Compilation of Public Statements: Four Years After Haiti’s Devastating Earthquake Haitian and U.S. Organizations React

Multiple organizations contribute on a case by case basis to issue or sector specific position and recommendations expressed in HAWG materials. These materials are not designed to be consensus positions and have not been explicitly endorsed by each organization active in the HAWG.
Participating Organizations

Organizations Based in Haiti

1. Asosyasyon Fanm Soley Dayiti  
   *Haitian Women of the Sun Association*
2. Défenseurs des Opprimés  
   *Defenders of the Oppressed*
3. Fòs Refleksyon ak Aksyon sou Koze Kay  
   *Force for Reflection and Action on Housing*
4. Groupe d’ Appui aux Rapatries et Refugies  
   *Support Group for Returnees and Refugees*
5. Kolektif Jistis Min  
   *Collective for Mining Justice*
6. Sant Kretyen pou Devlopman Entegre  
   *Christian Centre for Integrated Development*

Organizations Based in the United States

1. ActionAid
2. American Jewish World Service
3. Center for Economic and Policy Research
4. Episcopal Church
5. Gender Action
6. Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
8. Solidarity Center
9. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
10. Women Thrive Worldwide
The opinions and positions expressed by each organization do not necessarily reflect the positions of any other organization in this compilation. Each statement has not been approved or vetted by any other organization nor are these materials designed to be consensus positions.
MESSAGE from AFASDA
on the fourth anniversary of the earthquake

The Mission of AFASDA is to work with women and girls for the integrated development of the respect for rights, and their effective participation in building the foundations of a just and inclusive Haitian society. AFASDA works in the domains of environment, women’s sexual health and rights, assistance to women survivors of violence, equality, political participation of women, economic development and advocacy.

In its work with the women and girls of Haiti, AFASDA has led a vast campaign for women’s sexual rights. AFASDA has also coordinated a program to promote a National Dialogue and Sustainable Development in collaboration with all sectors. Celebrating its 16th year of service to women and girls, the experiences and strong alliances of AFASDA have made possible new opportunities for women to exercise their full potential and contribute to Haiti’s reconstruction.

Since the terrible earthquake of January 12, 2010, thanks to the support of the international community, there has been a great deal of effort to rebuild HAITI including: aid to victims, the fight against cholera, and financial, medical, legal, and psychological assistance. For this assistance we thank the international community.

Moving forward, for Haiti to realize its potential, Haiti needs support for job creation, capital investments, support to help women be more engaged in reconstruction through education and community actions, including economic, civic and social policy change.

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January 7, 2014; Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Defenders of the Oppressed (Haitian acronym DOP) is a Haitian organization of lawyers and activists working for social justice. DOP brings pro bono claims related to Haiti’s social movement and provides know your rights trainings to organizations working on issues including the right to housing, the right to land, United Nations cholera accountability, and the rights of LGBT people.

On the four-year anniversary of the earthquake, when more than 300,000 fellow Haitians were killed and more than 1.5 million were forced onto the streets because their homes were destroyed, DOP observes that the situation for victims of the earthquake has not changed. To the contrary, instead of a plan for relocation that would help victims, we have witnessed people in power collaborate with a variety of intermediaries and alleged landowners to forcefully and violently remove earthquake victims from their displacement camps without any regard for life, the dignity of the victims, or the rule of law.

Within this context DOP has the following activities planned to mark the anniversary of the earthquake:

- A photo exhibit of incidents of police brutality against people living in displacement camps
- The screening of a documentary that shows the reality of people living in displacement camps

DOP will also give a presentation of its work in defense of camp residents in order that their rights be respected. In that presentation, DOP will discuss its work on the numerous documented cases of police brutality and judicial conspiracy that violated the human rights of camp residents, including:

- Forced Eviction of the residents of Camp Chritsophe on June 6, 2013
- The illegal arrests of camp residents in Grace Village in Carrefour
- The violent forced expulsion of the residents of Camp Mozaik by police and the Justice of the Peace
- The brutal arrests at Camp Delmas 33 that resulted in the death of Meris Civil in police custody
- The assassination of residents of Camp Gaston Margon
- Attempted arson of camp dwellers tents in the Grace Village Camp
- Threats of forced eviction at Camp Peliko
- Illegal arrests and destruction of 313 tent homes in the Mountain Saint Joseph Camp
- Threats of forced eviction and arrests in Camp Vilambetha
- Arrests at Camp Immaculate moved from City Soleil

On the anniversary of the earthquake DOP also denounces the intimidation and threats that the Director of DOP, Patrice Florvilus, and DOP staff regularly face. DOP denounces the persecution that continues against displacement camp residents each time they ask for justice by reporting on illegal acts or acts of intimidation by the police or the justice system, for example in the case of the beatings suffered by Darlin Lexima of Camp Acra in Delmas 33 when he brought claims against the police for his illegal arrest, detention, and beatings.

Much of DOP’s work in 2013 has also been to accompany displacement camp dwellers affected by cholera brought to Haiti by the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces.

Moving into 2014, DOP remains committed to supporting the victims of the January 12, 2010 catastrophe and to advocating for a just society in favor of the oppressed at the national and international levels.

For more information please send an email to defenseursdesopprimed2013@gmail.com
January 12, 2010 Catastrophe: 
Four years later Haiti shows the real face of disaster capitalism

The “Force for Reflection and Action on Housing” (FRAKKA) is a coalition of Haitian advocacy organizations demanding housing rights, including the right to live with dignity, for the majority of Haitians, especially those who lost their homes in the earthquake and who continue live in tent camps today. Article 22 of the Haitian Constitution and international conventions support this right. In order to realize these rights, FRAKKA engages in the following activities: awareness raising; rights trainings with affected populations; organizing; legal accompaniment for victims; advocacy and organizational capacity building.

Four years post-earthquake, there are still about 300,000 people living in tent camps in situations unfit for humans. While many people received about $475 from the government for the relocation project called 16/6, most of those people have either returned to camps or are living in precarious cement slums. Nevertheless, many large international organizations and the Haitian government are wasting millions of dollars. Many millions of dollars intended for reconstruction went to fund the development of projects that benefit multi-national companies, including the Caracol Free trade zone industrial park. At the same time, the government constructed many houses that still sit empty and others that require a rent at so high a price that that people living in tent camps cannot afford to pay.

The pillaging and waste that many international organizations and the Martelly / Lamothe government have demonstrated with the money that was raised in the names of victims of the earthquake show the opportunistic nature of disaster capitalism that profits from the suffering of victims.

What is worse, the people living under tents for the last four years have been victims of many horrible crimes, including violent, forced evictions or threats of forced eviction, fires set to their tents, indiscriminate arrests, assassinations, rape of women and girls, including by the police, and other abuses by armed thugs and officials including authorities and the courts that collaborate with alleged landowners. Local authorities, members of the government and alleged landowners show no respect for national or international laws that protect the rights of victims of natural catastrophe. All this is possible because the country is currently ruled by a government that has total disrespect for the rule of law but which enjoys widespread support from the international community.

FRAKKA observes that neither the former Preval / Belrive government, nor the current Martelly / Lamothe government has been interested in resolving the housing problem in Haiti. It is the consequence of continuing to follow the neo-liberal plan where the need for social housing is used to enable private sector interests to make money off of the suffering of the poor. FRAKKA demands that the government engage social housing initiatives in alignment with the specifications set out in the Social Housing Manifest that was presented to the government on the International Right to Housing Day, October 7, 2013.
4 ans après le séisme du 12 janvier, le logement demeure un défi énorme pour les déplacés/es internes

A l’occasion du quatrième anniversaire du tremblement de terre, le Groupe d’Appui aux Rapatriés et Réfugiées (GARR) demeure perplexe quant à l’amélioration des conditions de logement des victimes du 12 janvier et la viabilité des programmes de relocalisation. Il exhorte les autorités haïtiennes à prendre des mesures nécessaires afin d’éviter une autre catastrophe au cas où un prochain séisme se présente, car les risques restent toujours évidents.

4 années après la catastrophe du 12 janvier 2010, les familles déplacées continuent de mener une vie d’enfer dans les sites d’hébergement de la zone métropolitaine. Laissées pour compte dans le processus de la reconstruction, les déplacés sont la cible de toutes sortes de violations, notamment des expulsions forcées, des incendies criminels, des actes de pressions et d’assassinat. Et ce, sous le silence complice des autorités du gouvernement Martelly - Lamothe.

4 années après, Le programme de reconstruction reste dans l’impasse. Les études montrent que des solutions provisoires sont de plus en plus priorisées, tant par le gouvernement que des organisations internationales, que celles de plus durables pour apporter une réponse efficace au logement. Environ 113600 abris provisoires ont été construits, et seulement 146000 maisons marquées en jaune ont été réparées par le ministère des Travaux publics du Transport et de la Communication(MTPTC), (source Cerfas octobre 2013). Même si plusieurs projets de logement ont été initiés par des organisations locales ou internationales, le vide d’une action coordonnée n’est toujours pas comblé. Ce qui explique des problèmes de qualité, de quantité et de couts qui persistent dans presque toutes les initiatives.

4 ans après, malgré le besoin criant en logement dans les différents secteurs de la vie nationale, le gouvernement Martelly-Lamothe reste toujours indécis dans le choix des bénéficiaires pour les différents projets de logement installés notamment à Zorange, Morne à Cabri, etc. Outre l’opacité souvent reprochée dans l’exécution et la gestion de ces projet, des services sociaux de base ne sont pas pris en compte pour rendre les maisons vivables dans le respect de la dignité humaine.

D’après les données officielles, la population des déplacés du séisme du 12 janvier 2010 a diminué. Le nombre est passé de 1,5 millions sans abris, dans les jours qui ont suivi le tremblement de terre à 172 000 déplacés/es, selon le dernier rapport de l’OIM, datant du mois...
d’octobre 2013. Un très beau record pour le gouvernement, les ONGs et les agences qui travaillent dans les programmes de relocalisation. Cette diminution est répandue à tous les échos, dans la presse et dans les rencontres nationales et internationales. Des prévisions annoncent déjà de nouvelles réductions pour cette nouvelle année. Cependant, plusieurs questions sont restées pendantes. Où se retrouvent maintenant ces familles relocalisées ? Y’a-t-il réellement une amélioration de leur condition de logement ? Comment vivent-ils après avoir participé à ce programme ? La subvention au loyer, solution privilégiée par le gouvernement et des organisations internationales, qui favorise le déplacement des familles déplacées, est loin d’être une solution viable et durable, pour aborder en profondeur la problématique de logement. Selon un rapport d’évaluation publié en mars 2013, 60% des bénéficiaires d’une subvention n’ont pas de revenu suffisant pour payer une deuxième année de loyer. Et, seulement 25% des familles sont restées dans le même logement après une année. De ce fait, les bénéficiaires risquent de retourner dans les camps ou d’aller grossir les bidonvilles et les quartiers précaires.

A l’occasion du quatrième anniversaire du tremblement de terre, le GARR réitère ses recommandations à l’Etat haïtien à travers ces différents points :

- Réorganiser le territoire haïtien en définissant une politique nationale de logement qui tient compte les capacités des différents groupes de la société et de la protection de l’environnement
- Procéder à des expropriations en mettant des terres disponibles à des grands projets de logement
- Élaborer des mécanismes pour favoriser le crédit à des familles, des groupes désireux de construire leurs propres maisons
- Produire de logements sociaux et encourager des coopératives mutuelles de logements sociaux
- Voter une loi qui garantit la protection du droit au logement
- Créer une structure légale pouvant orienter et appliquer la politique de logement proposée par l’Etat à savoir un ministère de logement et de l’habitat
- Suspendre les programmes d’urgence et de mettre en œuvre des programmes durables permettant aux différents groupes sociaux de jouir le droit de vivre dans un logement décent

Enfin, il invite tous les citoyens citoyennes haïtiens, survivés après tel drame à s’organiser, se mobiliser pour dire non aux constructions anarchiques en souvenir de nos milliers de frères et de sœurs emportés par la catastrophe du 12 janvier 2010.
On the fourth anniversary of the earthquake, the Support Group for Returnees and Refugees (GARR) remains puzzled about improvements made to housing for the victims of the January 12 earthquake and about the sustainability of resettlement programs. GARR calls upon the Haitian authorities to take all the necessary measures to prevent another disaster in the event of a future earthquake, because the risks remain evident.

Four years after the disaster of January 12, 2010, displaced families continue to live a life of hell in the resettlement camps of the metropolitan area. Left behind in the process of reconstruction, the displaced are the target of all kinds of violations, including forced evictions, arson, acts of murder and other pressures. And, this is all taking place with the complicit silence of the authorities of the Government Martelly – Lamothe.

Four years after the reconstruction, programs remain deadlocked. Studies show that temporary solutions are increasingly being prioritized, by both the government and international organizations, over longer term and more effective responses to housing. Nearly 113,600 transitional shelters have been built, and only 146,000 “yellow” houses have been repaired by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication (MTPTC)\(^1\). Although several housing projects were initiated by local and international organizations, the vacuum in coordination has not yet been filled. This explains the problems of quality, quantity and costs that persist in almost all initiatives.

4 years later, despite the urgent need for housing in the various sectors of national life, the Government Martelly-Lamothe remains undecided about the selection of beneficiaries for various housing projects installed including in the communities of Zorange, Morne Cabri, and others. In addition to the lack of transparency so often reproached of project management and implementation, basic social services are not offered as part of these projects in order to make these homes livable and dignified.

According to official data, the population of displaced earthquake of January 12, 2010 has decreased. The number fell from 1.5 million homeless in the days immediately following the earthquake to 172,000 displaced, according to the latest IOM\(^2\) report, dated October 2013. This is a beautiful record for the government, NGOs and agencies working in the resettlement programs. Information about this reduction in the IDP population has been disseminated widely.

\(^1\) Cerfas October 2013.
\(^2\) International Migration Organization
and now echoes in national and international press and at meetings. Forecasts have already been announced for further reductions in the New Year. However, several issues remain pending. Where are these families who now find themselves relocated? Has there really been an improvement in their living conditions? How are they living now, having participated in this program? Rent subsidies is the solution favored by the Haitian Government and international organizations to promote the relocation of displaced families, but this is far from being a viable and sustainable solution to address in depth Haiti’s housing problem. According to an assessment report published in March 2013, 60% of grant recipients do not have enough income to pay the second year in rent. And only 25% of families remained in the same dwelling after a year. There is therefore a risk that beneficiaries of this program may eventually return to the camps or increase the numbers already living in slums and shantytowns.

On the fourth anniversary of the earthquake, GARR reiterates its recommendations to the Haitian government through these points:

- Establishing a national housing policy that takes into account the capacities of different groups in society and environmental protection
- Making land available for large housing projects
- Develop mechanisms to promote credit to families and groups wishing to build their own houses
- Produce social housing projects and encourage mutual cooperative housing
- Pass a law that guarantees the protection of housing rights
- Establish a Housing Ministry and legal framework and that can guide and implement a national housing policy
- Suspend emergency programs and implement sustainable programs that allow different groups to enjoy the right to live in decent housing

Finally, GARR invites all Haitian citizens who survived the tragedy to organize, mobilize and to say no to uncontrolled construction, in memory of thousands of our brothers and sisters who passed away in the disaster of 12 January 2010.
The Collective for Mining Justice

The Haitian Platform for Advocacy and Alternative Development (PAPDA), Defenders of the Oppressed (DOP), the Popular Democratic Movement (MODEP), Heads Together Haitian Small Farmers (Tet Kole) and the Platform of Haitian Human Rights Organizations (POHDH)

Press Release

Port-au-Prince, 29 December 2013

The Collective for Mining Justice is a group of Haitian organizations fighting for mining justice and for a fair and independent Haiti that respects the rights of the majority.

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the earthquake that took the lives of more than 300,000 people, KJM observes that the Haitian authorities have failed to develop or implement a post-earthquake plan that would redefine the distribution of services in a way that meets the needs of the population; this is especially true in the case of housing.

Today more than 200,000 people are still suffering in tent camps in terrible living conditions, vulnerable to severe weather, and without any protections from forced evictions. Not only have these problems failed to be resolved, but the Haitian government has created a series of new problems that now face the country. Specifically, KJM denounces the manipulation of the World Bank and many officials within the Haitian Government to sell off the resources of the country to multi-nationals at the same time that they ignore the terrible conditions in which the majority of the population lives.

Since the earthquake, even with the many resources that were coming in to Haiti, the Haitian government has shown no interest in making decisions that would help to change the situation for people living in poverty. How can it be expected that this same government would manage billions of dollars of the country’s natural resources in ways that would serve the population? The risks to land and water associated with mining are potentially as great as the consequences brought about by the earthquake. The Haitian government has failed to help those living under tents and those affected by cholera. It is unrealistic that it can handle mining in a way that would protect or benefit Haiti’s poor.

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4 years since an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 hit Haiti, killing and wounding more than 300,000 women, children and men, destroying and damaging about a million houses, leaving people in poverty with their heads in their hands. The news spread, many humanitarians stood up, churches and organisations working in development throughout the world arrived in Haiti to show solidarity with the Haitian people. SKDE, one of the organisations that launched an SOS call to all humanitarians around the world to ask them support for victims, wants to use this occasion to join the voices of victims and give a big thanks on behalf of all victims of the earthquake for the solidarity, support and assistance humanitarians and organisations working in emergency brought for the Haitian people.

The majority of these humanitarian organisations have already ended their work (mission accomplished) and gone back to their countries, while many people are left without a house to live, without work, without any means to provide for food, find health care or send their children to school. Life is hard, the majority of the camps in the capital city are still full of people, some of them having augmented instead of diminished.

Today, while we commemorate 4 years after the earthquake, when we look behind us, we see there is a lot of work that still needs to be done. We can say,
for example, that repair and reconstruction work hasn't even really started yet, let alone finished. Projects to improve road infrastructure, schools, hospitals and even public buildings for people to receive services have not yet been realised.

- Food insecurity is one of the big challenges and big risks that the country faces nowadays. We can't even produce a loaf of bread for each Haitian, let alone provide food to the population. There is no structure for agricultural development; farmers don't have access to fertilisers, water for irrigation, pumps to water gardens, seeds, insecticides, land; there is no credit for merchants or agricultural credit for farmers to work on their land. Another big challenge is the manual labour; they clear the land with machetes to plant beans and corn. In short, there is no infrastructure whatsoever, neither to improve the situation, nor to give a valid response to the mining problems that farmers face in their communities on a daily basis.

- For people living in tents or in slums, there is still no good strategic plan for them to get good health care; no money is circulating, no jobs are being created so that poor people can find work, there are no microcredit programs for people in slums to have informal business to struggle with life; many parents can't send their children to school or don't have money to buy school materials, books, etc.

- The Haitian Government does not have the means to face this range of problems. The tax that DGI (Central State Tax Authority) collects is not enough to respond to all these needs, that the earthquake is dragging behind, after 4 consecutive years mixed with political crises of all kinds. The aftermath of the earthquake still exists, visible everywhere in the country, with more disruption than what we can see, in hearts, in minds, heads, spirits of many people, provoking big psychological disasters in the lives of the Haitian people. Today, we observe that many young people have lost their minds, the majority of whom are girls, which in the future will provoke even more problems, since they will get children in their confused state.

- It is a sombre and dark picture, Haitian heaven is filled with clouds of all colours, it is urgent and important for international solidarity to continue, working together without interfering, to help the Haitian people, for the poor people to carry their cross and be able to transform their cross in
gardens filled with plantains, corn, sorghum, to develop animal breeding and fishing, continue to help in the reconstruction of the country to change minds and lives for real. It is not time for humanitarian organisations to withdraw, it is not time to take a step back, but it is time to get up with even more solidarity.

- We finish this note by asking the American Congress and American humanitarian actors, churches and NGOs all over the world to stand up, to advocate, join forces together to encourage a good kind of solidarity together with the Haitian people; to help them build their lives and participate in true development for the reconstruction of the nation and reconstruction of the community. 2010 was a disastrous year. 2014 should be a year of advocacy, solidarity and reconstruction. It is not the time to go backwards, but it is time to get ourselves together, to repair mistakes that have been made, to redefine the strategy of development, to work for true change and development, so that the Haitian people can see change and repair, while this time we will build a good base and structure for sustainable development.

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Not pou laprès pou kominote nasyonal la ak kominote entenasyonal la

12 Janvye 2010, 12 janvye 2014 sa fe 4 tran depi yon tranbleman te ki te gen 7.2 manyitid te frape peyi dayiti, touye ak domaje plis pase 300,000 fanm, timoun ak gason epika ze ak andomaje aniviwon yon milyon kay, lage pov malere yo de bra balanse. Bri kouri nouvel gaye, anpil imanist te leve kanpe, legliz ak oganizasyon kap travay pou devlopman nan tout mon n lan te rive debake an Ayiti pou vin n pote solidarite yo bay pep Ayisyen an. SKDE ki te youn nan oganizasyon kite lanse yon SOS bay tout imanist nan monn lan pou mande yo sekou pou viktim pov yo, vle pwofite nan not pou lapres sa a pou l mete vwa l ansanm ak viktim yo pou di yon gwo mesi nan non tout viktim tranbleman te a pou solidarite, sekou ak asistans imanist yo ak oganizasyon kap travay nan domen n ijans yo te pote bay pep Ayisyen an. Pi fo nan oganizasyon imanite sa yo gentan mete bout nan travay yo (misyon akonpli) epi retounen nan peyi yo, sa lakoz anpil malere, malerez lage 2 bra balanse san kay pou yo rete, san travay, san oken fom ak mwayen pou yo rive degaje yo pou manje, jwen n swen lasante ak voye piti yo lekol, mezami bagay yo red, mach la rud, majorite kan yo ki nan kapital la toujou chaje avek moun okontre plizye ladan yo vin ogmante olye pou yo ta redwi ak yon kalite politik retire trip pou mete pay. Jounen jodi a pandan nou ap komemore 4 tran apre tranbleman te a, le nap gade deye n nou we gen anpil travay ki rete pou fet anko, pa ekzanz : Le nou ap konsidere kantite bagay ki gen pou fet, nou ta di travay reparasyon ak rekonstriksyon an pak omen rive komanse, vwa pou li ta fini, enfrastrikti wout, lekol, lopital ak men batiman piblik pou pep la ta rive jwen n sevis pako vreman rive ateri.
• Ensekirite alimante se youn nan gwo defi ak pi gwo danje ke peyi a gen devan l jounen jodi a, nou pa memn ka rive pwodwi youn pen pou chak gren n ayisyen, vwa pou nou ta rive bay pep la manje, pa gen oken n baz ki jete pou devlopman agrikol la, peyizan yo toujou pa jwen n angre, dlo pou fe irigasyon, pomp pou rouze jaden, semans, ensektisid, te, kredi pou ti machan n ak ti kredi agrikol pou peyizan yo fe jaden, lot gwo defi se ak men ak manchet ke yap rache zeb pou mete pwa ak mayi anba te. Bref pa gen oken n baz ak eninfrastriti ki rive mete sou pye pou amelyore sitiyasyon yo, ni bay yon repons valab ak pwoblem mine ke peyizan yo ap fe fas kare chak jou nan kominote yo.

• Pou moun kap viv anba tant yo oubyen ki nan bidon vil yo se vejete yap vejete, toujou pa gen yon bon plan estratejik pou yo vive jwen n bonjan swen sante, sou plan ekonomik lajan pa sikile pa gen djob ki kreye pou mas pov yo jwen n travay, pa gen pwogram mikrokredi pou moun yo ki nan bidonvil yo jwen n kredi pou yo degaje yo, fe ti komes enfomel pou batay deye lavi, anpil manman ak papa pitit se anmwey yap rele, yo pa ka voye pitit yo lekol sa ki rive fe jefo pou voye timoun yo lekol yo pa gen mwayen pou achete materyel eskole tankou liv pou timoun yo etidye.

• Gouvenman an pa gen ase mwayen nan men l pou l fe fas ak gwo koken n chenn pwoblem tout kalite sa yo, ti taks ke DGI ap kolekte yo pa ase pou repon n ak gwo toton bezwen sa yo, ke tranbleman te a trenen pote deye l; apre 4 lanne konsekitif melanje ak kriz politik tout kalite. Sekel tranbleman te a toujou la, yo vizib nou we yo toupatou nan tout zo ko peyi a epi yo fe plis dega toujou ke sa nou pa rive we, nan ke, nan nanm, nan tet ak nan lespri anpil malere, malere epi rive pwовое gwo katastrof psikolojik nan lavi pep ayisyen; jounen jodi a nou ap konstate anpil jen timoun ap pedi tet yo e majorite se tifi yo ye, sa ki pral provoke anko pi plis pwoblem toujou paske yo pral fe piti ak tout maladi foli a.

• Tablo a somb anpil, bagay yo nwa, syel peyi dayiti a ranpli avek nwaj tout koule, li ijan e enpotan pou solidarite entenasional la kontinye pote kole, mete men nan pat la san yo pa fe enjerans pou ede pep Ayisyen, mas pov yo pote kwa ak rive transfome kwa a an jaden banann, mayi, pitimi, devlope elvaj ak lapech, kontinye ede nan rekonstriksyon peyi a pou chanje lespri, chanje lavi tout bon vre. Se pa le pou oganizasyon imanite
yo ap rale ko yo deye, se pa le pou nou ap fe bak men se le pou nou leve kanpe nan solidarite pi plis toujou.

- Nap fini not pou lapres sa a pandan nap mande kongre Ameriken an ki gen anpil imanist ladan n, legliz yo ak ONG yo toupatou nan mond lan pou yo leve kanpe, fe pledwaye, makonnen tout fos viv yo ansanm pou ankouraje bonjan solidarite nan pote kole ak pep Ayisyen an, pou ede yo bati lavi ak patisipe nan devlopman tout bon pou rekonstriksyon nasyon an ak rekonstriksyon pep ayisyen an. 12 Janvye 2010 se te yon ane katastrof 12 janvye 2014 dwe yon ane pledwaye, solidarite ak rekonstriksyon, se pa le pou nou fe bak ni pran wont sevi kole, se le pou nou resezi nou, repare ere kite fet yo, redefini estrateji devlopman an, touse manch chemiz nou ak manch pantalon nou pou n travay pou chanjman ak devlopman tout bon, pou pep Ayisyen an ka we chanjman ak reparasyon, pandan fwa sa a nou va jete bonjan baz pou yon devlopman dirab.

Mesi,

**Rev Herode Guillomettre**
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January 12, 2014

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For Haitians, post-earthquake progress is measured in hectares

On fourth commemoration of the January 2010 earthquake, ActionAid calls for greater recognition of Haitian land rights

Washington DC— Four years after Haiti’s devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010, nothing could provide a clearer indication of the nation’s progress than whether or not Haitians have achieved greater access and control over their land and its resources for their food security and livelihoods.

For Haitians, land is their kòd lombrìk (umbilical cord). Sixty percent of the nation relies on the land for food, yet the majority of Haitians, particularly those from rural areas, do not have secure land rights.

Kysseline Chérestal, Senior Policy Analyst at ActionAid USA says: “If we use ‘access to and control over land’ as an economic indicator of progress in Haiti since the earthquake, things don’t look so good.

Unfortunately, over the last four years, land tenure security has worsened due to policies and programs pushing communities aside to make way for manufacturing plants, mining, tourism, and other commercial ventures with daily wages insufficient to feed a single person, let alone a family.

Attempts to “help” Haiti that take land away from communities are misguided. Progress can only be achieved if the land rights of the Haitian people are protected.”

ActionAid is calling on the US Government to implement the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, which would inform the future of US-funded agriculture and infrastructure programs for food security, livelihoods, and land tenure security in Haiti. This bill would hold US government accountable for the impact of its spending and programs without adding to the deficit. ActionAid also calls on the US and Haitian governments to fully implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure, including harmonization of Haitian land law and policy with the Guidelines.

# # #

ActionAid is an international anti-poverty agency working in 50 countries, siding with poor people to end poverty and injustice together. Alongside more than 2,000 civil society partners worldwide, ActionAid works with and supports the poorest and most vulnerable people to fight for and gain their rights to food, shelter, work, basic healthcare and a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. View the website at www.actionaidusa.org.
PRESS RELEASE

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE STATEMENT ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Progress has been made but participation by grassroots Haitian groups and U.S. and Haitian oversight are needed to fully overcome the devastation

NEW YORK, NY- American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the leading Jewish international human rights and development organization, released the following statement on the fourth anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010. Since the earthquake, AJWS has granted more than $5.3 million to 66 Haitian and international organizations working in Haiti.

“Haitians are still suffering from the incalculable damage caused by the earthquake that struck Haiti four years ago,” said Ruth Messinger, president of AJWS. “Tragically, there are hundreds of thousands living in tent camps, with little or no access to potable water or basic health services, and Haiti is facing an impending food crisis.

“Grassroots Haitian organizations, which understand the problems of Haiti, hold the key to success, yet they have been almost uniformly excluded from the decision-making processes governing the post-earthquake international humanitarian response. That the opinions of these grassroots organizations have largely been ignored is a great failure by the international community. It is these local heroes who can help the country overcome seemingly insurmountable devastation.

“While a significant amount of U.S. government resources were committed to help the country rebuild, a lack of transparency has created barriers to understanding how the government funds are being used and how recovery is truly progressing in Haiti. We applaud Congresswoman Barbara Lee for introducing the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act and urge the Senate to follow the House in quickly passing this critical piece of legislation to ensure that U.S. dollars are spent in responsible ways that create long-term, positive change in Haiti. AJWS is committed to standing with our grantees and the Haitian people as they work to build a Haiti where the rights of those living in poverty are respected,” said Messinger.

If passed, the bi-partisan Assessing Progress in Haiti Act would assist Congress in overseeing U.S. assistance in Haiti by providing lawmakers, the U.S. public and Haitians with key details
on the manner in which U.S. reconstruction funds are being spent, in order to create long-term, positive changes in Haiti.

**Haiti Grantmaking**
In the six months after the earthquake, AJWS raised $6.2 million from more than 28,000 donors to support recovery in Haiti, $5.3 million of which has been disbursed to date. These funds supported projects that strengthen infrastructure, empower marginalized communities, develop Haitian leadership and build the capacity of grassroots organizations. It also supported rapid response efforts to emergencies like the cholera epidemic by bolstering organizations with long-standing ties and experience in their communities. Specifically, AJWS supported:

- **Defenders of the Oppressed (Défenseurs des Opprimées, DOP) and Force for Reflection and Action on Housing (Fos Refleksyon ak Aksyon sou Koze Kay, FRAKKA),** which worked in the internally displaced persons camps to bring claims against forced evictions, and to support camp residents in organizing and advocating for their rights. DOP and FRAKKA continue to organize displaced people, document violations and advocate for the rights of those living in displacement camps.

- **Fanm Deside** (Women Decide), which organized meetings in the displacement camps to provide psychological support to earthquake survivors. A year after the earthquake, Fanm Deside commenced construction of the Centre Magalie pour la vie (Magalie Center for Life), a safehouse for women in Jacmel, one of the areas hit hardest by the earthquake. The first of its kind in the southeast area of Haiti and one of only a few safehouses in the whole country, the facility provides temporary shelter to 20 women and children.

- **Partnership for Local Development** (PDL), which helped rural communities set up a cash-for-work program whereby families displaced by the earthquake were paid to learn and implement new agricultural, ecological and disaster risk reduction techniques for farming in the communities that received more than 600,000 people displaced by the earthquake.

- **Fondation SEROvie,** which was the only lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization in Haiti in 2010. Its office was destroyed and 14 members and staff were killed during the earthquake. AJWS provided initial funds for SEROvie to rebuild its office and to support to LGBT people who lost their homes during the earthquake. SEROvie continues to provide employment training and critical health services to LGBT people in the displacement camps through its clinic.

**U.S. Advocacy**
In addition to working for the passage of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, AJWS’s advocacy over the past four years has contributed to increased government funding for relief and reconstruction in Haiti, and connected Haitian organizations with U.S. and international humanitarian and government decision-makers. AJWS has promoted practices that will
advance Haiti’s development in ways that are focused on benefiting the most marginalized members of society. AJWS is currently working with other Haiti advocacy organizations to:

- Encourage funders to spend more of their resources in Haiti to create jobs, build Haitian capacity and spur other Haitian employment opportunities
- Urge the United Nations to take responsibility for the outbreak of cholera, ensure that the cholera elimination plan is fully funded, and provide a just solution for the over 8,500 Haitians who have already died from the epidemic
- Ensure that the international community and Haitian government protect the rights of Haitian workers by complying with minimum wage laws and safeguarding advocates for human rights, many of whom have been subject to violence and intimidation.

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American Jewish World Service
Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice, American Jewish World service (AJWS) works to realize human rights and end poverty in the developing world. www.ajws.org
Four Years after Earthquake, Housing, Sanitation, Health Care are Still Pressing Needs in Haiti

“International community’s response remains misplaced,” CEPR Co-Director Says

For Immediate Release: January 8, 2014
Contact: Dan Beeton, 202-239-1460; beeton@cepr.net

Washington, D.C. – Four years after an earthquake devastated Haiti and killed some 220,000 people and displaced 1.5 million, housing, sanitation and health care remain woefully inadequate, Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) Co-Director Mark Weisbrot said today. Weisbrot noted that while some 200,000 people are still stuck in internally displaced person (IDP) camps, and many others have been forcibly evicted onto the streets – and while under-funded sanitation and health care allow a cholera epidemic to continue to ravage the country -- many of the urgently-needed funds meant to assist the people of Haiti have gone instead into the pockets of contractors, or have been used to fund projects that benefit foreign corporations far more than they do Haitians.

“The lasting legacy of the earthquake is the international community’s profound failure to set aside its own interests and respond to the most pressing needs of the Haitian people,” Weisbrot said. “Four years of exposés in the international media, appeals from the U.N. and international aid groups, and pleas from the Haitian government, Haitian grassroots groups and many others have failed to change the misplaced priorities of the international response to the earthquake and the cholera epidemic.”

Weisbrot applauded the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee and cosponsored by 34 other legislators, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives last month. The Act is meant to foster greater transparency in U.S. government contracting in Haiti through regular progress reports to Congress.

Much of the U.S. government aid earmarked for Haiti following the quake has gone to foreign contractors, providing little benefit to Haitian businesses, organizations or workers. 67.1 percent of USAID contracts has gone to Beltway-based firms, while just 1.3 percent has gone to Haitian companies. The Haitian government has also largely been bypassed as aid funds have gone to foreign contractors, international agencies and the many groups that populate what is known as the “republic of NGOs.” Of the $6.43 billion disbursed by bilateral and multilateral donors to Haiti from 2010-2012, just 9 percent went through the Haitian government.

Weisbrot noted that although the massive displacement of people from their homes was one of the most visible and damaging aspects of the earthquake, four years later only 7,515 new houses had been built. A U.S. government plan to build 15,000 new houses has reduced its goals by over 80 percent.

The cholera epidemic, brought to Haiti by U.N. troops, has killed 8,500 people and sickened over 695,000. While the U.N., the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Haitian and Dominican governments launched a $2.2 billion plan to eradicate cholera over a year ago, it remains
woefully underfunded, and the U.N. itself has pledged just 1 percent of the funding needed, even as the U.N.’s mostly military and police mission in Haiti costs over $572 million a year.

Projects such as the Caracol industrial park, meanwhile, continue to receive additional funding, with the Inter-American Development Bank announcing last week that it would commit another $40.5 million for the facility’s expansion. The project has come under scrutiny over poor working conditions and low pay for garment workers; the Workers Rights Consortium [PDF] found that “On average, workers were paid 34% less than the law requires” at Caracol.

“The least that the U.N. and international community could do is to clean up the mess that they themselves made,” Weisbrot said. “This means providing the infrastructure for clean water, as quickly as possible, to get rid of the deadly cholera bacteria that U.N. troops – who did not come to Haiti for earthquake relief – brought to the country.

“The millions of dollars brought to contractors and big NGOs have often not been used to meet the urgent needs of the Haitian people.”

For more background on the state of reconstruction in Haiti four years after the quake, see CEPR’s “Haiti: Relief and Reconstruction Watch” blog.

###
Presiding Bishop calls for prayers, offerings for Diocese of Haiti on earthquake anniversary

[December 11, 2013] Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has asked The Episcopal Church to remember the Diocese of Haiti on the fourth anniversary of the earthquake on January 12.

“I urge all Episcopalians to pray and give in solidarity with our largest and fastest-growing diocese,” the Presiding Bishop said.

She continued, “I ask for your generosity in a special offering on Sunday, January 12 to aid the Diocese of Haiti in rebuilding Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince.”

On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck Haiti, killing more than 300,000 people, seriously injuring more than 250,000, and leaving 1.3 million homeless. An extensive number of private and public buildings were destroyed including Holy Trinity Cathedral and the affiliated Episcopal institutions in the Cathedral Complex.

The Episcopal Church continues to respond to the needs that have arisen. Recently the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti announced the selection of Kerns Group Architects, P.C., of Arlington, VA, as architect of the new Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Features of the new cathedral include:
• Space for 1,200 with seating in a circular fashion around a central altar platform
• Designed to international earthquake and hurricane resistant standards.
• A central, massive dome that envelops the primary worship space
• Self-sufficiency by generating its own electricity, providing its own purified water and supplying its own telecommunications.
• Incorporation of historic features salvaged from the ruins, including 3 of the 14 world-famous murals depicting Biblical stories with Haitian characters.
• A hospitality/administrative area with meeting rooms, public restrooms and administrative offices clustered around a two-story atrium; these areas will be leased to generate additional income.
In addition to being a place of worship, the new Cathedral is expected to be, once again, a prominent center for the performing and visual arts.

The Presiding Bishop pointed out that the Executive Council “has been a faithful partner in the ongoing response.”

She noted that the fourth anniversary falls on the first Sunday of Epiphany, the day on which the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord, which is depicted in one of the three surviving Cathedral murals. (Photograph available here)

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IFI AND USAID POST-EARTHQUAKE SPENDING IN HAITI

INTRODUCTION

Since the January 2010 earthquake the World Bank (WB) committed over US$ 700 million and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) over US$ 1.1 billion for more than 170 projects. The US government, as the largest International Financial Institution (IFI) shareholder, is the IFIs’ single-most influential donor. The US Congress, which appropriates funds to these IFIs has leverage to positively influence the effectiveness of this aid.

Gender Action, whose mission it is to hold IFIs accountable for the gender impacts of IFI spending across sectors around the world, has continuously tracked and held IFIs accountable for the gender and other social impacts of all IFI investments in Haiti since the earthquake. In late 2013, Gender Action generated: (1) “Building Back by Half? Gender Issues in IFI Investments in Post-Earthquake Haiti”, a deep analysis of WB and IDB Haiti projects’ gender sensitivity; (2) “Caracol Industrial Park: Social and Gender Impacts of Year One of Haiti’s Newest IFI-funded Industrial Park”, an extensive assessment of gender and other social conditions in the Caracol industrial plant co-financed by the IDB and US Agency for International Development; and (3) A database presenting information on all IFI post-earthquake investments in Haiti that allows users to navigate projects by sector and date to obtain detailed project information and links to further information (http://genderaction.org/publications/haitidatabase.xlsx).

These three outputs try to assess: How have several billions of US government taxpayer dollars for assistance to Haiti following the earthquake been spent? To what extent has this spending met promises to address gender and other social issues? How has the IDB and US government’s keystone Caracol industrial park project fared?

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. “Building Back by Half?”

Findings: Gender Action found that despite US government and IFI promises to promote gender equality, gender is only fractionally integrated into their post-earthquake projects as follows:

- Project Background Description: 14/24 (58%) of projects reviewed discussed gender inequalities and gender roles in the project rationale and background; 10 (42%) of projects ignored gender dimensions entirely.
- Project Consultations: More importantly, only 4/24 (17%) of projects explicitly mention consultations with women; 20/24 (83%) of projects do not mention gender roles in consultations.
- Implementation: 12/24 (half) of projects contained gender targets for project participation (usually aiming at 40 % of women beneficiaries), and/or having a ‘gender strategy’ to minimize risk of women’s exclusion.
- Monitoring & Evaluation: Although M&E is the most critical project stage, only 7/24 (29%) of projects collect any sex-disaggregated data, making it impossible for 71% of projects to gauge differential impacts on women and men.

Recommendations:

1. Consultations - Mandate and conduct sustained consultations with beneficiaries and gender-focused civil society organizations, including women before any proposed activities take place.
2. Participation - Mandate that all projects contain clear gender targets for participation of women in project activities.
3. M&E - Mandate that all IFI-funded and supported projects design and attain clear and rigorous gender-equal sex-disaggregated indicators to measure performance at all stages of the project cycle.
4. Accountability - Promptly and transparently publish on IFI websites (and communicate in forums accessible to ‘beneficiaries’ particularly in low-literacy communities) all project data, including detailed financial data (commitments, disbursements and sub-contractor information), project performance data (especially documenting impacts on ‘beneficiary’ communities using sex-disaggregated indicators) and any other relevant information to allow affected women and men to track, benefit from and not be harmed by a project’s implementation.
2.“Caracol Industrial Park” (CIP)

With close to $500 million committed to the CIP’s development as of early 2014, and over a dozen projects directly supporting it, CIP is the linchpin of Haiti’s development plan for the northern region. Most of the jobs it intends to create are in the low value-added apparel assembly, a sector that overwhelmingly employs young women. Gender Action, together with Haitian researchers, conducted fieldwork that “provides the first detailed view of life inside the country’s newest assembly complex” (Haiti Support Group. December 2013).

Findings:

- For the majority of local residents interviewed, life has changed neither for the better nor the worse, though some benefits (USAID-funded electricity and road paving) are appreciated.
- Only an estimated 2,000 women and men had gotten jobs in the CIP out of a projected 65,000 jobs (July 2013). They barely make ends meet in unstable jobs. They lack resources to spend in surrounding communities, a benefit the donors had promised.
- Apparel assembly workers face tremendous pressure to produce more and more for the 200 gourde disputed minimum wage (=US4.70), on which they cannot feed their families. They are not paid promised overwork wages. It takes at least $10 to feed one Haitian daily without protein. Caracol workers are going into debt to feed themselves and families. They report instances of verbal and occasional physical abuse.
- The 366 households who lost farm and grazing lands to CIP three years ago still await promised compensation. They each got $1,500, a small sum for precious land that provides Haitians with dignity, food and income. Their homes were suddenly bulldozed. Land compensation is challenged because only 5% of Haitian land is registered. In this context the government grabs and gives land to mostly multinational corporations such as those at Caracol. The land grabbed from 366 Caracol area households was among Haiti’s most fertile in a country with scarce fertile land.
- USAID built only a fraction of the promised number of houses and those built remain uninhabited possibly because the housing is unsuitable.
- Caracol has neither lived up to promises to provide stable well-paying jobs and substantial community benefits, nor has it empowered its majority female workforce.

Recommendations:

1. Inquiry - Call for a GAO inquiry into labor conditions including alleged wage theft at Haiti apparel factories including at Caracol to ensure companies’ comply with Haitian and ILO labor laws, as mandated by the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2008 (HOPE II). In June 2013 the GAO prepared a preliminary evaluation on Caracol but a deeper investigation is needed to hold the donors accountable to transparent and gender sensitive investing.
2. Consultations – Mandate sustained IDB and USAID consultations with local beneficiaries and civil society organizations, including women, before any proposed activities funded take place in or around CIP.

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Advocates for Cholera Victims Urge UN to Take Responsibility for Outbreak, U.S. Government to Promote Accountability

(PORT-AU-PRINE, January 6, 2014) – As Haiti prepares to mark the fourth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck in January 2010, attorneys at the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) and its sister organization in Boston, the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), are mindful of another tragic anniversary. Nine months after the earthquake, cholera broke out in Mirebalais when raw sewage was discharged from a UN peacekeeping base into a tributary of the Artibonite River. The outbreak has now killed 8,500 people and infected another 700,000. At least one person in Haiti dies of cholera every day. The UN estimated that it will cost $2.2 billion to eliminate cholera from the island of Hispaniola. To date, only 10% of the necessary funding has been secured.

In October 2013, after repeated attempts to seek redress from the UN, cholera victims filed a class action suit against the UN in federal court in New York. The victims have been seeking 1) water and sanitation infrastructure to eliminate cholera; 2) just compensation; and 3) a public admission of responsibility, as required by the UN’s international law and treaty obligations.

As the lawsuit proceeds, momentum for a just outcome is building. Speaking at the Martin Ennals Awards Ceremony in Geneva last October, where lead attorney Mario Joseph of the BAI was being honored, Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said she “stand[s] by the call that…those who suffered as a result of that cholera be provided with compensation.” Members of the U.S. Congress have repeatedly spoken up in favor of a just response. Most recently, sixty-five members signed a letter from Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) urging Samantha Power, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, to assure that the U.S. Mission to the UN “intensif[ies] efforts to find a just solution” to the outbreak in light of the UN’s “moral and legal obligation to redress the harm resulting from the actions of its peacekeeping operations.”

In September 2013, Haiti’s Prime Minister announced that his government believes the UN has “a moral responsibility” for the cholera epidemic. Civil society organizations throughout Haiti have expressed their outrage at the UN’s refusal to respond justly to its responsibility for cholera and are exerting increasing pressure on their government to take stronger action. In the United States, members of the Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG) have played a leading role in advocating for a more just UN response. They have been joined by scores of organizations and thousands of individuals from the Haitian-American, medical solidarity, and human rights communities.
As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a major donor of aid to Haiti, the United States must be a strong voice for justice. The BAI and IJDH call on the U.S. Government to demonstrate its leadership by urging the UN to provide a just response to victims. The UN has deprived cholera victims of access to any remedy and supporting the principle of immunity would require ignoring the equally important principle of access to a remedy. If the United States decides to take a position in the pending litigation, it must thus affirm the UN’s obligation to provide a mechanism for justice for people injured during its operations.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Surveys indicates earthquake victims who received housing subsidies under Haitian government’s housing program are still in crisis one year later

(PORT-AU-PRINCE, January 7, 2013)— As the Haitian government and foreign donors claim success in the closure of Haiti’s earthquake displacement camps and resettlement of families, results of a survey conducted by the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) indicate that earthquake victims who received cash rental subsidies under the Haitian government’s 16/6 resettlement plan face another housing crisis as their aid money runs out.

The survey found that in the short term, the cash rental assistance program, which provided up to $500 in rental assistance for one year or home building materials, succeeded in moving families out of displacement camps where they were living in unsafe and desperate conditions.

But according to Nicole Phillips, Staff Attorney at IJDH who directed the study, “a shocking number of aid recipients’ standard of living was lower in housing available under the 16/6 plan than before the earthquake, and has worsened since subsidies ended.”

- 51% of survey participants still live in the home to which they were relocated by the program. Out of those still living in the same home, 61% have not been able to pay rent.
- 56% reported that their most pressing need was housing, up from just 9% in 2012.
- 80% reported that their overall living situation in 2013 was worse than pre-earthquake.

Ms. Phillips said that the survey results also indicate that “earthquake victims are still struggling to survive, and their access to basic necessities like food is worse than before the earthquake.”

- 68% of survey participants reported that at least one family member went one or more days without food (51% went multiple days). Of those that reported not eating, 63% reported that their children went without eating.
- 37% ate worse than when living in the camps and 63% ate worse than before the earthquake.

BAI and IJDH urge the Haitian government to adopt a long-term and sustainable housing strategy for poor Haitians who are still displaced from the earthquake. According to Ms. Phillips, “the plan must provide affordable housing in addition to providing support services to help Haitians find employment so that they can provide for their families’ basic necessities in the short term and in the long-term.” A sustainable solution is one in which the government, and other services providers like the IOM and NGOs consult with displaced Haitians and empower them to create long lasting sustainable improvements in the area of housing and all other basic human needs. The survey results are available at http://www.ijdh.org/2014/01/topics/housing/fact-sheet-on-haitis-housing-crisis/#.UsrfAfRDsn4.
Haiti is experiencing the worst cholera epidemic the world has seen in recent history. The cause of the epidemic has been traced to insufficient waste management procedures at a Nepalese MINUSTAH base in Mirebalais, Haiti. It is commonly believed the Nepalese strain of the virus leaked into the Artibonite River used for drinking water, washing, cooking and other household chores in many parts of the country.

On December 11, 2011, the UN Secretary General endorsed a $2.27 billion, 10-year plan, the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Hispaniola. Supporting the plan are a consortium of international agencies and NGOs, led by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The plan details short, medium, and long term steps in three phases, each with specific targets, to move the country beyond the current crisis and dramatically improve Haiti’s water and sanitation infrastructure to prevent future catastrophes. Two years on, only 9.5% of these funds have been committed or pledged.

During the first two years of response to the cholera epidemic, only 2.5% of the emergency funds for cholera went through Haiti’s National Water and Sanitation Agency (DINEPA).

With inadequate funding available to DINEPA and the Haitian Ministry of Population and Public Health (MSPP) and others, the cholera epidemic continues to claim the lives of vulnerable Haitians. By December 2013, over 695,700 Haitians have contracted cholera.

Mennonite Central Committee urges the U.S. mission to the UN to:

1. Mobilize member states, non-traditional donors, and other international actors to fully fund the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera’s 10-year, three-phase, and $2.27 billion program.

2. Ensure the U.N. implements the recommendations made by the Independent Panel of Experts, to:
   a. Require sensitive medical cholera screening for U.N. personnel and emergency responders originating from cholera endemic areas
   b. Mandate the compulsory use of prophylactic antibiotics and/or cholera vaccines for U.N. personnel being assigned to emergencies
   c. Institute on-site treatment of all human waste at U.N. installations worldwide to neutralize dangerous pathogens such as vibrio cholerae before transport and disposal

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End forced evictions of internally displaced persons and address the long-term housing crisis

January 7, 2014

Four years after the earthquake, Haitians continue to face a housing crisis. In 2009, even before the earthquake, there was an estimated shortage of 300,000 homes. After the earthquake, that number increased to almost 500,000, leaving more than 1.5 million people homeless. Today, the number of people still living in tent camps is estimated at over 171,974, with an increasing number of Haitians moving back into substandard shelter, deemed unsafe by public authorities. Of the existing 306 internal displacement camps, only two are benefiting from official camp management services.

International assistance for housing has barely scratched the surface of the need. Of the $1.34 billion United States Government post-earthquake Reconstruction and Development efforts, only 9.2% has been spent to provide shelter to those left homeless.

Meanwhile, forced evictions by private landowners continue to occur on a regular basis, with support from the police and local officials. In many cases, no legal authorization or access to an appeals process has been given. Few and scattered efforts have been made to provide appropriate housing alternatives for the evicted populations, violating international human rights law and Article 22 of the Haitian Constitution.

The Haitian Right to Housing Collective, an advocacy platform of human rights organizations that includes a coalition of twenty-six grassroots groups and displacement camp committees, is calling on the Haitian government to:

(1) Designate land for housing construction
(2) Create one centralized government housing institution to coordinate and implement a social housing plan
(3) Solicit and allocate funding to realize this plan

In addition to supporting the Haitian Right to Housing Collective in their call, Mennonite Central Committee urges the U.S. government to publicly denounce all forced evictions in Haiti emphasizing rule of law and human rights, and to prioritize safe and affordable housing efforts in the remaining earthquake reconstruction funds.

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**Haiti—Instead of Lifting, Wages Keep Workers in Poverty**

January 7, 2014—Four years ago this weekend, a massive earthquake brought catastrophe to the lives and livelihoods of tens of thousands of Haitians. Despite an outpouring of promises and millions of dollars in investment designated to help workers get back on their feet, the majority of Haitians still live in poverty. Instead of supporting recovery, their meager incomes fund little more than continued privation.

Formal jobs, particularly those in the export sector, were presented as the panacea to Haiti’s economic woes and key to helping Haitian men and women move forward. Yet four years after the January 12 quake, the country has five minimum wages, divided by sector—none of them enough to cover basic expenses, said Molly McCoy, Americas regional program director for the Solidarity Center. “These should be good jobs, but workers are telling us that no one is getting by.”

The Collective of Textile Factory Unions Organization (KOSIT), an alliance of four Solidarity Center partner unions in the garment sector, is calling for a minimum wage that will enable workers to meet their basic needs.

Workers with export-related jobs such as garment assembly, a sector that largely employs women, say they often take home lower than the minimum wage because it is tied to complicated and unreachable quotas. And recent studies point to factories cheating workers out of earned wages, exacerbating the struggle to earn a decent living. Meanwhile, prices in the island nation, a net importer of food and fuel, continue to rise.

As the Solidarity Center reported in 2011 and continues to hear from workers in the capital, Port-au-Prince, workers cannot earn enough to feed and shelter their family, cover transportation to work and send their children to school.

“Haiti needs a single minimum wage that all workers are able to earn—one that people can actually live on,” said McCoy. “Exploitive jobs that mire working people in subsistence lives is the wrong combination for recovery, much less for building Haiti back better.”
MEDIA STATEMENT

January 7, 2014

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UUSC Calls on Congress to Ensure Justice in Haiti Aid

On January 12, 2010, the earthquake that struck Haiti left over 217,000 people dead, 200,000 people injured, and 115,000 homes destroyed. More than two million people were displaced and economic loss totaled $7.8 billion. Since immediately after the earthquake, UUSC has been working closely with grassroots partners on the ground in Haiti to ensure that recovery efforts are designed and implemented with respect for the human rights and dignity of all survivors. On the occasion of the four-year commemoration of the disaster, UUSC calls on the U.S. government to use its considerable aid and influence to ensure the same.

Specifically, UUSC urges Congress to do the following:

- **Increase Congressional oversight of aid.** UUSC urges the U.S. Senate to take swift action on the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act (H.R. 3509), which recently passed the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support. The bill will increase transparency and accountability for U.S. aid to Haiti. The government has an ethical obligation to the American people as well as the people of Haiti to account for how funds for earthquake recovery have been spent thus far and how they will be spent in the future.

- **Put the needs of the most vulnerable people first.** Government reporting should examine the degree to which recovery initiatives have made a positive impact in the lives of women, children, people with disabilities, low-income people who lost their homes in the earthquake, and other marginalized groups affected by the earthquake. U.S.-funded recovery projects should support food security and sovereignty, promote local procurement and living wages.
• **Respect the inherent worth and dignity of the Haitian people.** The United States must recognize that the people of Haiti can speak for themselves and are the rightful owners of their own future. The U.S. government should listen to Haitian grassroots leaders, including women, youth, and representatives of other marginalized groups. UUSC encourages policy makers to travel to the Haitian countryside to see alternative models for recovery and to use Haitian Creole translation to hear what is truly in the hearts of Haitian partners.

• **Invest funds in projects that respect people and the planet — and that actually work in the long term.** Priority should be given to initiatives that are both environmentally and economically sustainable. A significant percentage of U.S. government aid to Haiti has not yet been allocated. The need is great, and there are worthwhile solutions available.

By heeding the above recommendations, Congress will be fulfilling promises made to the people of Haiti and acting with the moral conscience that a true and just recovery in Haiti demands. UUSC and its supporters, partners, and allies look forward to engaging with Congress on these vital issues in 2014 and beyond.

**About UUSC**

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s (UUSC) is a human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. Its mission is to advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. In more than 20 countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC’s innovative approaches and measurable impact are grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights. Find out more about UUSC’s work at [uusc.org](http://uusc.org)
Four Years Post-Earthquake, Violence a Real Threat to Women

(Washington, D.C.) — January 12 marks the four-year commemoration of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated Haiti. Today, it’s clear that many Haitian women and girls continue to suffer.

Following is a statement by Elise Young, Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs at Women Thrive Worldwide:

“In the four years since the earthquake, gender-based violence has risen sharply throughout Haiti. Violence like rape and assaults is unfortunately common after natural disasters, but the earthquake highlighted a problem that has plagued the country for years.

“Gender-based violence is largely underreported in Haiti because of lack of response outlets and an effective judicial system, and yet Haitian grassroots groups estimate that as many as two-thirds of Haitian women and children experience violence in certain parts of the country.

“Children in poor, rural communities are especially vulnerable. As many as a 300,000 children are now engaged in the child domestic servitude practice known as ‘restaveks’—a number that has risen since the earthquake. Two-thirds of these children are girls.

“Far too many have felt enormous, heartbreaking loss as a result of both the earthquake and the continuing cycles of poverty throughout the country. We can’t sit back while even more suffer unending violence.

“The United States government has a chance to help women and girls in Haiti. Congress must work to swiftly pass the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA), which would focus resources and programs on preventing violence before it starts as well as addressing existing cases. House Members must also stand together in support of Congresswoman Frederica Wilson’s resolution on reducing gender-based violence in Haiti.

“Haiti’s women and girls desperately need this legislation to pass.”

Key statistics to know:

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• In a 2011 study of five Internally Displaced Persons camps in Haiti, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees found that 100 percent of the female participants had been directly involved in or witnessed transactional sex, often performed in order to feed their children.
• PotoFanm + Fi reports that adolescent girls are especially vulnerable to rape, representing more than 60 percent of reported cases.
• Of the 300,000 children reported to be in the restavek system, two-thirds are girls.
• More information about how the International Violence Against Women Act here.

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*Elise Young has travelled to Haiti more than a dozen times since the earthquake to meet with local women and advocates. She is a recognized expert on gender issues in Haiti and other developing countries.*

*Founded in 1998, Women Thrive Worldwide works to lift the voices of women in developing countries. For more information, visit us online at womenthrive.org and @WomenThrive.*