



HAWG

Haiti Advocacy Working Group

Ayiti Leve Kanpe

A Haiti Advocacy Working Group Members Photo and Story Exhibit

MARCH 28 - 30, 2011

Washington, DC



Photo by Ezra Millstein
Habitat for Humanity
Cabaret, Haiti

Eight year-old Jeff Cybaptiste stands in front of his family's Habitat house, which withstood the earthquake of January 12th. It is one of 183 Habitat homes in the area, which were the closest Habitat houses to the epicenter of the earthquake. Initial reports indicate that only eight of these homes sustained damage; by comparison, it is estimated that 8,000 non-Habitat homes were destroyed in the surrounding areas.

The Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG)

ActionAid USA



Lambi Fund



UUSC



Partners In Health



Church World Service



What is the HAWG?

The Haiti Advocacy Working Group was formed shortly after the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake to coordinate advocacy efforts for effective and just disaster relief, reconstruction and long-term U.S. development policy toward Haiti. Composed of more than 30 diverse groups representing a wide cross-section of the NGO community, the HAWG has focused on the following priority areas:

- Promoting Haitian civil society inclusion and leadership in relief and reconstruction
- Prioritizing rural and agricultural development needs
- Encouraging local procurement and decentralization of aid
- Supporting fair immigration policy for Haitians
- Raising awareness on gender and women's issues
- Ensuring support through U.S. and multilateral aid commitments and full debt relief
- Promoting safe, sanitary and adequate shelter

Who is the HAWG?

ActionAid USA
 American Friends Service Committee
 American Jewish World Service
 Bread for the World
 Center for Economic and Policy Research
 Center for Human Rights and Global Justice
 at New York University School of Law
 Church World Service
 Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti
 Fonkoze USA
 Foreign Policy in Focus
 Gender Action
 Grassroots International
 Groundswell International
 Habitat for Humanity
 Haiti Reborn/Quixote Center
 Haiti Support Group
 Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
 Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti
 Institute for Research in Socioeconomic and
 Public Policy
 International Rescue Committee

Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
 Jubilee USA Network
 Lambi Fund of Haiti
 Latin American and Caribbean Community Center
 Latin America Working Group
 Lutheran World Relief
 MADRE
 Mennonite Central Committee U.S. -
 Washington Office
 National Lawyers Guild - Environmental
 Justice Committee
 Outreach International
 Oxfam America
 Partners In Health
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for
 Justice and Human Rights
 TransAfrica Forum
 United Methodist Church, General Board of
 Church and Society
 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
 Washington Office on Latin America

Ayiti Leve Kanpe

(Haiti will Rise)

Rayburn Foyer Room
Washington, DC

MARCH 28 - 30, 2011

Photo and Story Exhibit

More than one year after the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010, conditions in Haiti remain dire. Today there are approximately 800,000 displaced Haitians and the lack of food, clean water, and other necessities is an ongoing crisis throughout the country. The cholera epidemic has claimed the lives of more than 4,672 Haitians and hospitalized 252,640 others. This photo and story exhibition is a commemorative piece that captures the ongoing plight of Haitians, their spirit of perseverance, and how grassroots and other civil society leaders are striving to create a more equitable Haiti. The images and stories comprised in this exhibition are from member organizations of the Haiti Advocacy Working Group and their Haitian grassroots partners.



Photo by Nancy Farese

International Rescue Committee. Children at play in an IDP Camp February 24, 2010.



Photo by Ben Depp

Copyright Mennonite Central Committee. (1/20/2010) In spite of the destruction, Haitians are beginning to rebuild their lives. Port Au Prince, Haiti.



Photo by Ezra Millstein

Habitat for Humanity International, Port-au-Prince, Haiti (2/15/10). A man collects broken pieces of the pews in Haiti's National Cathedral, to use for firewood. The building was destroyed by the January 12th earthquake.



Photo by Ami Vitale

Oxfam America. On the eve of a feast for the town's patron saint, a rara procession winds through the streets of Saint Michel in a rural region that struggled to absorb more than 11,000 people displaced by the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.



Photo by Ezra Millstein

Habitat for Humanity International, Petionville, Haiti (2/12/10). A woman participates in a prayer vigil in the center of a tent city in Place St. Pierre, marking one month since the devastating earthquake of January 12th.

Injustices of Cholera: Reflections from the Saint Marc Prison

By Beatrice Lindstrom, Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network Fellow

We're led through the courtyard past the cell where the women are held, the sun beating down around us. I catch glimpses of people sitting on turned-over buckets, the only "furniture" in the cells, peering back at us through thick metal bars. I don't yet know what proper prison etiquette is: do I greet them with a smile to acknowledge their humanity, or does this disregard the horror of their situation?

The cells are brutally overcrowded: this one holds 18 prisoners in a space 8 ft by 10 ft, a worst-case scenario for rapid spread of cholera. It's not until I get home that I let my mind ponder the details of the everyday reality of living in indefinite confinement with 17 other people in a space the size of my small kitchen.

Eighty percent of prisoners in Haiti have never been convicted of a crime, and I wonder what set of misfortunes caused these women to end up here.

There are 411 prisoners in the Saint Marc prison, living in about 20 cells. Cholera was first reported here last week, and now there are 24 suspected cases.

A prison officer shows us the makeshift cholera ward, where those who have fallen ill are kept in quarantine in the far corner of the prison. The first cell holds those who are under observation. They are separated from those with full-blown symptoms, who lie in a different cell on beds with holes cut out of them and buckets underneath. They look tired, exhausted, lifeless. IV rehydration bags provided by Partners In Health are suspended from the ceiling, and a nurse, another inmate who volunteered to look after the sick, sits at the front of the room. I don't know if she has professional training, but at least she's there.

As one of its key cholera strategies, Haiti's Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) has developed a communication campaign that includes a series of posters that demonstrate various ways to prevent cholera. Colorful cartoons illustrate the importance of washing fruits and vegetables with treated water and disposing of fecal matter and vomit in latrines. These posters hang on the walls of the prison courtyard, but it's hard to see what purpose they serve here other than to emphasize the stark gap between that which is needed to prevent cholera, and the government's neglect to provide it.

Here, prisoners are forced to defecate in buckets in their cells. I wonder if these are the same buckets that serve as their chairs.

The prison officer explains to us that they have no clean water. The water that is pumped up in the courtyard comes from the Artibonite River, the source of the cholera virus. They use purification tablets to treat it, which makes it clean enough to bathe in without getting skin rashes, but not safe enough to drink.

Clean water and sanitation are the two fairly simple measures that prevent cholera; in Haitian prisons, neither is available.

In the prison office, which smells unmistakably of chlorine, an old blackboard displays the prison inventory. There are 379 men and 18 women. 192 of the men and 6 of the women are serving out their sentences. The other half of these people are held in pre-trial detention and have never been convicted of a crime.

White scratchy letters at the bottom of the board tells us there has been one death. They tell us he fell sick from cholera and allegedly refused treatment. His pre-trial detention turned into a death sentence.

Within the walls of the prison, the government's complete disregard for human life is undeniable and inexcusable. Whatever magnitude and resource challenges may excuse the failure to contain cholera outside the prison are obsolete here, in this confined space under complete state control.

In the oppressive heat, my anger simmers. The state, that took these people into its custody without due process or a means to challenge their detention, has a heightened responsibility to ensure their health and safety. But instead, prisoners are fed contaminated water at the hands of the state, and no investments have been made into even the most basic infrastructure that ensures sanitation and protects the dignity of those imprisoned. As of November 20, 19 prisoners have died of cholera in four prisons around Haiti. Many of them had never had a trial, and cholera is the only sentence they have received.



Photo by Ezra Millstein

Habitat for Humanity International CARREFOUR, HAITI (2/9/10). Five year-old Jonas Joseph, his eight year-old sister Marie and 12 year-old brother Jeff are silhouetted against the wall of a tent, in the midst of a tent city that serves as a temporary home for 350 families.



Photo Credit Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

An elderly woman is assisted by her daughter to walk to her tent in the crowded Automeca camp in Port-au-Prince, July 2010. Automeca camp is located on the privately owned lot of a now rubble filled car dealership.



Photo Credit Lambi Fund - Community Ox-Plow Service

Lambi Fund partnered with a local organization in Southern Haiti to help launch a community ox-plow service. This allows community members to plow their fields in a fraction of the time affordably- increasing efficiency and overall crop production.



Photo Credit ActionAid USA

Living in a remote place such as Kapable makes life difficult for Thonyde (35) and her five children. She and her family grow fruit and vegetables on the slopes and fields around her house.



Photo by Elizabeth Whelan

Fields of Stone. Partners In Health. Haiti was once a self-sufficient producer of many foods including rice, importing little to none of the food consumed by its population every year. Then, in the eighties, the IMF and the US government pressured Haiti to open its market to imported US rice, subsidized so heavily that it sells for less than the cost of production.



Photo by Salena Tramel

Grassroots International. Earthquake survivors learning to work the land after migrating to the North in the wake of the disaster with PAPDA (Haitian Platform to Advocate for Alternative Development).



Photo by Evan Abramson
American Jewish World Service. Orphans from the Foyer Marie Reine des Apostres orphanage in Leogane where Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico Haitiana (MUDHA) set up their base camp amid the ruins.



Photo by Christian Fuchs
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA. A blind musician plays for displaced children outside the ruins of the National Cathedral, providing them with a brief diversion from the stress of camp life May 1, 2010.

Roselene Pierre-Louis – Locadi, Jacmel

By Linda Boucard, Communications Director, Fonkoze USA, March 2010



At 56, anyone would understand why Roselene could just give up. She worked all her life to accumulate a few, critical assets, only to see them destroyed in less than one minute. "I was proud of my small home, and it was well covered."

Referring to the hurricanes of 2008, Roselene said, "when 2009 came and went with no big storms, it was a big relief." Roselene was one of the Fonkoze clients who lost her business, garden, and livestock in the hurricanes, and benefitted from Fonkoze's Kredi Siklon program (Hurricane Credit) launched at the time to recapitalize members. "After the hurricanes, I worked harder than ever, and it felt good, Fonkoze helped me to regain my confidence and start over again."

Roselene has 9 children ranging from ages 12 to 35, and a total of 10 grandchildren. She does not have a husband and presently takes care of 3 of her own children and 4 grandchildren. Her children and grandchildren are her pride and joy, and she devotes her time making sure they get an education. Her courage is what keeps them all going, "I have faced many hardships in my life; the earthquake is the worst because it has damaged us in every way."

Again, Roselene will have to start over, she says her spirit is not broken, she is still surrounded by the love of her children and she is still a client of Fonkoze. "My credit agent came to see me a couple of days after the quake, I knew he had lost his home as well, but he was there reassuring me that we will make it." That, she said is also a big reason she will not give up. Roselene's depot where she keeps her commerce near the open market was ransacked and she lost most of her stock, "I had some things at my home, and I have my Fonkoze bank account. I am starting again with the little merchandize I have left."

Roselene will put her business and life back in place. She finds strength because she knows she is a "member of a group of women who have been given second chances, but with Fonkoze, we keep getting these chances whenever we think all is lost."



Photos by Darcy Kiefel for Fonkoze
Roselene with son above, and with her solidarity group.



Photo by Melissa Winkler

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) Distribution of hygiene kits and personal and household supplies to women and girls living in camps and settlements.



Photo by Evan Abramson

American Jewish World Service. At an all-women's camp just down the road from Leogane, Movimiento de Mujeres Dominicano Haitiana (MUDHA) runs a workshop for helping to build self esteem among women living in the camp.



Photo by Christian Fuchs
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

Two brothers haul water back to their tent Parc Calofer camp, once a public soccer field, in Port au Prince, April 30, 2010

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