



MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate Release

GAiN Canada on the ground in Port-au-Prince

Langley, B.C. – (January 16, 2010) – Global Aid Network (GAiN) Canada representatives Bill Blaney and Aaron Rogers, landed in Port-au-Prince on Saturday morning to help local staff and volunteers with disaster response.

Their first stop, upon arrival in Haiti, was to a site where a school had once stood. Now it is being used as a makeshift first aid centre for the wounded. “Yesterday they saw 150 people in this location alone and it is just very makeshift, just a bunch of tarps to get some shade. Lots of women and children are here getting treated for just about everything you can think of, most of which are abrasions and broken bones. They lack proper splinting materials so they are using cardboard. There are a lot of crushing injuries too.” Blaney reported this morning by satellite phone. “There’s a desperate need for medical care and supplies.”

GAiN, the humanitarian division of Power to Change, has already begun relief efforts. Through the national director in Haiti, Esperandieu Pierre, GAiN is mobilizing and organizing a network of churches and local volunteers to begin distributing aid. Despite the devastation around them they are operational on the ground.

In a conversation with Pierre yesterday, he says “There are 2,000 to 3,000 people in every public park and those that are injured have no one to attend to them. People are more focused on moving the dead bodies so they can actually get around.”

The Canadian team is helping Pierre and his group of local pastors and volunteers respond to the injured, the hungry and the homeless. People have been advised not to sleep in their homes for fear that structures could still collapse. It is estimated that up to 3 million people are displaced and roaming the streets as fear of looting and violence rises.

The first stage of the emergency response is to get medical assistance to the injured and food and water to survivors. As people move out of Port-au-Prince in search of food and water, the need grows even more when they discover the nearby cities have no supplies as well. GAiN is sending immediate financial assistance to Pierre and his network of churches. The GAiN office in Germany along with their partner has arranged 45 tons of medical supplies to be flown in tonight and then 50 tons of baby food in the next five days.

Power to Change is in need of urgent financial contributions in order to respond to the needs of the Haitians. Without immediate food, water and medical supplies to treat the injured, many more will die.

Donations can be made online at www.powertochange.org or by phone at 1.800.563.1106. The Canadian government will match individual donations made by February 12.

The latest on our relief efforts will be updated on our website at www.powertochange.org, our facebook page: Power to Change, and on twitter: [powertochange_](https://twitter.com/powertochange_).

Global Aid Network is the humanitarian division of Power to Change, a Christian organization with 15 different ministries working in Canada and around the world.

For more information & media inquiries

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