



[CENTER FOR FAITH-BASED & NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS](#)

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Helping Haiti

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your displays of compassion and generosity toward the Haitian people. If you are looking for specific ways to help during this crisis, the two most effective ways right now are through cash donations and through support in locating family members. Additionally, many Haitian Americans have lost loved ones. Reaching out to the Haitian American community in your area to offer assistance is another way to contribute during this time.

Please consider forwarding this information to your local members or congregations; however, please note that any outreach is 100% voluntary.

Locating Family Members

The State Department Operations Center has set up the following number for Americans seeking information about family members in Haiti: **1-888-407-4747**.

Monetary Donations

There are relief organizations accepting contributions for this effort. For those interesting in helping immediately, simply text "HAITI" to "90999" and a donation of \$10 will be given automatically to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts, charged to your cell phone bill. Or you can go online to [identify some relief organizations](#) accepting donations for the disaster relief efforts.

You may also prefer to work with a trusted relief organization associated with your faith tradition or your community.

Monetary donations are the most effective form of assistance because they allow humanitarian organizations to purchase (often within the affected region itself) the exact type and quantity of items needed by those affected by the crisis. Read about the

[advantages of monetary donations.](#)

Commodity Contributions

While monetary donations are preferred to commodity contributions, there may be **rare** instances when a commodity contribution would be of value to relief operations.

- See a list of [conditions](#) which are necessary to ensure that a commodity contribution is appropriate.
- Read about [handling appropriate commodity contributions](#).
- If a commodity collection has already been made, but there are problems identifying a need in the affected region for the commodities or an organization to accept them, read about some [alternate ideas](#).

Volunteering

Volunteer opportunities in disaster settings are extremely rare, and are usually limited to people with prior disaster experience and technical skills (such as health, engineering, etc). To register your skills and experience for a possible volunteer opportunity, go to the [Center for International Disaster Information's](#) registration page. For opportunities to volunteer overseas in non-disaster settings, visit [Serve.gov](#). Or read about [Volunteers for Prosperity](#), a volunteer program managed by USAID.

Stay Updated

As more information becomes available on the best ways to help in Haiti going forward, we will distribute it through our listserv for faith and community-based organizations. You are welcome to sign up for our [weekly email updates](#) to receive future updates on Haiti response and US health and human services information relevant to community and faith based groups.

This email is from the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Our Center serves as a resource for faith and community based organizations and groups seeking to increase their impact in their communities; respond to public health emergencies and disasters; share public health information, and understand federal grant opportunities and programs. Since we have received many inquiries on the ongoing situation in Haiti, we wanted to use this email to provide you with the latest information on how your organizations can assist with the disaster in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Alexia Kelley
Director, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services