

WHY HAITI?

In January 2010, Medair was one of the first responders on site after the massive earthquake which killed approximately 150,000 people. Medair provided shelter and WASH support in Jacmel and Côtes-de-Fer until early 2016.

On 4 October 2016, Hurricane Matthew tore across Haiti. The storm varied from a category three to a category five hurricane, with winds reaching speeds of around 230 km/hour. Hurricane Matthew moved slowly across the island, destroying homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, and was still recovering from the massive earthquake that hit the country in 2010 when the hurricane struck.

With this breadth of experience across several sectors in the Sud-Est Department, Medair was well-placed to re-enter Haiti to conduct a multi-sectoral emergency response to Hurricane Matthew.

WHERE WE WORK

Medair is working in remote Tiburon Commune, located along the southwest coast of the country. Medair's assessment of the area following Hurricane Matthew found that up to 90 percent of the homes had been damaged or destroyed. Many communities lack sufficient access to safe drinking water.

Access to this part of Haiti is difficult, particularly as sections of the road between Les Cayes, a major town in the Sud Department, and Tiburon Commune were badly damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Matthew.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Providing shelter

Medair provides shelter kits to vulnerable families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Matthew. Medair provides families with tarps and ropes to repair their homes or build temporary structures. Medair supports these distributions with training about how to build and repair shelters in a way that will withstand stormy weather while still providing cover from pouring rain and blazing sunshine.

Safe water for storm-affected communities

Medair provides water purification solutions and hygiene kits to families affected by Hurricane Matthew. Medair provides families with hygiene materials such as soap, washing powder, and water purification tablets. Medair supports these distributions with training about the importance of using and developing good hygiene habits such as regular handwashing and using a latrine.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

“After Hurricane Matthew, the situation was very difficult here. I lost my house and my garden. Right now I live in the hospital with the other displaced people. But Medair coming here – it gives me hope that we haven’t been forgotten.” – Desiré, resident of La Cahouane

“Now that I have this kit, I am going to rebuild my house. I am so happy with this help. Nobody else came here and gave us help like this before. We are really, really happy.” – Félicien, 59, who received a shelter and hygiene kit from Medair.

IMPACT REPORT

2,300 hygiene and shelter kits were distributed to vulnerable families in Tiburon Commune within the first weeks of Medair’s emergency response.

DONORS AND FUNDING PARTNERS

Medair’s humanitarian response in Haiti is supported by the US Agency for International Development, Swiss Solidarity, Integral Alliance, Interaction, (CH), Medicor Foundation (LI), and the generous support of private donors.



Medair staff off-loads hygiene and shelter kits for distribution in Tiburon Commune.
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A resident in Tiburon commune stands in front of her collapsed home.
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A woman leaves a distribution site after receiving a shelter and hygiene kit from Medair. © Medair / Lucy Bamforth

For Media

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