

LIONS EARTHQUAKE RELIEF REPORT

LIONS CLUBS OF HAITI DISTRICT P



Lions Clubs International

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THE SWEDISH LIONS GENEROUS DONATION:

From the first day following the earthquake of August 14, 2021, Lions around the world moved swiftly and acted in solidarity. The Swedish Lions quickly offered to send a number of tents to shelter the victims. Not only did they offer tents, but they brought them by special plane to Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.



TENTS RECEIVED:

The tents donated by the Swedish Lions arrived at the Port au Prince airport on Saturday, September 4th. District Governor William Eliacin was on the tarmac to receive and secure them. By this time evening had set in.



GREETINGS, GUESTS, AND GIFTS

Three technicians arrived from Sweden on August 30th. Our District Governor was there to greet them. We give our thanks to MSB who sent delegates to Haiti, Micael Jansson and Thomas Magnusson to direct us in tent assembly.



TRANSPORTATION:

The tents need to be transported from Port-au-Prince to Cayes, which was no easy task. The 200 family-sized tents and 15 large tents filled 5 40-foot containers and had to pass through rough country to get there. The road from Port au Prince to southern Haiti is difficult and not considered a safe route. But finally, on September 10 our convoy loaded with precious cargo, set off the route to the south.





ARRIVAL:

The Governor and other Lions identified a spacious and secure place to receive the cargo to prepare them for distribution.

The news of the arrival of tents to the Deep South community was very encouraging!



LOGISTICS & SET UP:

The role of the Swedish team was to instruct us in setting up the tents, especially the larger tents, which were more difficult. Together with the logistician of the Port-au-Prince Club, Ange Seymour, the President of the Lions Club of Cayes René Rousselor and the Zone President, Marc Cornet did a remarkable job. Governor William Eliacim visited the field on several occasions to supervise and facilitate the distribution to the communities in the Great South.



TECHNICAL TRAINING:

Two to three people from each department volunteered to receive the training, the majority of whom were Lions.

This training was given to selected individuals over three days. They learned to use the pallet lifter and to assemble and erect the tents efficiently. Following this up, they also trained other Lions and members of the local community initiative committees. This training was highly successful!



STRUCTURE EVALUATIONS:



Structural evaluations were carried out by engineers and technicians, prior to the arrival of the tents. Each house inspected had a color code assigned to them.

Red = to be demolished
 Yellow = to be repaired
 Green = to be used.

The community is significantly traumatized by the earthquake. Aftershocks shook the great South for many days and sometimes several times a day.

On September 19, there was another quake of a magnitude of 4.2, which aroused a great deal of emotion. Understandable, whatever experts may say, victims of the earthquake are not about to return to their concrete house!

Therefore, people stand in the streets during the day, in front of the rubble; and at night the streets are crowded with people lying on the ground to sleep, watched by a local guard who stands at end of the street.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Most people would prefer to use tents in this difficult time. As a result, the arrival of the tents was a great relief for people we could give them to. They are grateful to Lions from across the world, who have given to meet their needs.

Lions clubs and initiative committees actively determined the needs of the people. On the basis of these determined needs, institutions and families were selected to benefit from the tents. The distribution was carefully planned on paper before it took place in the field, so that the operation went smoothly.

Those who received tents, whether institutional or family, have received a measure of great relief; this is the first step towards their full rehabilitation.



THANK YOU!



Thank you for all these tents. They are a precious gift.

We also say thank you in advance to Lions all over the world for their support for sustainable development in Haiti.

PHASE TWO:



The large community of Southern Haiti is eager to tackle our phase two plan; the task of long-term development. Because so many are sitting in the rubble, with nothing to do, we propose that we set phase two in motion as soon as possible.

Phase Two Plan of Action:

1. Institute a Cash & Food For Work program.

OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage the community to return to activity.



Much of the population has been forced into unemployment since many institutions were destroyed. There is no infrastructure in Haiti to support loss of employment, and no counseling service or economic relief for households.

- There is much work to be done.

The community needs to be cleared of collapsed buildings, mudslides, and other physical destruction as a result of the earthquake. We will strategically target schools first.

- Construct Wooden Sheds on Cleared Land

These structures will be used for temporary school buildings.

- Use the Rubble as a Resource

Use as road fill to facilitate access to remote areas.

Use as backfill for future construction projects.



2. Promote sports and music in schools.

Studies show that art, music, and sports can calm the body's stress response to trauma. Helping youth in these communities through these endeavors is important to moving beyond this earthquake. Our purpose is to reduce students' stress, help set obtainable objectives for them, create stimulation between schools, identify talents, and develop leadership through after-school club activities. Futsal could also be considered for schools that do not have a sufficiently large football field.

3. Promote School Cooperatives to help schools financially recover and to help parents and families support themselves.

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Michel Morisset/ Earthquake Relief Project Chairman

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