



*International NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*  
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## **Haiti: Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response** **Project Report**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Time: 20:00 (Eastern Daylight Time)

### **Overview**

On 4th October 2016, Hurricane Matthew struck the Republic of Haiti, leaving a trail of destruction across the island nation.

The hurricane brought about the country's most severe humanitarian crisis since the 2010 earthquake, causing loss of life, extensive flooding and mudslides, damage to critical infrastructure, and devastation to agriculture and other sources of livelihood.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), over 2.1 million people have been affected, of which 1.4 million require urgent humanitarian assistance, and there have been more than 3,700 suspected cases of cholera (as of 2nd November).

The government of Haiti has confirmed 546 fatalities, 132 missing, and 438 injured in the wake of the hurricane (as of 2nd November).

### **Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center (PBV) in Haiti**

PBV began gathering information and contacting local partners immediately after the hurricane struck the Caribbean region in the first week of October 2016.

A fundraising campaign was launched in the following weeks, onboard Peace Boat's passenger ship, in New York City at the "Floating Festival for Sustainability" event on 20th October, in Japan, and online.

During the week of 17th October, a formal partnership for Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response was established with New York-based nonprofit, [World Cares Center](#), with whom PBV partnered to respond to Hurricane Sandy in the USA in 2012/2013.

## **Emergency Response Operations**

A PBV staff member departed for the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince with Lisa Orloff, Founder and Executive Director of World Cares Center, arriving in the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> October.

After liaising with local staff and preparing emergency supplies, PBV and World Cares Center departed for Jeremie, approximately 280km drive away. The town of Jeremie, with a population of 31,000, was one of the areas most affected by Hurricane Matthew.

### **Map of Port-au-Prince & Jeremie**



*Source: BBC.co.uk - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-37570409>*

Between 29<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November, PBV and World Cares Center delivered much-needed assistance to the communities in and around Jeremie (see the "Impacts" section below).

World Cares Center (which has extensive experience in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake) had already identified a reliable coordinator in Jeremie who was able to gather beneficiaries, communicate with stakeholders, and provide local knowledge which proved to be a major asset.

The joint team took all necessary precautions to ensure their safety as they moved around the affected areas, and ensured not to be a burden on affected communities by being self-sufficient and well prepared.



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## **Impacts**

PBV and World Cares Center successfully delivered the following services:

### ➤ **TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING**

Delivered a training session to **80 community leaders representing 12 communes** in the Jeremie area. The training focused on disaster management and community health and sanitation (including cholera prevention).

### ➤ **DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Delivered **80 Personal Protective Equipment kits** to community leaders who attended the training session above. The PPE kits included gloves, goggles, and respiratory masks, enabling them to help their communities in a safe and effective way.

### ➤ **DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE KITS**

Delivered **400 hygiene kits** in the commune of Rouseaux. The hygiene kits included soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, towel, mosquito repellent, and other essential items.

## **Photos**

*Distribution of hygiene kits in the commune of Rouseaux.*





*Training of community leaders in Jeremie.*



*Packing emergency supplies before distribution (L). / World Cares Center and PBV group (R).*





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## **Future Prospects**

There is a strong case for sustaining a longer term project in Haiti. With a rise in post-disaster health and sanitation challenges (e.g. cholera), the need for strengthening communities' abilities to cope with these hazards is as urgent as ever.

Whilst many aid agencies continue to provide supplies (food, water, etc.), PBV believes it can make a major impact through capacity building of communities with training and education. The workshop implemented during this first deployment with World Cares Center is a prime example of this kind of initiative

Having conducted the workshop in Jeremie, there were several community leaders who wanted to bring this information to their respective communities, and it was clear from the participants' feedback that it provided significant value.

PBV and partners hope to continue projects in Haiti, dependent on availability of resources.

## **For More Information**

Regular updates in English and Japanese are made on our website and Facebook page:

<http://pbv.or.jp/en/> [English]

<http://pbv.or.jp/> [Japanese]

<https://www.facebook.com/PBVsaigai/>

If you would like to support the survivors of this disaster, please visit our **Donations Page**:

[http://pbv.or.jp/donate/201604\\_kumamoto/english.html](http://pbv.or.jp/donate/201604_kumamoto/english.html) [English]

[http://pbv.or.jp/donate/201604\\_kumamoto/](http://pbv.or.jp/donate/201604_kumamoto/) [Japanese]

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