

Dec. 14, 2010

# FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR ONE DAY'S WAGES

#### **CHOLERA AND HOUSING RESPONSE IN HAITI**

Thank you for One Day's Wages interest in again partnering with World Concern to help people in desperate need in Haiti. We thank you for your continued compassion, and for your desire to explore how this partnership might work.



## **OVERVIEW**

Though much has been accomplished in the last II months, new problems in Haiti have emerged. The rapidly spreading outbreak of cholera has killed about 2,400 people across the nation in the past two months. Making the problem worse, Haitians face increasing instability and violence after widespread corruption in the recent election.



While World Concern works to protect the vulnerable from these new threats, we remain committed to rebuilding homes and restarting livelihoods. So far, donors have enabled World Concern to repair or rebuild homes for more than 1,000 families and provide business grants to more than 1,100 heads of households. World Concern is in the process of awarding more grants and has a goal to build at least 1,000 more homes in the coming months.

The need for housing and business development has not gone away, as about 1,000,000 people remain homeless and at higher risk for disease, like cholera.

Our response to new disasters works in tandem with our ongoing response to reduce homelessness and rebuild lives.

#### **CHOLERA RESPONSE**

World Concern's response to the cholera epidemic has two main components:

- I. Telling people that cholera can kill. Giving them useful information about how to survive cholera and advice as to when they should seek professional treatment
- 2. Equipping potential victims with supplies to both prevent the spread of cholera and treat the symptoms. Currently, we are planning to distribute or are in the process of distributing thousands of:
  - a. Aquatabs to purify water
  - b. Oral rehydration solution packets (ORS)
  - c. 1-gallon plastic water containers
  - d. Pamphlets about cholera
  - e. Bars of soap

## **STRATEGY**

Much of our response to date has been informing people about the reality of cholera. Haiti has not seen cholera in many generations, and the severity of the disease is significantly underestimated. Because of ongoing problems with water-borne disease in Haiti, people who live there may think what they are suffering from is just another bug that will eventually resolve itself. In reality, a person with cholera can die from dehydration within hours. Maintaining proper hydration – and in some cases receiving medical treatment – is critical.

World Concern has and will continue to raise awareness in communities across Haiti. Our history educating Haitians about Cholera dates back to 1993, with a joint awareness campaign with WHO. Today, World Concern's presence spans the country, from urban Port au Prince to rural communities in the north and south.



During these awareness campaigns, which have already begun, trained health caseworkers travel from place to place, using megaphones and one-on-one conversations to ensure people understand. We ask people to tell at least three other people what they have learned, to help ensure the message is being distributed through communities as quickly as possible. As physical resources are needed and available, vulnerable people will receive appropriate tools.

To date, World Concern has reached more than 5,000 people with the message about cholera. In many cases, they also have received tools to fight it. This campaign, appropriately, is growing quickly.

World Concern Haiti has possession of an initial large supply of all resources listed previously, including Aquatabs, ORS packets, water containers and soap. As community health trainers travel to communities across Haiti, they will share these resources with people they encounter.



# **SCOPE**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) believes over the next year more than 500,000 cases of cholera can be expected in Haiti. Health officials are also alert to the risk that the Haiti outbreak could spread further into Dominican Republic and far beyond.

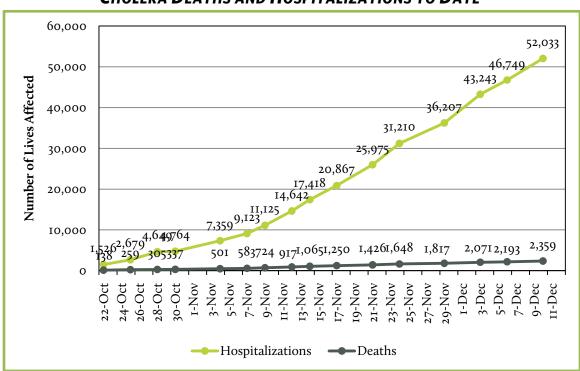


Experts refer to the 1991 cholera outbreak in Peru — the first in the Americas in a century — that led to a series of entrenched large cholera outbreaks across the Americas in the ensuing decade.

World Concern Haiti Country Director Christon Domond believes his staff must continue to work quickly in order to prevent further deaths. "We need to mount an aggressive strategy to reach these people," Domond said. "We need people to go to their homes, to their churches, with this message."

World Concern Haiti estimates that over the next three months, our cholera response will include 100,000 direct beneficiaries and 300,000 indirect beneficiaries who hear the prevention message.

#### **CHOLERA DEATHS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS TO DATE**



Cholera death is eminently treatable if patients are promptly rehydrated, and typically public-health responses to cholera epidemics reduce mortality rates to below I percent. At the beginning of this outbreak in Haiti mortality was estimated at around 9 percent, which fell to



an estimated rate of 4 to 6 percent over the past few weeks as patients began to be treated. Due to recent unrest and the hurricane that caused disruption of supply delivery and transportation of patients to treatment centers, the death rate soared past the original 9 percent, wiping out the gains that were being made. Most recent figures show a mortality rate between 2 percent and 3 percent.



## **HOUSING AND LIVELIHOODS**

A recent assessment indicates the risk to those left homeless by the Jan. 12 earthquake, which currently stands at about 1,000,000 people. For example, 25% of surveyed families were purchasing water. With 48% of respondents indicating their housing was destroyed, and a further 33% indicating their housing was severely damaged, it was clear that there was also a widespread breakdown of water and sanitation systems.

Many of these services are only just beginning to be addressed, leaving a large percentage of the population vulnerable to water-borne diseases such as cholera.



Every week, World Concern adds to the number of homes repaired and transitional shelters built. We're constructing approximately 80 steel-framed shelters each week, freeing families from the homelessness they've endured for the past year.

We continue to employ Haitian laborers through our Cash for Work program, providing them with an income, and assisting the local economy at the same time.

Livelihoods are key to reducing dependency and equipping people with tools to take control of their lives. Grants given to date include small amounts of about \$100 USD, to larger amounts of \$500-\$800 for more established businesses which employ others. These grants are equipping people with histories in business to get their lives going again, so that they can both participate in the economy and support their families.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

World Concern asks One Day's Wages to address both the immediate and underlying risks to vulnerable Haitians.

We propose a funding approach to respond to the cholera emergency and help address core needs to ensure longer-term stability for families. These aspects of assistance include:

- I. Cholera prevention and tools for cholera victims
- 2. Construction and housing repair to get families off the street and into homes
- 3. Business grants to equip people to provide for themselves and reduce vulnerability to disaster

As you consider a partnership, please consider the impact One Day's Wages can make. Simply to give some idea of scope, a \$50,000 funding goal would help provide approximately:

- 5,000 people with a life-saving lesson about cholera and basic resources for prevention and treatment
- 10 families with transitional shelters
- 25 entrepreneurs with business grants

With this assistance for the people of Haiti, One Day's Wages will be not only save lives in a disaster-response mode, but build futures for people so that they can regain stability in their lives.

On behalf of those you are serving, thank you.

Derek Sciba

World Concern