



APA Response to Earthquake in Haiti

The association has engaged in a number of initiatives:

- Developed a FAQ for APA Response to Haiti Earthquake <http://www.apa.org/topics/disasters/apa-haiti-response.aspx> (collaboration between the Committee on International Relations in Psychology and the Disaster Response Network)
- Developing a Trans-World Clearinghouse for Disaster Response Resources for mental health professionals <http://www.apa.org/international/resources/disaster-clearinghouse.aspx>
- Donated \$10,000 to the American Red Cross International Response Fund for Haiti relief;

The Disaster Response Network is engaging in the following activities:

- Distributing international standards and guidelines for psychologists about engaging in international disaster response work.
 - Guidance Note for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Haiti Earthquake Emergency Response - January 2010 <http://www.apa.org/international/resources/haiti-guidelines.pdf>
 - Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings, <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/downloadDCO.aspx?docID=4445&ref=4>;
- Developing and distributing guidance for psychologists
 - APA's Statement on the Role of Psychologists in International Emergencies <http://www.apa.org/international/resources/emergency-statement.aspx>
 - Evaluating Requests for Mental Health Professionals to Travel to Haiti and the Aid Organizations (see attached PDF);
- Distributing psychological resources for people in the United States and Canada who are distressed about deceased or injured persons in Haiti (Managing Your Distress about the Earthquake from Afar <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/distress-earthquake.aspx>);

- Offering culturally sensitive and informed psychological resources and support through Red Cross chapters and local government agencies to support sizable Haitian communities in states such as New York, Massachusetts, and Florida, as well as in Washington, D.C. and Ontario, Canada;
- Meeting planes of U.S. citizens in New Jersey and Florida being repatriated to this country from Haiti;
- Assisting American Red Cross national headquarters in developing protocol for post-deployment support
- Standing ready to offer psychological support to relief and rescue workers returning from Haiti;
- Communicating and collaborated with the American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health activity, agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other non-governmental organizations.
- Fielding interviews from Time magazine, USA Today and other media outlets about trauma and grief.

The American Red Cross is not recruiting volunteer disaster mental health professionals to work in Haiti. There are guidelines and parameter about psychologists engaging in international disaster response (please see guidance documents under DRN above). A few psychologists have offered direct assistance through international humanitarian organizations. Dr. Jeanne LeBlanc, Division 22 member and DRN member, is among the few psychologists who have worked on the ground in Haiti.

APA's Longer-term Responses to International Disasters:

After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, APA began to develop longer range activities in support of disaster response and of strengthening the capacity for psychosocial response internationally. Examples of these activities include:

Funding for training in psychosocial intervention in developing countries. After the tsunami APA supported training projects in tsunami-affected countries for train-the-trainer models for local psychosocial intervention. Since then APA has available modest funding to offer matching, seed funds to psychology organizations in developing countries to develop and implement training seminars. For more information contact the International Office at international@apa.org

Funding through the American Psychological Foundation (APF). APF has awarded grants to psychologists whose research and interventions address the long-term effects following a disaster and that will help lay the groundwork for a more effective understanding and ability to respond to future traumas. Examples include a pilot intervention program that incorporates group counseling and rapid education for youth in Sierra Leone, to strengthen community supports and peer networks; a project examining the effects of the timing of interventions with emergency response personnel; research on the effects of a natural disaster on children's anxiety, and research on the long-term recovery of a community after a disaster so that psychological scientists, decision makers, and practitioners will be able to know and address the issues that emerge over time. See the American Psychological Foundation <http://www.apa.org/apf/index.aspx> for more information.