

Haiti

International Relief & Development (IRD) established a presence in Haiti on January 18, in order to provide emergency assistance in response to the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas on January 12. The field team includes **experts in rapid response and assessment, agriculture, infrastructure, and health**, who have been focusing their initial efforts on providing basic humanitarian aid, such as water, food, sanitation, medicines, and shelter materials.

IRD has made arrangements to ship and distribute medical supplies, antibiotics, anti-diarrhea medicines, oral rehydration salts, water purifiers, respirator masks, solar-powered lights, and additional humanitarian aid. To date, **IRD has received more than \$14 million worth of in-kind relief commodities.**

IRD has received more than \$330,000 in cash donations and grants from individuals and private organizations. This money is being used to immediately purchase basic humanitarian aid for the people of Haiti, to support IRD's shelter and sanitation programs, and to help cover airfreight and shipping costs to deliver commodities to Port-au-Prince.

IRD is concentrating its efforts in the Leogane district, the area closest to the earthquake's epicenter with more than 93 percent destruction. Every resident of Leogane was sleeping outside in makeshift shelters following the earthquake, and they continue to rely on humanitarian organizations for food, water, and shelter. IRD is working with local Haitian partners in order to quickly distribute aid to those most in need. In addition, IRD is coordinating with local authorities and other humanitarian organizations to ensure each project is appropriate and effective.

On March 3, IRD received nearly **\$6.5 million in support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**. These funds are helping to provide shelter, sanitation, and hygiene assistance, as well as medicine, clothes, and shoes, to 28,000 individuals in Leogane, Haiti.

Shelter

IRD distributed emergency shelter materials to more than 3,500 families, or 28,000 individuals, in the Grand Riviere and Gros Morne sections of Leogane. IRD is now providing 2,500 families with transitional shelter materials, such as lumber, corrugated metal, and cement blocks. In addition to the materials, families receive tools and training in order to enhance the durability and duration of their transitional homes. To date, 143 transitional shelters have been built and the remaining 2,357 shelters should be complete in the next five months. IRD will also provide materials to another 1,000 families who plan to salvage and rebuild their damaged homes and move back in.



IRD plans to build 2,500 shelters by November. More than 140 are already completed.



IRD distributed solar-powered flashlights to volunteer security committees in Leogane, which allows for more effective night patrols and increased security.

Sanitation

IRD is building latrines, showers, and hand-washing stations in Leogane and forming Hygiene & User Committees to promote hygiene awareness training and maintain the sanitation facilities. Construction activities immediately engage beneficiaries in cash-for-work activities, providing them with a source of income to help support their families. To date, IRD has built 226 latrines, 144 showers, and 35 hand-washing points, benefiting more than 8,000 individuals.

Agriculture

While rapid response is critical during the emergency phase of relief activities, IRD also understands the need for families to reestablish their livelihoods and begin longer-term recovery. IRD is providing agricultural inputs to jumpstart agricultural activities, distributing seeds and tools, and rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure, in the Grand Riviere and Gros Morne sections of Leogane.

Infrastructure

IRD has a team of engineers experienced in vertical structures and road construction and rehabilitation. IRD is well equipped for the Haiti reconstruction phase. As an initial step, IRD implemented a cash-for-work program for rubble removal and clean up in Leogane. IRD is also conducting ongoing infrastructure and energy assessments in conjunction with the government and community in Leogane.

Past Experience

Since 2009 IRD has provided substantial emergency support to Haiti, including more than \$4 million worth of oral rehydration salts and pharmaceuticals. The salts and pharmaceuticals helped to combat diarrhea and dehydration, as well as many life-threatening diseases that rapidly spread with the consumption of contaminated water. ADRA Haiti, Food For The Poor, and UNICEF Canada were partners that identified areas where aid was most needed and distributed the supplies.

For more information and the latest news on IRD's earthquake relief efforts, visit www.ird.org, follow [@ird_relief](https://twitter.com/ird_relief) and [@ird_voices](https://twitter.com/ird_voices) on Twitter, or become a fan on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ird.org).

IRD is a non-profit humanitarian and development organization dedicated to improving the lives and livelihoods of the world's most vulnerable people. IRD specializes in conflict and post-conflict environments and works in more than 40 countries. With the help of local groups and donors, IRD builds sustainable, community-based programs that address relief, stabilization and development needs in the areas of health, agriculture, infrastructure, emergency response, and governance.