

**Situation Report Haiti Earthquake
January 13, 2010
PDA account number DR000064**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has issued an emergency appeal for Haiti, where millions of people have been affected by a major earthquake that struck the country on Tuesday, January 12. The exact number of casualties is unknown at this time, nor is the full extent of the damage; however, reports indicate that tens of thousands — possibly hundreds of thousands — of people are feared dead and countless others have been left homeless.

PDA Response: PDA is rushing an initial \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to help provide immediate emergency relief to the affected people. Funds are being sent through our ecumenical and local partners working in Haiti. PC(USA) mission co-worker Carlos Cardenas is joining an ecumenical team through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance going to Haiti to help with the response and needs assessments. Presbyterian World Mission is gathering information on the safety and status of our mission personnel and ecumenical partners in the area.

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

GIVE. The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provide resources needed to assist with immediate and long-term recovery needs. **Send a check made out to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and designate on the check that it is for “Haiti PDA relief DR000064.”**

ACT. Stay informed and share information on the need with others by going to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website at www.pcusa.org/pda . Consider making Gift of the Heart hygiene kits. A shipment of hygiene kits is being prepared by Church World Service to send to Haiti. When widespread disasters occur, there is usually a need to replenish the supply to ensure a sufficient quantity for future disaster situations. For information on Hygiene kits go to www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm#health.

PRAY. Please continue in prayer for all who have who lost friends and families, those who lost homes, and those seeking a sense of security after being affected by this tragic earthquake.

“Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as the eyes of the world turn to Haiti, let us join our hearts in prayer:

God of compassion
Please watch over the people of Haiti,
And weave out of these terrible happenings

wonders of goodness and grace.
Surround those who have been affected by tragedy
With a sense of your present love,
And hold them in faith.
Though they are lost in grief,
May they find you and be comforted;
Guide us as a church
To find ways of providing assistance
that heals wounds and provides hope
Help us to remember that when one of your children suffer
We all suffer
Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives
and rules this world with you. Amen.”
(Adapted from *Book of Common Worship*)

-Bruce Reyes-Chow, Gradye Parsons and Linda Valentine

Situation Report Malawi Earthquake

December 17, 2009

PDA account number DR000158

A series of earthquakes hit the Karonga district in northern Malawi between December 6 and December 12, 2009. One of the earthquakes registered 5.8 on Richter scale and completely razed many houses. More than 16,500 people have been affected and reports indicate one death and 16 people seriously injured. Many public institutions have been closed because of cracks and instability in buildings. During the same time period, the districts of Chikwawa and Thyolo in southern Malawi were hit by a cyclone and rainstorm that has damaged houses, crops and livestock. The earthquake has damaged houses and schools, and displaced the inhabitants of 23 villages. Currently, 12,300 people are living in tents with poor sanitary facilities and no fresh water. The cyclone in the south has demolished more than 945 households. For those people that had already cultivated their fields and planted sorghum, about of 371.7 ha of land under crops (maize, sorghum) has been washed away. Damage to the infrastructure of Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) church buildings and schools has also been reported.

PDA Response: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) partners and local members of Action by Churches Together (ACT) members have carried out a joint assessment with the Department of Disaster and Preparedness of Malawi and other non-governmental organizations. The disaster response is coordinated by the District Assembly of the

Government. PDA's partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) in Malawi, is assisting affected families with:

- Food aid
- Temporary shelter
- Sanitary materials (plastic sheeting)
- Utensils
- Clothing, blankets

Detailed assessment is currently being conducted in both the earthquake-hit north and the Cyclone hit south of Malawi. Rapid Response funds will be provided to assist in the response. The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Synod of Livingstonia is also providing assistance to the affected families and PDA will be providing One Great Hour of Sharing funds to assist in their outreach and recovery efforts.

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

GIVE. The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provides the resources needed to assist with immediate and long-term recovery needs. **Send a check made out to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and designate on the check that it is for "Malawi PDA relief DR000158."**

ACT. Stay informed and share information on the need with others by going to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website at www.pcusa.org/pda and clicking on International Response.

PRAY. Please continue in prayer for families and displaced people who have been affected by the earthquake and cyclone