



**HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
*A Charitable Outreach to Neighbors in Need*



January 12, 2010

*Helping Our Neighbors in Need for 28 Years*

## e-Newsletter

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### For More Information

We will be updating information relating to the earthquake on our web site. Please click here to access our web site.

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### Dear HHF Supporter,

We are so very touched by the many emails and phone calls regarding today's earthquake in Haiti. Phone lines there are down, but this afternoon we were in touch by email with our Public Health Director, Dr. Bette Gebrian.

The earthquake impacted Jérémie and its surrounding area, even though it is about 100 miles from the epicenter. The limited reports thus far indicate that our staff, volunteers, and patients were not hurt.

Dr. Gebrian writes that the earth shook for at least 20 seconds in the town of Jérémie, and that some buildings and structures were damaged. We've also established contact with volunteers in neighboring Marfranc—about 10 miles from Jérémie—who indicate that there was damage to buildings and houses in that village.

We are attempting to conduct a full accounting of the condition of our staff, volunteers, and patients, to determine their immediate needs. Further damage assessment of our buildings are anticipated in the daylight. However, with difficult communication and transportation, it's hard to say anything at this point other than we are hoping for the best with further news from Haiti in the morning.

As most of you know, we provide care to people in a very large and often challenging area—in remote mountain villages. It will take some time to fully assess all of our needs as a result of this earthquake. We will let you know when we have received more concrete information.

Thank you for your continued concern and support. We promise to keep you updated, and we hope that you understand that over the next few days our efforts will be focused on assessing the situation in Jérémie.

Please keep our many patients, volunteers, and employees in your thoughts.



E. Marilyn Lowney

Executive Director,  
Haitian Health Foundation

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**HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
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January 13, 2010

*Helping Our Neighbors in Need for 28 Years*



### **A Few Thoughts From Dr. Lowney**

The misery never seems to end for these poorest neighbors. We will extend whatever energy and resources we can to bring comfort, health, and stability to the lives of these poorest people—whom we have pledged our lives to.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeremy'.

Dr. Jeremiah Lowney  
HHF President  
and Founder

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### **Dear HHF Supporter,**

The outpouring of support today has been overwhelming. Nearly every one of you asked, "How can I help?" or offered, "I can go down whenever you need me. Just tell me when." It is this human spirit and the gratitude of the people of Haiti that has made our work so rewarding, and I will address your questions below.

Today we received additional information from the Jérémie area. The morning light revealed more damage than was known when we wrote the first statement last night. We are, however, blessed that we still do not know of any injured employees or volunteers.

### **Assessment Continues...**

Our assessment continued today. The morsels of information from the field so far confirm our HHF family has been affected—one of the dozen homes that collapsed in Moron belonged an employee who has been with HHF from the beginning. His home is just one of the confirmed casualties thus far.

Many of the family and friends of our volunteers, employees, and patients are still unaccounted for in Port au Prince. Sister Maryann writes that she has spoken to one employee after another "who has someone either dead or missing in PAP. It is emotionally

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## For More Information

We will be updating information relating to the earthquake on our web site. Please [click here](#) to access our web site.

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draining for people. Many people want to try to go to PAP to look for the missing children or relatives but there is no boat and there is no road. *Their inability to respond to their closest family members is another type of very real suffering.*"

We anticipate that those who survived in Port au Prince will be returning to Jérémie to escape the chaos, which will further strain our operations.

We also had a container in Port au Prince that was being prepared for the arduous overland trip to Jérémie, a route that runs directly through the epicenter of the quake. Many of you have helped load a container in the past, so you know the vital supplies—food, medical, and operational equipment—that are sent through Port au Prince. We don't know the fate of these supplies nor the viability of continued shipments across southern Haiti at the present time.

### How Can You Help?

This is all to say that right now we anticipate a serious depletion of our resources, of both cash and in-kind donations of food and supplies. However, until we are able to determine potential alternate methods of getting in-kind donations and supplies to Jérémie, we ask that you hold off sending supplies to our Norwich office—there will be time to respond with those supplies once we are able to develop alternate plans, maybe next week or maybe next month.

***We are asking that you support our response with an online donation by clicking on [this link](#).*** Given the homes already known lost, the break in our supply lines with the need to establish new avenues to deliver critical food and supplies, and the expected influx of people from Port au Prince, it is a certainty that our resources will be strained

over the next few months. You can help us meet this need with your support.

Please keep our people in Haiti in your thoughts, and on behalf of all of those affiliated with Haitian Health Foundation, thank you for your support.



E. Marilyn Lowney

Executive Director,  
Haitian Health Foundation

P.S.

Early this evening we received word that our staff in Jérémie will be traveling to Dayere and other villages along the way. We hope to have more information about what they find tomorrow.

We would like to add our sincere thanks to Vertical Response, the email provider that has donated its services to HHF. Because of their generosity, we have been able to improve our communication with HHF supporters.

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**HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
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January 14, 2010

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### **For More Information**

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### **Dear HHF Supporter,**

Thank you again for the hundreds of e-mails and phone calls of support and love for the people of Haiti. A team traveled out to some villages today, but we haven't yet heard back from them. Therefore, we are able to provide only a few updates on the situation in the Grand'Anse.

### **Impact on Operations**

Our main facility, Klinik Pep Bondye-a, has been closed for general routine visits since the earthquake, although it remains available for emergency situations. Nearly every member of HHF's staff has been affected by this catastrophe in one way or another, whether by the loss of a home or the frantic search for word of a son, daughter, sister, or brother.

However, our residential Center of Hope, Sant Lespwa, remains open for at-risk pregnant mothers, and the Kwashiorkor-malnourished children's ward continues its vital operations. One of our volunteers in Haiti, Marissa Goodnight, wrote that they have implemented conservation measures—such as conserving diesel for vehicles and generators—which impacts other systems, such as our computer network. Communication is still crippled at the local level and she reports that HHF's access to the Internet is "spotty at best."

Like some others with resources in Jérémie, Marissa spent part of the day buying food and supplies because of the uncertainty of the future. But for the poor, struggling to survive each day, it is impossible to make such preparations.

Sister Maryann describes the staff as being dazed. "They are not sleeping... [t]hey are becoming more frantic each day as they still have no news of family members." She also reports, "The boats with supplies are not allowed to come yet and the shopkeepers said they have no assurance of just when the boats might be able to come out again." With the destruction of the wharf and piers in Port au Prince, the reality is that there aren't supplies to send to Jérémie.

### **Preparing for Influx of Refugees**

Please know that we have relayed your intense concern, love, support, and prayers for our neighbors' safety and health. For those of you who have also offered to go to our clinics, due to the uncertain conditions at this point we cannot accept volunteers in Haiti. If you are interested in going to help in Port au Prince, however, we recommend that you contact an agency that operates closer to that city.

I know you've seen the horrific images from Port au Prince—the deaths, the injuries, the lack of water and food, and the desperation. Reports of refugees "fleeing to the hills" means that thousands will be coming to find relief with their families, friends, and others in our region of Jérémie. **This has happened in the past with other, smaller, emergencies, and we must prepare for a major influx from this catastrophe.**

Be assured that any donations you send will be WELL used. *And please don't be offended if we*

*can't answer your e-mail messages right away.*

Continue to keep everyone in Haiti in your thoughts and prayers—including our staff and volunteers and the people they will continue to serve. Many were already suffering from hunger, disease, and a lack of water and adequate sanitation. This horrific earthquake may make their troubles seem insurmountable, but your [continued support](#) will eventually help lighten their burden and give them much needed hope.



E. Marilyn Lowney

Executive Director,  
Haitian Health Foundation

P.S.

Hopefully tomorrow we will re-establish contact with Bette Gebrian and her team for a report from conditions in the field. We will keep you updated.

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January 14, 2010

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### **For More Information**

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### **Dear HHF Supporter,**

Yesterday, Dr. Bette Gebrian, Haitian Health Foundation's Director of Public Health, spent most of her day traveling to remote villages to assess the impact of Tuesday's earthquake on those living outside of Port au Prince.

As she and HHF have done for decades, she directed her attention to the often neglected but rich, rural Haitian society that exists in the southwest corner of Haiti. This was a very preliminary assessment, as HHF cares for over 100 rural mountain villages—many inaccessible by vehicles, with some up to an 18 hour walk from our main clinic.

### **Rural Challenges**

While very different from scenes broadcast from the capital city, Gebrian found many individuals and families whose lives were turned upside down on Tuesday afternoon.

On top of dozens of homes already reported as affected in the Grand'Anse river villages of Marfranc and Moron, Health Agent Jewel Romulus identified some of the more than 50 homes in Dayere that were severely damaged or destroyed by the temblor. "The earthquake wasn't as severe out here. But many of the homes—built of raw timbers, stones, and mud—weren't able to endure even this lower intensity of shaking. Families who once had

small, two-room homes with a leaky tin roof now may have little more than a gazebo-like structure," notes Devon Root, a nurse volunteer from Cornwall, Connecticut."

Photos from the daylong assessment show walls that have crumbled, leaving the inside of modest homes exposed to the elements. As of yesterday, it had rained non-stop for several days both before and after the earthquake, making the impact on the villagers even more severe and HHF's ability to access areas that much more difficult.



This photo at left shows a home whose walls have crumbled; the need to block the rain and wind resulted in Madam Louis and her child placing banana leaves as a temporary weather barrier, which

will need to hold until more permanent solutions are provided.

Other homes with damage haven't yet been repaired at all, leaving families exposed to the elements.





HHF's Happy Houses have generally fared much better. "We use much better construction methods, and I've only heard of one Happy House that was lost," says Marc Antoine Balthazar, an HHF nurse who was working in the clinic during this week. Plans are already being formulated to have Jean Arsene Lalanne, HHF's Disaster Liaison, assess and address this loss of housing in the Haitian Health Foundation's catchment area.

### **Medical Challenges**

The impact on medical care has already been felt. Gebrian says, "Each month, our obstetrical transport ambulance is used for about 20 emergency evacuations of pregnant women from rural villages to the hospital. These are usually initiated by cell phone calls to Jérémie, to dispatch the ambulance from our clinic. These women will not be evacuated because cell phones are not working throughout southwest Haiti. Women are likely to be evacuated much later, if at all, as cell service becomes available. The delay in care will result in an increase in fatalities." No ambulance calls have been received since the earthquake.

"We are fortunate that we have heard of few

injuries in Jérémie,” notes Royneld Bourdeau, MD, HHF Medical Director. “However, we already know that thousands will return to this area to seek refuge from the chaos in the Port au Prince area—in search of the solace of their families. We understand that plans are underway for buses and boats to begin the mass exodus to Jérémie, and many will return with nothing but the clothes on their backs, anxious to get to the home of family or friends. We have already heard that some are making the 190 kilometer, 7-day walk.

Fear has grabbed hold at the maternal waiting home at the Center of Hope–Sant Lespwa. “All eight of these rural women with their high-risk pregnancies have taken to sleeping under a tin pavilion roof rather than on their beds in the cement roof building,” says Rachel Whelan, Information Intern from West Hartford, Connecticut.

### **Materiel Challenges**

Gebrian is also concerned about the inevitable lack of food and supplies in all aspects of HHF’s operations. This part of Haiti relies on cargo vessels for transport of supplies and pharmaceuticals, food, staples, cooking oil, diesel fuel, and lamp kerosene. “Food is already scarce, propane tanks for cooking are difficult to find, rice is being rationed, and physical currency is severely limited,” states HHF Finance Director Ann Schwingel.

Plans are developing in Jérémie and at HHF’s Norwich, CT, headquarters to address the unique issues presented by Tuesday’s earthquake.

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**HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
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January 17, 2010

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### Dear HHF Supporter,

The past 36 hours have brought the start of the expected migration of people from Port au Prince to Jérémie, and The Haitian Health Foundation's immediate focus is on addressing their needs. Supplies necessary to aid the influx are scarce, a problem compounded by the collapse of banking and the absence of currency. However, partnerships with such agencies as AmeriCares, Cross International, and the Red Cross are being forged to bridge the gaps in the area's needs.

### Homecomings

Dr. Bette Gebrian, HHF's Director of Public Health, reports that people seeking the refuge of their families and homes in the Grand'Anse began arriving yesterday, with **an estimated 2000+ having arrived by early Sunday**. About 1,500 came by boat from Port au Prince, with the remainder having traveled the difficult overland route.



Buses and trucks that arrived yesterday were greeted by loved ones, Croix Rouge Hatienne (Red Cross of Haiti), MINUSTAH (United Nations), and local Scouts. HHF personnel were on hand with partner organizations to address the injured, transferring those with the most severe injuries to the public hospital and helping to treat others with less severe conditions. Although HHF does not operate a trauma center, it has committed its support to treating injuries not requiring hospitalization, offering its pharmacy, X-ray,

sonogram, and other medical services and supplies.

Overland travelers described the difficult trip: one truck teeming with people broke down, and another was involved in an accident, causing passengers to pack together in whatever other vehicles they encountered. The injured traveled alongside the uninjured, and stories abound of Haitians caring for their own. Those fortunate enough to ride described passing many people who had undertaken the route on foot, a journey that will take about 6 days. Among those walking westward, some were seen carrying the caskets of family members.

### Just the Beginning

The Grand'Anse Department Director of Croix Rouge pointed out that a large percentage of the people in Port au Prince migrated from southwest Haiti, and arrivals thus far are just a fraction of



those expected to return. Many are coming with severe injuries, broken bones, and burns. HHF is a member of the partnership of organizations that will welcome them back and help to provide for their needs in food, shelter, and health care.

The boat carrying the 1,500 returning Grand'Anse residents was met by an orderly debarkation that included UN security personnel and local police, screening offloading passengers for potential security risks. There were at least 10 pregnant women among the passengers who were assessed. One was reported



to be in labor and was immediately transported to the hospital; three others were brought to **HHF's Center of Hope Maternal Waiting Home** for assessment. Other passengers, most of whom left Port au Prince with only the

clothes on their backs, were given clothing, juice, protein bars, and soap. Potable water was supplied by HHF's 4,000 gallon water truck, which Cross International provided two years ago.

In under 5 hours, trucks and private vehicles were on their way to drop off the exhausted travelers in all corners of the Grand'Anse. Those waiting in Jérémie were able to stay in a schoolyard in tents supplied by Croix Rouge.

### **The Need Continues**

Many more trucks and buses were anticipated to arrive today, which will require more supplies. The lack of fuel has reportedly kept the boat anchored, unable to make the return trip to Port au Prince. Like other organizations, HHF is currently unable to purchase diesel. Unfortunately, it is also not uncommon for prices of the unavailable commodities to quadruple when they finally do become available.

**With over 2,000 people having returned to Jérémie in the first day, it is clear that HHF's resources will be severely strained over the coming months and beyond.** The Haitian Health Foundation thanks you for your generosity during this period. Children—orphanded or not—will become a part of HHF's comprehensive children's health programs. Expectant mothers will be monitored and treated as indicated by their conditions. The injured will require both short and long-term care. All may become recipients of HHF's services in feeding programs, education, housing, or other initiatives.



*To our friends, we ask that you keep this story before*

*the public; although we did not have the crumbling buildings of Port au Prince—and we do pray for the rescue of those still trapped and the recovery of the survivors—we readily accept the challenge of helping to repair the lives in the Grand'Anse devastated by this catastrophe. Bette Gebrian says, "We are heartened by the generosity of HHF's legions of supporters, who have sent donations from all over the United States to help their struggling neighbors."*



Some of the many people disembarking from the boat from Port au Prince, 1/17/2010.



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**HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
A Charitable Outreach to Neighbors in Need



January 22, 2010

*Helping Our Neighbors in Need for 28 Years*



**Dear HHF Supporter,**

As survivors pour out of Port au Prince, Haiti, the epicenter of last week's catastrophic earthquake, the long journey to their childhood homes begins. Many individuals—broken, bruised, mourning, and sometimes carrying the caskets of loved ones they cannot bear to bury in mass graves—have begun the 108-mile journey on foot through the mountainous regions of the Grand'Anse region.



"There is no way to overstate the importance of Port au Prince," asserts a West Hartford, CT, intern with Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) in Jérémie, capital of the Grand'Anse. The graduate student from continues, "Everyone—everyone—has friends and relatives in the city."

Click [here](#) to view video message from HHF founder Jeremiah Lowney, Jr., DDS, MPH

### **The Difficult Trip Home**

Four days after the disaster, the first group of survivors began arriving home. Those who are fortunate enough to ride—a mix of the shocked and injured—are packed together in trucks for a 14-hour journey. Even in these transport vehicles, accidents and breakdowns on the steep and narrow passes have occurred, further endangering those who have already suffered so much. Still, they are the lucky ones, as others have died while walking.



Click [here](#) to view CNN video describing the arduous trip from Port au Prince to Jérémie

**For More Information**

We will be updating

Haitians who secured passage by sea manage a 100-mile journey by boat to the port of Jérémie. Even that route is perilous, as the thousands waiting for the ferry in Port au Prince learned when the



information relating to the earthquake on our home page. Please [click here](#) to access our site.

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wharf further collapsed in Wednesday's 5.9 magnitude aftershock. In their haste to get home, as many as 3,000 have packed themselves into a 600-person capacity craft (see the CNN video, at left).



### **HHF Providing Relief**

The Haitian Health Foundation is helping displaced families with emergency relief, medical care, and food. At left, Devon Root, RN, examines an expectant mother to ensure that she's healthy enough to

make the final leg of her long journey home.

Those coming to Jérémie are not only from Port au Prince, but from other areas affected by the earthquake. Already thousands have made the journey—4,500 more yesterday alone by boat—and HHF expects tens of thousands more to arrive during the coming weeks. The process of re-integrating these families is a monumental task requiring the cooperation of many local and international organizations, such as Croix Rouge Hatienne and MINUSTAH (UN). Additional assistance is expected from other organizations, but the focus for most continues to be on Port au Prince.

### **Thousands More Expected**

Research shows that the largest migration of workers into Port au Prince came from the Grand'Anse region. Unable to support their families in an area with no industry, they had been forced to live and work in Port au Prince and send money home. Now they are out of work.

"This is heartbreaking," says a somber Dr. Jerry Lowney, president and founder of HHF. "We have been a presence in Haiti for 28 years. We employ 200 Haitians—nurses, doctors, technicians, teachers—in our service to this area. I have known many of them since they were infants."

In Jérémie, the earthquake caused rural houses to crumble. Food is becoming scarce, fuel is running out,

and people are afraid to sleep, especially in cement buildings. More than one week after the earthquake, many still don't know the fate of their loved ones. An area with overburdened resources is experiencing an influx of tens of thousands of refugees.

"We need HELP, and a lot of it," states Dr. Lowney. "The most important thing right now is FOOD. If it can get here, we have the place to store it. We already have secure warehouses and our compounds are large enough to build more."

*The Haitian Health Foundation is grateful for the outpouring of support since the earthquake. To support HHF's relief efforts please visit the HHF website at [www.HaitianHealthFoundation.org](http://www.HaitianHealthFoundation.org) to make an online donation, or mail your tax-deductible donations to HHF at 97 Sherman Street, Norwich, CT, 06360.*

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Some of the thousands of passengers on the boat from Port au Prince, reaching for packets of water being distributed prior to disembarkation.



A newborn being carried off the vessel by a Croix Rouge Hatienne volunteer.



This injured girl was among the thousands who have received assistance upon their return to the Grand'Anse. A special "children's tent" provided a safe haven from the throngs on the wharf in Jérémie.



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HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION  
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January 27, 2010

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Click [here](#) to determine viewing time of "Saving Haiti's Mothers" on your local PBS affiliate station.

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### For More Information

We will be updating information relating to the earthquake on our home page. **There is a [new video posted earlier this week](#)** in which Dr. Lowney discusses our efforts thus far, which includes many new photos from Jérémie. Please [click here](#) to access HHF's home page.

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### Dear HHF Supporter,

Amidst the tireless planning and relief work that Haitian Health Foundation employees and volunteers are providing to the thousands of people fleeing Port-au-Prince, we are reminded that we also continue our mission of nearly 30 years to the people who were already living in our area prior to the earthquake. Among HHF's food and nutrition, education, housing, and other programs for the people of Jérémie and its surrounding 100+ villages, HHF provides prenatal programs and emergency evacuations to pregnant mothers in the far reaches of the Grand'Anse.

At the time of the earthquake, we were just a few days into a week-long visit by the award-winning PBS program NOW, led by documentarian [Mary Olive Smith](#) and crew. Although the earthquake cut short their shooting schedule, amazingly they have already produced a final piece—called ***Saving Haiti's Mothers***—that will air on PBS's NOW program this Friday, January 29, at 8:30 pm in many markets. (The actual air time varies city by city, so [click here to determine the scheduled time in your city.](#))

I hope you will take the time to view this documentary to *observe the work that you are helping to support*. Scores of pregnant women have come from Port-au-Prince—and already we've had reports of some of them giving birth in Jérémie upon their arrival! **This is just one of the programs that HHF is proudly gearing up in order to assist the thousands of people who are being added to our catchment area for the long term.**

Thank you for your support of this vital maternal and infant health program—and all of HHF's programs for

the people of the Grand'Anse. And please keep our neighbors in Haiti in your thoughts and prayers.



Jeremiah J. Lowney, Jr., DDS, MPH

Founder and President  
Haitian Health Foundation

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### From PBS:

Haiti's catastrophic earthquake, in addition to leaving lives and institutions in ruin, also exacerbated a much more common and lethal emergency in Haiti: Dying during childbirth. Challenges in transportation, education, and quality health care contribute to Haiti having the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere, a national crisis even before the earthquake struck.

While great strides are being made with global health issues like HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality figures worldwide have seen virtually no improvement in 20 years. Worldwide, over 500,000 women die each year during pregnancy.

On **Friday, January 29 at 8:30 pm** ([check local listings](#) for your specific area), a NOW team that had been working in Haiti during the earthquake reports on this deadly but correctable trend. They meet members of the **Haitian Health Foundation (HHF)**, which operates a network of health agents in more than 100 villages, engaging in pre-natal visits, education, and emergency ambulance runs for pregnant women.

The United Nations Population Fund, which trains midwives to share life-saving birth techniques, says that with proper funding, public support, and wider application of simple but scarce innovations, such

deaths could be reduced by nearly 70%.

As humanitarian attention on Haiti slowly fades, the issue of maternity mortality remains as imperative as ever. But with an estimated 63,000 women in Haiti currently pregnant—and a main midwife training school devastated by the earthquake—the mission of keeping mothers alive has never been more daunting.

NOW co-produced this program with the [Bureau for International Reporting](#).



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**HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
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February 8, 2010

*Helping Our Neighbors in Need for 28 Years*

**Video Message from  
Jeremiah Lowney,  
DDS, MPH**



Click on the graphic above to view the latest video message from Haitian Health Foundation founder and president, Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, posted February 4th.

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**Fundraising Materials  
Available**

Full-color fundraising posters and other materials are available from HHF to help support our relief efforts in Haiti. Click [here](#) for more information.

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**For More  
Information**

**Dear HHF Supporter,**

My father and I write to you today from Jérémie, Haiti. On Saturday morning, we woke up at 4 AM to the sound of voices singing from all directions—the town rallying together in prayer for those lost and injured in the earthquake. I am told that the 4 AM vigils will continue daily until February 12th, which will mark the one-month anniversary of this tragedy that has gripped all of Haiti.



Then, at 6 AM, we witnessed the heartbreaking scene of the Trois Rivières boat slowly moving to the wharf with 3,000 more people arriving from Port-au-Prince. In a scene that has been repeated many times since January 12th, they were clinging to railings—many with blank faces wondering what they would be facing in the town of Jérémie.

**HHF Providing Vital Services**

Pregnant women and mothers breastfeeding their babies, children with no shoes and only a t-shirt, and men who appeared to still be dirty and exhausted from days in the rubble of Port-au-Prince—what horrors had they seen? We will never begin to imagine. But the Haitian Health Foundation's staff was there on the dock, active and ready to respond with medical consultations and general care for the hungry and traumatized. The passengers on the most recent trips have had fewer injuries than the earlier boats, we were told.

Just the day before, our visit to the overcrowded hospital showed scores of people who had barely

We continue to update information relating to the earthquake on our Web site. Please [click here](#) to access HHF's home page. Be sure to check out the [News & Events](#) page to see all of the recent updates and information.

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survived—one woman sat trembling, with two broken legs which had yet to be set, in unimaginable pain after three weeks since the earthquake. We can take pride in HHF's instrumental role in supplying the hospital with medical supplies from our own stock and procuring materiel from other agencies and NGOs.

While there are no official estimates of how many people have come to the area, the mayor of Jérémie estimated that 120,000 have already returned to the Grand'Anse, with 50,000 to families in Jérémie and HHF's catchment area. ***With numbers like these, our challenge really has just begun.***



Even with so many people making the trek into the Grand'Anse, it's surprising not to see tent cities popping up. This is a testament to ***the people of Haiti who are sharing what little they have to bring comfort to those from Port-au-Prince.*** They have opened their homes—some employees' families have increased in size by 15-17 people—and HHF is already helping to feed and care for these new arrivals.



### Meeting the Challenge

As can be seen in the photo at left, we already have our network of HHF employees dispensing aid to thousands of people. We are distributing

food—rice, beans, bulgur, soy, and oil—to those who have the most need, including families bringing in the largest numbers of relatives into their village homes. We continue to provide health care to many of the displaced—for example, 160 pregnant women were seen in the village of Dayere, and 90% of those were from Port-au-Prince and had never had prenatal check-ups, vitamins, or immunizations (all standard

services for pregnant women within our catchment area). We continue to work to open more lines to provide food, medical supplies, and other relief materials from NGOs, international relief organizations, and, wherever possible, with local merchants.

It is impossible to describe the subdued atmosphere that we have found here, other than a profound aura of loss and shock among nearly everyone, even three weeks after the earthquake. The people here—including our HHF employees and volunteers—are resilient and strong and are working tirelessly to support those arriving from Port-au-Prince and, of course, each other.

But there can be no mistake: Even in the town of Jérémie the effect of the earthquake has hit hard and deep, ***and we all are faced with the formidable challenge of caring for our neighbors in need.***



E. Marilyn Lowney

Executive Director  
Haitian Health Foundation

*P.S.*

One thing is abundantly clear from our visit: We have a long and difficult road ahead to integrate the sudden influx of thousands of people into HHF's programs. This challenge is made more difficult because the earthquake has already left the front pages of our newspapers and is no longer the lead story on cable news. The absence of visible tent cities in southwest Haiti will make it difficult to generate continued interest the plight of those we serve. *But we urge you to keep the people of Haiti in your thoughts, prayers, and charity.*

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**PBS's NOW Program Available Online**

For those who may have missed the broadcast airing of the PBS *NOW* program ***Saving Haiti's Mothers*** on January 29th, it is now available online for viewing at your convenience. Click [here](#) or click on the graphic below to view now.



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**Health.**  
*It's more than medicine.*

**Sante.**  
*Se plis ke swen.*

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