

Haiti Earthquake Brings Death and Destruction of Hope

Tens of Thousands Die

Lack of Food

3 Million Affected

Few Emergency Workers

Lack of Medicines

Inadequate Hospitals

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere from the point of chronic undernourishment at 58% as reported in 2009 Global Hunger Index. Fifty-eight per cent are chronically malnourished. Haiti lost 4000 people to Hurricanes in 2004 and 1000 to Hurricanes in 2008.

The hope for recovery is pinned on long term community relationships. The churches and church agencies that have committed to work there year in and year out are the people best able to efficiently help.

Community support from churches and church agencies is already present in Haiti. Many large agencies have a physical presence in Haiti: Lutheran World Federation, ICCO from Holland, Christian Aid from UK, Swiss Interchurch Aid and DKH from Germany. Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief work by supporting Haitian community based organizations(schools, income generating and training projects and social services for the poor). CWS and LWR will increase their support for Haitian partner organizations. ACT International will make an international appeal on behalf of the Lutheran and Protestant churches.

The ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod has a relationship with the emerging Lutheran Church in Haiti. The ELCA will look for additional ways to help this young church.

The ELCA has sent \$250,000 to the Lutheran World Federation project in Haiti as they are in the best position to use it efficiently. It has also made a decision to send an additional \$500,000 in anticipation of generous support from its members.

You may send support through your churches earmarked LWR Haiti to the Synod Office and or directly to the ELCA International Disaster Fund Haiti.