On 12 January 2010, Haiti experienced the most devastating earthquake that hit the country over the last two hundred years. With a magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter scale, the scope of the tragedy is hard to comprehend: 2 million people affected, 220,000 dead, 310,000 injured and more than 1.3 million people in need of shelter.

Within the first days following the disaster, Terre des hommes child relief (Tdh) mobilized an emergency response team to support Tdh delegation active in the southern department for over 20 years. The first relief efforts consisted in facilitating the management and care of 1’500 injured people flocked to the hospital of Les Cayes and provide emergency assistance to displaced people from Port-au-Prince, Grand Goave and Petit Goave.

Subsequently, humanitarian assistance and direct services to improve the lives of 50,000 people were put in place through the distribution of emergency shelter kits and non food items, the provision of drinking water, the construction of sanitation, the nutritional assessment of children under 5 years and the establishment of protection measures for most vulnerable children and families.

Nine months after the disaster, Tdh continues to support families living the consequences of the earthquake through the construction of more lasting housing, the establishment of permanent facilities for water and sanitation, the care management of malnourished children and the individual support of most vulnerable families through comprehensive protection and assistance measures. Through community outreach, Tdh tries to provide maximum assistance to communities to rebuild their lives. As explained by Peter Beaurenaut, project manager for water and sanitation in the western department: "Tdh community based approach aims at involving local communities both in decision making but also through participation in construction works. The interest is to provide a response as useful as possible for our beneficiaries, but also to enable them to become actors of the recovery process".

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Construction of transitional shelters continues

Tdh plans to build 81 transitional shelters (T-shelters) to improve the living conditions of vulnerable families in the city of Grand Goave which were previously housed in simple tents. Throughout September, ten shelters were built and a dozen are under construction. Tdh ensures that these housings have access to water and sanitation taking into account the constraints of building in urban areas. Located on or near the existing homestead for a lifetime of three years at least, the transitional shelters have a living area of eighteen square meters. They consist of a simple wooden structure with a roof of corrugated iron and are painted in traditional colors to protect the wood from bad weather. "People for whom we build shelters cannot afford to maintain them, we build basic structure so that people do not need to spend resources fixing them” explains Olivier de la Motte St. Pierre, T-shelters coordinator.

Through the construction of these shelters stronger and better adapted to climate hazards, Tdh aims to enable families living more sustainably. As explained by Peter Beaurenaut responsible for providing sanitation facilities to T-shelters “everything can change rapidly in Haiti with the arrival of a hurricane or heavy rains.

Access to water and sanitation improves

Tdh aims to improve access to safe drinking water, to provide adequate excreta disposal and to mitigate the risk of diseases such as diarrhea for communities affected by the earthquake in the West Department.

Safe drinking water

In rural areas, communities get water mainly from sources often located more than an hour walk from their homes.

The construction of 7 water points in Leogane and Grand Goave, the rehabilitation of one existing water source in Boudachita and the water catchment of one spring in Perny in the Southern Department, have improved access to drinking water for 9'610 people. For each of these water points, a Water Committee is formed under the guidelines of the National Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation (DINEPA) to ensure the management, monitoring and well maintenance of the water structure (boreholes and water spring catchments).

Sanitation and Hygiene

In Haiti, generally speaking, in urban and in rural areas, the low rate of latrines creates a high exposure of residents to pathogens. Tdh set the objective of reducing the risks of diseases through hygiene promotion and the construction of latrines. In the western department, 1'257 family latrines were built in the participation of communities and 65 hygiene promotion sessions were held.

In the Southern Department, 3 municipalities of Camp Perrin hosting many internally displaced people have been selected for the program of latrines. To date, 123 latrines were built for the benefit of 957 persons.

A “Beautiful Latrine” contest was launched independently in each locality of intervention within the two departments to enhance community participation. Each “Beautiful Latrine” selected will win prizes, including: cooking pots, cover dishes, soaps, bottles of chlorine, facilities for washing hands and awareness posters. In the South, each contestant also receives a different model of Tiyo Lakay (device allowing to wash hands with little water and without touching the container). Each model is made by recycled material to ensure accessibility to the most vulnerable people.
The provision of maternal and child health is strengthened

**Fight against malaria**

Malaria is endemic in all regions of Haiti. Now, the deterioration of living conditions of people affected by the earthquake and the rainy season facilitate the proliferation of mosquito vectors of disease.

In front of this issue, Tdh plans to distribute a total of 18,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) to 9,000 families at a rate of 2 per family.

During the month of September, Tdh enabled the distribution of 6,000 ITNs in the southern and western departments. During distributions, families are trained on methods of proper use and maintenance of ITNs to ensure a significant and lasting impact. Prevention messages are also spread so that families understand the risks of disease if preventive measures are not met.

Furthermore, home visits to ensure that families who received the ITNs effectively know how to use it will be planned in October.

**Achievements to date, 30 September 2010:**

- 16,103 infants under five, 6,430 children above five and 1,739 pregnant and lactating women were seen through mobile clinics and/or active case finding activities
- 788 children with moderate acute malnutrition and 253 children with severe acute malnutrition have been identified, treated or referred according to their needs
- 119 children suffering from simple severe acute malnutrition were referred to Therapeutic Ambulatory Programs
- 107 children with complicated severe acute malnutrition were treated by Tdh within the Nutritional Stabilization Unit in Les Cayes

**Psychosocial activities contribute to collective protection of children in communities**

Since January 2010, as part of its program to protect children in Haiti and in response to the chaos caused by the earthquake in the western department and more generally in response to the chronic state of social and family disadvantages faced by children, Tdh opened community recreational centers (CRC). Every day, an average of 2,652 children aged 6 to 12 years are supervised by 87 animators. The children divide their time between school and the CRC, which is meant to be a complement of learning and more specially an area of security, stability and development, all this through play, sports, cultural activities, education for life ... etc..

CRCs are also open to parents, youth and other adults from the community, reinforc-

ing through awareness sessions and trainings (on protection and education of children, difficulties faced by unwed mothers and family planning) their knowledge, awareness of their responsibilities and their ability to prevent risks to their children.

Thanks to CRCs, children facing great family or social vulnerability are identified and tracked individually by Tdh protection teams. Since January, 524 children are being followed and 140 cases are now closed. Collaborations with various medical departments, partners and other sectors of Tdh, enable to support these children and families according to their needs. Support services include medical or psychological referral, educational and psychosocial support, income family-generating activity and temporary shelters.

Tdh now begins to develop partnerships with existing local associations and community groups to involve them gradually in protection activities within the CRCs or the communities. The objective is to strengthen local capacity and to involve communities in developing an effective system of protection and assistance.

September was marked by the participation of Clowns Without Borders USA in Tdh program. For 3 weeks, Clowns Without Borders have mentored training workshops for CRC animators, Tdh trainers and community partners. Their stay has also given the opportunity to organize shows with children who could show their communities a capacity to make them laugh and be amazed by their prowess.

"The partnership with Tdh was a great project through the trainings and shows but especially through seeking to support the working capacity of CRCs with the children and animators: I end this experience very satisfied with a lot of souvenirs, happy ... touching ... living. "

Selena Mc Mahan, Clown without Borders