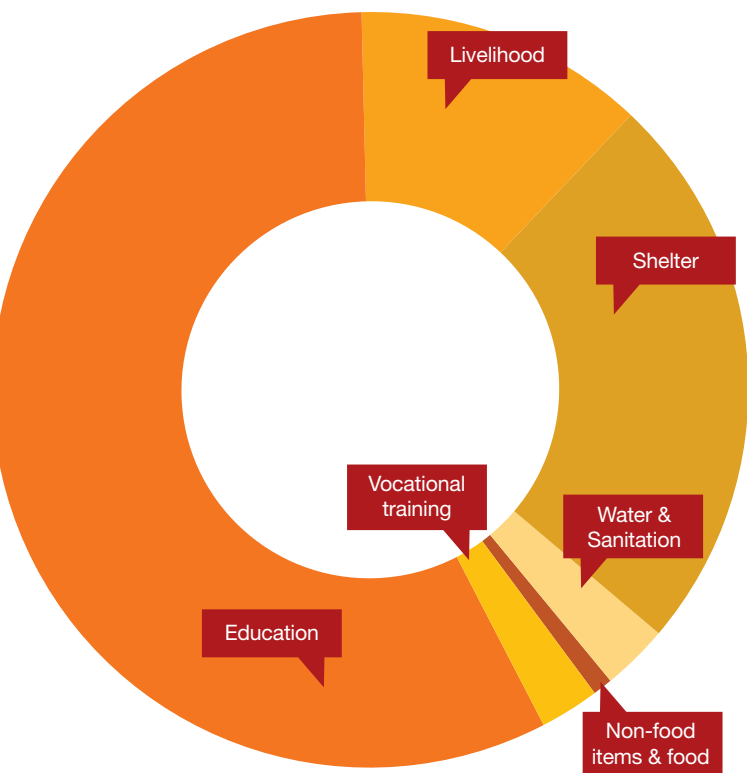
Bottom: Children playing in the new Lycee Dumay school in Coix de Bouquet, Port-au-Prince.



Summary of activities

Islamic Relief Worldwide and Partners

Summary of Islamic Relief financial expenditure and commitments in Haiti between January 2010 and January 2012.



Sector	Amounts (GBP)
<i>Non-food items and food</i>	55,880
<i>Water and sanitation</i>	189,607
<i>Shelter</i>	1,597,470
<i>Livelihood</i>	825,841
<i>Education</i>	3,795,524
<i>Vocational training</i>	168,580
TOTAL	£6,632,902

Projects	Donor	Amount (GBP)	Nature of Intervention
<i>Emergency Response</i>	IR UK	55,000	Food, water
	DEC - Phase 1	1,150,588	Shelter, non food items, Cash for work, Transitional shelters
<i>WASH (Water, sanitation and health)</i>	IR Germany	46,000	Construction of showers, latrines and drainage. Distribution of hygiene kits and hygiene awareness training
	Waqf	25,000	
	IR Netherlands	22,617	
	IR UK	14,586	
<i>School Repairs</i>	Religions for Peace	6,420	Repairs to 3 damaged schools
	IR Switzerland	37,442	
	IR Sweden	10,657	
	IR Canada	28,405	
<i>Cholera Prevention and Control</i>	IR MEEM	19,967	Distribution of hygiene kits, health and cholera awareness training
	IR South Africa	23,100	
	IR Germany	24,837	
<i>Shelter and Capacity building</i>	DEC - Phase 2	867,883	Transitional shelters, capacity building/ vocational training and livelihood
	IR USA	512,800	Transitional shelters (construction to commence in 2012)
	IR UK	75,000	Vocational training
<i>School Construction</i>	IR USA	512,600	Construction of one school
	Islamic Development Bank (IDB)	3,200,000	Planned construction of five schools (construction to commence in 2012)
TOTAL		£6,632,902	

Opposite: Islamic Relief staff and camp residents working together to establish Parc Sainte Claire camp.

Photo: Newly constructed Lycee Dumay school provides education access to over 1,100 children. Construction of another five schools will begin in 2012.







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