

THE EARTHQUAKE

The earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January 2010 measured 7.0 on the Richter scale and lasted 60 seconds - 60 seconds which cost innumerable lives and destroyed buildings, streets, and dreams. 60 seconds which took away people's land and in many cases also their hope. 230,000 people died, about 300,000 were injured, leaving more than one million homeless, and millions of cubic meters of debris – the shocking results of one of the severest natural disasters of the 21st century.

WITH THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

“The highest priority in everything we do is to work together with the people of Haiti in order to find ways to fight and reduce poverty in the country in a sustainable way.”

Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen, President, Malteser International

Even before the catastrophic earthquake, Haiti was struggling with massive problems. It quickly became clear that immediate disaster relief could not be the only response. Long-term support for the country was needed – a fundamental precondition for effective aid. Malteser International is supporting the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the island state with an enduring commitment, a strong will and in close cooperation with the population. Rehabilitation is not restricted to re-establishing the same conditions as before the earthquake struck, but aims at improving living standards in general. This will only happen if humanitarian aid is designed to be sustainable and is integrated within local structures. Malteser International follows this approach not only in Haiti but also throughout the world.

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

Malteser International is the worldwide relief organisation of the Sovereign Order of Malta for humanitarian aid. The non-governmental organisation has more than 50 years of experience in humanitarian relief and at present covers around 100 projects in about 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Currently, 22 national associations and priories of the Order of Malta are members of Malteser International.

Malteser International provides aid in all parts of the world without distinction of religion, race or political persuasion. Christian values and the humanitarian principles of impartiality and independence are the foundation of its work. Its mission is not only to provide emergency relief, but also to implement rehabilitation measures and to facilitate the link between emergency relief and sustainable development. Malteser International establishes and promotes primary health care services and seeks to reduce vulnerability and poverty.



Photo: J. Peperhove/WN



Earthquake relief in Haiti

Photo: Tobias Kann

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www.malteser-international.org



Gleams of hope: Malteser International is also assisting at births.



Medical treatment of injured Haitians

“You did not hesitate for a single moment to help us and you saved the lives of many of our brothers and sisters thanks to God's strength. Thank you.”

Farewell words of the Haitian volunteer Richmond to the volunteers of the Order of Malta travelling home



Photo: Tobias Kann

“Simply to be there and to act, because closeness matters.”

Tobias Kann, Malteser volunteer

Join our network of relief!

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Solidarity with Haiti

The untold suffering brought upon the people of Haiti by the earthquake caused a great wave of solidarity and concern all around the globe.

Thanks to the overwhelming devotion of so many of you, and your willingness to donate money, Malteser International was immediately able to provide emergency relief. Local, national, and international partners, public sponsors, and private donors as well as the global network of the Order of Malta have all helped to ensure fast, focused and sustainable humanitarian assistance on an ongoing basis.

We thank you for your continued support for our work. It means we are able to implement our programmes and projects in Haiti and create a better future for the local people.



Quality and transparency

Malteser International is committed to ensuring high quality standards. They include the International Humanitarian Charter, the Code of Conduct, the Sphere Project, and the People in Aid Code.

Accountability and transparency are priorities of its agenda.

HEALTH

Traditionally, the health sector is a core competence of Malteser International.

The concluded first phase of emergency relief in Haiti was aimed at securing medical treatment for the survivors and providing first aid; now Malteser International is able to focus on the rehabilitation of primary health care services.

Capacity building is important to improve the health care system in a sustainable way. Malteser International supports the education and training of community health workers and midwives, in close cooperation with the local government health authorities.



Health and hygiene education

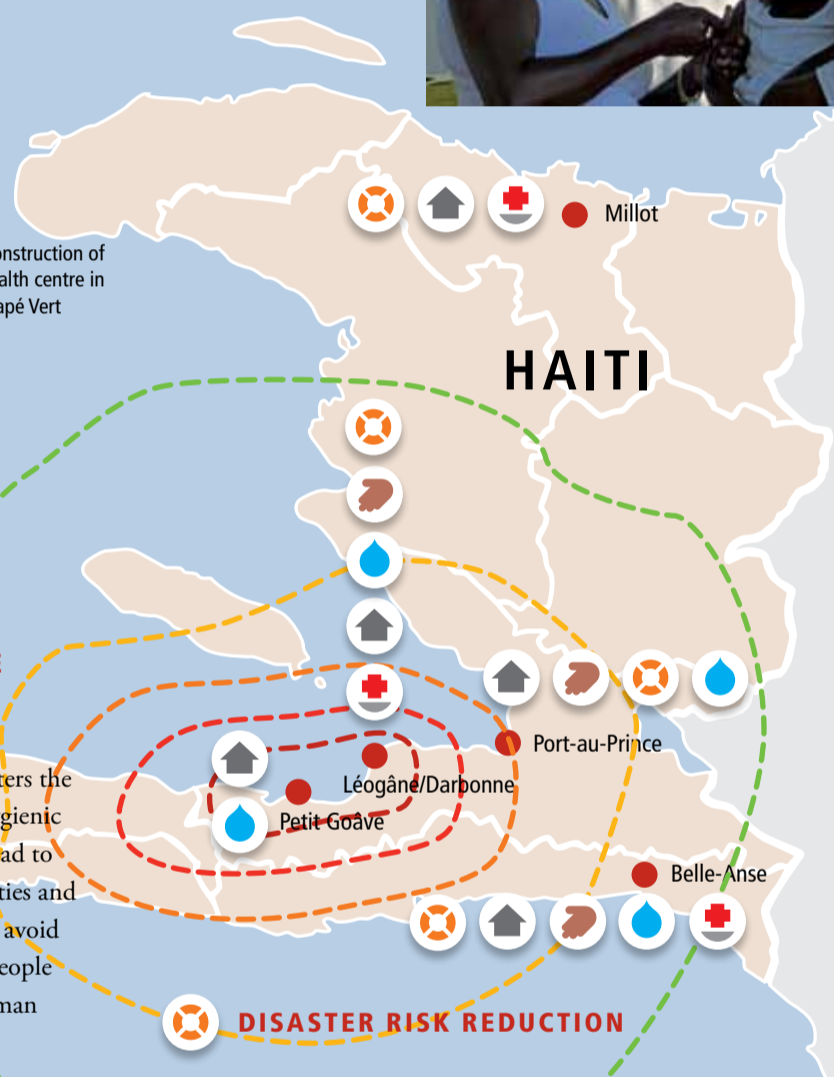


Reconstruction of a health centre in Canapé Vert

Actions:

- provision of sustainable access to primary health care services through health centres and mobile medical teams as well as training, equipment, and integration of community health workers
- support of mother-child health through safe deliveries, antenatal care, training, the equipping and integration of traditional birth attendants, mother support groups, and the improvement of the nutritional status of mothers and their children
- support of immunisation campaigns for children
- support for the reconstruction of health care facilities and community infrastructure to ensure access to primary health care services
- psychosocial rehabilitation through training of community health workers and teachers in community-based psychosocial counselling, including counselling in schools

Immunisation campaigns for children



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Water is life, sanitation is dignity. But after severe disasters the lack of safe drinking water is a serious problem. Bad hygienic conditions due to insufficient or contaminated water lead to severe health problems. As well, access to sanitary facilities and the right hygienic behaviour are of great importance to avoid the outbreak and transmission of diseases and to give people – even in the face of a catastrophe – a minimum of human dignity.

Actions:

- provision of clean drinking water for the population
- distribution of hygiene kits
- health and hygiene awareness campaigns in communities, schools, and orphanages
- construction of latrines for communities, schools, orphanages, and health care facilities
- construction and reconstruction of drinking water and sewage systems



Water is life!

Before the earthquake, Haiti was ranked among the poorest states in the world and struggled with massive problems. In order to support the people of Haiti to live a better life in a sustainable way, Malteser International not only provides immediate emergency relief but also engages in long-term development initiatives, as well as in reconstruction and rehabilitation. A crucial component is to follow a prevention strategy, because it can save lives. Measures of disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, especially for the vulnerable and poor groups of the population, provide better protection for the future and enable people to help themselves by their own efforts.

Actions:

- earthquake and hurricane-resistant reconstruction of health care facilities and social infrastructure (kindergartens, schools, training centres)
- development of community-based disaster preparedness for the implementation of mitigation measures such as early warning systems and emergency plans
- setting-up of a disaster management system to improve the cooperation and operational capability between health care facilities in different regions of the country
- disaster preparedness training for students and communities during the reconstruction of earthquake-resistant schools

SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

The earthquake deprived many Haitians of their livelihood. Now, after the catastrophe, they are faced with ruin and have to start from scratch in a situation that is already extremely difficult. Cash-for-work programmes and income generating measures are the basis for giving people hope and financial independence, offering a future with dignity. Malteser International strengthens local structures through training and workshops. The aim is to help the Haitian people to help themselves. The measures need to be applied over the long term and in a sustainable way.

Actions:

- strengthening of financial independence through training and development of income generating measures
- provision of tents and school supplies for the restart of school classes and the construction of temporary classrooms
- reconstruction of schools in cooperation with local communities and international organisations



School classes in tents

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Within days of the disaster, the first Malteser volunteers were on the ground to provide immediate emergency relief, supporting the shocked survivors, so many of whom had lost their loved ones, their homes, and their land.

Immediate help for those in need through:

Provision of medical emergency aid

Shortly after the earthquake medical treatment of the injured was the highest priority for the Malteser volunteers. At first, the medical team provided first aid in the partially destroyed Francois de Sales Hospital. The severely injured were then able to be treated at the Sacre Coeur Hospital in Milot, in the north, a hospital which the Order of Malta had been supporting for over 15 years, and which had not been damaged. In the district of Léogâne, epicentre of the earthquake, Malteser International set up two health care facilities for medical treatment. To reach out to the people in the surrounding villages as well, mobile teams were deployed. By the end of June 2010, 20,000 patients had been treated.

Distribution of relief goods

Malteser International distributed goods necessary for survival with, among others, local partners such as COTEDO and MUDHA:

- 2,866 hygiene kits
- 4,720 water containers
- 250,000 water purification tabs
- 1,500 tarpaulins
- 1,250 mattresses and blankets
- 23,200 mosquito nets
- food rations for more than 45,000 patients and their families

Provision of safe drinking water

Clean drinking water is vital. In Léogâne and Petit Goâve, Malteser International and its partners provided people with clean water.