



# NEGLECT IN THE ENCAMPMENTS: HAITI'S SECOND-WAVE HUMANITARIAN DISASTER



Institute for  
Justice &  
Democracy  
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**LAMP** for **HAITI**  
SHINING A LIGHT IN HAITI'S DARKEST PLACES

THE EARLE MACK SCHOOL OF LAW  
AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY

LAWYERS' EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE NETWORK



# **NEGLECT IN THE ENCAMPMENTS: HAITI'S SECOND-WAVE HUMANITARIAN DISASTER**

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**The LAMP for Haiti Foundation  
The Drexel Haiti Justice Project at The Earle Mack School of Law  
Bureau des Avocats Internationaux  
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti  
Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network**

## **Neglect in the Encampments: Haiti's Second-Wave Humanitarian Disaster**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Two months after Haiti's devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake, and despite a massive international mobilization of aid, hundreds of thousands of earthquake survivors live without basic human necessities, especially shelter, water, food and medical care. These violations of Haitians' economic and social human rights have been widely reported in the press, but the problem persists. Earthquake survivors continue to suffer and die because aid is not reaching those in need. Experts predict a second catastrophe as the impending rainy season combined with poor sanitation, overcrowded and leaky housing, and inadequate food and medicine create epidemics of disease.

Two organizations that work with Haiti's poor, the U.S.-based LAMP for Haiti and the Port-au-Prince based *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI), undertook to measure the difference between the aid promised to Haiti and the aid actually received on the streets of Port-au-Prince and nearby cities. They collected data about the current living conditions of earthquake survivors, then recruited researchers, statisticians, law students and lawyers who processed the data and generated the current report.

The two surveys used different methodologies. LAMP sent a team of U.S.-based investigators, who worked with Haitian student volunteers to conduct intensive interviews with 90 families in six different Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps from February 22-25, 2010. The BAI asked Haitian grassroots organizations to conduct more streamlined interviews with members of their communities and received information from 4,528 families in six *communes* (municipalities) the week of February 15.

The information collected from both surveys demonstrates that far too many earthquake victims have not received the basic aid necessary to sustain human life:

- Food deliveries have been sporadic, infrequent, and apparently arbitrary;
- Less than a quarter of people in IDP camps have enclosed, waterproof housing;
- Sanitation conditions are deplorable. Contaminated water forces many to purchase water despite meager resources. Additionally, latrines are scarce and fill quickly, requiring people to defecate on the ground or in plastic bags.
- Medical care has been inconsistent and short term, and there is no mental health services at any surveyed camp; and
- There were no plans in place to help return camp residents to self-sufficiency. No surveyed camps had plans to establish schools, employ workers, or give special attention to the most vulnerable: children, the elderly, the infirm and the disabled. With no nationwide resettlement or rebuilding plan, many have resigned themselves to a more permanent stay in the encampments.

The people interviewed identified procedural shortcomings in the aid response that contributed to substantive failures in aid delivery. Time and again participants noted how aid could be distributed better despite the many obstacles imposed by the earthquake. Yet, because people in the camps have not been consulted, their suggestions have not been integrated into the aid response. Instead, aid is delivered according to plans drawn up outside the camps, with no apparent consultation with people inside the camps.

Of course, more aid is reaching Haiti's earthquake victims every day, so in the time it took to process the data and write this report, conditions may have improved. But all the information received up to the date of this report suggests that while the specific numbers of people receiving help will have improved, an enormous gap between aid promised and aid received persists on the ground.

# INTRODUCTION

Within hours of the January 12, 2010 earthquake, Haitian families fled their collapsed homes and businesses and set up camp with their few remaining possessions on the closest plots of open land that could meet their immediate need for shelter. These camps were not established with assistance from the Haitian government, foreign aid or relief agencies, but were spontaneous gatherings of Haitians seeking safety and survival in numbers.

Despite international pledges of aid, the economic and social rights of displaced persons continue to be violated by failures in aid distribution to those who need it most. The purpose of this report is to illustrate the systemic neglect of basic human needs with an aim toward improving relief efforts. It also seeks to put a face to a few of the more than one million people displaced by the earthquake. Take one example:

*On February 25, 2010, the LAMP for Haiti Task Force was driving just west of Port-au-Prince on the south side of National Route 1. A loud commotion and the movement of heavily-armed U.N. soldiers drew the investigators to the camp known as Marassa #11.*



Marassa camp.

*The camp appeared to hold some 5,000 people. It was bordered by a dirt road and a cement wall that stretched 250 meters. At first glance it seemed to be an organized camp that had been receiving adequate attention from relief agencies. This view changed quickly upon entering the west side of the camp. Hundreds of boisterous camp residents were being forced into a straight line against the cement wall. A contingent of approximately 30 U.N. soldiers from Jordan were yelling orders and scolding the people in Arabic. They carried elongated wooden batons in their hands and were beating people if they did not properly form a line. Other soldiers had their backs to the line of people and were pointing their M-16 rifles into the camp, standing alongside what appeared to be newly-laid coils of razor wire.*

*After about 25 minutes in the hot sun, a two-by-two line was formed stretching the length of the cement wall, with the soldiers threatening the people into stillness. None of the observers knew why the people were lining up, but those in line all held "tickets" and said that food was about to be distributed.*

*A few minutes after the line had formed to the soldiers' satisfaction, an "all clear" call was made.*



The U.N.'s heavily-armed Jordanian contingent monitors the camp prior to food distribution.

*Large trucks began to pull into the camp perimeter road and set up just in front of the line of people. Some got out and stretched a massive banner, "ERA – Evangelical Relief Agency", in front of the line of Haitians. Once the banner was in position, the crew in the back of the trucks gave each person one large clear plastic bag. Observed in the bags was a liter-sized bottle of cooking oil, about two pounds of rice, and about a pound of dried beans.*

*One resident said this was only the second time since the earthquake that food had been brought to the camp. And, even on those two occasions not everyone was provided for. Some residents stated that they either did not know the man who had distributed the tickets and so were left out, or they did not want to fight for the tickets the day before.*

The Marassa #11 event witnessed by the investigators is just one of many examples of deprivation, neglect, and mistreatment in the camps.\* Without the input of residents themselves, aid is distributed in irrational, even inhumane ways. The following data collected by and for Haitians help demonstrate the disconnect between the aid that has been pledged and the actual conditions on the ground. It is hoped this evidence will be used to give Haitians greater voice in how aid is distributed, as well as to put the international community on notice of the need to respect, protect, and fulfill Haitians' economic and social rights.



Concertina wire acts as a cordon between those waiting for food and the rest of the camp.



A baton-wielding U.N. soldier removes an individual from the queue.

\* For recent documentation of conditions, see the 90 second video created by the New Media Advocacy Project, which visited several camps between March 19-21, 2010. N-MAP, Haiti IDP Camp Commission Video, available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rULqFfgJrz8>.



# METHODOLOGY

## LAMP FOR HAITI TASK FORCE<sup>1</sup>

From February 22-25, 2010, LAMP for Haiti, together with the Haiti Justice Project of Drexel University Law School and a team of Haitian university students, conducted a detailed, family-centered study of the conditions in several major camps of internally displaced persons in and around Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A small sample were surveyed from camps in the following *communes*.<sup>2,3</sup>

- Place St. Pierre in Pétionville 10,330 residents
- Acra in Delmas 17,500 residents
- Diquini/Adventist University in Carrefour 13,939 residents
- Champ de Mars in Port-au-Prince 35,602 residents
- Bouzi in Croix-des-Bouquets 45,008 residents
- Parc La Couronne in Cité Soleil 8,200 residents

Of the approximately 99,140 displaced persons in these select *communes*, 90 were selected at random for the survey, ranging from nine to 23 per camp. This study is meant to capture data regarding the families in the camps and their living conditions:

- their voluntary or forced changes in locations
- their changes in socio-economic circumstances
- the provision of aid/relief to them
- any purposeful progress toward permanent resettlement
- the best practices of the interested governments and relief agencies
- the most grave deprivations

Surveys were conducted by 14 student volunteers who were split into seven teams. The teams selected every fifth tent in the section for an interview until all the surveys for that particular team were completed. Interviews were based on surveys consisting of 109 uniform questions. Interviews

were conducted in Creole by the bilingual volunteers and responses were written in English. Respondents were eligible for participation if they lived at one of the six camps, were the head of their household, and gave written consent to be interviewed.

## BUREAU DES AVOCATS INTERNATIONAUX (BAI)<sup>4</sup>

The *Bureau of Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) carried out a survey with similar objectives of describing earthquake losses and demonstrating continuing need for relief. Respondents consisted of 4,528 earthquake victims who were interviewed in and around Port-au-Prince during the week of February 15, 2010.

<sup>1</sup>The LAMP for Haiti/Haiti Justice Project at Drexel Law (HJP) directed and supervised the investigation in the IDP camps in and around Port-au-Prince. Thomas M. Griffin, Esq., and the HJP drafted the investigative interview protocol, trained the investigative team, and supervised the investigation in the camps. In-country assistance was provided by the Lamp for Haiti's in-country manager, Myrlene Dominique. The task force investigators in the camps were 14 Haitian college students on full academic scholarship via the Haitian Education & Leadership Program (HELP) who were not then able to attend classes due to the earthquake damage. Their names and respective universities appear in Appendix A.

<sup>2</sup>Haiti is divided into 10 *départements*. The *départements* are subdivided into *arrondissements*, which are further subdivided into *communes*, and then *quartiers* (neighborhoods). For the purposes of this survey, we will name the neighborhoods as they were referred to by the interviewers. These may not always be their official names.

<sup>3</sup>Camp sizes are taken from estimates provided by the International Organization for Migration/Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster Haiti. CCCM Cluster in Haiti, 16-03-10 Displacement Tracking Matrix, available at: <http://groups.google.com/group/cccmhaiti?pli=1> [hereinafter CCCM Cluster in Haiti].

<sup>4</sup>The *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI), an Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) affiliate, is a human rights law firm based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. BAI represents political prisoners, documents human rights violations, and spearheads the prosecution of human rights cases. BAI Managing Attorney Mario Joseph organized the survey and experienced investigators with sociology training conducted a one-day training for two groups of survey administrators at the BAI. Sarah Dougherty of IJDH coordinated the data analysis team for both surveys. The team consisted of statisticians from America, Canada and Australia who were largely affiliated with the Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network (LERN).

Six *communes* were surveyed:

- Port-au-Prince 2,635 respondents
- Carrefour 828 respondents
- Pétionville 535 respondents
- Petit-Goave 130 respondents
- Croix-des-Bouquets 104 respondents
- Delmas 26 respondents

For a complete breakdown of the sixty neighborhoods canvassed, please see Summary Appendix B: Urgent Needs Across *Communes* (BAI Findings). Interviews were conducted by 20 members of grassroots organizations who surveyed their own communities. Each volunteer received training at BAI. Respondents were told that their answers would merely be used to assess their needs and would not affect their ability to get aid. The survey consisted of uniform spreadsheets, which sought to obtain the following information:

- the size of pre-earthquake households
- the number of family members killed, injured, or missing in the earthquake
- the post-earthquake household composition by gender
- the number of children in the family
- whether the house had been destroyed, damaged, or unharmed
- whether households faced urgent need for aid
- whether they needed water, food, medicine, clothing, tents

To be eligible to participate in the survey, respondents had to be mature individuals who could speak on behalf of their post-earthquake household. Each gave verbal consent to be interviewed.

## Data Analysis

For the respective surveys, responses were coded and entered in Microsoft Excel format. Data were then exported into a Stata, SPSS or SAS statistical database for descriptive analysis. Because

of the limited sample size, these results should only be taken to illustrate conditions for the small sample of displaced persons who were surveyed at the various encampments. For the BAI surveys, some respondents were excluded because their responses were too incomplete for valid analysis.

## Report Structure

The LAMP for Haiti surveys were designed with a detailed but conversational structure allowing ample opportunity for families to express themselves via open-ended questions. Providing the families an outlet to openly describe their living conditions, including frustrations and grievances, worked toward the concomitant goal of gaining their confidence for long-term participation. The leadership of Haitian student investigators adds strength to the study by increasing confidence in the validity of responses for purposes of data analysis. However, it also creates a channel of empowerment by and for the Haitian people.

The BAI surveys complement the aims and objectives of the LAMP for Haiti surveys in several respects. First, because of the greater sample size, it lends statistical strength to similar findings and also provides a point of comparison with other organizations' and agencies' needs assessments. Second, it illuminates another dimension of the displaced person problem by surveying many individuals who did not live in camps. Finally, it similarly adds important civil society participation in gathering the data and defining its uses in improving aid distribution.

The following report describes living conditions and aid provision across six camps surveyed by the LAMP for Haiti Task Force. Unless otherwise indicated, all data refer to that study. Each section begins with a Summary of Key Findings followed by an overall description of each camp, a summary of camp conditions, and a profile of one of the families surveyed. Each section then concludes with a summary of relevant BAI findings to provide further context where the data are available.

# SURVEY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

**Children.** Seventy two percent of households surveyed had children who are now unable to attend school because of the earthquake. The situation was the worst at Acra, where the average family had three to four school-aged children.

**Deaths.** Ten percent of households reported a death. Respondents at Pétionville reported the most deaths (42% of households).

**Losses.** Ninety four percent could no longer live in their homes due to earthquake damage and 73% had no access to income or savings.

**Shelter.** At least fifteen percent lived in open-air situations without tents, tarps, or sheltering materials. The situation was the worst at Croix-des-Bouquets and Diquini/ADUH (44% and 36% respectively).

**Water.** Just half of respondents had received drinking water and 39% had only received non-drinking water. The situation was the worst at Acra and Croix-des-Bouquets, where only 35% and 44% had received any water aid.

**Sanitation.** Thirty five percent reported no access to facilities for bathing, toilets, or washing clothes. The need was greatest at

Pétionville and Acra, with 73% and 53% reporting no access to sanitation facilities.

**Food.** Half of respondents reported buying their food while a quarter reported getting food from relatives, friends, or neighbors. Nearly half reported not receiving any food aid, with the greatest need at Champ de Mars and Acra (83% and 70% reporting no food aid, respectively).

**Medical Care.** Nearly half of respondents reported at least one sick person in their household. However, 28% had not had access to medical care. The situation was the worst at Acra, where 61% had not had access to medical care.

**Aid Provision.** Just 64% of respondents reported ever having received any type of aid, but most still needed food, water, shelter, and work opportunities. Nineteen percent had had to pay for some type of aid and 10% had been denied aid due to lack of resources. The situation was worst at Champ de Mars, with half of respondents having had to pay for aid.

## ALL ENCAMPMENTS

### Displacement Status

Forty percent of households surveyed arrived at their camp on the day of the earthquake and another 42% arrived within the next four days. The majority chose their camp because of its proximity to home.

### Household Profile

Households often changed in size after the earthquake, either because people were killed or because families were no longer living with the same individuals. In the LAMP for Haiti study, families tended to get smaller. Frequently the nuclear unit remained intact but lost members of extended family. By contrast, the BAI study showed very

large families, possibly due to a looser interpretation of “household.” It is also possible that households gained dependents in the form of other relatives or neighbors

The LAMP for Haiti study showed 72% of households had at least one child in school before the earthquake; almost 50% had three or more children in school. Since the schools were closed after the earthquake, none of these children are now in school. The BAI study confirmed that 50% of those surveyed had at least one child and 25% had three or more children per household.

### Employment Loss

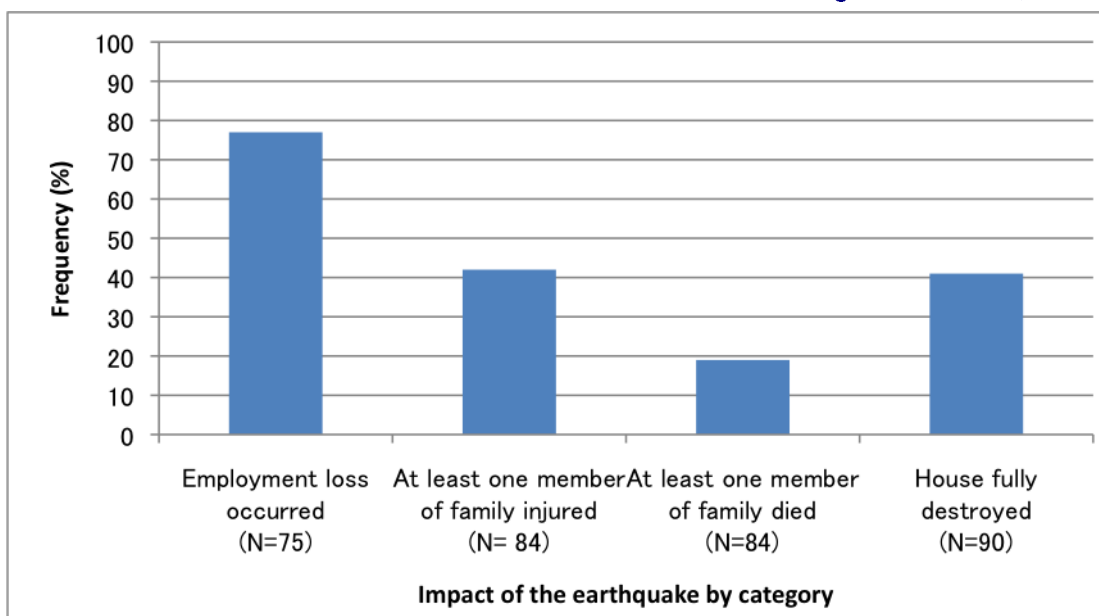
Before the earthquake, nearly all households in the LAMP for Haiti study had some form of income, usually one unmarried adult member of the household. Only seven percent of households were completely without earnings prior to the earthquake. Yet our study shows that 64% of respondents lost employment or income as a result of the earthquake. Only 27% currently have access to earnings, donations or remittances. However, this figure may be somewhat misleading because of the small

sample size. It is likely there are far fewer with access to income.

### Earthquake Losses

Of the 90 LAMP for Haiti respondents, only 13% had a family member who died during the earthquake. Four households lost two members and one household lost three members. We do not know the representativeness of the six camps surveyed. Nevertheless, linear regression shows that the number of deaths per household appear generally consistent with national estimates: of the two to three million Haitians affected by the earthquake, approximately 200,000 to 300,000 (or 10%) died. Additionally, 42% of households had a member who was injured in the earthquake. The BAI study also showed minimal loss of life and limb. Ninety percent did not report a death and 79% did not report anyone injured. These findings likely underrepresent the problem because many people who were severely injured may have been at a hospital or other camps known to have medical treatment. In the LAMP for Haiti study, 94% of homes were rendered completely uninhabitable by the earthquake. This general finding was confirmed

**Figure 1: Impact of the earthquake (% who lost employment; % with injuries in households; % with deaths in households; % whose homes are no longer habitable)**



*Note: Total employment loss occurred as a result of the earthquake n=58; At least one member of family member injured during the earthquake n=35; At least one member of family member died during the earthquake n= 16; House fully destroyed n=37 during the earthquake.*

by BAI, which found 93% of homes damaged by the earthquake.

## Shelter

Our findings show lack of adequate shelter to be a serious concern. In the LAMP for Haiti study, 15% lived completely exposed to the open air and 58% only had flimsy tarps or cramped tents. Nearly three quarters of those surveyed had not received any shelter assistance, suggesting they had to salvage what materials they could. Similarly, in the BAI study, from 65% to 100% of respondents needed tents. Although at least 228,109 tarps and 31,000 family sized tents have already been distributed by aid agencies,<sup>5</sup> our combined findings suggest emergency shelter aid is not reaching all those in need. One must note, too, the complete lack of furniture in the shelters. People must sit on the ground or on the cement below them or, at best, on a pile of clothing salvaged from the now destroyed home. Some lucky ones can lie down on a piece of cardboard.

The true misery cannot be captured in the frame of a camera lens. It is in the heat, the flies, the stench and the lack of privacy. Heat increases as it becomes trapped under the tarps and between walls of sheets. With only four, five or six foot ceilings, the hottest spot is always at your neck and head. Inside a tent, it is a waste of time and energy to wipe the sweat away, as it pours down your back, chest, and legs. The lack of walls, windows, and fences strips people of their privacy at every turn, so that no intimate act—from dressing or going to the toilet to bathing or merely engaging in conversation with another becomes intrusively public. The flies make for a constant hum everywhere. Within a tarp shelter, without walls or screens, bunches of flies freely light on the food, on an unwashed dish, a bucket someone had used as a toilet, and then on a child's face. Although the investigators did not work at night, it is assumed that, like everywhere else in Haiti, the mosquitoes take over the same positions when the sun sets, to trouble everyone's sleep until dawn.

## Water

In the BAI study, 61% to 100% of respondents needed water urgently. In the LAMP for Haiti study, the most common method of obtaining drinking water was buying it (38%), followed by receiving it from an organization (33%). Fifty-two percent of respondents have had some drinking water provided to them, and 39% have gotten only non-drinking water. The Red Cross was the agency mentioned most often as providing water relief. It is worth noting that even though limited water services do exist in the camps, people are often buying drinking water because only Doctors Without Borders and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) provide treated water. People mention that there is plenty of water from the Red Cross, but it is dirty or untreated. The Pétionville families appeared to have access to more water than other camps but extremely poor access to toilets and bathing facilities.

## Sanitation

More than a third of LAMP for Haiti respondents had no access to bathing facilities. When asked where they urinated, the most common response was in or near the street. People defecate in public latrines but also in the street when the latrines are intolerably dirty or unavailable. The data do not fully capture the privacy and safety level of sanitation facilities for women, but the responses suggest many women are relieving themselves in public areas where men are also present. This raises urgent questions about whether women feel safe and what kind of security measures are in place to make sure that these are not locations of potential attacks.

## Food

<sup>5</sup>U.N. Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Haiti Earthquake Situation Report No. 28, March 11, 2010 available at <http://onerresponse.info/Disasters/Haiti/Coordination/publicdocuments/OCHA%20Situation%20Report%20No.28,%20Haiti%20Earthquake%20-%2011%20March%202010.pdf> [hereinafter OCHA Situation Report No. 28].

The BAI study revealed that 66% to 100% of respondents urgently needed food relief. Half of LAMP for Haiti families surveyed bought their food while a quarter received food from friends, family, or neighbors. Seventeen percent received food from an aid organization and the rest reported that they had no food. The majority of families reported either receiving no food aid (49%) or receiving it just once (31%). The food situations appeared worst in Champ de Mars and Acra where more than three quarters reported receiving no food relief. Our limited findings appear to confirm general figures that 70% of people living in settlements in earthquake-affected areas require food assistance.

### Medical Care

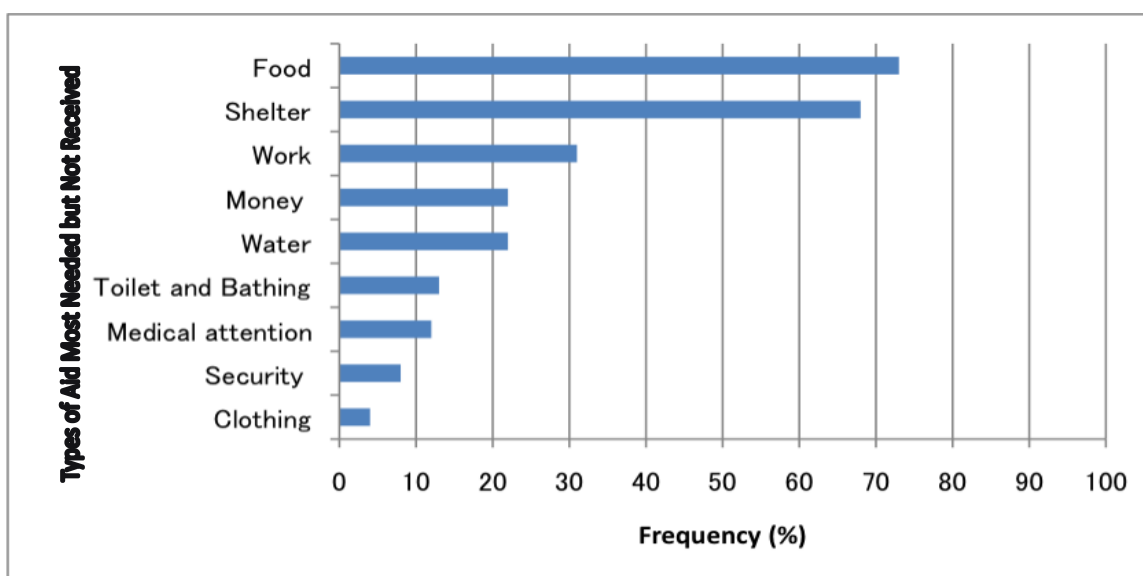
Nearly half of LAMP for Haiti respondents reported having at least one sick person in their camp household, yet this figure is likely underreported because the question was a write-in response. People reported having the following illnesses in camp: influenza, malaria, diarrhea or digestive illness, eye illnesses, aches and pains, stress related illnesses, heart conditions, allergies, general infection, vaginal infection, and respiratory

issues. Less than a third of respondents reported that someone in their family had received medical treatment for their injuries. Even if people weren't injured as a result of the earthquake, many continue to need treatment and medicine because of preexisting conditions like hypertension and diabetes. The earthquake has injured some and limited access to proper treatment for most.

### General Aid Provision in Camps

Of the over 4,500 BAI respondents, the overwhelming majority urgently needed some form of assistance. Similarly, LAMP for Haiti respondents reported that they needed the following types of aid the most but were not receiving it: food (73%), shelter (68%), work (31%), water (22%), money (22%), toilets and bathing facilities (13%), medical attention (12%), security (8%), and clothing (4%). This strongly suggests that basic living needs are not being met, despite occasional distributions of aid. Alarming, 19% of households reported having to pay for some type of aid and 10% reported being denied aid because they could not pay.

Figure 2: Aid Needed Most and Not Received



Respondents reported that they needed the following types of aid the most but were not receiving it: Food: 73%, Shelter: 68%, Work: 31%, Water: 22%, Money: 22%, Toilets and bathing facilities: 13%, Medical attention: 12%, Security: 8%, Clothing: 4%

# PLACE ST. PIERRE IN PÉTIONVILLE

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

**Household.** Half of respondents had six or more family members. Nearly 90% had children who could no longer attend school.

**Deaths.** Forty two percent had at least one member who died.

**Losses.** Ninety four percent could no longer live in their homes.

**Shelter.** Ten percent lived without tents or tarps.

**Water and Sanitation.** Thirty percent bought drinking water and 73% had no access to toilets or bathing facilities.

**Food.** Half bought their food while a quarter got food from relatives, friends, or neighbors. A third had never received any food relief from aid agencies.

**Medical Care.** More than 60% had a family member who was sick.

**Aid Provision.** Fourteen percent reported having had to pay for aid.



Pétionville camp. Rows of tents line a walking path running through a public square.

landscaped trees are plentiful. The park slopes from the east down to the west side.

## Camp Residents

There are 10,330 total individuals living in the Place St. Pierre camp, or 2,066 families.<sup>7</sup> The LAMP for Haiti Task Force surveyed 22 individuals. The camp was densely packed with a combination of adjoining tents and makeshift tarp and bed sheet shelters. Many families had set up on the grass or the cement plaza areas. Readily observable was a six-inch wide trench, about two inches deep, that wound around the edges of many shelters in a giant snake-like maze. The residents explained that they catch the water coming down the slope of the land, and redirect it around each shelter, until it reaches the street on the west end of the park.

## Camp Management

The camp is a spontaneous settlement that is not managed by an outside agency. The residents surveyed stated that there is a “camp committee” which is in charge of maintaining the massive water bladders that had been set up in two locations of the camp on wooden platforms by the international NGO called CARE (which also has a large, gated office complex just two blocks from the camp). No one, however, could say how that com-

<sup>7</sup> The CCCM Cluster in Haiti., *supra* note 3.

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

### Camp Location

The main site name is Place St. Pierre, a traditional public park surrounded by hotels, a police station, a large women’s prison, the mayor’s office, and a church, Legliz St. Pierre. It is located in Pétionville, section 7ème Bellevue Chardonnière, and the area name is Ri Lamarre ot Moise. The main part of the park is a square of about 200 meters on each side. It is a mix of cement walkways that wind through the otherwise grassy park, and

mittee came into being. Security, they stated, was provided by the police, many of whom are easily observed sitting by the dozens in the shade of their large station house just off the east, or upper, end of the park.

## SUMMARY OF CAMP CONDITIONS

### Household Profile

The 22 families surveyed ranged in size from one to 15 people. Half had at least six members to provide for in the camp and nearly 90% had children who were no longer able to attend school. One family had nine children under age 17. Before the earthquake, 10 families had owned their homes. This relatively high rate of home ownership contrasted sharply with the other camps surveyed and seemed to reflect the relative affluence of Pétionville. Further interviewing revealed that many of the families had inherited their houses, had no money to rebuild, and did not have homeowners' insurance. Most had lost employment or income as a result of the earthquake.

### Earthquake Losses

Households surveyed in Place St. Pierre suffered more deaths and injuries than households in other camps. Forty two percent had at least one family member who died in the earthquake and 62% had at least one family member who was in-

jured. Additionally, 90% of homes were rendered uninhabitable; 45% were completely destroyed.

### Shelter, Water, Food and Medical Care

One out of every 10 families surveyed lived without any shelter whatsoever. The rest had a tarp or tents, but more than half had not received any sheltering materials from aid agencies, suggesting they had to forage for materials themselves. Additionally, four out of 10 families did not have a single mat to sleep on. Thirty percent bought water while 40% received water from an organization. Nearly three out of every four respondents stated they had no access to bathing facilities. Additionally, half of the families bought their food while a quarter received food from friends, family, or neighbors. Although 67% had received some food aid at some point, 33% had never received any food aid at all. More than 60% of families had at least one member who was currently sick.

### Aid Provision

More than three quarters of households reported receiving aid, but 14% reported paying for aid. The types of aid people most frequently reported needing but not receiving were food and shelter, indicating their most basic needs had not been met.



Children clean themselves in a makeshift bathing station utilizing a water storage bladder provided by CARE.



Manasse Elusma, investigator, speaks with residents of the Pétionville camp.



## FAMILY PROFILE: *THE JOASSAINT KETNA FAMILY*

### The Family Before

Joassaint lived in Nazon with her husband, daughter, brother, and cousin. Her daughter is two years old and attended school. They rented a home in Nazon in six month increments at the cost of US\$230. She lived in the home for over two years and was the only member of her household who earned an income. Prior to the earthquake, Joassaint was a self-employed merchant, earning US\$270 per month. The family had no access to a vehicle and had no savings or property insurance.

### Who and What They Lost

No one in the family was killed or injured by the earthquake. The house was partially destroyed and is unsafe for habitation. All their goods were lost inside the home. They believe there is no possibility for them to return to their home because there is no shelter for them there anymore.

### The Family Now

The family unit remains the same. They came to live at Pétionville on January 13, 2010 due to homelessness. They are currently living on the bare ground under a tent built from a tarp and wooden poles. The family states that the materials used to build the camp were not obtained through aid agencies. When the rainy season begins, they plan to “stand up” under the tarp.

**Food.** The family purchases their food and stores it in a corner of their tent. They received food aid on only one occasion from a distribution by World Vision, an NGO. They cook their own food over a kitchen using charcoal. The family members eat once a day, sometime twice.

**Drinking Water.** The family drinks water that is brought to them. The water they use for bathing and washing clothes arrives at the camp on a daily basis from CAMEP, the Haitian government’s water authority.

**Toilets and Bathing.** Men and women bathe, urinate, and defecate behind any housing structures left standing around the camp. They have no access to toilets.

**Medical Aid.** There is a health clinic set up near the camp by the Red Cross, adjacent to the police station.

**Sleeping Conditions/Privacy.** The family has no mats to sleep on. There is no place for privacy.

**Future Plans.** The family does not know how long they plan to stay in the camp. There is no plan to move to a permanent home because they have no money.

### Urgent Needs

Joassaint stated that the policemen are sometimes violent with the people in the camp. The family’s current most urgent needs are food and temporary shelter, which they have not yet received. She said that if she could change anything at the camp, she would organize the aid distributions better.

## RELEVANT BAI FINDINGS

BAI surveyed 535 households in Pétionville. Household size ranged from one to 21 and the number of children ranged from zero to 13. The average household had five people and fewer than two children. There were no reports of injured, killed or missing people. 61% of houses were destroyed and 26% were damaged. All households urgently need assistance: water (63%), food (93%), medicine (68%), clothing (65%), and tents (98%).

# ACRA CAMP IN DELMAS

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

**Household.** Half of respondents had five or more family members. Seventy eight percent had children who could no longer attend school.

**Injuries.** Forty one percent had at least one member who was injured.

**Losses.** Ninety six percent could no longer live in their homes.

**Shelter.** Forty three percent lived with just a tarp and 4% lived fully exposed.

**Water and Sanitation.** Forty four percent bought drinking water and 50% had no access to toilets or bathing facilities.

**Food.** Half bought their food while a quarter got food from relatives, friends, or neighbors. Seventy percent had never received any food relief from aid agencies.

**Medical Care.** Twenty percent had a family member who was sick.

**Aid Provision.** Only a third of people had ever received any type of aid.

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

### Camp Location

The people have named this camp after the Acra family that owns the land. Acra is located near the Delmas 33 neighborhood, which suffered severe losses of life and property in the quake. It is past the police station and close to the former Fort prison. Upon entering the camp on a dirt road that splits the camp into two hilly zones, one is faced with a stark and brutal scene of makeshift shelters set on steep, dry, grey barren hills. To the left of the road is what the people have come to call “Acra



Most shelters in this vast encampment are cobbled together from whatever materials families can muster.

Nod” and to the right of the road is “Acra Sud” – North and South Acra.

### Camp Residents

Approximately 17,500 people were residing in the camp on the date of the investigation, comprised of approximately 3,160 families. The investigators surveyed 23 families. Pre-quake incomes of the surveyed families in Acra, as in most other camps, were extremely low, demonstrating that it is the very poor that have gone into and remain in the camps. The largest pre-quake family income was US\$400 per month for a driver with a family of eight. The smallest income recorded was US\$71 per month for a money changer who supported 11 in his household. Several families had no regular source of income.

### Camp Management

Although there is said to be a “committee” of select residents that manages the camp, no one could identify how the members were chosen. At least two committee members identified themselves as “pastors” and one had set up a covered worship space at the bottom of the hill at South Acra. The survey revealed there to be no formal security at the camp, and no identifiable camp rules. One resident responded, “only God knows” – there was no police force and security was “maintained

## SUMMARY OF CAMP CONDITIONS

### Household Profile

The 23 families surveyed ranged in size from two to nine people. Half of the families surveyed had at least five household members to provide for and 78% had children who were no longer able to attend school. One family had seven children under age 17. Before the earthquake, the overwhelming majority of those surveyed had been extremely poor and survived on subsistence-level incomes without savings, insurance, or other economic security. Since the earthquake, they have had no source of income and survive by sharing resources with others. Of those with savings, all reported to have lost their monies in the earthquake, either in their destroyed home or because their bank was destroyed.

### Earthquake Losses

The majority of the families surveyed did not lose anyone in the quake, but 41% had family members who sustained injuries. Property damage was substantial and 96% of homes were rendered uninhabitable by the earthquake. Generally, those surveyed in Acra rented their homes, and believe that return is impossible because the landlord is not rebuilding. The few that did report owning their home all stated that they will not return because they have no money to rebuild. No one surveyed at Acra had any concrete plan for relocating out of



Each family received materials for building a shelter, including two tarps, a 12' beam, saw and shovel.

the camp or establishing a permanent home elsewhere.

### Shelter

The families and their temporary shelters were evenly distributed along the slopes of both North and South Acra. Unlike the downtown camps, the shelters were relatively spread out. At the top of North Acra, families were living in approximately 80 large ten-person tents given to them by the Islamic Relief Agency. This tight cluster of neatly-ordered khaki colored tents contrasted sharply with the remainder of North Acra and all of South Acra, where makeshift shelters of scrap wood and twigs and plastic tarps or bed sheets randomly covered the hills. Sixty-seven percent of respondents indicated they had not received any kind of sheltering material.

On the date of the investigation, women were sighted carrying two folded tarps on their heads, a 12-foot plank in one hand dragging along the ground, and a sack containing a shovel and a saw. Further investigation found that people were running to a site where the Red Cross was giving out these "sets of material" to whoever could get through the crowd and reach the back of the truck for a handout. Later, the investigators observed the recipients cutting the single plank lengthwise and cross-wise, sculpting a small horizontal plot out of the hillside, and planting the boards in the ground



Camp residents arrive too late for the distribution of building materials.

to make the four corners of a shelter. No relief workers were observed providing assistance or instruction in the use of these items for the building of shelters.

## Water

Only 35% of families surveyed reported being provided with drinking water. Sixty percent of water relief was provided by the French Red Cross, but it was described by residents as “lou” or heavy water that stuck in their chest all day. The water was said to “goute lame a” or “taste like the sea.” Many used this water only for bathing (filling a bucket and taking it back to their shelters to bathe) and washing clothes. If residents wanted palatable drinking water, they had to purchase it, as 44% reported doing.

## Sanitation

The French Red Cross built latrines at the camp, but all reported that the hole in the ground was too shallow and filled up too quickly. Residents then tore down the latrines, made a row of planks and tarps for privacy, and rebuilt the latrines over a much larger hole that they dug themselves. Privacy was minimal, with only tarps dividing the latrine into four-sided “stalls”. A total of four latrines were seen in the camp.

There were no supplies or equipment to maintain the latrines. With over 17,000 men, women, and children in Acra, the latrines quickly became revolting and unsanitary. As a result, it was widely reported that the people refused to use the latrines and instead urinated and defecated somewhere near their shelters, on the ground, in buckets, or in plastic bags. More than half of respondents stated they had no access to bathing facilities.

## Food

In the course of the 42 days that the camp had been in existence, those surveyed overwhelmingly reported that relief in the form of food aid had been provided only one time, in the form of dry rice and beans for cooking. Seventy percent stated



A public latrine, with indentations for feet on either side of the hole.

that they had never received food aid. Further investigation revealed that when the food aid did come, it was preceded by the distribution of “tickets” on the day before, which had to be shown in order to receive a food package. There were far fewer tickets than families in Acra and, according to some, the single resident chosen to distribute the tickets first allotted them to friends and family. Half of respondents were forced to spend meager resources buying food and an additional 25% received handouts from friends, relatives, or neighbors.

## Medical Care

There had never been any medical aid at the camp<sup>8</sup> and 20% of respondents had at least one member who was currently sick. Given the unsanitary conditions, lack of food and clean water, and sheer density of population, this figure is likely underreported.

## Aid Provision

Only a third of people ever reported receiving any type of aid, yet nearly all needed food and

<sup>8</sup>As a result of this finding (as well as the observation of a child too sick to stand and a woman with two amputated arms in fresh bandages), the LAMP for Haiti, which runs a free medical clinic in Cité Soleil, instituted a mobile clinic which began on Monday, March 1, 2010, and which returns to the Acra camp for free medical services every Monday and Friday afternoon.

shelter relief. Nevertheless, several residents indicated aid cards were not being distributed to the entire camp, and that when aid arrived, it was frequently seized by “dreadful men” who took all of the provisions. This is corroborated by a series of focus groups conducted by HELP. People in Acra urgently needed housing, food, education, commerce, health care, agriculture, security, and job creation.<sup>9</sup>

## **FAMILY PROFILE: *THE ADRIENNE RADIUS FAMILY***

### **The Family Before**

Adrienne lived in Delmas 33 with her 65 year-old common law husband and their five children. The children range from age four to 18 and all attended school. They rented a home in Delmas 33 for US\$210, payable every six months, in advance. She was the only employed person, working in a factory and earning approximately US\$4 per day. They owned a vehicle and had US\$60 saved in a bank account. They had no property insurance.

### **Who and What They Lost**

No one in the family was killed or injured in the earthquake. The house was rendered uninhabitable by the quake. They are unable to access their savings because the bank was destroyed. They believe that there is no possibility of returning to their home because the house is destroyed. It has not been re-built and there is no money to pay the rent.

### **The Family Now**

The family unit remains the same. They set up in Acra on January 20, 2010, having wandered for days and not found space in any other camps. At one camp, they were not given a tent though many tents had been distributed to the camp’s inhabitants. At Acra, they are living in a shelter built from twigs and tarps. There is no income because the factory where Adrienne had worked was destroyed in the earthquake. Their plan for when the rainy season begins is to “stand up” in their shelter.

**Food.** Food has come from “friends” and twice from a distribution by an NGO she could not name. They eat approximately one time per day, cooking with tree branches that one of her sons cuts from nearby trees.

**Drinking Water.** The family drinks, bathes, and washes their clothes with water from the tank set up by the French Red Cross.

**Toilets and Bathing.** The males and females bathe and urinate “in the street.” They use a hole at the camp to defecate.

**Medical Aid.** They do not know of any place to receive medical aid.

**Sleeping Conditions/Privacy.** There is one sleeping mat in Adrienne’s family’s shelter. There is no place for privacy.

**Future Plans.** They have no plans for leaving the camp or moving into any permanent housing.

### **Urgent Needs**

Adrienne stated that the camp needs food, shelter, and medicine most of all. She stated that only very limited aid has come to her from NGOs and no aid has come from the Haitian government. If she could change anything at the camp, Adrienne stated “[she] would provide food to the people, have good, drinkable water, psychological services, and tents.”

## **RELEVANT BAI FINDINGS**

BAI surveyed 26 households in Delmas. Household size ranged from two to 11 people and the number of children ranged from one to seven. The average household had five people and three children. Most households reported no injured or killed people and there were no reports of missing persons. No homes were destroyed but every house was damaged. All households urgently needed some form of assistance: water (99%), food (99%), medicine (100%), clothing (100%), and tents (100%).

<sup>9</sup>Results from five focus groups conducted by HELP in Champ de Mars. Interview dates from 26 February to 27 February, 2010.

# DIQUINI/ ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HAITI CAMPUS IN CARREFOUR

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

**Household.** Half of respondents had six or more family members. Eighty two percent had children who could no longer attend school.

**Injuries.** Ten percent had at least one family member who was injured.

**Losses.** Ninety one percent could no longer live in their homes.

**Shelter.** Thirty percent lived fully exposed, without a tarp or tent.

**Water and Sanitation.** Eighteen percent bought drinking water and several respondents indicated toilets were too dirty to use.

**Food.** Twenty seven percent bought their food while 9% got food from relatives, friends, or neighbors. Thirty percent had never received any food relief from aid agencies.

**Medical Care.** About half had a family member who was sick.

**Aid Provision.** Eighteen percent reported having had to pay for aid.



Makeshift tents erected on ADUH's campus grounds.

## Camp Residents

There are 13,939 residents in total living in the camp, or 2,825 families.<sup>10</sup> With the exception of some shelters in small clusters in other clearings on the campus, the majority of the residents were living in a clearing the size of several soccer fields. Investigators estimated that the size of the area is approximately 34 hectares.

## Camp Management

At the entrance road was an "administrative" tent where employees of ADUH have set up tables and chairs. They appeared to know the details of the camp and its residents very well, but admitted they were unable to improve conditions or ensure access to basic necessities. The camp residents reported that there was a security committee that patrolled at night, making sure everyone was in their shelters by 10:00 p.m. As to rules, the residents stated that the committee made it known that there were designated places for discarding garbage. People could not urinate or defecate except in the latrines/portable toilets. If these rules were broken, the residents stated that the committee would eject them from the camp.

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

### Camp Location

The investigative team was at the camp 43 days after the earthquake struck. It is in the Carrefour area west of Port-au-Prince in a neighborhood called Diquini. The camp is on, and circumscribed by, the Adventist University of Haiti (ADUH).

<sup>10</sup> The CCCM Cluster in Haiti., *supra* note 3.

## SUMMARY OF CAMP CONDITIONS

### Household Profile

The 11 families surveyed ranged in size from four to 11 people. Half had at least six family members to provide for in the camp and 82% had children who were no longer able to attend school. One family had five children under age 17. Most were either unemployed before the earthquake or lost their source of income afterwards.

### Earthquake Losses

Although no deaths were reported in our small group of respondents, about one in ten reported someone had been injured. Additionally, 91% reported they could no longer live in their homes due to destruction or damage.

### Shelter

Most residents live on one major field in organized rows of makeshift shelters of twigs, wood, bed sheets, and tarps. Although the shelters were in neat rows of about 100 meters each, the shelters themselves were makeshift in the extreme, composed of twigs, found boards, bed sheets and the occasional plastic tarp. Most were very small, less than two meters by two meters and seemed to be separated by function. That is, a tiny shelter for sleeping was adjacent to another tiny shelter for either sleeping or cooking, each divided by a bed sheet and all for the same family unit. Approximately one third of those surveyed indicated that they had no tarp or tent to sleep under. Eighty percent had no sleeping mats.

Exposure to the rain is an urgent problem for those with and without tents and tarps. One resident said, "I'm in misery in the center. Rain is the big problem. Sometimes we get up at 1 am by the rain." Another said, "We have no tent/shelter. When it rains we [are obliged] to stay because we don't know exactly what we can do. I have a small child, I'm afraid because I don't have [a] house to sleep with him."



Marie Michele Montout, investigator, collects data from a head of household.

### Water and Sanitation

Most in the camp reported obtaining water from "pipes" that belonged to the university or purchasing water for drinking. One resident indicated that they sometimes received water aid; however, "we never find [it] because we are not strong. People in good health only." As for bathing, one resident indicated that they bathed in the river.

The investigators observed several sets of portable toilets, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) was having them cleaned and emptied on a regular basis. Some respondents indicated the toilets were so dirty that they continued to urinate and defecate in the street instead.

### Food

Food has been sporadically provided. One surveyed family stated that food has been distributed every few weeks since the quake by ADRA or an NGO managed by ADRA. Others stated that food could be obtained more regularly, but one had to have first been the recipient of a "ticket" in advance in order to qualify for that particular distribution. Many suggested that different groups should distribute the food cards, so that all would have a fair chance. This suggested that if you were not known to the group who had been charged with card distribution, you had a lesser chance of getting food. Generally, the residents in the camp com-

plained of the lack of food, most stating that they had only been provided food once or twice.

### Medical Care

About half of the 11 families had at least one sick family member. According to the respondents, ADRA had also set up a permanent medical clinic that was staffed by Dominican and Cuban doctors. The general complaint was only that the lines for the clinic were very long and that many delayed addressing their medical needs because they could not wait in the long lines. A UNICEF tent provided daily health services for children in the camp.

### Aid Provision

ADUH administrators admitted they had not arranged or advocated for food distribution, medical care, water, or sanitation for the camp. The camp has only been provided services at the discretion of NGO providers. Food has been distributed sporadically while water was consistently provided by ADRA. The UNICEF clinic had established itself without input from the camp administration. There was a common complaint that the Haitian government has never been a presence at the camp and has provided no services.

All camp administrators seemed overwhelmed with the situation and stated that there was no plan by the university to move the residents or to ensure the welfare of people on the campus. There is also no plan to reopen the school which was closed due to the development of the camp and not a result of earthquake damage. The administrators were asked if they had advocated for the camp residents in any manner, such as attending sessions of the daily meetings of U.N. Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to ask for food, supplies (tents), or services (sanitation). They replied that they had no information about any existing logistical organizations set up by the U.N. or other NGOs to provide for the camps.

## FAMILY PROFILE: *THE ROSENA FRANCOIS FAMILY*

### The Family Before

Rosena is 25 years old and currently pregnant. She lived in Bizoton 53 with her 26 year-old husband, father, three brothers, sister and two sons. Her sons are four and six in age and both attended school before the earthquake. They lived in a family home that they owned for over 25 years. Rosena was a self-employed clothing merchant who earned about US\$7 per day. Her husband was employed in construction, earning US\$8 per day. As a family, their income was approximately US\$108 per month. They owned no vehicle and had no savings or property insurance.

### Who and What They Lost

Rosena's husband was killed by the earthquake and another family member was injured. Her house and all of her belongings were completely destroyed by the earthquake. They believe there is no possibility for them to return to their home as everything was destroyed. Rosena believes that it may be possible for them to return to their home if they receive aid that helps them to rebuild.

### The Family Now

The family unit has been separated throughout different parts of the camp. They arrived at the camp on January 19, 2010, a week after the earthquake. At Diquini, Rosena is using pieces of clothing to make her "tent" as she has no formal tent of her own. She lives with two other family members. There has been no income for the family since the earthquake and Rosena has resorted to begging. When rainy season begins, Rosena will be soaked beneath her "tent."

**Food.** Food is shared by neighbors in the camp and was distributed twice by an NGO that Rosena cannot name. She received no food from the distributions because she doesn't have the necessary "card." She can only cook when she receives money from her begging. Rosena and her family eat once a day.



**Drinking Water.** The family drinks, bathes, and washes their clothes from water supplied by the Adventist University where the camp is located.

**Toilets and Bathing.** Both men and women bathe in a nearby river. They urinate and defecate in an area of the camp where portable toilets have been set up.

**Medical Aid.** There is a health clinic on the camp run by foreign doctors and ADRA.

**Sleeping Conditions/Privacy.** Rosena has no tent, shelter, or sleeping mat. There is no place for privacy.

**Future Plans.** The family has no idea how long they plan on staying in the camp. Eventually, when they have the money to do so, they want to build a small house in the place where they lived before the earthquake.

### Urgent Needs

Rosena stated that she is in most urgent need of food and a tent. She has not received either be-

cause she arrived after those who have the cards. Distribution is poor because it is conducted mainly between friends and those who do not have the necessary cards receive no aid. She said that if she could change anything at the camp, she would change distribution practices.

### RELEVANT BAI FINDINGS

BAI surveyed 828 households in Carrefour. Household size ranged from one to 21 people and the number of children ranged from zero to eight children. The average household had five to six people and half of all households had at least two children. The number of injured people per household ranged from zero to seven and on average, one out of every 10 households reported an injured person. The number of deaths per household ranged from zero to three but most households did not report a death or missing person. Forty-nine percent of houses were destroyed, 48% were damaged, and 3% were unharmed. Eighty percent of

# CHAMP DE MARS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

**Household.** Half of respondents had six or more family members. Eighty nine percent had children who could no longer attend school.

**Losses.** All respondents could no longer live in their homes.

**Shelter.** Eighty three percent lived with just a tarp.

**Water and Sanitation.** Half bought drinking water.

**Food.** Forty two percent bought their food while 25% got food from relatives, friends, or neighbors. Eighty three percent had never received any food relief from aid agencies.

**Medical Care.** A third had never received medical care.

**Aid Provision.** Half reported having had to pay for aid.

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

### Camp Location

“Champ de Mars” is the name given to the popular, central downtown area of Port-au-Prince that is a mixture of pedestrian parks, street vendor plazas, and wide boulevards. The clustered area includes national and iconic landmarks such as the presidential palace, the national museum, the bicentennial tower, and government buildings. The displaced persons camps have been established in every part of the massive area that was otherwise flat and open. Champ de Mars was a point of interest and source of Haitian national pride. Now



Residents gather near the Bicentennial Tower on the Champ de Mars for water.

Champ de Mars is baking under a continuous patchwork of plastic tarps, bed sheets, and the misery of families covered in flies and drowning in their powerlessness to change their circumstances.

### Camp Residents

The investigators found seven major “camps” in the area, divided by roadways, that held from 1,300 people in the smallest zone to 9,000 in the largest. There are 35,602 total individuals living there, or 5,850 families.<sup>11</sup>

### Camp Management

The residents reported that there was no camp leadership or camp committees. There have been no rules established. One head of household described it as “anarchy.” The atmosphere is marked by the constant, almost calm buzz of people trying to keep their shelters clean, bathing babies, washing clothes, sharing food, commiserating, or just trying to keep still and cool. As for security, the people said they provided their own by being very careful. They indicated that the police sometimes patrol. One resident explained that “if a police officer finds someone stealing, he either hits him or puts him in jail.” Another resident indicated that there were no rules, just anarchy. Still another stat-

<sup>11</sup> The CCCM Cluster in Haiti., *supra* note 3.

ed that the situation was very bad: "People are in danger. We have no security."

## SUMMARY OF CAMP CONDITIONS

### Household Profile

The 12 families surveyed ranged in size from two to 11 people. Half had at least six family members in the camp to provide for and 89% had children who were no longer able to attend school. Most lost their source of income due to the earthquake. Half did not answer the question about current employment, suggesting an absence of such.

### Earthquake Losses

Two households had at least one person who died during the earthquake. A total of nine injuries were reported. Additionally, all 12 responded that their homes were rendered uninhabitable.

### Shelter

Shelters are built on all of the grassy areas (except the several acres of lawn immediately surrounding the palace) and along the cement parks and cobblestone walkways. A helicopter view would see the shelters covering the entire public area, divided into odd shaped puzzle pieces by the major boulevards all of which have remained open to traffic. Eighty three percent are living under tarps and only 8% live in tents. Nearly all stated they had not received any help finding sheltering material and most did not have anything to sleep on. An investigator summarized one resident's description: "Too many big flies, mosquitoes which give trouble. In short they live a bad life."

### Water and Sanitation

Plastic portable bathrooms are placed in sets of twelve along the sidewalk or along the roadside at the perimeter of the different camp zones. The investigators observed several of the bathrooms being emptied by trucks with large vacuum hoses in the hours of the investigation. CAMEP, the Haitian government's water authority, appeared to be in



Shelters filling a public square. Portable toilets provided by aid organizations sit on the curb.

charge of the trucks. A quick and random inspection of conditions showed that they are dirty and disgusting to use, as there are far too few of these devices for the tens of thousands of people who need them. Toilet paper was lacking in most, although the investigators did see some distribution of toilet paper by the workers who were emptying the toilets.

Further investigation revealed that there was ample water for bathing and washing, and even treated water for drinking, set up and maintained by ACF, known in English as Action Against Hunger. The people seemed well aware that it was ACF which was the source.<sup>12</sup>

### Food

The residents surveyed stated that since the quake they had only received food aid twice and it came from a distribution effort led by the United States Army. Almost half of the camp's residents purchased their food, although it was unclear how they were able to do so.

### Medical Care

Illnesses reported by the respondents included malaria, diarrhea, infections, aches and pains, and stress. Most reported that they accessed medical

<sup>12</sup> Although ACF's website states that it is providing food aid in Haiti, no resident of the Champ de Mars camp reported any food aid from ACF.

treatment at the nearby General Hospital, which has been run by NGOs and foreign doctors since the earthquake. Others stated that they had been to a clinic set up by Cuban doctors at the nearby Frère Andre School.

### Aid Provision

Most striking at the Champ de Mars encampment was the lack of aid distribution. When aid has come, like the bottled drinking water distributions the investigators observed, it is in the form of a large cargo truck pulling up near a site. The people have to run into a line and wait in hopes that there is something left when their turn comes.

Residents reported that no one from any relief organization had come into the camp to meet the people or to ask them what they needed, or for their suggestions on how to better serve their pressing needs. They did not come into the shelter area to pass out food or water in person. To get food or bottled drinking water, residents, including the many women and children in households without an adult male, had to be alert to the imminence of a distribution and have the means to run to the distribution site and struggle for and hold position. Many, of course, resigned themselves to the impossibility of this and often stayed behind to supervise their children under their shelters during the distributions.

### FAMILY PROFILE: *THE PIERRE MARIE YOLANDA FAMILY*

#### The Family Before

Marie lived next to Fort National, at Impasse Jean Charles #66. She lived with her mother (58 years old), four brothers (22, 22, 26 and 27 years old), and her daughter (14 years old). They had been renting property for two years. Her daughter went to school full time. The family had no vehicle and no insurance. She had savings in the bank but is no longer able to access her funds.

### Who and What They Lost

Two of Marie's brothers were killed in the quake. The house was completely destroyed. Because they have no money, they have nowhere to go. Marie is trying to raise money to move her family to a safe place, but for now she has no plans and no resources.

### The Family Now

Marie and her family arrived in this camp on January 13, 2010. They went to this camp because it was the closest to their home. One of her brothers suffers from malaria. Marie bought a tarp for US\$23 to create a shelter, although they stand all night when it rains. No one in the family is currently able to earn an income.

**Food.** The family must cook their own food, but they have no money to buy it. They use a charcoal cooking source. They get food donations from friends in the camp and share and ration the food rather than store it. They eat once a day.

**Drinking Water.** The family buys water to drink when they can. Water for bathing and washing clothes is obtained from ACF each day.

**Toilets and Bathing.** The people in the camp urinate next to the streets. They defecate in the public toilets which are unsanitary. Men bathe around the camp, while the women bathe in the shelter.

**Medical Aid.** There is a health clinic set up in the camp, but aid and medicine is limited. Because Marie has no money, she cannot get healthcare if someone gets sick.

**Sleeping Conditions/Privacy.** There is no mat for the family to sleep on. They have wood and blankets in addition to the tarp Marie bought.

**Future Plans.** Until she can get some money, Marie has no plans for herself or her family.

## Urgent Needs

Marie says that they need food, money and work or school the most. Other than water, the agencies are doing nothing. Marie recommended that distributions of money, food, and clothes be made to the camp's inhabitants.

## RELEVANT BAI FINDINGS

BAI surveyed 2,635 households in Port-au-Prince. Household size ranged from one to 33 people and the number of children ranged from zero

to 13. The average household had six people and half of all households had at least two children. On average, four out of every 10 households reported an injured person while two out of every 10 households reported a death. The number of missing people per household ranged from zero to 11 but most households did not report a missing person. Ninety-seven percent of houses suffered significant damage during the earthquake, including 35% that were destroyed. Seventy-five percent of households urgently needed some form of assistance: water (68%), food (66%), medicine (47%), clothing

# BOUZI CAMP IN CROIX-DES-BOUQUETS

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

**Household.** Half of respondents had six or more family members. Eighty nine percent had children who could no longer attend school.

**Injuries.** More than half had at least one family member who was injured.

**Shelter.** Forty four percent lived in open air and forty four percent had tarps.

**Water and Sanitation.** Forty four percent bought drinking water; no water relief was reported.

**Food.** Fifty six percent bought their food while 33% got food from relatives, friends, or neighbors. Twenty percent had not received any food relief from aid agencies.

**Medical Care.** Eleven percent had never received medical care.

**Aid Provision.** Eleven percent reported having had to pay for aid.

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

### Camp Location

The investigative team surveyed one camp in a cluster of camps in Croix-des-Bouquets, a large town just east of Port-au-Prince. The team entered the town, observing various camps and asking people to identify other camp locations off of the main streets. As a result, the team stopped to survey one large camp at Parc Rony Colin and then a cluster of smaller camps off the main road. This cluster is called Bouzi, named after the area's largest landowner. The Parc Rony Colin camp covered a grassy area about the size of two soccer fields,



**Bouzi camp.** The shelters are constructed without any materials from aid organizations.

and was surrounded by bustling activity in the streets and people selling food items, water, and soft drinks.

### Camp Residents

There are 45,008 total individuals living in the area, or 8,041 families.<sup>13</sup> The Bouzi camp was the most deprived of any observed during the week. It is a cluster of neighborhood shelters in open fields, separated by dirt roads and stone walls. The shelters lie about a half mile from the busy downtown area and the Parc Rony Colin and down a winding side street, the camp is far removed from the general public conscience. In one plot of land, surrounded by a short stone wall, not far from small cement houses that were still standing, were about 20 makeshift shelters housing 80 people.

### Camp Management

In this cluster of small camps, no aid in any form has been reported to have arrived. There was a blank look in many of the adult faces, not knowing where to go to fulfill any basic needs. The busier urban camps received more aid and had a buzz of activity, energized by frustration that things were not progressing fast enough. In Bouzi, however, the desolation felt like resignation – as if a return in a few months would reveal dried human bones

<sup>13</sup> The CCCM Cluster in Haiti., *supra* note 3.

and the remnants of bed sheets hanging from the occasional twig stuck in the ground.

## SUMMARY OF CAMP CONDITIONS

### Household Profile and Losses

The nine families surveyed in the Bouzi camp ranged in size from four to eight people. Half had at least six members to provide for in the camp and 89% had children who were no longer able to attend school. Questions about employment and income were largely unanswered. No deaths were reported, but more than half had at least one person who had been injured.

### Shelter

Nearly half lived in the open air. The rest lived crowded under shelters fashioned from twigs, tarps, and bed sheets. Some (11%) had received pup-tents from the U.S. Army. Some shelters were made with only one sheet, barely forming a partial “roof” or wall, and most looked like they served only to provide a few square meters of shade. Further investigation, however, revealed that these bed sheet and twig shelters were all that the people had. They were in a field of dried weeds which constituted their shelter floor. Some mothers had actually gathered cinderblocks from fallen buildings and shaped them into a cement “mattress” for the children to sleep on. Nearly all respondents in-



A painted sign meant to direct assistance to the Bouzi camp's location.

dicated they had not received any sheltering material from relief agencies.

### Water and Sanitation

Water for bathing and washing clothes came from a public source in the area, but safe drinking water had to be purchased. Water conditions were the worst at this camp, with most respondents reporting that they had not received any water aid. Camp residents stated that they left the field to urinate and defecate behind houses in the area, or sometimes in a house that was still standing, but damaged. There were public latrines set up that were used by many. Some, however, took care of their toilet needs by defecating into a bag and throwing it in a garbage pile.

### Food

Food was given by area residents and shared within the camp. They depended on people from the surrounding area to bring food to share. Here, unlike other camps surveyed, all of the residents surveyed stated that they ate once per day, at most. Food had reportedly been delivered only once to the camp, by an NGO called World Vision. Stated one resident, “we were still hungry after we ate it.” Another resident stated, “We are in [a] bad situation because we cannot eat. I don't find food for the children.”

### Medical Care

Residents reported that a health clinic was temporarily in the camp and staffed by Dominicans, but it was not there when the investigators visited. Some said that residents had to travel to St. Catherine's Hospital in Cité Soleil (staffed and managed by Doctors Without Borders since the earthquake) for treatment.

### Aid Provision

There was no water, medical care, sanitation facilities, or food anywhere. Water was obtained from local houses. Also lacking was any school or daycare facility for the children, or any aid to get

the people – many of whom were street merchants – back on their feet with some start-up cash. Generally, the men were not in the camp at the time of the survey, and the women were with the children, just sitting and talking. The most common complaints were that no agency or government had provided any substantial aid, that the children needed to be cared for, and that jobs were sorely needed.

## **FAMILY PROFILE: *THE BARBARA MAURICE FAMILY***

### **The Family Before**

Barbara lived in Lilavois 58, Bon Repas with three cousins (ages 15 to 22), two sisters (ages 26 to 28), one nephew (age 10) and one niece (age three). Barbara owned her property and had lived in that home for eight years before the earthquake. She was a self-employed merchant, the only one employed in her family. Three of the children attended school full time. The family had no vehicle. While she had savings, it was all stolen. They had no insurance.

### **Who and What They Lost**

No one in the family was killed in the earthquake, although her nephew was injured. The house was destroyed. Because their savings were stolen, they have no money to repair their house, and no money to rent another place. There is no possibility of returning to their home.

### **The Family Now**

The family unit remained intact. They arrived at the camp on January 12, 2010, and have remained because they believe it to be their safest option. They have created a shelter through a combination of tarp, wood, blankets, and blocks. When it rains, they stay under a shelter of blankets until it stops. They have no income.

**Food.** They must buy their food, and either “use it well [or] share with other people”; there is no way to store food. They sometimes receive

canned food from World Vision. To cook, they use a stove or boiler and vegetable oil as a cooking source. They eat “sometimes one [time] in a day.”

**Drinking Water.** The family must buy water to drink; water for bathing and washing clothes is from the public water pump.

**Toilets and Bathing.** Men and women urinate on the ground. They use a public toilet to defecate. Bathing occurs “around the camp.”

**Medical Aid.** There was a health clinic set up in the camp, but they no longer provide medical aid. If someone is sick, they go to St. Catherine Hospital. They do not know where to receive medicine.

**Sleeping Conditions/Privacy.** There is one sleeping mat in the family’s shelter.

**Future Plans.** They have no plans to leave the camp or establish a new home.

### **Urgent Needs**

Barbara said the camp needs tents, food, tarps, and medicine. Food aid has come only once, and that was canned rice; they “eventually” received water. They have gotten nothing for shelter. If she could change anything, Barbara stated she would ensure: better organization of aid distribution, make the block safe, make a brigade corps, and give the people tents.

## **RELEVANT BAI FINDINGS**

BAI surveyed 104 households in Croix-des-Bouquets. Household size ranged from two to 15 people and the number of children ranged from zero to one child. The average household had five to six people. On average, four out of every 10 households reported an injured person; the same held true for deaths. On average, two out of every 10 households reported a missing person. Forty-nine percent of houses were destroyed, 48% were damaged, and 3% were unharmed. Ninety-four percent of households urgently needed some form of assistance: water (94%), food (94%), medicine (94%), clothing (91%), and tents (94%).



# PARC LA COURONNE

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

**Household.** Half of respondents had six or more family members. Eighty five percent had children who could no longer attend school.

**Losses.** Ninety three percent could no longer live in their homes.

**Shelter.** Ninety two percent lived under tarps and eight percent had nothing.

**Water and Sanitation.** Thirty nine percent bought drinking water.

**Food.** Sixty nine percent bought their food while 23% got food from relatives, friends, or neighbors. Forty six percent had not received any food relief from aid agencies.

**Medical Care.** Fifteen percent had never received medical care.

**Aid Provision.** Eight percent reported having had to pay for aid.

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

### Camp Location

Camp Parc La Couronne is a soccer field situated next to a soda factory which makes La Couronne soda. The area name is National Route #1 Sarthe 51. It is on the eastern edge of downtown Port-au-Prince, on the road toward Croix-des-Bouquets.

### Camp Residents

There are 8,200 total individuals living there, or 262 families.<sup>14</sup> The most striking feature of this camp was the number of children. They seemed to be everywhere, fetching water, running, bathing



A view of a small section of La Couronne camp.

younger siblings, and playing with distributed food. One 11-year-old boy had found some type of ready-to-eat meal in bag that could be manipulated in such a way that it heated and cooked the contents. Curious friends gathered around to watch it work. When the boy opened it, steam shot out, and then he reached in to eat what looked like beef stew on rice. When he had his fill, he passed the bag around. Although it was as much nourishment as it was curiosity, one is reminded that such meals in individual bags are not how Haitian's eat. Similarly, another boy had a single-serving tube of some high protein peanut butter-like substance in a squirt packet made for emergency nutrition. But he was observed gathering his friends who had been playing in the dirt and had them put their hands out for him. He squeezed a portion into everyone's palm. In such a fashion, not only did the first beneficiary not get the full nutrient benefit, but it made for a quick way to pass bacteria and parasites from dirty hands to the mouth.

### Camp Management

Upon entering, there is an immediate sense of organization and the feeling that aid groups have been present. La Couronne was the only camp where NGO officials were present and walking through the camp and registering people. A small team from the Mexican Red Cross had split up from

<sup>14</sup> The CCCM Cluster in Haiti., *supra* note 3.

their Haitian translators and were recording each tent's position, its head of household's name, and the number of residents. Before leaving the brief interview, the workers marked each shelter with a number, and gave the head of household a card with his registration number and the number of his tent. There was also an extremely large tent set up in the back of the park for church services, including a large public address system.

## SUMMARY OF CAMP CONDITIONS

### Household Profile and Losses

The 13 families surveyed ranged in size from three to nine people. Half had at least six members to provide for in the camp and 85% had children who were no longer able to attend school. Nearly all respondents lost their income source as a result of the earthquake. One household lost at least one family member while a few others reported injuries. Ninety-three percent stated they could not live in their homes because of earthquake damage.

### Shelter

Shelter materials ranged from tents to bed sheets to tarps. Some had nothing more than a couple of sticks dug into the ground with sheets tied between them. The ground was black dirt, and the edges by the perimeter walls were full of raw garbage. Flies, as in most urban camps, were everywhere. Most said they had never received any sheltering material from agencies.

### Water and Sanitation

All residents stated that they had plenty of access to clean water and attributed this to both the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders. Although the Red Cross provides half of all water relief, reports suggest the water is not treated. Respondents indicated that there are toilets but they are so dirty that people are still urinating and defecating on the streets.



Only cardboard keeps this elderly woman from spending her day in the dirt.

### Food

Most reported that they had never received any food aid, but some reported receiving food from the Red Cross, the United Nations, or Doctors Without Borders. No one reported to have received food consistently and most reported having to purchase their food.

### Medical Care

Upon entering the camp, the investigators saw and visited a large tarp structure that had been built earlier that day by an American evangelical group of doctors and nurses who had set up a medical clinic and stated that they planned to be there for two weeks. The "field hospital" was led by an American man, with no Creole language skills, who walked along the line of patients with a wooden baton, adding an unnecessary feeling that the group had come to provide aid to savage beasts, not needy people.

### Aid Provision

All of the respondents reported having received some form of aid, but provision seems to be sporadic. One resident stated that they heard about the aid but could never locate it. Another indicated that if he had more say in how things were run, he would ensure that aid cards were shared with everyone.

## FAMILY PROFILE: *THE G'HAITI LUCKNIE FAMILY*

### The Family Before

G'Haiti lived in #7 Lacour Betane Sarthe with her husband (age 28), two brothers (ages 11 and 19), daughter (age 11) and cousin (age 28). G'Haiti and her husband owned their home, and the family had lived there since 2004. They were self-employed. One of her children attended school full-time. The family had no vehicle or insurance. They had saved US\$405 in their home. Their savings were lost in the destruction of the house.

### Who and What They Lost

No one from G'Haiti's home was killed or injured in the earthquake. The house was completely destroyed and there is no possibility of return.

### The Family Now

G'Haiti is living in the camp with her husband, daughter, and one of her brothers. The family arrived at the camp on January 12, 2010. They are at this camp because it was the closest to their home. They received a tarp when they arrived for sheltering material. G'Haiti is no longer able to earn an income.

**Food.** When organizations come with food, G'Haiti takes some; however, she must also buy her food. She cooks the food using wood charcoal and stores the food in her tent. The family eats once a day.

**Drinking Water.** The family buys treated water to drink, and uses water from the "Water Wagon" for bathing and washing clothes.

**Toilets and Bathing.** The family bathes in the street. The Red Cross set up public bathrooms near the woods where they urinate and defecate.

**Medical Care.** There is a health clinic set up in the camp, where G'Haiti has received care from a medical professional. She does not know where to receive medicine, and if she needs medical



The majority of camp populations are comprised of children.

aid but cannot get in to the clinic she just stays at home.

**Sleeping Conditions/Privacy.** There is one sleeping mat in the family's shelter.

**Future Plans.** G'Haiti would like to leave and establish a new home, but this requires money. She is looking for work. She plans on leaving in a month, if she can get money, and going to live in Port-au-Prince.

### Urgent Needs

G'Haiti says they need food, good water and money at the camps. A major problem is poor distribution by the agencies providing aid; G'Haiti stated she recommends that aid workers go to every tent to provide medical aid, food and treated water.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these findings, we urge donors, international organizations, and NGOs to:

## ADOPT A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

- Respect human rights and follow the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement at all stages of planning, implementation, and evaluation of humanitarian assistance;
- Adopt a rights-based approach, ensuring the goals of transparency, accountability, capacity development, participation, and non-discrimination; and
- Incorporate long-term planning and ensure all assistance is coordinated with the government of Haiti, focusing on building a stronger Haiti with a government able to guarantee human rights to all Haitian people.

## IMPLEMENT A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

- Coordinate and mandate the full “adoption” of every camp by a single managing relief agency. This will provide the NGO an incentive to not just compete with other NGOs for donations, but to compete where it matters: to have the most successful camp outcomes. A single NGO can take pride in assuring that its camp residents are not dying from preventable diseases; are receiving clean water; have healthy and regular meals; have programming for children and adults; have clean and dignified toilet facilities; and are on the way to restoring their lives and finding permanent housing.
- Provide large kitchens/canteens for bulk cooking of meals at the camps. This would keep costs down, permit camp residents to stop buying expensive charcoal in small, personal quantities, eliminate the need for each camp shelter to have a cooking space, and employ residents as kitchen staff.

- Provide materials for keeping the sanitation facilities clean, and employ camp residents in maintenance and clean-up teams.
- Employ teams of workers who have the strength and know-how to build shelters for the women with children, the elderly, and the disabled.
- Provide aid workers to walk the camps and personally meet with people, especially the elderly, infirm, and disabled, to make an individualized plan for meals, medical care, sanitation and water.
- Provide schools and daycare centers for the children.
- Provide money to the many women who were street merchants so they can begin to access income again.
- Eliminate the “one off” distributions of relief supplies and food that require an armed military presence solely because of the poor planning.
- Ensure that the people in the camps fully participate in the decision-making and coordination of programs and policies.

## PROMOTE HAITIAN PARTICIPATION IN AID DISTRIBUTION

This investigation is the first step in a longitudinal study. The families surveyed here will be followed as Haiti responds to the crisis, recovers, and rebuilds in the months and years ahead. Meanwhile, this study will track changes in: 1) the living conditions in the camps; 2) access to aid, basic supplies, and services; 3) forced or voluntary relocation; and 4) changes in socio-economic circumstances. If these most basic problems are not addressed quickly, disease, starvation and homelessness are sure to wash in with the impending rainy season.

# CONCLUSION

The LAMP for Haiti investigative team's most disturbing finding is that they were the first people to have spoken and listened to displaced persons as equals. The investigators inquired about their losses, their current situation, their needs, and their ideas for surviving the crisis. It was obvious that all aid distribution was designed, planned and implemented by outsiders. Almost universally, those surveyed in the camps stated that the distribution of aid was totally lacking, incomplete, or seemingly arbitrary.

Because aid is not coming from the Haitian government but instead from members of the international community who have not consulted the people they aim to serve, aid has not met the camp-dwellers' needs in a meaningful way. From drinkable water to more collective or economical meal provision, from medical care to the most basic sanitation provision, everything is either severely lacking or provided in a way foreign to what Haitians know and need most. There continues to be no programming for children, no special care for the elderly or handicapped, no programs to build shelters for these vulnerable populations. Even then, most "shelters" are makeshift and are not suitable to protect against the elements.

Aid is uncoordinated and this need not be the case. No agency or government has taken formal responsibility for any single camp surveyed. Therefore, the *ad hoc* provision of occasional aid comes with an escape hatch to accountability and opens the door for one organization to blame others for a camp's overall condition. This slows progress and gives no aid provider an incentive to dedicate service for overall improvement of a camp's conditions.

The gulf between the generous aid donated to Haiti by the international community, and the lethal dearth of aid received by earthquake victims is filled, in part, with unavoidable obstacles erected by the earthquake itself. But the gulf is also filled, in too large a part, by completely avoidable obstacles erected by people who refuse to consult with and respect the earthquake victims, coordinate well amongst each other or effectively implement their initiatives. These refusals comprise a clear violation of the economic and social human rights of earthquake victims who have already suffered too much, and a violation of donor state's human rights obligations.

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