Rebuilding Homes and Lives

Restore Communities Upended by the 2021 Earthquake

— Haiti —

These earthquake survivors were blessed with a safe new house. You can give this same blessing to more families in urgent need.

CrossCatholic.org/house
The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 JOHN 4:21
On Aug. 14, 2021, Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake — this time in the Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes departments. For the approximately 137,000 families whose homes were destroyed or damaged, this loss was a devastating extra hurdle in a year marked by a multitude of economic obstacles.

For these families, the future can seem like a jagged horizon of crushed concrete and broken dreams. Some may still be sleeping in the ruins, while others cram into the overcrowded homes of relatives. Some may even fear that their only option is to send their children away to an orphanage or a more financially secure family.

Still, Christ’s hope lives. The sun of a new day is rising, and we are praying for friends like you to join us in shining God’s light in Haiti through the provision of safe, new, earthquake-resistant homes.
Executive Summary

Description
This project will build sturdy, earthquake-resistant houses for families that lost their homes to the 2021 earthquake in southern Haiti.

On Aug. 14, the quake destroyed 60,700 homes and damaged 76,100 more. Days later, a tropical storm inflicted even more destruction.

Partner
Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope) is a Les Cayes-based Catholic ministry committed to helping at-risk Haitian children. We have done house construction projects with Pwoje Espwa since 2005.

Location
Rural communities near Les Cayes in southwestern Haiti.

Campaign Goal
$1,200,000 is needed to build 100 homes for 100 families.

Campaign Highlights
The Crisis
- The earthquake intensified the stress felt by children and families already dealing with poverty, the pandemic and an oil shortage.

What You Can Do
- Your generous gift will build sturdy one- or two-bedroom cement block homes equipped with a solid zinc roof and covered porch.
- You will help shelter about 600 people at a cost of $12,000 per home.
- Our local Haitian ministry partner has a proven track record of constructing durable cement block homes capable of withstanding the stress of earthquakes and storms.
- Each family’s dignity will be preserved as they assist in the manual labor alongside skilled craftsmen.
- By joining this effort, you will also fuel a broader mission of serving children by empowering parents and restoring their dignity as capable providers and guardians.

Give Haiti’s earthquake survivors a safe place to call home!
A Nation Battered by Natural Disasters

When last year’s earthquake struck, Church leaders in southwest Haiti were stunned by the catastrophic damage and loss of life in their communities. In just a matter of seconds, hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes.

Just days later, another disaster — a tropical storm — brought heavy rains and mudslides that destroyed crops at the peak of the harvest. This one-two blow piled misery on families that had already lost everything.

Sadly, these were just the latest of many disasters to strike Haiti. This small Caribbean country, which occupies the western half of the island of Hispaniola, is in a high-risk area for both storms and quakes. Tragically, it is also arguably the most ill-prepared of any country in the Western Hemisphere to absorb and recover from such crises. This is what we saw during the 2010 quake disaster in Port-au-Prince and during the 2008 hurricane disaster in Gonaïves, among others.

For real economic progress to be sustainable, the Haitian people need a defense against such catastrophes. Today, we invite you to be a part of that solution.

A Nation at Risk

137,000 families’ homes were damaged or destroyed by the quake.
9 in 10 Haitians are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. (World Bank, 2021)
1 in 2 Haitians lives below the national poverty line. (CIA Factbook, 2012)
Our Rapid Response

Haiti’s families experienced flickers of Christ’s light in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. Turning to our network of trusted partners in Haiti, we were able to quickly identify the greatest needs and launch a three-stage response to the earthquake: 1) immediate emergency aid, 2) continuing support and 3) long-term recovery.

During the first two stages of our response plan, we addressed families’ most pressing needs — food and medical care:

**FOOD**
- Approximately 2.4 million protein-rich Vitafood meals were distributed to fight the threat of malnutrition.
- We also funded an effort to feed approximately 800 people per day in six rural communities.

**MEDICAL**
- About 3,200 pounds of relief supplies, including critical medicines and medical supplies, were airlifted into the country.
- Our partner, Grand’Anse Health & Development Association, has supported 17 rural health clinics and is expanding its efforts to include the most remote clinics where access to health care is severely limited.
- We also helped two mobile clinics and temporarily supported a hospital that was in dire need of surgical supplies.

**HOUSING**

Our partner, the Haitian Resource Development Foundation, distributed tarps within days after the earthquake to protect families from the elements. These temporary shelters helped us set the stage for long-term plans to rebuild and repair homes.

In late 2021, we launched the last phase of our response plan: a large-scale effort to build concrete block houses for the most vulnerable families. This effort, organized in partnership with a local Catholic ministry partner called Pwoje Espwa, has already welcomed many families into safe, permanent homes. However, many other earthquake survivors still urgently need rescue from deplorable living conditions. Your support today will answer their cry!
Our Trusted Partner: Pwoje Espwa

Now that we have turned our focus to the third stage, the long-term recovery, we are blessed to have a local partner with a history of successful house construction projects. That partner is Pwoje Espwa (Espwa).

Cross Catholic Outreach has done housing projects with Espwa since 2005. In the days and weeks following this disaster, we learned that not a single house built previously by Espwa had collapsed. Even more inspiring was the fact that some families had opened up their Espwa homes to shelter neighbors in need of a place to stay. What a beautiful testimony to the love of Christ and the life-affirming work of his Church!

Over the years, the Lord has used Pwoje Espwa to bless struggling Haitian families in many ways. This well-established ministry has developed a full range of outreaches and can provide food, shelter, education and medical care as needs arise. To thousands of poor families in the Les Cayes region of Haiti, Espwa is God’s love in action.

For the Children

Espwa’s heart is for Haiti’s children. Our partner’s primary focus is on serving, protecting and empowering children, and it is passionate about the fact that the best way to do this is to strengthen families. Keeping families together is paramount, and the provision of safe housing helps make this possible. Your support today will give children the chance to thrive in a safe home environment with the people they love most.
Families Rescued

Meet Junie

Junie Jean Denis is one example of the impact you can have in the lives of earthquake survivors.

This mother of three was already coping with the stress of living in a dilapidated shelter before the quake struck. Then what little she had became rubble, and she was forced to move with her children into her mother's tiny home. Nights became sleepless and painful as a total of 10 occupants struggled for adequate space.

With an income of a little over $2 a day and no formal education or job prospects, Junie had no means of rebuilding her house. Seeing her desperate situation, Espwa offered to help.

Junie was filled with joy at the prospect of not only getting her house back but getting a better house. Then our local ministry partner got to work. During the process, Junie cooked meals for the construction crew and helped with the actual labor, in keeping with our partner’s philosophy that beneficiary participation preserves dignity and gives a sense of empowerment.

Now, as you can see, Junie is raising her children in a home that is not only big enough and sturdy enough but also beautiful.

Meet Monique

Monique Francois, 70, had been living with three adult children and three grandchildren in a two-room house that — like many Haitian houses — was built below reasonable standards. As a result, the weak structure did not withstand the stresses of the earthquake's impact, and multiple walls collapsed. This left the remaining structure even weaker and the interior exposed.

Although Monique's three children work (one is a mason, another a farmer and the third a chicken vendor), even their combined income fell short of what would be needed to rebuild a house, leaving all of them feeling hopeless and overwhelmed. It was our donors' support that turned their sorrow into joy, and now Monique and her family have a sturdy, beautiful home and can sleep without fear of the next quake or storm!
Espwa builds sturdy one- or two-bedroom concrete homes with metal roofs designed to hold under the stress of storms and earthquakes. Each house also includes a covered porch, providing some shade from the hot Haitian sun. At a cost of just $12,000, these simple but durable accommodations are artfully designed, culturally appropriate and secure against theft.

The attention to detail, which is clear even in the quality of the exterior painting, is a massive improvement over the subpar structures many Haitians are forced to live in, and we have already seen how these homes stand up to harsh conditions. This means that when you support this work, you aren’t just replacing what was lost — you are giving Haitian families something built to withstand and last!

In a region with so much deep need, choosing which family to give a home to is a challenge. Espwa prioritizes families that have children, that lack even the most basic resources, and that are either homeless or living in the most deplorable conditions. Right now, the focus is on those whose houses were either destroyed or severely damaged by the quake.

To qualify, a family must also be willing (to the extent it is able) to participate in the labor. This participation upholds their dignity, gives them a true sense of ownership, and ensures that the people who apply for new homes are only those who truly want them.

Encouraged by Espwa’s track record of success, we now hope to share the many blessings of a safe home with 100 more families — but we need your help to make this vision a reality.
Financial Summary

Skilled labor (mason, carpenter, painters) $151,000
Construction materials (sand, gravel, concrete, rebar, nails, etc.) $551,250
Painting materials and supplies $27,200
Door and window construction materials $21,550
Roofing materials $211,500
Transportation of materials $37,500
Cross Catholic Outreach project management, monitoring & reporting $200,000

Total needed $1,200,000

We have placed many earthquake survivors in safe new homes, but the need for more houses is still great.

Help us reach the goal to bless 100 families with safe homes!
Give Families a New Beginning

Don’t let the earthquake be remembered as just another cruel blow to struggling Haitian families. Instead, let this tragedy be remembered for the outpouring of mercy from Christ’s Church and for the new beginnings that will rise from the rubble.

These men, women, sons and daughters need a solution now, and we are depending on you to ensure we can get them into safe homes as soon as possible. Remember also that your generous gift to Cross Catholic Outreach will show Haiti’s families they are not alone. You will demonstrate in a tangible way that our Lord sees the suffering of mothers like Junie and grandmothers like Monique, and that his heart breaks for the poor and vulnerable.

At a cost of $12,000 per home, you can help us continue this mission of mercy!

Suggested Giving Options

$20,000 can help fund two sturdy new homes.
$10,000 can help fund one sturdy new home.
$5,000 can help fund one sturdy new home.
$2,500 can help fund one sturdy new home.
Or give whatever amount the Lord places on your heart. It will be appreciated and used for the glory of God!

Make your gift now! Go to CrossCatholic.org/house or scan the code to make a secure, immediate gift online.
Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

How We Serve

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church’s spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.