



WORLDINFO

News for Key Leaders in *Scouting*

WORLDInfo is for key Scouting leaders at national, regional and world levels. It is sent by email to all national Scout organizations which have an email address, and to members of their national team who have personal email addresses which have been provided to the World Scout Bureau. It is also available at no cost to subscribers. See subscription information at the end.

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<http://www.scout.org/worldinfo>

Your feedback is welcome:

WORLDinfo@scout.org

Since the announcement of the earthquake in haiti, the international Scout brotherhood has mobilised behind a great aid initiative. Actions are being multiplied everywhere to assist the haitian Scouts and it is presently become much easier to establish contact with them.

This special message gives you all the necessary information you may need to establish the collections and sending of donations, as well as to inform you of the means in which the Movement has organized itself in the country and on the methods that have been chosen to facilitate international aid.

1. Coordination of the International Scout Aid

As of today, the International Scout Aid is coordinated on site by the National Association of the Scouts of Haiti, natural local operator, with the support of the Scouts et Guides de France and the World Scout Bureau.

Being their historical partners, the Scouts et Guides de France have sent a reconnaissance mission which will arrive today in Port-au-Prince (see point 3). It is to be noted that the French Scout association has decided to cover the expenses for this particular mission, in order not to affect the integrity of the donations.

The World Scout Bureau is coordinating the offers of support coming from National Scout Organizations (see point 5) and handling the international call for donations (see point 6)

as well as the relationship with the international humanitarian aid agencies (see point 3).

The haitian scouts can count on support from the island, from the support of the Scouts from Santo Domingo, who have accepted to provide their locales as a logistical base. During the last 2 days, the Dominican Scout Association has been working on the preparation of this mission, in direct relation with the Scouts et Guides de France and the World Scout Bureau. Its high level contacts with state officials and the United Nations system has allowed the objectives of the mission to be assured.

2. Haitian Scouts in action

Having experienced the difficult consequences of many natural disasters, the haitian scouts have acquired expertise that they once again put at the disposal of the people of haiti. Hundreds of Scouts have presented themselves to the association's president, Gerard-Marie Tardieu, regularly, either to offer their assistance or to accept rescue missions. Below are a series of the efforts made so far, as reported to us by our brothers and sisters of the Haitian Scout ([refer to the map](#)).

The Scouts of Jacmel have helped the firemen to find and rescue victims trapped under rubble. They have also helped in the distribution of food and water to the victims.

The Scouts of Saint-Marc have put in place a makeshift clinic which provides primary care to the injured victims coming from Port au Prince.

The Scouts of the Saint-George group and Caleb have helped over 2000 survivors, to reach the borders of the Dominican Republic in their personal cars so that the wounded may be treated, despite the high gas prices (about 7-8 € per gallon or 6 litres). Through local committees, the two groups have been able to provide many of the survivors with food and shelter in their own homes.

The Scouts of the Gideon de Carrefour group have pulled out about 300 cadavers from under the debris and saved about 725 victims. They have fabricated coffins for the dozen scouts who died. Further more, they have dug a communal trench to bury 150 of the deceased individuals.

There is an ever present desire from Scouts around the country to come in aid of the population affected by the earthquake, which almost destroyed Port au Prince, Petit Goave,

Leogane, Jacmel and Grand Goave. Despite this strong will, they are void of the necessary tools except for their own desire to help.

During the previous natural disaster caused by hurricanes in 2008, the Haitian Scouts were able to act in the three sites that were particularly hard hit (Gonaïves, Cabaret and Chansolme) with the help of the: French Embassy in Haiti, the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the franco-haitian association platforms, Electricians Without Borders, Campus Ministry and many more partners.

Haiti in 2008, read story:

http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/news/2008/scouts_of_haiti_provide_community_service_following_cyclone_destruction

3. World Scouting, the Red Cross and the United Nations

The reconnaissance mission sent by the Scouts et Guides de France, supported by World Scouting, left Santo Domingo at 6:00am (local time) this morning. It is part of the International Federation of the Red Cross convoy. The convoy will meet up with the representatives of MINUSTAH (UN) at the border. Their arrival at the Port-au-Prince airport is expected at around 17:00pm. The mission's transportation is assured by a vehicle that has been by the Youth Ministry of the Dominican Republic, who has also sent a special envoy with them, who will serve as the link with the Haitian Youth Ministry.

Upon arrival, the mission will link up with the representatives of Haitian Scouting and proceed to confirm partnerships with the UN agencies on site. The MINUSTAH representative in Jacmel has stated that "Scouts are the only efficient youth association that they can work with. This efficiency will be bolstered by the logistical equipment. It is to be noted that the French Scout association has decided to cover the expenses for this particular mission, in order not to affect the integrity of the donations. On the same note, a secure means of transferring funds, is being put into place with the re-establishment of the Haitian banking system.

In the coming hours, the analysis of the immediate emergency needs will be confirmed and circulated to the National Scout Organizations, who have expressed the desire to assist in the collection of the necessary materials. In the next few days, the Scout coordination will also perform a post emergency analysis of the needs so as to establish an action plan for the reconstruction efforts.

During the last 2 days, the Dominican Scout Association has been working on the preparation of this mission, in direct relation with the Scouts et Guides de France and the World Scout Bureau. Its high level contacts with state officials and the United Nations system has allowed the objectives of the mission to be assured.

In Geneva, WOSM works to provide support through the natural partners of the Movement that are the United Nations agencies (OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR) and the Red Cross, as well as continuing the international call for donations.

4. Supporting emergency needs

A special account has been opened by the World Scout Bureau, guaranteeing the use of these donations. Food aid, hygienic products, medicine and materials of first necessity will be purchased by the Haitian Scouts in order to limit the cost of transportation and storage. The action will thus be safer and faster.

In the coming hours, the analysis of the immediate emergency needs will be confirmed and circulated to the National Scout Organizations, who have expressed the desire to assist. You can signal your interest by contacting the World Scout Bureau focal point:

haiti-solidarity@scout.org

5. Supporting the post-emergency reconstruction

As always in situations of humanitarian crises, emergency action is followed by a long period of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Having a long experience in working with the United Nations systems and other humanitarian agencies, the Scouts of Haiti will be principal actors in regards to the youth of their countries. They will need your help.

In coming days, the Scout coordination will also perform a post emergency analysis of the needs, so as to establish an action plan for the reconstruction efforts. You can herewith declare your intention to support the rehabilitation effort by informing the World Scout Bureau focal point:

haiti-solidarity@scout.org

6. International call for donations

Be it for emergency aid or for the reconstruction time period you can make your donation at:

World Scout Bureau - Haiti Solidarity
UBS - CP 2600 - 1211 Geneva 2 -
Switzerland
IBAN : CH980024024039633710T
SWIFT : UBSWCHZH80A

You can make an online donation at:

<http://www.scout.org/solidarite-haiti>

A secure means for the transfer of funds is being put into place with the re-establishment of the Haitian banking system.

7. Supporting international humanitarian aid

If you choose to support the action of humanitarian agencies, we recommend that you approach those that have been long standing partners of the Scout Movement ([Red Cross](#), [UNICEF](#)) that are organised and who have the necessary infrastructure to coordinate the support to Haiti from your country. It is unnecessary to give or to attempt to send products or goods that are not of first necessity. Please refer to the requests made by emergency crews.

8. Contacts at the World Scout Bureau

For all suggestions, information needs, you can contact the focal point of the World Scout Bureau at the following address:

haiti-solidarity@scout.org

9. Information made available on a special blog

Accessible via the World Scouting website, a special blog allows you to follow the developments of the relief efforts, the work of the Haitian Scouts and the work of the reconnaissance mission.

<http://www.scout.org/blog>

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