

Letter from the Country Director

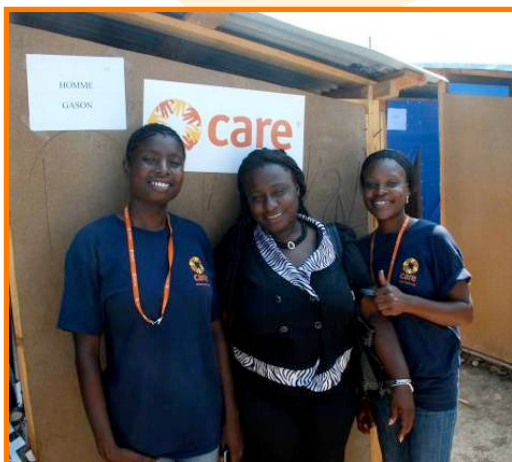
Despite the suffering caused by the tragedy of January 12 for Haiti, I must sincerely thank the entire CARE Haiti team for their incredible dedication starting the day after the earthquake, and express my gratitude for the solidarity of the numerous specialists who have come to support us.

CARE is committed to Haiti for the long term. To contribute to the reconstruction of a better Haiti, of course we must bring aid to the many survivors, but above all work with the government and Haitian civil society during the long process of reconstruction, which won't be limited to the affected zones. We will have to continue to address the underlying causes of poverty, in order to promote good governance and a more just and egalitarian society. – **Sophie Perez**



Emergency response activities

Between January 12, the day of the earthquake that ravaged western Haiti, and March 4, more than **264,000** people have benefited from CARE's aid in Pétienville, Carrefour and Léogâne. CARE staff are distributing items to survivors such as hygiene kits, kitchen sets, safe delivery and newborn kits. We are also providing mattresses, blankets, and plastic tarpaulins.



Meanwhile, the **Water and Sanitation team** is

bringing solutions to hygiene and health problems by building latrines and hand-washing stations; setting up safe-water bladders in camps; and informing the population about hygiene practices (at left: Pricille Alcus, Edline Cothière, Magdala St. Alice).

We are preparing interventions in **education, psychosocial support and food security**, also targeting non-affected zones where we have existing programming, in order to **support host families** who have taken in many displaced people.

For a more rapid response in one of the most affected zones, CARE is working on the construction of a **sub-office in Léogâne**. A lease has been signed for a plot of land and work has begun, with the assistance of the Canadian army, to dismantle the ruins of a quake-damaged structure. "We hope to be able to set up the prefabricated office within four weeks," reports Julien Mulliez, emergency shelter coordinator.



CARE's new warehouse in Drouillard, Cité Soleil, is fully stocked with items for shelter, health, water and sanitation, and food items – ranging from 14,000 hygiene kits, to 8,000 jerry cans, to 30,000 blankets. “So far everything is going very well, and we have already reached many people in the population,” says CARE warehouse manager Patricia Aristhène Louis.

Bringing messages of solidarity from the CARE family worldwide, National Directors from seven CARE International member countries visited



Haiti from March 1 to 3, 2010 (at left:

Andrew Buchanan, CARE Australia

representative, and Chief Executives Geoffrey Dennis (UK); Andrea Wagner-Hager (Austria); Kevin McCort (Canada); Helene Gayle (USA); Philippe Levêque (France); and Anton Markmiller (Germany-Luxembourg); along with Assistant Country Director Gary Philoctète and CARE Haiti Country Director Sophie Perez).

Helene Gayle (CARE USA) told the local staff of CARE Haiti, “The strength of Haitians lies in their capacity to turn difficulties into opportunity.” Geoffrey Dennis (CARE UK) added, “Around the world there is a great spirit of solidarity with Haiti. We are doing and will continue to do everything within our means to come to the aid of the Haitians.”



CARE has been selected to receive the prestigious “**Drum Major for Justice Award**” in recognition of our work responding to the earthquake in Haiti. The award is given annually by SCLC/WOMEN, the sister organization of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, founded by civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (at left).

Marie Lissa Etinee, CARE Haiti's Financial Controller, has been chosen to accept the award on behalf of CARE Haiti at a ceremony on April 3, in Atlanta. “Lissa got right to work after the quake and played a leading role in mobilizing and motivating the whole team,” said Sophie Perez. “Not only did she comfort the employees but assured at the same time that everybody was present and active right from the start.”

In observation of **International Women's Day** (March 8), CARE Haiti organized a series of awareness-raising events. In Gros-Morne (Artibonite department) the STI/HIV/AIDS unit distributed 2,700 condoms at an activity organized by the Women's Platform of Gros-Morne. In Carrefour (at right) and Léogâne, the WASH team staged a campaign for good hygiene and environmental practices with particular emphasis on women.



*The **CARE Haiti Newsletter** will be published each Friday. All team members are cordially invited to contribute articles, photos and news. Please contact: Mildrède Béliard at (+509) 34357671, mbeliard@pap.care.org*