



## CANADIAN LUTHERANS RESPOND TO THE HAITI CRISIS DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE ACT ALLIANCE

*January 22, 2010, Winnipeg* – As of 9:00 AM this morning, supporters of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) have donated over \$210,000 to the agency's appeal for funds to assist the people of Haiti. The appeal was launched on January 13, one day after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused catastrophic damage in the capital city of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas.

Funds raised by CLWR are being used to support the work of its partners, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, who are on the ground in Haiti to address immediate needs and assess how best to address long-term recovery.

Immediate relief being provided by ACT includes a water purification system that is providing 10,000 homeless Haitians with crystal clear drinking water. The "water factory" is based in the Belair neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince. The water coming from these taps is the first clean water these people have had since the earthquake.

Several shipments of equipment have been sent to homeless families in Jacmel, on Haiti's southern coast, where the ACT Alliance is distributing tonnes of relief materials, including four million water purification tablets, jerry cans, blankets and enough healthcare kits to last 10,000 people three months. The ACT Alliance is also involved in the psycho-social treatment of the traumatized population.

The ACT Alliance is an international ecumenical coalition of churches and church-based relief and development agencies based in Geneva. Both CLWR and the LWF (also Geneva-based) are members of the ACT Alliance. The LWF is playing a lead role in coordinating the ACT Alliance response in Haiti.

Canadian Churches in Action (CCA), a group of nine Canadian churches and church-based international development and relief agencies, is preparing a request to the Government of Canada for additional support from the \$50 million it has set aside for organizations assisting Haiti. A similar request is being prepared for funds available from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation.

CLWR continues to accept donations for its Haiti Appeal. Donations can be made online ([www.clwr.org/donate](http://www.clwr.org/donate)), by phone (1.800.661.2597 or 204.694.5602) or by cheques made payable to CLWR and mailed to CLWR, 302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6.

Members of the media are welcome to reprint photos being supplied by the ACT Alliance. For more information contact Brian Lorch, Interim CLWR Communications Director, at 204.631.0504.

\* \* \*

*CLWR carries out international emergency relief, development programming, refugee resettlement and alternative trade merchandising on behalf of the two major Lutheran church bodies in Canada*

*(the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Lutheran Church–Canada) and Canadians of goodwill. As a registered not for profit agency, funding comes through donations and through agreements with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). CLWR is a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, the Lutheran World Federation and Action by Churches Together (ACT). The agency's head office is located in Winnipeg, with regional offices in Vancouver, Toronto, Santa Cruz (Bolivia) and Lima (Peru)*