



# HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND RECOVERY

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti. It killed more than 230,000 people and devastated the capital city, Port-au-Prince—leaving thousands homeless, impoverished and vulnerable to violence and illness. AJWS immediately sent aid to the hardest-hit areas and most vulnerable people through our existing and highly trusted grantees in Haiti, who are still working to this day to help the country recover fully.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, AJWS has distributed \$6.1 million to 66 community-based groups engaged in both immediate emergency relief and long-term reconstruction and recovery work.

## FIVE YEARS LATER: CHALLENGES REMAIN

Haitians continue to suffer from the incalculable damage of this disaster. Nearly 100,000 people still live in tent camps, with little or no access to potable water or health services; Haiti is facing the constant threat of food shortages; a cholera outbreak inadvertently spread by UN peacekeepers is still raging in the camps and in rural areas; and Haiti is experiencing an ongoing political crisis, exacerbated by the societal aftershocks of the quake.

The grassroots organizations AJWS supports in Haiti are working to rebuild their country as a more just society. They are focused on aiding the poor and vulnerable communities that were both hardest hit by the earthquake and, unfortunately, neglected by international aid efforts.



ABOVE AJWS grantee Mining Justice Collective fights corporate mining interests that threaten to displace communities and ruin Haiti's environment. Photograph by Ed Kashi. TOP RIGHT AJWS grantee Fonkoze helped earthquake survivors get back on their feet financially after the disaster. Photograph by Evan Abramson.

## Earthquake Relief by the Numbers

- \$6.4 million raised
- \$6.1 million spent (to date)
- 66 grantees
- 30 advocacy coalition partners



## AJWS'S STRATEGY IN HAITI

AJWS is committed to helping Haiti's people recover from the earthquake and build a society where all people can realize their human rights.

With AJWS's support, our grantees in Haiti are:

- **Using AJWS's earthquake relief funding to rebuild and strengthen communities** to reach people who are in the greatest need
- **Combating Haiti's hunger crisis** by promoting sustainable farming techniques that increase local food production and reduce reliance on foreign food aid
- **Protecting the rural poor's rights to food, land, water and work** by ensuring that mining, development and tourism do not destroy natural resources and don't take place without the input and consent of local people
- **Investigating corruption** among Haiti's leaders
- **Stopping violence and ending discrimination** against homeless and displaced women and LGBT people
- **Educating Haitians to know their rights** in displacement camps, slums and rural areas
- **Strengthening grassroots organizations and Haiti's social justice movements** by investing in safety and security, cultivating local leaders and fostering collaboration to advance common goals
- **Helping communities develop disaster plans** to reduce the impact of future disasters

(continued)

## In the United States, AJWS is:

- **Leading a large and active working group of Haiti advocates in Washington, D.C.** With these allies, we have helped secure \$2.8 billion of additional relief funding from the U.S. and the cancellation of more than \$700 million of Haiti's debt.
- **Advocating for fair and transparent distribution of international aid.** AJWS helped Congress craft the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, which was signed into law in the summer of 2014 and will help ensure that the State Department is transparent and accountable in its aid to Haiti.
- **Leading a national advocacy effort to pressure the United Nations to take responsibility for introducing cholera to Haiti.** The UN has responded by coordinating some initial efforts to stop the epidemic.



Jackson Doliscar (center) represents FRAKKA, an AJWS grantee that works in Haiti's displaced persons camps to fight for the rights of earthquake survivors. Photograph by Ed Kashi.

## AJWS GRANTEES TRANSFORMING LIVES

Two days after the earthquake, AJWS grantee **Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico Haitiana** (MUDHA), based in neighboring Dominican Republic, sent a caravan of mobile ambulances across the border to help survivors. In the early days MUDHA provided medicine, food, water purification systems and temporary shelter. It has since stayed in Haiti, addressing long-term challenges in the displacement camps.

**Fos Refleksyon ak Aksyon sou Koze Kay** ("force for reflection and action on housing"—FRAKKA) advocates for the rights of people living in the camps, particularly those who have been forcibly, and often violently, evicted. FRAKKA fights these evictions, provides legal aid to earthquake survivors, and advocates for a just and sustainable plan to resettle camp communities.

**Fanm Deside** ("women decide") has worked to overcome the epidemic of gender-based violence in the camps. It provides safe spaces for women and children and has built a safe house in Jacmel, one of the hardest-hit areas.

**Fondation SEROVie** lost its office to the earthquake and 14 of its members died, a devastating blow to the organization and Haiti's nascent LGBT rights movement. AJWS helped SEROVie rebuild and support LGBT people who lost their homes. SEROVie has since recovered and gone on to win the prestigious UN Red Ribbon award for its work to fight the rising AIDS epidemic in Haiti.

More than 600,000 people fled to the Haitian countryside after the earthquake, inundating impoverished villages. To help these communities cope, **Partenariat pour le Developpement Local** created jobs for displaced people so they could earn a living and contribute to village life.

**Tèt Kole Ti Peyizan Ayisyen** ("heads together, Haitian small farmers") has worked to ward off Haiti's hunger crisis. This coalition of 80,000 farmers trains peasants to use traditional and modern techniques to increase their crop yields and preserve Haiti's fragile soil.

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**American Jewish World Service**  
45 West 36th Street  
New York, NY 10018

t: 212.792.2900  
800.889.7146  
f: 212.792.2930

ajws.org • ajws@ajws.org  
facebook.com/americanjewishworldservice  
twitter.com/ajws