Haiti Progress Report 2011: Summary

On Jan. 12, 2010, a massive earthquake hit Haiti, killing 220,000 people, injuring 300,000, and severely damaging great swaths of the country. With more than half a million people still living in camps, Haitians and their new government have struggled to recover. Oxfam remains committed to the challenge. In 2011, Oxfam reached 532,000 people as it began to shift its focus from emergency needs to reconstruction initiatives. Haiti has a long way to go, and so do all of us who support Haitians in the enormous challenge of rebuilding their country.

**Water, sanitation, and public health**

Oxfam helped with Haitian authorities and partners to adapt to Haiti's changing water, sanitation, and public health needs. Oxfam continued work in 113 camps, providing clean water systems, building latrines, and promoting public health initiatives, and transitioned into communities to help them implement more permanent solutions for their future.

**In 2011, Oxfam has …**

- Rehabilitated 13 water pumps, dug 14 new wells, and built 1,554 family latrines to reach 6,825 beneficiaries in Petit-Goave, Grand-Goave, and Gressier, three coastal communities where basic services are still lacking, and in Léogâne.
- Distributed 3,564 water filters in Léogâne and the greater Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Delmas, ensuring that clean drinking water was available for more than 19,000 people.
- Conducted more than 40,000 tent-to-tent visits to ensure a basic level of understanding about how to maintain a safe environment and avoid the spread of disease.
- Trained 106 local organizations to conduct public health education campaigns in Port-au-Prince, Petit-Goave, Grand-Goave, and Gressier. In the greater Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Delmas, 2,150 children in schools were trained in good hygiene practices.
- Repaired 160 wells across the northern province of Artibonite and built one kilometer (.6 mile) of water channels in Dessources and Grande Rivièrè, which, like much of Haiti, lack municipal water systems.
- Installed 1.6 kilometers (nearly one mile) of new underground piping to bring clean drinking water to 9,680 residents of Corail camp, one of the largest for displaced people.
• Installed a well, pump, piping, and a tank to provide water to three water collection points in Santo 17 camp, in Croix-des-Bouquets, reaching 2,000 inhabitants. Oxfam also replaced a generator powering the system with solar panels to reduce fuel costs for families.

• Given 1,064 women grants and literacy and budgeting training for their businesses in greater Port-au-Prince and the coastal town of Miragoane.

• Begun helping farmers—many of them women—in Nippes develop 4,758 small plots of land on which they can raise trees, crops, fruit, and livestock together to maximize productivity and land use.

Economic development and job creation

Haitians have repeatedly identified job creation as their number one post-earthquake priority, so that they can rebuild their lives without having to rely on aid. Oxfam has worked with communities on a range of initiatives to support entrepreneurs, small businesses, and farmers.

In 2011, Oxfam has …

• Distributed 92 cash grants of between $1,000 and $10,000 to small businesses in Carrefour Feuilles, helping handicraft producers, street traders, hairdressers, pharmacists, and urban farmers to expand their businesses.

• Initiated a safety net program for 109 families in Croix-des-Bouquets and Corail camp through which a disabled family member could access training and support to start a small business, such as selling used clothes or cooking takeaway food, or could buy tools to make it easier to find work as a laborer.

• Helped 170 small businesses to grow in Corail and Croix-des-Bouquets by investing grants of between $500 and $12,500 in bakeries, pharmacies, and grocery stores, on the condition that each business took on one additional employee.

• Started a waste clearing program with 36 schools in Delmas and Léogâne. Plastic bottles, wood, and metal are cleaned up and recycled for making walls, raised beds, and compost bins used in creating small urban vegetable gardens.

• Partnered with Disaster Waste Recovery (DWR), a nonprofit organization specializing in solid waste management in post-disaster situations, employing 130,000 people in cash-for-work programs to clean camps.

Rebuilding communities

The earthquake destroyed 105,000 homes, damaged 208,000, and created approximately 10 million cubic meters (350 million cubic feet) of rubble. Oxfam is working to help people rebuild their communities by clearing roads and living areas and protecting against future disasters.

In 2011, Oxfam has …

• Implemented a rubble clearance program in Carrefour Feuilles with the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Collection Division, using heavy machinery and hiring 900 local people to help clear the roads of debris.

• Partnered with Disaster Waste Recovery (DWR), a nonprofit organization specializing in solid waste management in post-disaster situations, employing 130,000 people in cash-for-work programs to clean camps.
The devastating earthquake that hit Haiti two years ago took the life of Esline Belcombe's husband, leaving her widowed and facing the enormous responsibility of raising her new baby on her own. But the one thing the disaster couldn't rob Belcombe of was her entrepreneurial drive; today, that drive is helping her build a stronger future for herself and other young people around her.

With Oxfam's help, Belcombe has started a restaurant in Corail camp—once a barren expanse of white tents that are slowly being replaced by small houses and businesses. One of them belongs to Belcombe, 25, who lives in the camp with her mother and young daughter.

The support she received from Oxfam—10,000 Haitian dollars (about $1,238), part loan, part grant—has allowed her to rent one of the small houses to convert into a restaurant and stock it. By day, contractors are still putting the finishing touches on the establishment, but when they clear out in the evening, Belcombe is open for business. Barbecued food and song—Belcombe is a singer—are among the offerings.

"People come here for the ambience," said Belcombe. "People are even coming from elsewhere."

The goal of Oxfam's livelihoods program is to support enterprises with good business plans and the ability to employ at least two local people. Belcombe has hired five.

"I hope to employ others when my business expands," she said. "There are no jobs around here so it is good to be able to offer young people some work."

Safety and protection

Families living in poverty in Haiti often face threats to their safety and well-being. Oxfam works with vulnerable people to make sure their voices are heard as they strive to make their communities safer.

In 2011, Oxfam has …

- Established telephone hotlines and notice boards in camps for residents to ask questions and raise concerns.
- Worked with communities in Croix-des-Bouquets to address issues of domestic and gender-based violence.
- Facilitated negotiations between people in camps and the landowners, often involving the local authorities and the International Office for Migration (IOM), to find short-term solutions to camp evictions. So far, 15 extensions of occupation have been agreed.
- Provided information and guidance to women about how to protect their rights and pursue opportunities as entrepreneurs. A new women's network was just formed in Carrefour Feuilles with seven women's organizations starting to work together.
- Built an orphanage for 100 children and an adjacent public primary school for 400 children in Croix-des-Bouquets.

Advocacy and campaigning

Oxfam campaigns to ensure that the voices of poor and marginalized people are heard. We leverage our experience on the ground to help shape the decisions that affect the Haitian people.

In 2011, Oxfam has …

- Worked with the local Haitian media to communicate to camp residents Oxfam's plans for phasing out of the camps.
- Lobbied the government of Haiti to ensure that resettlement plans include provisions for job creation, guarantee the rights of displaced people, and allow communities to participate in decision making.
- Produced the report “Planting Now: Agricultural challenges and opportunities for Haiti's reconstruction,” which the organization used in a wide range of lobbying activities in 2011, to persuade the government and international donors to increase spending on the agricultural component of the Haiti Reconstruction Plan from 3 to 9 percent.
- Advocated for international donors to prioritize Haiti's reconstruction, fulfill their pledges, and find ways to engage Haiti's people as equal partners in the transformation of their country.

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Tackling cholera

Cholera broke out in Haiti in October 2010 and still poses a serious threat to Haitians, but the disease is preventable through education, access to clean water, and proper waste disposal. Oxfam has focused on public health campaigns and finding innovative ways to ensure access to clean water.

In 2011, Oxfam has ...

- Worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the rural areas of northern Haiti near Cap Hatien to build isolation centers and incinerators, and to ensure that water supplies to treatment centers are working effectively.
- Led community mobilization campaigns in Carrefour Feuilles, a neighborhood of greater Port-au-Prince, to raise awareness of cholera risks and prevention.
- Installed 60 chlorine dispensers in 30 villages, providing communities with the means to disinfect their drinking water in the rural area of Nippes, where many must rely on contaminated rivers for water and where medical care is difficult to access. Oxfam also rehabilitated the water systems of four towns, adding a simple chlorinator to each to ensure that piped water was safe to drink. This work benefited 20,000 people.

How money was spent, 2010–2011

Oxfam raised approximately $106 million for its three-year earthquake response program. By the end of 2011, Oxfam will have spent approximately $96 million of that money with plans to use the rest in the coming year.

The biggest focus of Oxfam’s spending over the past two years has been on relief supplies and materials, with $31 million spent on emergency water, sanitation, and public health activities; $16 million to help people gain food security to re-establish their livelihoods; and $5 million to provide shelter and distribute non-food items, such as hygiene kits.

Oxfam spent $20 million on logistics, making sure that vital supplies and equipment—such as plastic sheeting, wooden structures for latrines, and vehicles—were purchased, transported, and stored safely in warehouses before distribution. Oxfam spent another $10 million on other program activities, including disaster risk reduction, advocacy, campaigning, and communications activities.

Finally, Oxfam spent $14 million on management support, mainly local but also from its offices around the world, to carry out monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning exercises that have helped the organization learn from the past two years.

For its cholera response in Haiti, Oxfam received additional funds, which are separate from those reported here.

In 2011, Oxfam reached 532,000 beneficiaries in the following areas of work:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>BENEFICIARIES PER SECTOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation, and public health</td>
<td>518,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency food and livelihoods</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance and protection</td>
<td>9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>532,000</strong></td>
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What is Oxfam?

Oxfam is an international confederation of 15 organizations working together in 98 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. To learn more, visit oxfam.org.