

**4/19/10** updated 5/3/10

While continuing to maintain its longstanding presence along Haiti's Northeastern border with the Dominican Republic, Jesuit Refugee Service-Haiti is focusing its current relief efforts in the Port-au-Prince area, working in seven camps, serving the needs of more than 23,000 displaced people in and around the capital city. Father Wismith Lazard, SJ, the director of JRS-Haiti, and his staff accompany the victims of the earthquake by providing psychosocial and pastoral assistance for both individuals and groups.

# JRS Work in Camps

JRS is the official camp manager in three camps, Henfrasa, Palais de l'art, and Parc Colofer. In these camps we employ a participative management approach to ensure that all voices are heard and that the most vulnerable camp residents receive the care they require.

In another camp, Automeca, where an organization called International Emergency and Development Aid, Inc (IEDA) is the camp manager, JRS provides psycho-social assistance and supports camp residents who coordinate committees in the camps through management training sessions and regular meetings aimed at building capacity for the displaced Haitians to develop their own recovery and reconstruction initiatives. On a visit to Automeca is in a crisis situation. Camp residents live in shacks made of tarps and rags inches from one another with little or no privacy. There are no schools, no electricity, poor sanitation and water that is barely potable and often brings on diarrhea in children and adults. Of the many people we spoke to, nearly all complained of lack of food. The president of the camp, elected by camp residents to represent their interests, reports that only three food distributions had been made by the World Food Program in the past three months and none since February.

It should be noted that 80% of all officially sanctioned camps in Haiti have no camp managers.

# Needs in "Unofficial" Camps

The other three camps where JRS labors are the "unofficial" camps in the Manresa district (Bas Georges, Au Georges, and La Grotte). Because these camps are not sanctioned by the Haitian government and the international coordinating bodies, JRS is the only NGO presence in the camp. The Haitian government has asked the camp residents in these "unofficial" camps to leave these areas because the space is unsustainable, however no alternative has been offered for camp residents, and the population has protested that they have no where else to go. JRS has elected to continue to accompany these vulnerable IDPs

and to serve their needs as much as possible until such time as camp residents are given another place where they can live.

The people in all "unofficial camps" throughout the city receive little to no care from large aid organizations and the international coordinating bodies. JRS calls on the Haitian Government and the International community to address the needs of those in official and "unofficial" camps alike, and to continue to distribute aid to those in unofficial camps until such time as these camp residents are offered a safe and tenable place where they might settle during the emergency phase.

## **Camp Conditions Generally**

JRS notes that all camps where we work continue to suffer from some overarching concerns assistance, infrastructure and security concerns. Concerns range from lack of access to potable water, to the spreading of infections such as typhoid, tetanus, and malaria, to poor drainage in many camps, to too little food and water distribution and the particular vulnerability of women, the elderly, children and the disabled during aid delivery.

The following is a camp-by-camp description of needs from our JRS staff with new census results:

# 1) Automeca Camp

#### Census

Number of Persons: 11,000
Number of women and girls: 7150
Number of men and boys: 3850
Number disabled: 62
Number of pregnant women: 78
Number of elderly (over 70): 21
Number of orphans: 42

### Needs

- Food is insufficient and had only been delivered three times (as of 5/3/10)
- Lights for security at night (women have been sexual assault victims and are scared to walk at night unaccompanied)
- Private spaces for women to bathe
- Potable water
- Permanent and dignified shelter
- Schooling and safe spaces for children
- Poor Sanitation Garbage is overflowing

## 2) Henfraza (Henfrasa) Camp

#### Census

Number of Persons: 7,410 Number of women and girls: 4332 Number of men and boys: 3078
Number disabled: 22
Number of pregnant women: 51
Number of elderly: 30
Number of orphans: 25
Number of families: 693
Number of infants (0-3): 219
Number of children (4-17): 1844

### Needs

- Food is insufficient and irregularly delivered
- Technical Training for camp residents so that they can participate in the rebuilding effort
- Lights for security at night
- Productive Jobs
- Private spaces for women to bathe
- There is no permanent health clinic and medical attention is irregular
- Need for special accompaniment of the vulnerable groups
- Poor Sanitation Garbage is overflowing

# 3) Pack Kolofe (Parc Colofer)

### Census

1500 Number of Persons: Number of women and girls: 800 700 Number of men and boys: Number disabled: 37 Number of elderly: 30 Number of families: 227 Number of infants (0-3): 12 Number of children (4-17): 150

### Needs

- Food is insufficient and irregularly delivered (the worst of the food problems in the official camps we work in is here)
- Drainage is insufficient; standing water means mosquitoes and disease
- Lights for security at night
- Private spaces for women to bathe
- Need to provide activities/schooling for the children
- Technical Training for camp residents so that they can participate in the rebuilding effort
- Productive Jobs
- Poor Sanitation Garbage is overflowing

## 4) Plais de l'art (Palais de l'art)

#### Census

Number of Persons: 1350 Number of women and girls: 751 Number of men and boys: 599 Number of families: 270 Number of children: 105

### Needs

- The camp is experiencing rapid displacement because of pressure from the owner for the people to leave the camp. All those who have other places to go have left. Those left behind are the ones with nowhere else to go. JRS is trying to negotiate a resolution to the problem.
- Lights for security at night
- Private spaces for women to bathe
- Food is insufficient and irregularly delivered
- Medical needs are not being met
- Schooling for children needed
- Poor Sanitation Garbage is overflowing

# "Unofficial" Camps served by JRS

## 5) La Grotte

### Census

Number of Persons: 1542
Number of women and girls: 925
Number of men and boys: 617
Number of pregnant women: 60
Number of elderly: 80
Number of orphans: 20
Number of infants (0-3): 250
Number of children (4-17): 630

#### Needs

- Food
- Drainage
- Lights for security at night
- Care for pregnant women and infants
- There is no water
- No sanitation
- No security
- The government must find a new place for these people before forcing them to leave

## 6) Bas Georges

#### Census

Number of Persons: 962 Number of women and girls: 596 Number of men and boys: 366 Number of elderly: 147 Number of infants (0-3): 97 Number of children (4-17): 356

### Needs

- Food
- Drainage
- Lights for security at night
- Water is not sanitized
- Typhoid
- Malaria
- No sanitation
- No security
- The government must find a new place for these people before forcing them to leave

# 7) Au George

## Census

Not available yet

## Needs

- Food
- Drainage
- Water
- No sanitation
- No security
- The government must find a new place for these people before forcing them to leave

## **Recommendations**

- The Clusters should immediately address drainage, sanitation, food and water needs and ensure better coordination of these basic necessities so that all camps are receiving access to regular aid delivery.
- Unofficial camps should not be neglected or disconnected from aid efforts until appropriate alternatives have been offered for camp residents.
- Women should be fully integrated into the camp leadership committees.
- Aid delivery should be organized in a way that protects vulnerable populations and ensures that they are receiving sufficient food and water and are offered special security.

- Camp management and aid delivery structures should always include consultation and cooperation with the displaced people who are swiftly forming their own organizations to advocate for their own particular needs.
- More attention must be placed on supporting the food and relief needs for IDP recipient communities and people not living in camps so that moving to a camp is not the only way that people receive food, water, and livelihood assistance.