

SOLIDARITY CENTER HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

Workers Helping Workers Recover and Rebuild

Final Report, January 2010–March 2013



As of the third anniversary of the earthquake, the Solidarity Center and its partners have made a significant impact in the lives of Haitian workers and their families. Although the relief fund will be exhausted by March 2013, the Solidarity Center will remain committed to Haitian workers through its ongoing, Haiti-based, union-building work. To learn more about the Solidarity Center's recently expanded efforts to promote improved labor and economic conditions for Haitian workers, visit www.solidaritycenter.org.

Following the devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake, which killed tens of thousands of people and left up to a million homeless, the Solidarity Center acted swiftly and strategically to help Haitian workers rebuild their lives and their unions. Recognizing its unique position to channel aid in a coordinated and orderly manner through existing Haitian union partners, the Solidarity Center established a relief fund to route donations from U.S. unions and workers to Haitian workers and their families in need.

Following the call for donations, the U.S. labor movement and other concerned groups responded with immediate and overwhelming generosity. The Earthquake Relief Fund received almost \$543,000 in donations, which were directed to emergency aid and humanitarian projects that met the urgent needs of earthquake survivors while also providing benefits beyond the short term. In consultation with Haitian unions, the Solidarity Center jointly determined the areas of greatest need and subsequently provided support over a three-year period.

The Solidarity Center and its Haitian union partners extend their deepest gratitude to the individual and collective donors who made these efforts possible, as well as to the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and TransAfrica Forum, who committed their time, energy and unwavering dedication to relief projects.

Your generous donations made the following possible:

- Within days of the earthquake, the Solidarity Center dispatched regular truckloads of **lifesaving emergency aid** to Haiti from its field office in the neighboring Dominican Republic. Provisions included food, water, rehydration fluids, tents, plastic tarps, electric generators, diapers, blankets, first-aid supplies, medicine and hygiene kits for women. Given the inoperative state of the banking system, the Solidarity Center also provided modest emergency funds to Haitian unions (up to \$2,000 per union) to locate missing members and restore offices, which were used as shelters and supply distribution centers. The Solidarity Center equipped one central office with solar panels so that people could have access to electricity. Leaders from partner unions also received cell phones and other communication devices to aid in the search for missing members and coordinate relief efforts.
- Beyond emergency supplies, the next priority was **cholera prevention**. Ten months after the earthquake, a cholera epidemic swept through north-central Haiti, eventually spreading to the capital, Port-au-Prince, and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. Since October 2010, more than 600,000 people have been infected by the disease and at least 7,500 people have died, according to the Pan American Health Organization. In the midst of this second crisis, the Solidarity Center partnered with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to train and deploy 50 Haitian trade unionists to the hardest-hit areas of the country, where they delivered approximately 1,000 hygiene and sanitation kits containing soap, antibacterial gels, toilet paper and rehydration fluids. The teams also distributed information on preventing and identifying the disease to at-risk communities.
- Solidarity Center union partners identified **tuition assistance for school children** as another critical need. Haitian union members were eager to keep their children in the classroom rather than in dangerous tent cities and rubble-filled streets. Before the earthquake, workers (who on average earned between \$3 and \$5 a day) struggled to afford enrollment fees, uniforms and school supplies. Post-earthquake unemployment and inflation compounded financial difficulties



Dominican union truck drivers deliver supplies to Haitian workers in Port-au-Prince.

Photo by Cathy Feingold.

and put education out of reach for many families. In response, the Solidarity Center provided educational stipends (approximately \$115 each) so that more than 700 children could continue their studies in a safe, child-friendly environment for another year.



Recipients of donation-funded tuition at a ceremony at the offices of Solidarity Center partner, AUMOHD.

Photo by Congress of Haitian Workers.

- As Haitian unions struggled to regain their footing, organize their members and advocate for decent work in reconstruction and beyond, the Solidarity Center and the ITUC partnered to support a temporary **trade union coordinator in Haiti** to work with unions to implement their roadmap for earthquake recovery and union building, and to design and supervise the union-led, anti-cholera effort.

In addition to these important initiatives, the Solidarity Center collaborated with the AFT and TransAfrica Forum to carry out two longer-term projects. Both projects have done a great deal to serve Haitian workers and their communities and have the potential to impact thousands more.

- Access to basic health care has long been a challenge for Haitian working families. Severe earthquake damage to medical facilities further reduced options for health care. Then, the cholera epidemic spurred a public health crisis. To address a dire need for health assistance, the Solidarity Center provided support to the AFT to establish a **union-run health clinic in Port-au-Prince**. Volunteers from the AFT-affiliated Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (VMRT) partnered with the Haitian Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers (CTSP) to construct and operate the Workers Solidarity Clinic. The Vermont volunteers traveled to Haiti on several occasions to provide basic care to CTSP families and train a team of Haitian doctors and nurses, who are poised to take ownership in the near future. Since the clinic opened in August 2011, hundreds of patients from the surrounding community have received pediatric, maternal and preventative care, free of cost. To learn more about these efforts, visit <http://bit.ly/nJg823> and <http://bit.ly/R7IHuo>.

Nurses work with patients in the Workers Solidarity Clinic.
Photo by Kyle Ferdinand, Vermont Medical Response Team (VMRT).

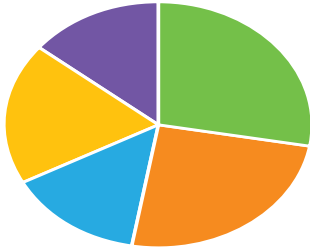


- Recognizing the importance of sustainable solutions, the Solidarity Center supported TransAfrica Forum's "Let Haiti Live" project, which empowers Haitian workers and their communities to advocate for improved living conditions. Following the earthquake, thousands of working families found themselves in squalid tent cities, with little access to sanitation or potable water. Floods and mudslides ravaged camps, while forced evictions and gender-based violence became commonplace. In response, Let Haiti Live and its local Haitian partner, *Bri Kouri Nouvel Gaye* (Noise Travels, News Spreads), mobilized vulnerable communities in and around Port-au-Prince to identify their greatest needs and develop advocacy strategies to leverage positive change. Community members prioritized access to clean water and adequate housing as immediate and shared needs. Over the course of eight months, project partners organized **water deliveries, distributed purification filters, repaired a water cistern, relocated several families to safer areas and led advocacy efforts**. Project leaders and community members remain engaged in **two international campaigns** around the priority issues, upon which they have made significant strides. To learn more about this project, visit <http://www.lethaitilive.org/housing/>.



Haitian families access clean water in their communities.
Photos by Etant Dupain, Bri Kouri Nouvel Gaye.

ALLOCATION OF PROJECT FUNDS FOR HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF*



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|--|-----|
| TransAfrica, Let Haiti Live/BKNG Project (Community Development) | 28% |
| AFT Health Clinic and Community Services | 25% |
| Emergency Aid, Search Efforts and Aid Delivery Logistics | 14% |
| Educational Stipends to School Children | 19% |
| Cholera Prevention and ITUC Coordination | 14% |

*Numbers rounded to the nearest percentage

SOLIDARITY CENTER HAITI DISASTER RELIEF FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$100,000

Union Privilege

\$10,000+

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1658
 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
 AFSCME District Council 37
 American Maritime Officers (AMO) Membership Assistance Program
 Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
 Marine Engineers Benefits Association (MEBA) District 1
 New York Central Labor Council
 Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU)
 Seafarers International Union

\$5,000+

AFSCME District Council 93
 AFSCME/OCSEA Local 11
 American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Massachusetts
 International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots, AFL-CIO
 New York State AFL-CIO
 New York State Union of Teachers (NYSUT)

\$1,000+

ACE-AFSCME Local 2250
 AFGE Local 1667
 AFSCME District Council 24
 AFSCME District Council 36
 AFSCME District Council 47
 AFSCME District Council 62
 AFSCME Florida Council 79
 AFSCME Local 143
 AFSCME Local 232
 AFSCME Local 1597
 AFSCME Local 1930
 AFSCME Local 3446
 AFSCME, Los Angeles County Probation Officers Union, Local 685
 AFSCME, NYC Accountants, Actuaries, Statisticians, AFSCME Local 1407
 AFSCME, New York City Clerical Administrative Employees, Local 1549
 AFSCME, NYC Electronic Data Processing Personnel, Local 2627
 AFSCME Ohio Council 8
 AFSCME, Oregon AFSCME Council 75
 AFSCME Washington State
 AFT Connecticut
 Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers (BCTGM)
 Brevard Federation of Teachers/AFT Local 2098
 Brotherhood of the Seafarers International Union of Canada
 Community & Social Agency Employees, AFSCME Local 1739

Council of New Jersey State College Locals/AFT
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
 International Cinematographers Guild, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 600
 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Hartford Aircraft Local Lodge 743
 International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 21
 John Joseph and Eleanor Reusch
 Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO
 Missouri AFL-CIO
 Mt. Olive #2 Baptist Church
 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Local 11, Chas D. Duffy Branch
 New Life Deliverance Center
 New York Administrative Employees, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1180
 Newspaper Guild of New York
 Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 29
 Plumbers, Steamfitters, and Refrigeration Fitters (UA) Local 393
 San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Sheraton Greensboro Hotel
 Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Timothy A. Brown
 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA)
 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 7655
 USW Local 9-984

Union donations up to \$1,000

AFGE
 AFGE Local 3937
 AFSCME: Local 8; Local 30; Local 52; Local 58; District Council 93; Local 269; Local 528; Local 859; Ohio Council 8, Local 1027; Local 1118; Local 1507; Local 1679; Local 1137; Local 1352; Local 1359; Local 1368; Local 1543; Local 1700; Local 1721; Local 1944; Local 2339; Local 2883; Local 3169; Local 3278; Local 3319
 Local 3302; Local 3521; Akron City Hospital, Local 684; Capital Area Council of Federal Employees, Local 26; Cincinnati Municipal Employees, Local 240; City of Bedford Employees, Local 2007; Council Employees Union, District Council 24
 ASFCME/CSEA Local 412; Dayton Public Service Union, Local 101; AFSCME/Hartford City Employees Union; Manchester, New Hampshire School District Employees, Local 3912; Middletown City Employees Union, Local 856; Monroe County Courthouse Employees, Local 138; Ohio Retirees Subchapter 109; Oregon Council 75; Plymouth, Massachusetts Municipal Employees, Local 2824; Public Employees of Pennsylvania, Local 1420; Polk County Oregon, Local 173; Retired Public Employees, Council 13; Retirees Association of District Council 37; Rhode Island Council 94, Staff Union Local 1; Rhode Island Deputy Sheriffs, Local 2409; Shaughnessy Kaplan Rehab Hospital, Local 3658; Southeastern Mass Mental Health Employees, Local 72; West Chester University, Local 2345; Wisconsin Council 40

AFT Local 4394/AIU # 3 Federation
 American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA)
 American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Rochester, New York Sec. CTR. Area Local
 Arkansas Interfaith Committee for Work Justice
 Auxiliary Services Corporation Farmingdale State College
 BCTGM: Local 8; Local 24; Local 433; Local 719
 Chester County Labor Council
 California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 596
 Cleveland Port Maritime Council
 Communications Workers of America Local 1032
 Essex-West Hudson Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Federation of Teachers and Administrators Local 1845/AFT
 Genesee Valley SRP Association
 Greater Boston Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Greater Chicago & Vicinity Port Council
 Greater Green Bay Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Greater Hartford Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Hampton Roads Port Council and Vicinity
 IBEW 76 Federal Credit Union
 Labor 1992 Corporation
 Lake Shore Central Teachers Association
 Maritime Port Council of Delaware Valley & Vicinity
 Maritime Council of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity
 Maritime Port Council of Greater New York Vicinity
 Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO
 Maryland/DC State Association of Letter Carriers
 Michigan Maritime Trades Port Council
 MSAAE Local 1137, AFL-CIO
 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 580
 Nebraska State AFL-CIO
 New Labor Retirees Club
 New York State Iron Workers District Council
 Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU): Local 1; Local 12; Local 1794
 Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) Local 110
 Rochester Teachers Association
 Texas AFL-CIO
 Toledo Port Council
 Transportation Communications Union (TCU)/IAM Local 359
 Trumbull County Federation of Labor
 Transportation Workers Union (TWU) Local 894
 United Educators of San Francisco Local 61
 United School Employees of Pasco County
 USW Local 1165
 United University Professions
 West Valley Teacher's Association
 Wisconsin AFL-CIO Building Trades

...And hundreds more generous union families, workers, community organizations, and businesses

