

Red Cross and Red Crescent Haiti Response Summit

Final Declaration - New York City, April 27-28, 2010

It has been more than three months since Haiti was devastated by an earthquake resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths and shattering the lives of millions of people. Entrusted with over 800 million Swiss francs in funds, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has launched one of its largest responses in its history. Much has been accomplished since the earthquake as the Movement, led by the Haitian Red Cross, has assessed the needs, brought relief to hundreds of thousands of victims in the form of food, water, shelter, relief supplies, health care and other basic necessities, and advocated in the interest of the Haitian people. Yet, much more needs to be done by all humanitarian actors that collectively face immense challenges in this large, urban disaster that are complicated by logistical, developmental, land tenure and many other factors.

To help meet these challenges, representatives from all components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement met in New York City on April 27-28, 2010, to reaffirm our commitment to meeting the immediate needs of the Haitian people and assisting them as they recover from the earthquake. Our bond of solidarity with the Haitian Red Cross remains strong. It will continue to endure throughout the relief and recovery process and will be strengthened by a common set of principles for this massive undertaking. These include local program ownership that both benefits the Haitian people and moves towards a sustainable Haitian Red Cross; effective, community-based programs; and a unified, coordinated and transparent Red Cross and Red Crescent operation that is accountable to beneficiaries, donors and other communities in Haiti and abroad.

In New York City, an official Plan of Action – heavily informed by our own Red Cross and Red Crescent assessments; Strategy 2010-2015 of the Haitian Red Cross and its focus upon disaster preparedness and response, health, and blood services; the Government of Haiti's *Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti*; and other actors' assessments – was endorsed.

The Plan of Action is composed of three mutually-supportive pillars:

- Supporting the Haitian people with their immediate post-earthquake needs and helping them move towards recovery;
- Identifying and implementing key community-based disaster preparedness measures to mitigate the risk of future disasters; and
- Fulfilling our responsibility as Red Cross and Red Crescent partners to support and strengthen the Haitian Red Cross to improve the lives of vulnerable people now and in the future.

Further, more than 20 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies made financial commitments towards key areas such as shelter, water, Haitian Red Cross capacity building, sanitation, health, and livelihoods. When all pledges had been made, more than CHF800 million had been confirmed towards specific response and recovery activities in Haiti.

As the situation in Haiti evolves, new challenges may emerge which will necessitate changes to priorities and adjustment to the pledges.

Relief and recovery efforts in Haiti are already facing some of the greatest challenges in recent memory. However, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is determined to meet these challenges and do its utmost to bring about safe, healthier lives for the people of Haiti. Towards these goals, the participants to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Haiti Response Summit call upon all governmental and non-governmental actors to specifically address the challenge of transition and aid dependency by ensuring that the Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency assistance is quickly transferred to appropriate authorities in a responsible manner.