

## Help for Haiti: A Global Effort

Mariamawit Tadesse, Assistant Editor

Haiti is the world's first black-led republic, as well as the first independent Caribbean state. The Republic of Haiti has a population of 10 million (UN 2009), with Creole and French as the major languages and Christianity as the main religion. Haiti has faced numerous natural disasters including tsunamis, storms, hurricanes, floods, and quakes. With its instability, continued poverty, violence, political turmoil, and misrule, Haiti remains the poorest nation among the Americas. On Tuesday, January 12, 2010 Haiti was hit by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake whose epicenter was Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. This is the world's third worst earthquake after the 2004 tsunami that was a 9.1 on the Richter scale and China's magnitude 7.9 earthquake of 2008. With such a severe earthquake that has left over 200,000 feared dead and many more injured, Haiti's salvation and rebuilding is left at the mercy of the international community.

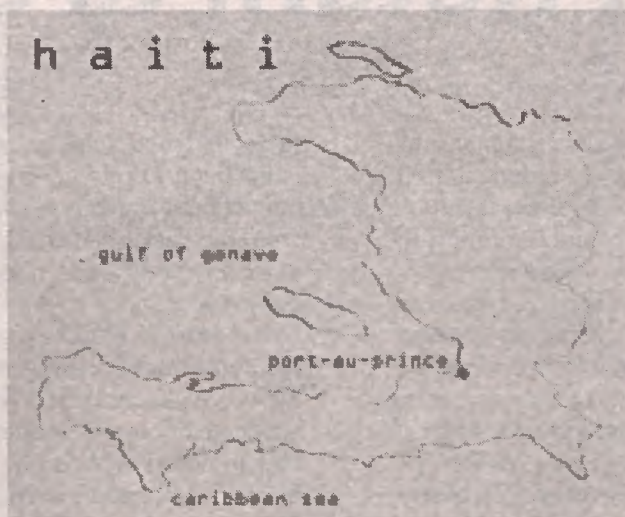
According to Cooper and Robbins's article in the NY Times, President Obama promised Haiti the "unwavering support" of the United States, sending \$100 million relief effort along with ships, transport planes, 2,000 Marines, and helicopters. Also, Canadian citizens have contributed about \$47 million, and South American nations, like Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, and Cuba, have sent 1,266 troops to Haiti as part of a UN stabilization force (CNN).

Paul Kujawsky's article, in the

Raleigh Examiner, highlights the Middle East's response to the Haitian disaster. An Israeli rescue team of about 220 people was the first to reach the ground and set up a field hospital. Bahrain, Morocco, and Turkey have each pledged to donate \$1 million, and Lebanon, Kuwait, and Sudan are trying to raise funds. Cargo planes loaded with food and medical supplies were dispatched from Iran, Jordan, Syria, and the U.A.E., and a Qatari team of doctors flew to Port-au-Prince to care for the survivors while Palestinians donated to Haiti through the Red Crescent.

Australia, according to World News Australia, is making efforts in Haiti to help provide food, water, shelter and medicine. International aid organizations based in Australia, such as, Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières, and World Vision are distributing water, sanitation services, tents, and blankets. In addition to this, Australia recently pledged to give \$9.3 million in support.

In the wake of the earthquake, some African countries are giving donations in money, as well as in land. Governments of Liberia, Rwanda, Chad, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone have promised hundreds of thou-



Map of Haiti, graphic by Kristen Gallagher

sands of dollars each. Democratic Republic of Congo has announced that it is sending \$2.5 million in emergency aid to Haiti—an offer that was criticized by some Congolese because the country depends on foreign aid and is facing severe financial difficulties. The Information Minister, Lambert Mende, told the BBC that "Congo isn't bankrupt; our own problems shouldn't prevent us from helping a brother." South Africa has also given funds and deployed doctors to Haiti. Additionally, Senegal's president said he was offering free land to any Haitians who wanted to "return" to Africa.

Asian countries, like India and China, have each donate \$1 million. China has sent a relief team consisting of 60 members along with several sniffer dogs. Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea have pledged millions of dollars. Taiwan has sent 23 rescue workers and two tons of aid and equipment.

In Europe, most countries have donated millions of dollars, as well as rescue workers. According to the Guardian, a seven-year-old boy in London who hoped to raise £500 for Haiti by cycling five miles around a local park ended up raising £120,000 in donations and gift aid. Russia is sending a mobile hospital consisting of 45 staff. The mobile hospital, Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman Elena Chernova told CNN, "has intensive therapy, surgery, diagnostics, ultrasound, X-ray, electrocardiogram modules as well as a blood test laboratory," and can accommodate 50 patients at a time.

In addition to national efforts, international organizations and small

## Help for Haiti

Mariah Wamuita Githua, Staff Writer

It is a tumultuous time for Haiti, and as the grieving nation is recovering from the recent devastating earthquake, countries from around the world are pooling their effort to help. In addition to global and national relief efforts, the Meredith College community has launched several relief efforts to raise funds to support Haiti. They include:

- The Meredith Association of Natural Sciences (MANS@meredith.edu) is collecting donations for the American Red Cross. Donations can be dropped off in the collection jar in 202 Cate Center
- The Meredith College Student Government Association held a Change for Change in Haiti fundraiser on 20th January
- Meredith Alumnae Megan Griffith and Grayson Gant organized a fund raiser and are still raising funds for Hearts for Haiti and other relief funds.
- Griffith and Gant (griffmeg@meredith.edu) are also making \$1 pin donations to support Haiti.

You can also donate supplies and money to national organizations such as:

- Helping Hands for Haiti
  - The American Red Cross
  - Clinton Foundation
  - AmeriCares
- And international relief organizations accepting donations include:
- UNICEF
  - The Salvation Army
  - International Rescue Committee
  - World Relief

non-profits are also donating money and aid. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have provided \$100 million each. More than 100 celebrities participated in a telethon to raise money for Hope for Haiti. Funds have also been donated from FIFA, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, and Haiti born, Wyclef Jean's Yele Foundation, in addition to many other large and small groups.

But while the global community has come together in the early aftermath to help Haiti, we cannot forget that rebuilding will be the hardest step. And it will take years to complete: years when Haiti will need continued aid. Now, almost a month after the earthquake, many have already forgotten their original promises of money and supplies, but it is the most important time to donate. We must continue to support Haiti's efforts to rebuild, because with help they can succeed.

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