

Haiti Partners Earthquake Response Project: Building Learning Centers & Temporary Shelters in Haiti

Purpose:

By building *Learning Centers* immediately we can address three **urgent** community needs, while also investing in long-term issues:

- (a) Shelter
- (b) Jobs
- (c) Education and Communication

Cost:

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| To build and equip: | \$60,000 (includes water cistern, furniture, projector etc) |
| To power: | \$20,000 (solar powered electricity, generator and Internet) |
| To staff and operate: | <u>\$10,000</u> (6 months – teachers, Internet fees, supplies/gas) |
| TOTAL | \$90,000 |

1. **SHELTER:** Learning Centers (40'x 100') will be built to high engineering standards, providing both earthquake and hurricane resistance. They can be constructed in 6-8 weeks (and building must begin NOW before the looming rainy season). The Learning Centers will serve three immediate purposes:
 - A. Shelter for approximately 50 people. We will need many pavilions to shelter the thousands of homeless people in the areas we serve.
 - B. Transitional education for 250 students, 125 each in morning and afternoon sessions.
 - C. Two spacious secure rooms (800 square feet) for storing books, computers, and other equipment and materials.

Long-term: These Learning Centers will become part of a school complex, providing long term education facilities, community centers and meeting places.

2. **JOBS:** Effective aid during this transitional phase is providing cash-for-work jobs to rebuild the community.
 - A. Construction jobs: This project would immediately create 45 construction jobs for each Learning Center.
 - B. Teacher jobs: Initially, this project would provide 8 teaching jobs per school.

Long-term: These schools will transition into Haiti Partners' Students Program. This program provides educational infrastructure, teacher training, and seed-capital and instruction for schools to start their own businesses. These businesses will enable community-based schools to be supported by their communities, thereby reducing then eliminating long-term dependency on teacher salaries from outside sources.

3. EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

- A. In emergency response situations, simply getting children back into school is considered a “best practice,” so that a sense of community normalcy is returned. The Haitian government has declared that wherever possible, school should re-start February 1.
- B. Experts will be brought in to ensure our Haitian teachers can help children through the stages of trauma, based on programs from similar emergency situations around the world.
- C. Thanks to our partnership with Wave Place (www.waveplace.org) students will learn to use computers, Internet and have access to excellent curriculum via 50 OLPC laptops (“One Laptop Per Child”).
- D. Students and teachers will be able to connect with their counterparts in other parts of the world thanks to access to Internet. The relationships that emerge will spark creativity, mutual learning and concrete projects that benefit all involved.
- E. Haiti Partners specializes in participatory education that fosters critical thinking, group learning, and self-confidence. We will emphasize these areas as part of our general curriculum.
- F. With practical agricultural education being an important part of our curriculum, a large cistern that collects rainwater is essential for watering the school garden.

Long-term: Haiti Partners already had schools in place in these areas, so we are committed to education as part of a long-term strategy for Haiti, not just a temporary fix in this emergency.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDS ARE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO ADDRESS THE **URGENT** NEEDS OF SHELTER, JOBS, AND EDUCATION. PLEASE SEE THE DONATE PAGE OF THE HAITI PARTNERS WEBSITE (WWW.HAITIPARTNERS.ORG) AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IMMEDIATELY. HAITI NEEDS YOU NOW!