



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

## **STANDING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

### **UPDATE ON HURRICANE MATTHEW'S IMPACT IN HAITI**

**October 4, 2016**

#### **OVERVIEW**

On October 3, Hurricane Matthew, a violent Category 4 storm with winds of up to 145 mph, made landfall on the western tip of Haiti, flooding homes in vulnerable coastal communities and forcing residents to seek shelter. Matthew is the strongest storm to hit the Caribbean in almost a decade. According to the U.S. National Hurricane Center, up to 40 inches of rain are expected to fall, which will likely produce flash floods and mudslides, threatening villages and the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is in a vulnerable position following the catastrophic earthquake and ensuing cholera epidemic that devastated the country in 2010. Tens of thousands of Haitians are still living in temporary shelter as a result of that disaster.

#### **HAITI YMCA IMPACT AND RESPONSE**

YMCA staff and volunteers are currently safe and accounted for and YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) is receiving regular updates from the Haiti YMCA CEO, Gwenael Apollon. The southwestern city of Les Cayes, site of one of the nation's ten local YMCA branches, has suffered a direct hit. The nearby YMCA branch of Camp Perrin has also been badly affected.

Y-USA is deeply concerned by the expected impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. Normal operations and programs are suspended until the storm passes, however through its local networks, the YMCA will be able to support children and families directly impacted by the disaster. They will provide basic supplies, services and shelter as capacity allows in the ten communities where the Y is present.

The Haiti YMCA is a well-established and highly respected charitable organization focused on youth, families and community development.

**Because of its strong infrastructure and presence in the community, the Haiti YMCA can respond effectively to natural disasters**, such as the 2010 earthquake, which killed more than 200,000 people and left millions homeless.

In the weeks following the 2010 earthquake disaster, the Haiti YMCA served as a lifeline to the community, offering shelter to homeless neighbors, distributing critical supplies to thousands of impacted families and reaching injured and displaced people by bringing

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*All photos from the Haiti YMCA*

#### **GLOBAL YMCA MOVEMENT**

Founded in 1844 in London, England, the YMCA has grown into one of the largest volunteer organizations in the world, serving more than 58 million people in 119 countries. As an interconnected global network, the Y has the resources and solutions to build bridges and make our communities stronger worldwide. Often operating in challenging social, economic and political environments, Ys deliver innovative solutions to meet community need and empower people with the skills and opportunities to create a better future for themselves and their families.

programs and services to those living in tent cities. Beyond the emergency response phase, the Haiti YMCA transitioned into a long-term recovery process, opening new local branches – built out of earthquake- and hurricane-resistant shipping containers – and providing critical programs and services to the community.

Y-USA will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with the leadership of the Haiti YMCA and a coalition of fourteen U.S. Ys to mobilize financial support to address the immediate needs of the children, families and communities in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew that are served by Y. Y-USA will post the latest updates on [www.ymca.net/world-service](http://www.ymca.net/world-service) and via Twitter @GlobalYMCA.

### HOW TO HELP

YMCA of the USA World Service is establishing a fundraising appeal to support the Haiti YMCA. If you would like to help those impacted by this crisis, **100% of your donation** will go towards the Haiti YMCA's emergency relief and long-term recovery efforts. Please donate:

- **Online:** via YMCA of the USA's World Service web site at <https://donate.ymca.net/world-service-donation> NOTE: When donating online, please specify "**Haiti Hurricane Support**" in the "Comments/special instructions" box at the bottom of the online donation page.
- **By Phone:** Call YMCA of the USA World Service at 800 872 9622
- **By Mail:** Mail a check payable to: **YMCA World Service** with "**Haiti Hurricane Support**" noted in the memo line to YMCA of the USA, Attn: World Service, 101 North Wacker Drive, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606

### ABOUT WORLD SERVICE

As a leading nonprofit for strengthening community, the Y strives give all people and communities the support they need to thrive – especially in times of crisis. YMCA of the USA's World Service Campaign raises and distributes funds to help Ys worldwide reach more people with the resources and support that move families and communities forward. This support is critical and truly transforms lives, especially for Ys working in developing communities.

All contributions to World Service are administered by YMCA of the USA, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization chartered by the state of Illinois. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and are acknowledged in writing. To learn more, call World Service at 800 872 9622.

**For more information on World Service**, visit [ymca.net/world-service](http://ymca.net/world-service) or call Mary Tikalsky at 800 872 9622.

**THANK YOU** for your support of the global YMCA Movement.

