



**Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief®**

Christian Service in Relief, Disaster, Settlement and Development

## **Haiti Situation Report Deadline for Matching Federal Dollars Closes In**

Winnipeg, February 10, 2010 – The latest Haiti situation report from the ACT Alliance was released this morning from Geneva. The report includes a summary of the activity of the 12 ACT Alliance members who are on the ground in Haiti providing assistance. Below are two sections excerpted from this report. One summarizes the work of Lutheran World Federation while the other provides a general update on conditions in Haiti.

CLWR supporters are reminded that in order to qualify for federal matching dollars, donations to the CLWR Appeal for Haiti must be received and deposited by CLWR no later than Friday, February 12.

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### **Lutheran World Federation /Department for World Services**

LWF is now scaling up to enter the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases. LWF has been providing assistance to the affected communities, but also to internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in small camps. The main assistance carried out so far was related to water and sanitation, food, health, water and temporary shelter. The next activities include education, water and sanitation and hygiene, provisional and permanent shelter, agriculture recovery (livelihoods) and psychosocial work. Shelter will be provided to 15,000 families in four rural communes 35km west of Port-au-Prince, in the form of plastic sheeting and tents. Transitional shelters (in line with the UN shelter cluster regulations) to combat the upcoming rainy season include corrugated iron sheet roofing and steel/wooden/bamboo frames wrapped in plastic sheeting.

Permanent shelter is planned for the longer term recovery (six to 18 months). Families will build more permanent structures out of the existing material through Cash for Work programs, with the assistance of local masons/carpenters and the use of blocks and concrete bases. Pricing and design is being coordinated with other ACT Alliance members. The same families in the Leogane area will receive support for water and sanitation, education, and longer term agriculture recovery.

Many national staff have been hired but because of human losses and current needs for employment, it is difficult to find all the skilled staff required. LWF has also brought in staff from other country programs.

### **General situation:**

According to UN OCHA situation report 19, the current estimated number of deaths is 212,000 people and injured is more than 300,000 people. More than 1.2 million people are living in spontaneous settlements and 467,701 have left Port-au-Prince, mostly to the Artibonite and Centre departments.

According to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shelter remains a priority as the needs for all displaced are far from being met. Other shelter-related issues are: the lack of space to accommodate all the displaced, the upcoming rainy season and the risk that public spaces become permanent slums once current shelters are upgraded to meet transition needs. The removal of rubble will clear land and make more space available. For these reasons, advice has been given that assistance for families should, as far as possible, be provided at the site of their houses. This will also ease the reconstruction of houses

With the rainy season expected to start soon, farmers will urgently need seeds, tools and fertilizers to start planting in March to benefit from spring planting season which, according to UN OCHA, accounts for 60% of Haiti's agricultural production.

The Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF and WHO, began an immunization campaign on 2 February, targeting 530,000 children under the age of seven. Psychosocial needs remain important. Sanitation remains a major challenge with less than 5% of the needs for latrines being met, the UN OCHA report states.

In-depth evaluation of school buildings in the affected areas is currently being undertaken by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Work. A solution to the problem of lack of school buildings will be planned with the UN education cluster for temporary infrastructure. School attendance in non-affected areas is currently low and communications campaigns are planned to encourage the return to school.