10 years later: Swiss Solidarity and partners’ responses

Impact evaluation

Purpose of the evaluation: 10 years later, what effects of Swiss Solidarity response are still noticeable?
And, to what extent has the resilience of households, communities and institutions been strengthened?

Methodology

- 525 household questionnaires
- 4 experts + 22 Haitian investigators
- 200 documents reviewed
- 87 key informants interviews

Sectors covered:
- Water
- Hygiene and sanitation
- Livelihoods
- Shelter
- Health

Sectors not covered:
- Education
- Food security

Detroit 80% of Port-au-Prince

Immense damages in urban areas

2.3 million displaced people

Swiss Solidarity’s appeal raised 66.2 million CHF, 95% was used to finance projects to help the victims in Haiti

January 12th, 2010 earthquake

Haiti

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**Strong Points**

- 92% of households attributed the most significant change in their lives since the earthquakes to projects funded by Swiss Solidarity.
- 90% of beneficiaries stated that the assistance they received enabled them to cover their basic needs and recover their livelihoods following the earthquakes.
- 95% of survey respondents who received shelter support still live in houses.
- 87% of households still use the latrines they received.
- 76% feel safe in their house.
- 75% of households still use the water points Swiss Solidarity partners rehabilitated or constructed.
- 58% of households received training and across geographical areas, the vast majority still uses the learning acquired there.
- 100% of Swiss Solidarity-funded shelters are sustainable.

Some water points are no longer functional, due to a variety of reasons: stolen solar panels, technical defects, the source dried up, faulty pipes and/or tanks were washed away during Hurricane Matthew.

**Lessons Learned**

- 49% of surveyed beneficiaries were not aware of the beneficiary selection criteria.
- 1 only one project established a feedback and complaint mechanism.
- Households said they regretted having to financially contribute to the maintenance of repaired or installed water points, as this negatively impacted their budget.
- Few of the professional training participants found permanent work after the training.
- Projects did not use cash transfers, depriving them of a flexible assistance modality that could have favoured local markets.
A TABLE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**FACTORS THAT SUPPORTED SUSTAINABILITY**

- The presence of NGOs before the earthquakes
- Staff stability during the emergency phase
- Staff’s physical presence at the local level, to monitor the implementation of community-led projects
- The NGOs’ continued presence in the region, 10 years later
- Links with local authorities: the Swiss NGOs worked within existing structures and in a participatory manner to involve the local authorities from the start of their projects
- The quality of the handover at the end of the project. Local structures were able to continue certain activities at the end of the projects
- Communities’ participation in implementing interventions that concerned them, particularly through trainings

**FACTORS THAT HINDERED SUSTAINABILITY**

- The sharp rise in food prices, combined with a slowdown in economic activity, which sharply increased the number of people living below the poverty line and indebted half of the country’s households
- The lack of access to credit has hampered their ability to establish their own livelihood activities, in particular for fishermen and young apprentices
- The lack of opportunity to consolidate learning, especially during a follow-up process between the end of professional training and hiring
- The frustrations that result from what the population considers to be broken promises or unmet expectations
- Structural problems such as the quality of existing infrastructure and poor access to services
Resilience factors were identified at the economic and social levels.

To possess a stable source of revenue
- To have access to credit via a savings group, credit union, or bank
- To have savings or livestocks at the bank

To possess an earthquake-resistant house
- To possess an earthquake-resistant store
- To have access to farming land

To have access to means of transportation
- To have a telephone and radio

To possess identification documents/birth certificate
- To have lived in the same place for many years
- To live near a communal shelter

To be part of a group, community or association
- To have been treated in an empowering way since childhood
- To possess individual skills and qualifications

To have a family member living abroad
- To have a family member living in a non-earthquake zone
- To be in a couple

10 years after the earthquakes, and based on the criteria above, 57% of beneficiaries feel better prepared for future shocks, 19% are not sure, and 24% do not feel better prepared for future shocks.
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PREPARATION**
- Strengthen the capacity of Swiss Solidarity partners to implement programming in urban areas

**SITUATION ANALYSIS**
- Conduct an assessment of local markets’ functionality into the situation analysis, whether it be the labour market or the goods and services used to implement the projects
- From the outset, involve local implementing partners

**PROJECT DESIGN**
- Integrate an assessment of local markets’ functionality into the situation analysis, whether it be the labour market or the goods and services used to implement the projects
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- Ensure that all persons meeting vulnerability criteria can access activities
- Take into account the environmental aspects of the response: ‘build back greener’

**IMPLEMENTATION**
- Reinforce the interventions’ flexibility
- Integrate existing local structures
- Diversify community representatives
- Dedicate sufficient resources to community communication efforts
- Strengthen social marketing activities on access to water

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of results, rather than just activities
- Integrate the concept of resilience into the design of each project and foster a link with development
- Conduct a systematic study of the relevance of using cash transfers
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the different housing models
- Integrate a strong accountability component for the affected population from the outset
- Strengthen gender mainstreaming
- Ensure that all persons meeting vulnerability criteria can access activities
- Take into account the environmental aspects of the response: ‘build back greener’