



Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response Fund *Seeking support to provide immediate relief*



CARE has begun distributing food to families who have been evacuated to shelters in St. Teresse, Haiti, in advance of Hurricane Matthew.

Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response Fund **Initial Funding Goal: \$5 Million**

Introduction

Hurricane Matthew, which has been classified as a Category 4 hurricane, has just landed in Haiti, bringing strong winds of over 155 miles per hour (250 km/h) and as much as 12 inches (300 mm) of heavy rainfall in some areas. The hurricane is expected to produce potentially deadly flooding and mudslides and cause catastrophic damage to houses, infrastructure, crops, and water and sanitation systems.

The eye of the hurricane has moved very slowly and changed its initial direction, moving now towards the center of Haiti. According to most recent reports, all departments of Haiti are likely to be affected. Other areas in the hurricane's path include Jamaica, eastern Cuba, southwestern Dominican Republic and the southeastern Bahamas.

CARE has established the **Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response Fund**, with an initial goal of raising **\$5 million** to support our response to provide immediate relief and longer-term rehabilitation.

Your gift will help us address the needs of those who are most vulnerable to the effects of Hurricane Matthew.¹

CARE's Capacity and Response

CARE began working in Haiti in 1954 to provide relief assistance after Hurricane Hazel struck. Since then, we have demonstrated significant capacity and experience responding to recurring emergencies – including the 2010 Earthquake – as well as working to address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability. Our programs in Haiti focus on women because their empowerment serves as a catalyst for overall beneficial change in the communities where they reside. CARE works closely with local nongovernment organizations (NGOs), private companies, community organizations and the Haitian government to build local capacity and achieve sustainable development.

CARE already has a strong field presence in Haiti, with offices in Jeremie, Jacmel and Thiotte, Hinche and Thomassique, Gonaives and our main office in Port-au-Prince. To prepare for the Hurricane Matthew response, we set up a disaster assessment team in Jeremie (Grand Anse) to be able to conduct assessments immediately after the hurricane strikes, as it is highly likely that the road from Port-au-Prince to Jeremie will be flooded. We are actively engaging with partners to cover the areas where we do not currently directly implement programs. CARE has a number of strong partners through our *Kore Lavi* National Social Safety Net program, who are implementing in non-CARE presence areas that are likely to be affected. The needs assessment will be conducted jointly with Haiti's Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC), UN agencies and other NGOs. Moreover, CARE prepositioned 1,000 hygiene kits consisting of water purification tables, soap, and other necessary items that will cover the immediate needs of 1,000 families.



CARE's emergency response team in Haiti met in May and June to update preparedness plans in preparation for the hurricane season. The most immediate need after the hurricane makes landfall will likely be **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** – in particular securing safe water supplies and hygiene kits – as well as **ensuring shelter for people who have lost their homes**. CARE is also prepared to scale-up our *Kore Lavi* project (funded by Food for Peace/USAID) – a project focused on food security and nutrition and social protection serving over 200,000 people in five departments, three of which will likely be the most affected by Hurricane Matthew. Through existing structures and systems (such as electronic food vouchers and cash transfers) the project will deploy additional food security support to those most affected.

¹ In order to effectively manage the current emergency response and continue to be able to deploy resources for other emergencies, CARE will reserve 20 percent of donations to the Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response Fund to cover technical support, administration and emergency preparedness expenses, including the rapid deployment of staff to emergencies such as this one.

Food for Peace has given preliminary approval to CARE to provide **food assistance (cash, food vouchers and hot meals)** in response to Hurricane Matthew. We anticipate that additional funding will be needed in the response phase for WASH activities and the distribution of essential relief items.

CARE has deployed an emergency team to the area likely to be most severely hit and has pre-positioned supplies for a more rapid response. To spearhead CARE's response to the hurricane, we will be sending a team leader to be deployed to the most affected areas, a WASH specialist and an education in emergency specialist. CARE's office in Haiti has already provided 200 hot meals in three shelters in Grand Anse.

“Hurricane Matthew could have devastating impacts in Haiti, as the country has not experienced a storm of this magnitude since 1954. The people of Haiti were already suffering from a drought as a result of El Niño, and now they will likely endure the shock of torrential flooding as a result of this storm. Being that it is one week from the presidential elections in Haiti, the government will need more support from humanitarian agencies to respond to this storm. As Hurricane Matthew approaches, CARE is coordinating with the government to help people prepare and evacuate from areas at extreme risk of storm surges and landslides. We have also deployed staff to Grand Anse in one of the most remote areas that will likely be difficult to access once the storm makes landfall. In these hard-to-reach areas, we have pre-positioned supplies such as clean drinking water, hygiene kits, tarps and blankets.”

- Jean-Michel Vigreux, CARE Country Director in Haiti

Conclusion

CARE's emergency response teams specialize in providing food, water, shelter and health care after a disaster strikes. CARE has seven decades of experience helping people prepare for disasters, providing assistance when a crisis hits, and helping communities recover after the emergency has passed. When a natural disaster like Hurricane Matthew occurs, CARE needs immediate, flexible funding to allow us to mount a comprehensive and timely response. Thank you for considering a donation to the **Hurricane Matthew Emergency Response Fund** to support these lifesaving efforts.

October 2016