

Earthquake in Haiti

How you can help

Early yesterday, the island nation of Haiti was hit by a catastrophic earthquake. While details regarding the magnitude and total effect of the earthquake are still being gathered, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts and prayers to all those affected, their families, and their loved ones in this difficult time.

For general information, please visit the [travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1134.html) Haiti page, which is updated constantly, and will regularly provide updated travel alerts regarding the situation: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1134.html

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Quick Contact Sheet

Haiti Task Force Number: 1-888-407-4747

Haiti Task Force Public E-mail Address: Haiti-Earthquake@state.gov

Public E-mail for Inquiries about Immigrant and Non-immigrant Visas in Haiti: haitivisainquiry@state.gov

Haiti Updates/Google Crisis Response Person Finder Program Link: www.state.gov/haitiquake/

Bureau of Consular Affairs Helpful Updates: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_haiti_info_number.html

Adoptions: AskCI@state.gov (U.S. adoption pending; State adoption Haiti website: <http://adoption.state.gov/news/Haiti.html#>);

haitianchildren@state.gov
(no U.S. adoption pending)

Donations/Contributions: www.usaid.gov/haiti ; Individual/Small Group: www.cidi.org ;
703-276-1914; Large-scale, Corporate:
helphaiti@state.gov

Volunteer Opportunities: <http://www.cidi.org/incident/haiti-10a/> , 703-276-1914; www.usaid.gov/haiti

U.S. Citizen Inquiries

The U.S. Embassy in Port Au Prince has set up a task force at the Embassy which is taking calls as conditions permit. The Embassy is working to identify U.S. citizens in Haiti who need urgent assistance and to identify sources of emergency help. U.S. citizens in Haiti are urged to contact the Embassy via [email](mailto:ACSPaP@state.gov) (ACSPaP@state.gov) to request assistance. U.S. citizens in Haiti can call the Embassy's Consular Task Force at 509-2229-8942, 509-2229-8089, 509-2229-8322, or 509-2229-8672. The State Department has also created a task force to monitor the emergency. People in the U.S. or Canada with information or inquiries about U.S. citizens in Haiti may reach the Haiti Task Force at 888-407-4747;

Haiti-Earthquake@state.gov

. Outside of the U.S. and Canada, call 202-501-4444. For further information and updates, please see the

[State Department's Consular Affairs website](#)

We still encourage you and your constituents to reach out directly to the Department's Haiti Task Force at 1-888-407-4747; Haiti-Earthquake@state.gov .

Contributions/Donations

The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on

organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Haiti may be available at

www.reliefweb.int

, and at USAID:

www.usaid.gov

– Keyword: Donations. The USAID “Help for Haiti” website, at

www.usaid.gov/haiti

is another good resource for those wanting to make donations.

U.S. citizens who wish to contribute to the relief effort for Haiti after the earthquake, either online or by text message, can visit www.WhiteHouse.gov .

The State Department helped set up a short code for those wishing to send immediate monetary assistance. To take advantage of this, people can text " [HAITI](#) " to "90999" and \$10 will be given automatically to the Red Cross, charged to your cell phone bill.

Contact the [Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund](#) - a joint fundraising effort for Haiti earthquake relief led by former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Below you will find the links to the **Center for International Disaster Information's (CIDI)**, www.cidi.org

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Guidelines and FAQ, which will be helpful in answering questions from constituents around the country about

individual and smaller scale monetary and non-monetary donations

. That website also has the Guidelines available in French and Kreyol, if you should need them.

Please be aware that CIDI will also be reaching out to US representatives on the Hill with constituents from the Haitian diaspora, as well as various diaspora groups and the embassy/consulates.

CIDI Hotline: 703-276-1914

http://www.cidi.org/reg_offr.htm

http://www.cidi.org/guidelines/guide_In.htm

<http://www.cidi.org/media/faq.htm>

Helphaiti@state.gov

Haitian Citizens in the U.S.

Haitian citizens in the U.S. should call the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C., 202-332-4090, or the Haitian Consulate in New York City, 305-859-2003.

Additionally, Google has a Crisis Response Person Finder program which allows anyone to locate and contribute information on people in Haiti. This tool also makes the data accessible to other governments and private organizations in English, French & Creole, and may be found at the bottom of the www.state.gov/haitiquake website.

www.icrc.org/familylinks : The ICRC, in partnership with the Haitian Red Cross, has opened a tracing center at its headquarters in Port-au-Prince to allow survivors to register and make contact with loved ones. Teams helping people to re-establish contact with their relatives are operating in four camps and have facilitated almost 900 phone calls between residents in Port-au-Prince and relatives living abroad. Joint ICRC/HRCS Red Cross teams have also been registering the names of people eager to let their loved ones know that they are alive and well on the ICRC family links website (www.icrc.org/familylinks) .

Adoptions

For adoptions related questions pertaining to cases already in progress, please send an e-mail to AskCI@state.gov . Your constituents can find additional information about adoptions in Haiti at <http://adoption.state.gov/news/Haiti.html#> . In the inquiry, please include: full name and contact information of parents, full name(s) of child(ren), date(s) of birth of child(ren) [if known], and the name and contact information of orphanage.

Haitianchildren@state.gov ; e-mail address for public and Congressional inquiries pertaining to questions about adoption of Haitian orphans who do not/not have a U.S. adoption pending

At the bottom of this message, we also have attached the 19Jan10 DHS announcement about humanitarian parole for certain orphans, information that you and your constituents might find useful.

Secretary Clinton's update on the adoptions situation in Haiti can be found in its entirety by clicking on this link: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/135461.htm> .

Watch an interview with Michele T. Bond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Overseas Citizens Services, for info on the situation in Haiti and what the U.S. Government is doing on the ground in Haiti to assist American citizens and others, including Haitian children. Watch it here: <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/rm/2010/135396.htm>

If you wish to provide the following article to your constituents, the link to it can be found here: http://adoption.state.gov/news/children_affected_by_natural_disasters_conflict.html . Additional public information about Haiti earthquake assistance can be found here: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_haiti_info_number.html

