

Field Update: February 4, 2010

*The update below is a snapshot of the work United Way organizations around the world continue to do to support Haiti.*

## On the Ground

United Way Worldwide's David Shehigian, Director, Global Corporate Leadership and Kirenjeet Bansal, Caribbean Region Liaison were deployed to the Caribbean to perform a capacity assessment to determine United Way's long-term response to the earthquake in Haiti, which aligns with our work in the areas of education, income and health. Their work also focuses on helping identify qualified, credible in-country, regional and global partners while strengthening existing relationships with local United Way organizations in the Caribbean.

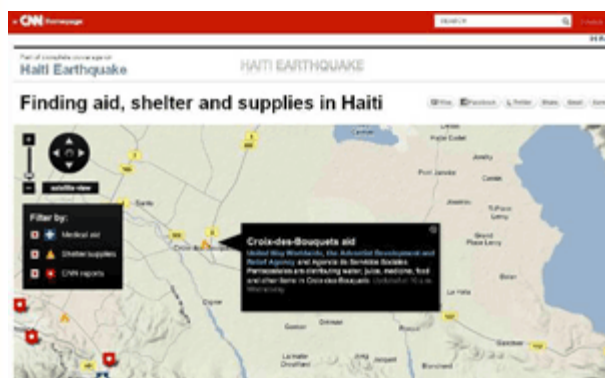
Shehigian traveled to Haiti earlier this week to assess the situation and make recommendations for United Way's long-term recovery plan in Haiti. Visit our [Haiti update](#) to read the brief account of his initial observations, composed on his Blackberry. Bansal has traveled to Puerto Rico to determine United Way's base for our system's efforts to help rebuild Haiti

## Regional Response

United Way of Jamaica met on January 26 with Ronald Jackson, head of Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, the agency designated to lead the Caribbean Community and Common Market's (CARICOM) regional Haiti relief efforts, along with representatives from other aid organizations, to determine United Way's long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts in Haiti. United Way Worldwide was represented by Shehigian, Bansal along with Alvaro Casserly, Chair for United Way Worldwide's Caribbean Region Council, and Winsome Wilkins, President of United Way of Jamaica.

Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico partnered with ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) and ASSPEN (Pentecostal Social Service) to distribute water, juice, over-the-counter Medicines, first aid products, protein bars, canned food and other necessity items sent from Puerto Rico to Haiti. Both organizations have offices in Puerto Rico and missions in Haiti. ADRA has a hospital, university and more than 200 churches in Haiti. Thus far, four containers have been sent by Fondos Unidos and received by these organizations in Haiti. The products are being distributed in Port-au-Prince and Croix Des-Bouquets, Haiti.

United Way's on-the-ground activities through Puerto Rico are being highlighted on [CNN's interactive map](#).



United Way of Trinidad & Tobago is chartering a boat with relief supplies. They continue to collect additional supplies that will be channeled through Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico. They also continue to take donations and coordinate in-kind pledges, and collect building materials and supplies necessary for long-term recovery and reconstruction.

Fondo Unido de Guatemala is sending 600 water filters to Haiti. The water filters ensure 100 percent removal of

parasites and 99.99 percent removal of pathogenic bacteria and provide 10 gallons of safe drinking water within 24 hours.

## U.S. Support

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago is working with local partners to provide direct aid to the Haitian evacuees arriving at O'Hare Airport on United Airlines. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

Since news of the earthquake in Haiti, United Way of Miami-Dade has focused most of its efforts on providing assistance on the island. It's now beginning to shift gears to focus on local needs in anticipation of Haitian evacuees and long-term rebuilding. [Click here](#) to learn more about Miami's response.

United Way of Broward County met last week with a coalition of more than 50 local organizations including government, during which a long-term disaster recovery committee was established to assist in rebuilding Haiti.

Boston has the third largest Haitian population in the United States. United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley committed \$40,000 to support local families affected by the disaster. They also created a pledge site through their [chooseyourimpact.org](http://chooseyourimpact.org) microsite. One donor put together a benefit event that raised \$4,000.

United Way of Greater St. Louis gathered a dozen crisis relief organizations together last week to coordinate among each other and inform the public about their actions. Like many other United Way organizations across the U.S., United Way of Greater St. Louis is fielding questions about Haiti relief and donations at its 2-1-1 call center.

United Way of Acadiana in Lafayette, LA, co-hosted a music benefit that raised more than \$23,000 for the United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund, the American Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, the Southern Development Foundation, and Art Creation Foundation for Children. "L'Union Fait la Force" featured local and nationally known musicians who donated their time and talents, wrapping up with a Louisiana All-Star Jam featuring Haiti's BèlO.

## Global Corporate Support

United Way Global Corporate Leaders such as Accenture, Aetna Inc., AT&T, Citigroup Inc., Cummins Inc., Deloitte, Eaton Corporation, GE, HSBC - North America, IBM Corporation, Kellogg Company, Microsoft Corporation, Nationwide Insurance, NBC Universal, New York Life Insurance Company, Procter & Gamble, Pfizer Inc, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Principal Financial Group, Qwest Communications International, Inc., United Airlines and UPS are working with United Way to contribute financial and other resources, while also engaging their employees to assist in disaster response.

Polo Ralph Lauren partners in Haiti disaster relief  
[Polo Ralph Lauren](#) makes giving fashionable as it joins United Way in aiding Haiti through this difficult time and for years to come with its limited edition signature [Haiti Relief Polo shirt](#) to benefit the United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund. 100% of the proceeds from the sale price of the polo will go to the Fund. Polo Ralph Lauren has also made a donation the United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund.



Polo Ralph Lauren is also promoting a [donation site](#) to help generate Funds for United Way from consumers and employees, and has committed to matching donations from Polo Ralph Lauren employees.

## Financial Donations

Can be made at:

[www.unitedway.org/haiti](http://www.unitedway.org/haiti)

Text-to-Give: In the U.S., \$5 donations can be made by texting HAITI to 864833 ("United"). Standard text messaging rates apply.

## Contact at United Way Worldwide

Del Galloway, Vice President of Public Relations, [del.galloway@unitedway.org](mailto:del.galloway@unitedway.org).