

Haiti

On the road to recovery

Justin Rilisksins is a carpenter, working here in his shop in Gressier, Haiti. He and his family live in a model resettlement village.

January 12, 2015 marks five years since a 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti's capital city, claimed 230,000 lives and left at least 1.5 million people homeless.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, in collaboration with ecumenical and mission partners, has helped provide hope to the earthquake survivors by working with local Haitian partners in laying the foundations needed—in healthcare, education, housing and agriculture—to create lasting change. With your generous support:

- 124,780 benefited from a community-based primary health care program
- 59,724 patients received health care from the rebuilt Holy Cross Hospital
- 22,403 families received tools, seeds and other agricultural support

- 3,425 families are living in newly built, safe homes
- 1,200 disabled people were assisted with a program of economic assistance, help in setting up small businesses and rebuilding their homes
- 46 schools were repaired or rebuilt
- 4 eco-villages—sustainable farming communities—were constructed



Rose Marie Jean Baptiste (left) sells shoes in the market in Les Palmes, a rural village in southern Haiti.

Brief overview of response

Healthcare

Renovated Holy Cross Hospital (Hospital St. Croix), completed the perimeter wall around the compound for security, and rebuilt the nursing school

Helped rebuild a sustainable community health and rural development system by improving the knowledge and skill set of community based advocates, strengthening institutional linkages with local health partners for better program delivery, and fostering a new generation of community health workers

Supported people with disabilities and their families through counseling and psychosocial support, holding forums on integrating people with disabilities into church and society, and providing scholarships for vocational and livelihood training

Education

Supported school construction projects to aid in the long-term reconstruction, recovery and development of a learning program to support the revitalization of the educational system following the earthquake

The rebuilt durable buildings were compliant with the highest safety standards against natural disasters and created new opportunities for local employment and community participation through each construction



Photo by Aaron Tate CWS

In Haitian culture, a disability was long seen as a curse, but some of the old superstitions died out because so many were injured in the earthquake.



Photo by Aaron Tate CWS

Rebuilding damaged or destroyed schools has been a priority to help with the education of children.

Housing

Provided temporary and permanent housing to earthquake-affected families; support enabled a local Haitian company to develop construction wood framed earthquake-resistant houses, encouraged homeowners and local community organizations to participate in the building of new homes, and to work cooperatively with the municipal government and civil society groups

Agriculture and Food Security

Addressed some of the root causes of rural food insecurity and stimulated the agricultural production of staple foods in rural Haiti

Trained farmers in new agricultural techniques related to soil fertility and conservation; provided renewable food sources, through locally purchased seeds to strengthen the local economy and ensure the seeds would reproduce themselves in their native environment

Created eco-villages that allow displaced families to live in the homes, while contributing to the agricultural success of the community



Photo by Paul Jeffrey, ACT!

One of several communities with new earthquake resistant homes that have been built in Haiti. The houses represent an intentional effort to “build back better.”

A woman and her son (below) plant beans. Eco-villages built collaboratively with MPP enable families to be self-sufficient.



Photo by Paul Jeffrey, ACT!