



An Initiative of The Boston Foundation

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Helping Haitians Rebuild After Hurricane Matthew

Statement from the Haiti Development Institute

Boston, MA: We are deeply grateful for your support of our work through the years. As most of you know, Haiti was once again hit by a devastating natural disaster this week, Hurricane Matthew, which has caused severe damages to much of the country – especially in the South. Once again, we must step in and offer our assistance to the victims addressing immediate humanitarian needs, but equally important to the recovery is the rebuilding of communities and the prevention of the spread of disease. This storm and other disasters continue to set local communities and community-based organizations back, particularly considering their remarkable progress following the earthquake.

Our intention is not to replace humanitarian and emergency response groups like Heartland Alliance, OCHA, and others. These organizations and the Haitian government are mostly concerned, rightfully so, with rebuilding infrastructure and offering immediate humanitarian assistance to keep communities alive. We will look to fill the gaps once these groups have left, as capacity building to restore the communities hardest hit must be a priority.

As of this writing we do not yet know the magnitude of the damage, but Hurricane Matthew is expected to deal a severe blow to Haiti's already weak infrastructure. Already, stories are emerging of severe flooding and damage to homes, as well as entire cities being cut off from medical care and food supplies. A key bridge collapsed in the town of Petit-Goâve on the highway that links Haiti's hardest-hit southwestern peninsula region to the capital, Port-au-Prince. [Several people](#) were reportedly swept away. Officials fear the death toll could rise, especially in and around the southern town of Les Cayes, which absorbed the first blow from Matthew and where hundreds were hunkering down in homes without electricity and roofs.

We will be posting information and updates as we receive them on our website www.hdihaiti.org/hurricane-matthew-response.

Immediately after the recent 2010 earthquake, the Haiti Fund was created at the Boston Foundation with the explicit goal of addressing the necessary immediate relief efforts coupled with the longer term reconstruction efforts to rebuild more vibrant and resilient communities. Last year, the Haiti Fund transitioned to the Haiti Development Institute (HDI), an initiative of the Boston Foundation. Our vision is a new Haiti built hand-in-hand with opportunity and justice for all, and we strive to achieve this vision through building sustainable communities by supporting local leaders, strengthening organizations, and connecting the nonprofit, philanthropic and social enterprise sectors, to achieve transformative systemic impact. HDI is built on the belief that an integrated approach to development is necessary to usher in real change in Haiti. Unfortunately, as Haiti is one

of the countries most impacted by climate change, we knew that we needed to be positioned to act swiftly and respond to the needs on the ground in times of need.

HDI has reached out to members of the donor and Haitian Diaspora Community to join forces in coordinating an appropriate response to this crisis. We are asking for your assistance to empower the Haitian communities to rebuild and to work across sectors with donors and implementers for a coordinated and strategic response to assist those on the ground. We will look to support organizations we know well in the South like Mouvement Paysan 3ème Section Camp-Perrin (Peasant Movement for the Third Section of Camp-Perrin(MP3K), Association des Cadres Pour la Protection de l'environnement (ACAPE), Konbit Fanm Kaskad-Dubreuil (KOFAKAD), and Organisation pour le Developpement de Pointe Nicolas/Organization for the Development of Point Nicolas (ODPN).

You can donate directly through our website: www.hdihaiti.org/hurricane-matthew-response. As in the past, we will make use of our experiences as a grant maker to ensure your donations are used in the most efficient way by working directly with our partners on the ground, as they are best positioned to identify the individuals and families most in need. HDI will target its programs to local leaders and Haitian-led organizations as they have the highest likelihood of success for equitable and sustainable development over the long-term.

Thank you for being there for Haiti.