



313 WORDS, 150 SECONDS

WORKING FOR A BETTER HAITI: THE RED CROSS WORK IN ACTION

ON JANUARY TWELFTH, 2010, A SEVEN-POINT-ONE MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, KILLING MORE THAN TWO-HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE, DESTROYING HOMES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS, LEAVING TWO-POINT-THREE MILLION PEOPLE TO SEEK SHELTER IN MAKESHIFT CAMPS. THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND OUR PARTNERS ARE HELPING ENSURE HAITI NOT ONLY RECOVERS FROM THE EARTHQUAKE BUT CAN BETTER WITHSTAND AND COPE WITH FUTURE DISASTERS. SO HOW DOES IT WORK? WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THE HAITIAN RED CROSS, THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AS WELL AS LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO ENSURE A COORDINATED VISION FOR COMMUNITY REBUILDING. THE RED CROSS HELPS MOVE MEN AND WOMEN, THE OLD AND YOUNG, THE HEALTHY AND DISABLED OUT OF CAMPS WHILE STILL CARING FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN THERE. THE RED CROSS IS ENSURING THAT HAITIANS HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION. WE ARE ENGAGING VOLUNTEER HEALTH TEAMS TO EDUCATE HAITIANS ABOUT CHOLERA PREVENTION, HAND WASHING, AND HOUSEHOLD WATER TREATMENT SO THEY CAN STEM FUTURE OUTBREAKS. THE RED CROSS WORKS WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUPS TO PROMOTE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND FIRST AID TRAINING. WE WORK WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO MAKE DECISIONS AND PRIORITIZE ACTIONS. THE RED CROSS MOVES BEYOND DEMOLITION AND MAKES COMMUNITIES SAFER BY CREATING PATHWAYS AND DRAINAGE DITCHES AND BY ADDING SOLAR-POWERED LIGHTING. WE'RE NOT ONLY SAFELY REBUILDING HOMES AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE, BUT WE'RE MAKING COMMUNITIES MORE RESILIENT BY TEACHING PEOPLE FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS. THE RED CROSS SUPPORTS GREEN REBUILDING PRACTICES TO ENSURE A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE HAITI IN THE FUTURE. WE HELP COMMUNITY GROUPS FORM SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS SO THAT THEY, AND THE COMMUNITY, CAN BETTER REACH THEIR FINANCIAL GOALS. THE RED CROSS SUPPORTS THE BUILDING OF NEW HOSPITALS AND CLINICS THAT OFFER HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND TRAIN HAITIAN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS. IN THE END, THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IS RESTORING AND REINFORCING COMMUNITIES THAT CAN THRIVE AND BETTER WITHSTAND FUTURE DISASTERS IN THE YEARS TO COME.