

Original message to the Disasters Emergency Committee:

Oxfam has already launched an emergency appeal following Hurricane Matthew's devastation of Haiti. I would strongly urge the DEC to launch an appeal that will not only help alleviate the immediate crisis but also help that country to provide its people with more robust housing and cleaner sanitation. They have had far more than their fair share of disasters recently. Although we're hearing that the death toll is approaching 1000, more than that die in that country every year from cholera. Surely in this day and age, no-one should have to live in the kind of squalour we see on our TV screens. Of course education will be a key player in tackling this problem and that will be a long-term issue. But perhaps now is the time for the DEC to use its weight alongside other prominent NGOs to help bring such a change about. Thank you.

The reply from the DEC Supporters Care Team to which I urge all our readership to respond as they see fit:

Dear Reverend Mackenzie Mills,

Thank you for your email and for your concern about the people affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Owing to communication difficulties a clear picture of the devastation caused by the hurricane in Haiti is only just becoming clear. The UN is estimating that around 350,000 people are in need of help. As Hurricane Matthew continues its path across the U.S, the DEC is monitoring the situation in Haiti closely, regularly reviewing it against our appeal criteria. At this stage we are not launching an appeal but this may change once the level of humanitarian need becomes more clearly understood.

Many of our member charities are currently responding in Haiti, providing food and clean water and working tirelessly to avoid the spread of cholera. Because many of our member charities were already in Haiti and have pre-positioned stock in the affected areas, at this point a DEC appeal is not required to fund the work they are doing. The best way you can help is to donate to one of their Hurricane Matthew Appeals, I have provided links to these below.

Actionaid <https://www.actionaid.org.uk/donate/hurricane-matthew-haiti-emergency-appeal>

British Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org.uk/Donate-Now/Make-a-single-donation/hurricane-matthew-Appeal/hurricane-matthew-Appeal-hero>

CARE International <http://www.careinternational.org.uk/stories/hurricane-matthew-update-floods-landslides-torrential-rain>

Christian Aid <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/hurricane-matthew-appeal>

Oxfam <https://donate.oxfam.org.uk/emergency/hurricane-matthew>

Plan International UK <https://plan-uk.org/emergencies/haiti-hurricane-response#form>

Tearfund [http://www.tearfund.org/en/latest/haiti\\_appeal/](http://www.tearfund.org/en/latest/haiti_appeal/)

World Vision <https://www.worldvision.org.uk/index.php/ways-give/make-donation/haiti-hurricane-appeal/>

You can find further information and updates on the situation at <http://www.dec.org.uk/article/hurricane-matthew-haiti>

In terms of long term funding and development, one of the reasons why most of our member charities are already in Haiti is that they have been working on longer-term development projects since the earthquake in 2010 (and in many cases longer). The problem, as always with humanitarian causes, is that there is nowhere near enough funds to carry out the work that is necessary. Sadly, until the international community takes proper responsibility and adequate funding is provided for vital projects such as shelter and clean water, we will continue to see the sort of scenes you describe repeated across the globe.

I hope this is helpful and thank you once again for your generosity and compassion towards those whose lives have been devastated by the hurricane.

Best wishes,

Adam Brown  
DEC Supporter Care Team