

Our emergency interventions

Hand in hand with mothers

Among survivors of the Jan. 12 earthquake, along with distributing humanitarian aid, CARE informs the population, especially pregnant and nursing mothers, about how to adopt good practices during pregnancy and after childbirth. The **Reproductive Health Team** surveys the camps of Léogâne in search of women, distributing safe-delivery and newborn kits, and sharing practical information on late-stage pregnancy and the advantages of breastfeeding. For Pour Wilner Mérilan, the only man present at one of the sessions, the training was useful: "My wife nursed our baby but we had planned to give him solid food after three months. Now that I've learned the advantages of exclusively breast milk for six months, we are going to continue to breastfeed him to protect him and keep him in good health."



The reproductive health team conducts a training session in Léogâne



Awareness-raising in Cité Soleil

The WASH team has organized a two-day training workshop reaching 16 staff members of the

Norwegian Church Aid agency, which is working in Cité Soleil (*above left*). Opened by CARE Haiti Country Director Sophie Perez, this training focused on environmental health, safe water and personal hygiene.

"Don't remain silent": Fighting sexual violence



Whether within the spontaneous camps or in their immediate surroundings, girls and women are at risk of being attacked and raped, often by people with whom they live in close contact. One young victim shared her painful experience with CARE. Above all she wants to encourage other women in her situation to report their attackers so that others do not suffer the same fate. "I wanted to kill myself," she says, but she held herself together and wants to send the message: "Every time a woman who is raped remains silent or lets herself be intimidated, she condemns a sister, a cousin, a friend, me, to the same fate. She allows a monster to roam the streets free. I want my testimony to help them understand that they are not alone and that they are leaving themselves in worse danger if they remain silent than if they report it."

At the request of UNIFEM, the UN women's agency, CARE will serve as a focal point for efforts to combat gender-based violence in Léogâne.

Let's drink to health!

In observation of **World Water Day** (March 22), CARE Haiti is reminding of the importance of addressing water and sanitation issues during emergency situations. "Fortunately, since the earthquake we have not had widespread outbreaks of waterborne disease, says Rolando Wallusche, WASH team coordinator. "But we have to redouble our efforts with the arrival of the rainy season."



Faces of CARE

Gentlemen, start your engines! The drivers of the distribution team

Since the start of emergency response operations, CARE has hired a dozen drivers to improve mobility and access to affected areas. Although they go about their duties quietly, these drivers work many hours a day and, at times, they hold more than the wheel in their hands. "In order to work at CARE you have to be a humanitarian and look beyond the salary," said James André of the distribution team. "I can't be picky about my hours because otherwise it's the population that will be the first victims." Succès Dupiton adds that, for his part, he likes working for CARE because of the discipline and strict security measures. "Respecting traffic laws guarantees my safety as well as that of my passengers."



Left to right: James André, Succès Dupiton, drivers, and Julio Dilliésaint, vehicle dispatch supervisor



Bernard Felusma, volunteer DJ, in the studio of Radio Francisque FM

In focus: long-term programming

Airwaves of hope: CARE supports community radio

Entertainment is serious business in the studio of Radio Francisque FM, in Gros-Mornes. After each track, DJ Bernard Felusma flips on the microphone to inform his listeners and share useful messages: health tips, a lost-and-found service – as well as crucial information for earthquake survivors living with host families.

The station has an all-volunteer staff of 30, including Bernard. They are supported by CARE through a program funded by the U.S. State Department, aimed at promoting good government and social inclusion. The project reaches 13 stations – thanks to the CARE staff, which was able to stretch initial funds intended for 10 stations. "Radio has immense power and influence in Haiti, and our goal is to put some of that power in the hands of those who have traditionally been left out," says project manager Dorcin Fresner. "We want to be a voice for the voiceless."

The CARE Haiti Newsletter is 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