# Table of Contents

Table of Contents  
Background  
  Chronic political instability  
  Social crisis  
Emergency intervention in 2010  
Rehabilitation: building capacity and developing quality rehabilitation locally  
Awareness and risk prevention  
Social and economic inclusion  
Road safety: awareness and advocacy  
The word in the field
Quick Facts

Emergency response following the 2010 earthquake

Haiti

90,000+ people
Received rehabilitation care

25,000+ people
Received psychosocial support

1,400 people
Fit with prostheses and orthoses

20,000 tons
of humanitarian aid distributed
Background

Chronic political instability
One of the poorest countries in the world, Haiti has chronic political instability. In Port-au-Prince, the capital, needs are immense, due to high unemployment, especially among young people, price inflation of essential foodstuffs, insecurity, and problems accessing water, education and medical care.

Under-serviced rural communities lack schools, health centers and other public infrastructure and emergency services. They are highly vulnerable to natural disasters: cyclones, flooding, droughts etc.

Social crisis
The ongoing social and political crisis in Haiti has had a serious impact on local communities, especially people with disabilities, and reduced access to essential items, health care, education, etc. People struggle to find food and 35% of the population (3.67 million people) urgently need food assistance.

In September and October 2019, fuel shortages and insecurity limited the capacity of humanitarian organizations to assist thousands of Haitians. Haitian public services have also considerably reduced their activities. Since November 2019, the situation has stabilized, and humanitarian and development organizations have gradually resumed their work.

People with disabilities, who are among the most vulnerable and most likely to be discriminated against, are increasingly impacted by the crisis. Since the unrest began, they are disproportionately exposed to risks, such as physical violence and crime. Barricades, demonstrations etc. restrict movement and access to
essential and social services like food, drinking water and health. HI must be able to continue providing support to those most in need.

**Frequent natural disasters**
Frequent hurricanes and earthquakes increase vulnerability and damage already fragile infrastructure. Cholera epidemics have weakened the population, although no new cases have been reported recently.

**Emergency intervention in 2010**

Humanity & Inclusion has worked in Haiti since 2008. One of the poorest countries in the world, it is also one of the most vulnerable to natural disasters.

On the afternoon of January 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck the Port-au-Prince area. Its epicenter was southwest of the capital. The earthquake caused extensive damage and aftershocks were felt for days and weeks. Two weeks after the earthquake, the death toll was 230,000 and more than 300,000 injured in a country with a population of approximately 10 million.

Humanity & Inclusion immediately launched an emergency response in aid of the victims, deploying resources unprecedented to date for our organization. At the height of the response, more than 600 employees were on the ground to provide relief to the populations affected by the disaster. More than 90,000 people received rehabilitation care and more than 1,400 victims were fitted with an orthosis or prosthesis. Psychosocial support was provided to more than 25,000 people.

On October 4, 2016, another natural disaster struck Haiti when Hurricane Matthew devastated the southern part of the country. Two mobile HI teams were deployed to the region to assist victims by providing them with rehabilitation care, orthopedic devices and psychosocial support. HI also distributed 1,000 kits containing essential items.

45 Humanity & Inclusion aid workers are now present in Haiti.

In the years following the earthquake, Humanity & Inclusion gradually refocused its activities on long-term development assistance. These development activities should enable Haitians themselves to manage the consequences of natural disasters and other risks that could give rise to disabilities among the population. HI is working with local partners to achieve this goal.

However, the Haitian population remains extremely vulnerable due to the country’s chronic political instability and precarious infrastructure (medical, educational, etc.).
Rehabilitation: building capacity and developing quality rehabilitation locally

In the aftermath of the earthquake, Haiti faced a severe shortage of rehabilitation specialists: there were only 13 qualified physical therapists in the country, half of whom were working abroad. Humanity & Inclusion trained rehabilitation technicians and by August 2015, the first 72 technicians had completed their training. Humanity & Inclusion is now investing in continuous training to build the knowledge of rehabilitation experts and support physical therapists and rehabilitation centers to improve the level of care. Three hospitals receive long-term support to improve the quality of care and departmental capacity.

Awareness and risk prevention

Some regions are very remote and difficult to access. During emergencies help is far away. Humanity & Inclusion helps the most vulnerable and isolated communities to prepare for and protect themselves from future natural disasters.

Social and economic inclusion

Humanity & Inclusion supports some 450 people with disabilities access employment or economic activities. This support helps restore their dignity and makes them more self-reliant and better able to support their families.

Road safety: awareness and advocacy

Many people are killed or injured in road accidents in Haiti. Humanity & Inclusion raises awareness and visits schools to explain road hazards to children. Drivers of public transportation can also take road safety courses. HI also carries out awareness-raising activities with the government and Haitian organizations to explain the importance of accident prevention.
"The country was decimated by the earthquake. There were people on every street, looking for family members." - Aleema Shivji, Director of Humanity & Inclusion in the UK in 2010, physical therapist and emergency director for HI in 2010

“There were tremors for days after the earthquake. We wanted to check if friends or people in the neighborhood were okay. People left their homes and slept in the courtyard where they made up beds on the floor and put up tents because they were afraid. There were always aftershocks at night.” – Marie Dorcasse Laguerre, Head of Humanity & Inclusion’s training unit in Haiti

"What struck me in the aftermath of the earthquake, apart from the awful chaos, was the attitude of the Haitians: their dignity, their resilience, their ability to stand tall despite everything.” – Sylvia Sommella, HI Haiti Program Director/HI Communications Officer in 2010
Photography Credits
© Davide Preti, Corentin Fohlen, Wendy Huyghe and HI

8757 Georgia Ave, Suite 420
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 891-2138
www.hi-us.org