

Twelve months since Haiti earthquake (updated on 12 Jan 2011)

It's a year since a massive earthquake devastated the Caribbean island of Haiti on 12 January 2010. CEDAR joined hands with churches worldwide to support Integral Alliance partners and Haiti's churches to carry out relief and rehabilitation programmes, helping the people of Haiti recover from the trauma of such devastating earthquake.

Just HK\$1,000 saved Magiline Jean-Simon's life



Magiline earns a living on the streets of Haiti as hawker

That was the sum the mother-of-two received from Integral after the quake turned her existence upside down. A piece of wood from a collapsing building hit the 28-year-old in the face and left her partially blinded. The cash she received has provided the means to feed her children. 'I believe I'm in God's hands and my faith is helping me a lot. I'm still alive, my children have been protected, I'm protected. I have to thank God for everything.'

Benito gets the tools to make a fresh start



Benito Saint Surin lost his livelihood but has been helped to start afresh.

When the quake destroyed Benito Saint-Surin's home, he also lost his livelihood. He used to run a small shop selling food and drinks from his house but lost all his stock as the walls came crashing down. A year on and Benito, his wife and three children, are adapting to a new life with Integral's help - working the land. He has been given seeds and tools to grow food and his crops are flourishing, making him feel positive about the future: 'Thank you, we are happy,' he said.

Happy new school year for quake students



Temporary classrooms provided by Integral enable schools to restart.

Life in the mountains around Leogane was hard before the earthquake. After the quake, the area received no aid until Integral relief teams turned up. One

priority that became apparent was the need to rebuild schools that had been destroyed. Integral is working with school's staff to rebuild and get education restarted, which meant initially clearing the rubble and then erecting temporary tented classrooms. 'They came in when the land was covered in rubble, bulldozed it and cleared it, gave us a temporary school. They helped us with tools so we could do some clearing; they gave us toys and equipment for the children.'

Clubs help children adjust to quake aftermath



Children being taught hygiene awareness at a children's club.

Helping children cope with the aftermath of the disaster has been an important part of Integral's work. More than 70 children's clubs are educating children about good hygiene, a vital consideration in a post-quake environment where water and sanitation infrastructure is badly damaged and the risk of disease is high, as the recent cholera outbreak has shown. They also go some ways to helping youngsters find a sense of normality amid the chaos of the earthquake aftermath.

How Integral is helping Haiti recover



François, who volunteers for Integral local partner, is a lifeline to mother-of-six Murielle, who lost her husband, her home and her livelihood in the earthquake: She said, 'He is like a brother to me. He protects me. I know I can depend on him.'

Integral member agencies have been working together to help Haiti people recover from the earthquake. We are working with partners and local churches to provide emergency aid, such as materials to build shelters, hygiene kits, clean water supply, as well as making cash distributions, immediately after the disaster. Some of them also provided vital medical treatment to the injured.

After the emergency phase, attention turned to the longer term:

- Disasters Prevention
 - Train local builders in construction techniques and raising awareness in communities about being prepared for when the next disaster strikes. In all 80,000 people will benefit.
 - Train local school staff on how to respond to disasters.
- Education
 - Build transitional schools benefitting nearly 20,000 children.
 - Implement an accelerated learning programme for children who missed school.
- Shelter
 - Building three new schools which will act as community hurricane and earthquake shelters, benefitting 4,000 children.

- Some 3,000 people will benefit from 500 disaster resistant transitional houses that can be extended to provide permanent shelter.
- Health and Sanitation
 - Provide healthcare support, particularly to children.
 - Water and sanitation is being restored, with 10,000 school children benefitting from the construction of hundreds of emergency toilets, as well as 2,000 households who have had chlorination systems.
- Livelihood
 - Around 400 Haitians have received cash to re-start businesses and so will 400 more in the coming months.
 - 1,500 farmers have received tools and seeds, while 3,600 people have benefitted from cash-for-work schemes, such as clearing rubble.