

Hygiene for the youngest

As part of its peer-to-peer initiative, CARE's hygiene promotion team has begun training children and youth in the basics of proper hygiene practice. Recently, twelve children were trained in Léogâne, learning simple messages about hand washing, use of latrines, and water conservation, which they are now sharing with their peers. Still in its beginning stage, the aim is to launch these activities in other sites where CARE intervenes. Unlike many other emergency response activities, this project focuses not only on the camps but also on schools.



"Giving children the capacity to pass messages on to their peers is exceptionally rare," says Dieudonne Mayamba, head of the hygiene promotion team. "During the hand-washing sessions, they explain every detail until their peers are doing exactly what they have been taught." Meanwhile, the team is preparing a workshop for 42 employees of the NGO Concern Worldwide on how to become community health workers.

A catalyst to continue the path



Marie-Lissa Etienne has been working as financial controller for CARE Haiti since 2002. Despite having lost two cousins during the January 12 earthquake that devastated the country, Lissa was one of the first people who, on behalf of the organization, took action to help the victims. For her dedication, her determination, her sense of duty and her willingness to help others, she accepted on behalf of CARE an award in Atlanta on April 3.

The famous "**Drum Major for Justice Award**" is given annually by SCLC / WOMEN, the sister organization of the Southern Christian Leadership Council, founded by civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Receiving this award has given me a stronger sense of motivation and dignity. In the course of the past two years, my colleagues have demonstrated immense effort towards this mission and ensured that our objectives are met with excellence. This prize recognizes their commitment," says Lissa.

Alive, healthy and grateful

The Cash for Work program brings a lot of satisfaction to people living in spontaneous camps. The WASH team continues to build drainage canals, sink holes, latrines and showers in various camps in Carrefour and Léogâne. The workers participating in the Cash for Work activities are residents of these camps. Thanks to this program, they earn a little money to help them support their families. "I am 65 and a father of six children. This is my first job since the earthquake because I can neither read nor write," says Job Peter Laguerre.



This man who is proud of having remained faithful to the same woman for 26 years of marriage asks Haitians to unite to rebuild their country. "I want to thank CARE not only for better sanitary conditions, but also for having given me a way to take care of my family. Haitians must do the same and continue to help each other."

Making gender issues mainstream

Improving the quality of life of earthquake victims, particularly the most vulnerable, which includes women and children, is among CARE's priorities. Thanks to the support of UNIFEM, a number of training sessions targeting members of several sectors, including women's organizations and media outlets, took place in Gros-Morne on April 22. Twenty-three journalists from seven municipalities in the departments of Northwest and Artibonite participated in the workshop.



The objective: to encourage them to popularize standards on gender issues in emergencies. Justin Chery, reporter at Radio Flambeau 2000 in the town of Jean Rabel, is happy to have participated in the workshop. "I always believed that in emergencies, people needed food, drink, medical care and shelter. I now understand that it is equally important to do what it takes to respect and protect human dignity, especially that of women and girls. "

Faces of CARE

René Coty has climbed one by one all levels of CARE Haiti's administration in the course of the 13 years he's worked for CARE. Born in the department of Nippes, René made his debut at the regional office of CARE in Gonaïves before returning to Port-au-Prince. After a short stint in Gonaïves, he became CARE Haiti's Operations Manager. All this mobility enabled him to grow and develop capacities in other areas. After 10 years at CARE, René Coty has cultivated a spirit of belonging.



"CARE is a school where you learn to grow. It encourages its staff to reflect and evaluate itself over and over again. I feel like I'm working for a noble cause and that I am useful to my community," he says. A great lover of the outdoors and beautiful sceneries, René spends his weekends in the countryside. "I am proud of my current position at CARE and I feel very useful, but I miss being in field and having constant contact with the community."



Make them laugh again

The psychosocial support program for children will launch next week in Ça Ira, Léogâne. The team will train 240 parents in eight neighbourhoods of Léogâne during the month of May, focusing on the management of emotions and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the difference between the consequences of natural and man-made disasters, child development, ideas for theater and animation, and the return to joy.

Parents are selected according to a number of criteria, priority being given to parents of disabled children and children who don't have access to school. The goal is to train 800 parents in six months. Lesly Guerrier, one of CARE Haiti's psychologists, says true needs are far greater. "In the communities we visit, people are showing great enthusiasm. The program is very interesting, and I believe it should continue beyond six months to enable us to reach more people."