

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, refugee camp management, infrastructure, and health**, who are 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 \$9.5 million worth of relief commodities.**

IRD has received more than \$200,000 in cash donations from individual and corporate donors. This money is being used to immediately purchase basic humanitarian aid for the people of Haiti, to implement IRD's current 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 90 percent destruction. Every resident of Leogane has been sleeping outside in makeshift shelters and completely relies 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.



IRD has distributed shelter materials to 1,000 families in Leogane.

Shelter

IRD is distributing emergency shelter materials to families in the Grand Riviere and Gros Morne sections of Leogane. To date, 2,000 families, or 16,000 individuals, have received plastic sheeting, and the goal is to distribute materials to 3,500 households, or 28,000 individuals. IRD is also focusing on the transition from emergency shelter to transitional shelter.

Sanitation

Latrine construction is IRD's principal undertaking in the Grand Riviere and Gros Morne sections of Leogane. IRD began construction on February 19 for 1,200 latrines—1,000 individual latrines and 20 block latrines that contain 10 seats each. Latrine construction immediately engages beneficiaries in cash-for-work activities.

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. We will provide agricultural inputs to jumpstart agricultural activities, distribute seeds and tools, rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure, establish seed banks, and promote improved farming practices in 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 will implement a cash-for-work program for rubble removal in the Grand Riviere and Gros Morne sections of Leogane.



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

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) on Twitter, or become a fan of "[International Relief and Development](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalReliefandDevelopment)" on Facebook.

IRD is a non-profit humanitarian and development organization dedicated to improving the lives and livelihoods of the world's most vulnerable people. With the help of local groups and donors, IRD builds sustainable, community-based programs for health, agriculture, economic growth, infrastructure, and governance. IRD works in nearly 40 countries and specializes in conflict and post-conflict environments.