

## Haiti Updates

*January 26, 2010*

Excerpt from OSJ News on January 26, 2010: Many of you have been following along on the denomination's [Haiti Disaster page](#) for new ways to help and learn. We're happy to announce that [OSJ's advocacy asks](#) have made significant progress over the last few days:

1. The Obama Administration granted Temporary Protective Status to Haitians living in the US--one of our key measures to help Haiti.
2. The [IMF has stated](#) that it intends to work to cancel all of Haiti's debts to the institution, including the \$100 million loan proposed last week.

Thank you to everyone who called the White House and raised your prayers and voices in other ways.

*January 26, 2010*

Bev Abma, Program Director for FRB, spoke with staff from FRB member, Church World Service (CWS), in Haiti; our partner SKDE staff is well, working with a clinic and providing support to church efforts during this early phase of response. The program area we are supporting (Haiti Northwest) was not affected; however, it is anticipated that there will be mass migration to rural areas. Plans for the future will help people establish sustainable livelihoods so they can stay in rural areas for the long term. It is too soon to know just what these plans will be; however, they will be part of the ongoing activities of the current Haiti Northwest program. CWS anticipates bringing a new proposal to us in the next several months when the time for development is right.

Don also reports that the churches in neighboring Dominican Republic have been very supportive. CWS efforts have helped the smaller- scale response of local churches in their own communities. They are also working closely with CRWRC as they look at the needs for shelter when the rains come in a few months when tents will no longer be adequate.

Please do be in prayer for all ministering to those in the midst of this trauma. Pray for stamina and wisdom in responding appropriately while also maintaining their own physical, emotional and spiritual health.

I am reading an excellent book that I think could be very helpful in considering how to serve Haiti. It is entitled "When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself" by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert.

*January 20, 2010*

Rejoice with us in the good news! We received word from Martin Coria that the program staff and office building of our Haitian partner organization, SKDE, are apparently okay and that the organization is focused on serving people in a clinic they opened outside of Port-au-Prince.