

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE 2021

Advocacy Summary One Year After

August 2022

RESILIENCE CANNOT BE OUR ONLY OPTION **A CALL TO ACTION FOR HAITI'S CHILDREN**

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Executive summary

On Saturday, August 14, 2021, around 8:30 am, Haiti was hit by an earthquake of magnitude 7.2, which caused the death of 2,248 people, 320 missing and nearly 12,800 injured in the Grand'Anse, Nippes and South, but also in the Northwest where 2 people died.

The earthquake affected no less than 800,000 people and about 650,000 required emergency humanitarian assistance. This disaster came against a backdrop of multiple crisis and socio-political and economic shocks exacerbating the existing vulnerabilities affecting the most vulnerable communities, particularly the children. The 2021 earthquake destroyed or heavily damaged 308 schools, affecting 100,000 children. Schools were set to open on September 21, but the opening delayed until October 4 in the affected area. Before the earthquake, UNICEF estimated that 500,000 children were at risk of dropping out of school. In addition to a highly volatile security situation putting at risk humanitarian operations and road accessibility for humanitarian aid, major disruptions continue

to affect nation-wide supply chains, access to basic services, hospital, schools, fuel crisis, civil protection, including a growing food insecurity crisis, causing major child protection aftershocks threatening and already affecting lives of millions of Haitian children.

World Vision International-Haiti's response has targeted some of the most impacted communities, particularly in areas not served by other agencies in the NIPPES Department. Our response plan targeted World Vision's 60,000 children and 180,000 people focusing on sectors related to Wash, Shelter, Food Security, Child Protection and COVID-19 prevention. World Vision International-Haiti's advocacy efforts have focused on preventive messaging with emphasis on institutional protocols for positive discipline methodologies and increase of access to basic services while raising awareness on child-focus disaster management and child sensitive approaches at national and local level response efforts. Nevertheless, Haiti is continuously struggling to meet the basic needs of its people and resolve long-standing child protection problems.



Advocacy wins: 1 year after

One year after the earthquake that shook the south of Haiti on August 14, 2021 - World Vision International-Haiti continues to work with the families of the victims in favor of the children, who as of today are still terribly affected by the socio-economic aftermath of last year's earthquake. The advocacy activities and actions initiated since August 2021, aim primarily to reach out to local authorities, school principals and teachers, religious leaders as well as young people active in their communities to ensure that communities in the departments of Nippes and South, impacted by the earthquake of August 2021, are able to provide a protective environment where children can grow up free from any form of violence threatening their well-being.

World Vision International-Haiti's advocacy activities therefore focused on strengthening the structural framework for implementation of the October 2001 law to eliminate corporal punishment of children. Among the main activities held during this year of response, we count : Capacity building for school principals and teachers, particularly on positive discipline, including technical support for the implementation of positive discipline measures in participating schools; Capacity building in psychosocial support for children and risk and disaster management with the support of local authorities including School Inspectors at the level of the School District Office (BDS) - who are local authorities in education - the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) which deals with risk and disaster management and local organizations such as the Network of National Observers for Democracy and Human Rights (RONDDH) and an association of school principals in Torbeck; in addition to the pro-active participation of religious leaders in fulfilling their role as a positive influence and their ability to provide psychological and spiritual first aid (PSP) to offer communities practical (and sometimes preventative) support and care in a humane and spiritual manner, especially to those experiencing the pain and stress of the earthquake crisis.

After a mobilization of local actors and partners as well as a strategic assessment of advocacy support needs, starting in September 2021, World Vision conducted training sessions on positive discipline and psychosocial support for 189 school principals and teachers in Nippes and the South. As a result of these capacity building sessions, they have committed to supporting the campaign that promotes the elimination of violence against children in schools and at home.

In November 2021, World Vision International-Haiti conducted orientation sessions for 78 religious leaders in L'Asile and Petit-Trou des Nippes on positive discipline and encouraged the implementation of positive discipline practices in their Bible teaching with monitors and parents.



World Vision International-Haiti has developed an orientation manual on the implementation of positive discipline in schools and we have disseminated it to 36 schools in Nippes. This led to an indirect impact on 6,641 students.

In the South, World Vision International-Haiti has accompanied 20 schools that have also received the positive discipline policy to implement it. This has an indirect impact on 4,310 students.

World Vision International-Haiti has solidified a partnership with Compassion International to train 30 trainers on Positive Discipline in November 2021. They, in turn, conducted orientation and sensitization sessions reaching 1,114 CDE leaders and managers in the Nippes and the South from December 2021 to February 2022.

Following lobbying actions with school inspectors and sensitization meetings, a circular was issued on March 31, 2022 by the School District Office (BDS) of Anse-à-Veau which covers 4 communes (Anse-à-Veau; Plaisance ; Petit-Trou des Nippes and Arnaud) asking school principals to include a module on risk and disaster management in their programs, and to implement the principles of positive discipline and psychosocial support in their teaching in accordance with our campaign "It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children". This has an estimated impact on 165,000 children in the Nippes department.

In collaboration with the Directorate of Civil Protection in Nippes, World Vision International-Haiti has conducted training for teachers and school principals on risk and disaster management. 30 principals were trained and committed to creating risk and disaster management committees in their schools.



At the inauguration of 2 rehabilitated schools in earthquake-affected areas of Petit-Trou des Nippes and L'Asile, high-ranking government representatives at the national and international level attended both events on May 10 and 11, 2022. For his part, a representative of the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP), during his speech, openly endorsed the campaign and confirmed its commitment to our network of tenderness. He assured that the ministry will strengthen its efforts to support concrete actions in schools while setting up a task force to fill the gaps in the fight against violence in schools. And we have formally developed a partnership agreement with MENFP as part of the joint effort to eliminate violence in schools.

World Vision International-Haiti accompanied youth and children in Petit-Trou des Nippes who submitted a petition as part of the International Day of Children's Rights in November 2021. Approximately 500 signatures were collected for the petition and it was submitted to the local authorities, namely, the Principal Mayor of Petit-Trou des Nippes and another authority at the level of CASEC 1st communal section to ask them to take measures to eliminate all forms of violence against children, and to guarantee their full development and enjoyment of their rights.

Ten (10) protection and advocacy committees were set up, five (5) committees for the commune of Petit-Trou des Nippes and five (5) other committees for the commune of Baradères, with the support of IBESR, BPM, religious leaders and municipal authorities. Each committee includes ten (10) young people.

In an effort to encourage youth participation in advocacy activities, in May 2022, World Vision International-Haiti trained 45 youth between the ages of 15 and 20 on advocacy in collaboration with Compassion International.

And to commemorate the National Day of the Child, we technically supported a national organization with interventions in Nippes, notably in L'Asile and Petit-Trou des Nippes where parents were sensitized on positive discipline and the right to participation.

We collaborated with our protection colleagues on messages to be shared as part of June 12, 2022, marking the National Day of the Child. Several dozen parents and childcare leaders attended awareness sessions on eliminating child abuse. An activity carried out jointly with the management of the two schools we inaugurated in Petit-Trou des Nippes and Asile,

respectively École Nationale Platon Robert and École Nationale de Casse. They signed the pact of tenderness as a form of commitment.

Within six months of the emergency response in Nippes and the South, World Vision International-Haiti submitted an advocacy brief to the office of the Secretary of State for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, supporting recommendations to the Ministry of Education for an inclusive approach to access to education in the earthquake-affected areas.

One year after the earthquake struck southern Haiti, several advocacy efforts have been completed with the support of local and international partners and the collaboration of local authorities. Areas where we continue to focus our advocacy efforts include

- Dissemination and implementation of the positive discipline policy in other schools in Nippes and the South;
- Training of trainers on positive discipline for the structural implementation of the non-violent methodology in partner schools.
- Advocacy for the empowerment of local organizations with which we have collaborated
- Capacity building of youth for advocacy action; use of new advocacy tactics using new forms of digital technologies.
- The release of a circular to strengthen lobbying for the implementation of affirmative action in the South.

Response operations continue to operate under the constraints of an unstable security environment, with a high number of daily kidnappings, roadblocks, and fuel shortages, resulting in a temporary slowdown of activities on a regular basis. As such, all of our response programs include detailed work plans that can be adapted to different scenarios and respond more effectively to unforeseen events in the operating environment.

While the government and stakeholders are working to improve basic services in earthquake-affected areas, a generation of children is still at risk of being deprived of the opportunities and skills needed to succeed in the future. Violence and social inequality rob children of their dignity, rights, potential, and future, threatening their lives, health, and educational opportunities. As part of our emergency response efforts, specifically in the area of child protection and advocacy, we will continue to work together in bold and innovative ways to ensure that every girl and boy has the right to be protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

- Empowering local partner organizations
- Ensure sustainability of positive discipline practices in schools.
- Complete key actions that contribute to behavior change and promoting the adequate learning of community members who will contribute to children learning the necessary social and life skills without being exposed to violence.
- Scouting for local partnerships that will work on resourcing adults and parents through experiential activities. Creating opportunity to practice new positive discipline skills and providing children with ways to have fun learning by doing.
- Strengthening capacity and access for local lobbying particularly with youth leaders.

How World Vision **is responding**

Our teams are on the frontlines in the NIPPES department, responding to the earthquake:

Providing life-sustaining assistance which addresses the basic needs and upholds the dignity of vulnerable children and their families.

Ensuring that vulnerable children are protected from physical and psychological harm with support of their community

Supporting the sustained recovery and resilience of vulnerable children and their families

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

World Vision International-Haiti calls on international allies and the Government of Haiti and Civil Society members to :

1. To end child rights violations and encourage respect and positive observance of child rights by encouraging stakeholders to fulfil their protection responsibilities (including among others States, care takers and peacekeeping allies).
2. To bring child protection and participation policies, practice and laws into compliance particularly in areas hardest hit by the earthquake.
3. Identify, promote and encourage nation-wide child-focused projects targeting violence against children and promoting gender and disability inclusion in basic services.



For more information

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