



World Neighbors Haiti Talking Points

The devastating earthquake that hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti will unquestionably have an impact on World Neighbors 11 programs, all located north of the capital city. The World Neighbors Haiti office suffered damage making daily operations impossible, therefore at this time, they do not have an assessment of any physical damage to the rural communities of their areas or know exactly how they have been and will be affected.

The Haitian government was urging many of the estimated 600,000 homeless Port-au-Prince residents, in a city of 2 million, to look for better shelter with relatives or others in the countryside. Some 200,000 were believed already to have done so, most taking advantage of free government transportation. [1](#)

Because of this, World Neighbors anticipates a surge of people migrating into their rural program areas creating the need to address the immediate crisis.

World Neighbors immediate plan is to ensure the safety of their staff, families and partners, then relocating the office outside of Port-au-Prince. In the program areas, the immediate needs will be adequate supplies of food, clean water, sanitation and health services.

The price of food will undoubtedly double or triple making it difficult for families to have enough to eat. Food security is a priority for World Neighbors who will help strengthen the local markets and storage banks to allow people to buy basic food at a reasonable price, and facilitate access to seeds for nutritious, fast-growing crops like green vegetables, sweet potatoes and cassava.

1. NewsOK January 25, 2010 - [Haiti reports 150,000 quake victims buried](#)

To accommodate the growing number of people in the areas, World Neighbors will also facilitate access to adequate drinking water and latrines, and construction of tanks will be a priority for water storage.

World Neighbors will organize trainings with their existing health volunteers to educate local people about safe hygiene practices to decrease the spread of diseases during this critical post-disaster period.

These short-term steps are devised in a way that aims to return the communities as quickly as possible back towards long-term development processes.

World Neighbors has had programs in Haiti since 1966, addressing the inter-connected problems of declining food production, malnutrition, ill health and environmental degradation in underserved areas of Haiti. Currently 222 communities in Haiti participate in World Neighbors people-centered programs, benefiting over 5,400 households for a total of 66,626 people.

Donations for disaster response will first be used for basic needs such as temporary shelter, safe food, clean water and medical supplies with future funding being used to transition the programs as quickly as possible back to long term development goals.

Any funds that exceed the level necessary to provide relief in this recovery effort will support World Neighbors ongoing work to help those around the world lift themselves out of poverty.

To support World Neighbors efforts in Haiti or to learn more, visit www.wn.org or call 405.752.9700.

Headquartered in Oklahoma City, World Neighbors is an international development organization striving to eliminate hunger, poverty and disease in the poorest, most isolated rural villages in Asia, Africa and Latin America. World Neighbors invests in people and their communities by training and inspiring them to create their own life-changing solutions through programs in agriculture, literacy, water, health and

environmental protection. Since 1951, more than 25 million people in 45 countries have transformed their lives with the support of World Neighbors.