

Chalice Disaster Fund

Impact Report 2021



This year brought devastation and heartbreak, but it also brought hope, renewal, and solidarity.

Your support in the immediate days after Haiti's 7.2 magnitude earthquake and the onset of Russian aggression in Ukraine was a Godsend to families in our sponsor sites. Your generosity enabled families to buy food, heat their homes, access medication, and attend school in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances.

In our fiscal year 2021-2022 the total disaster funding provided was \$2,703,310.49.

With your donation to the disaster fund, the families emerged from survival to recovery, and from recovery to reconstruction.

Safe shelters bring grateful students back to the classroom

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the Haiti South team and engineering professionals went out to the local schools to survey the damage. Notre Dame de Perpétuel-Secours School, in the community of Latibolière was devastated. Bon Pasteur School in the Roseaux community also sustained heavy damage.

Sister Gislène, Bon Pasteur's principal, felt the urgency of the situation. The school year was set to begin in a few weeks.

"We were asking a lot of questions," she said, as she saw the extent of the damage. How are we going to get children back to classes in the first week of October? Terrified parents are mistrustful of any concrete structure now, it would be inconceivable to send their child back to a cracked concrete classroom. The site team worried that if they did not come up with an alternative, many students would not return to class.

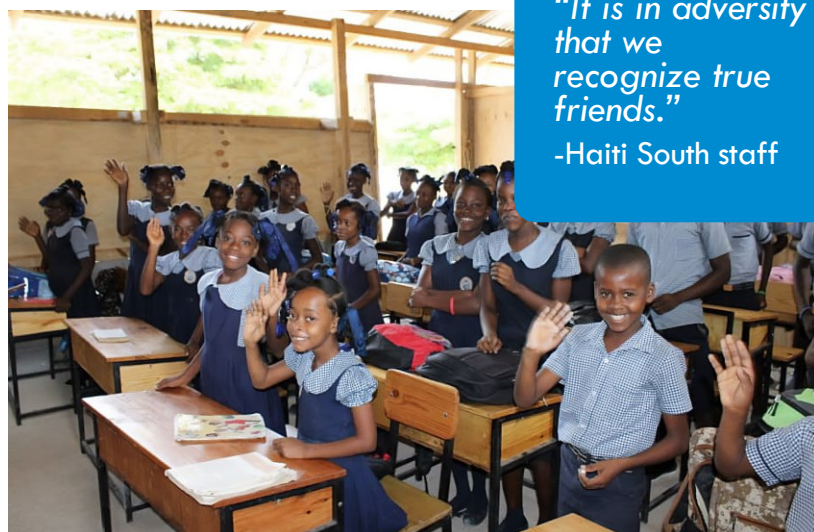
Thanks to the outpouring of support from Chalice donors, the Haiti South site set about building two wooden shelters containing eight classrooms. They knew that the children and their parents would feel much safer returning to wooden structures.

"The communities we serve [were] happy to see construction work on the shelter begin," writes the staff, "and people can breathe hope that their children can return to school in a safe place."

Thanks to everyone's swift action, more than 500 students returned to school on time. The community and church can also use the shelters for meetings and gatherings.

"We can see their joy, their feeling of gratitude in benefiting from this shelter which allowed the children to return to school."

Mars Merita is a mother of a sponsored child who graduated from high school, a source of great maternal pride. "Without Chalice, most of our children, especially the ones living in rural areas, would not go to school," she says. She had been speaking with her fellow parents in the wake of the disaster, and the topic of classes was on everyone's mind. "Now, with Chalice, we have hope, because you have built shelters



"It is in adversity that we recognize true friends."

-Haiti South staff

Emergency funds help Ukrainian families endure and prepare

“The Disaster Relief Program has simply become a miracle of God for many families, without any exaggeration.”

Roman was taking on the role of Pochaiv site director just as the conflict with Russia broke out this winter. He quickly saw, and felt, the immense support of Chalice donors and sponsors. The war has caused food shortages, a fuel crisis, and massive inflation in both Ukraine and around the world. Chalice’s Ukraine Regional Assistance fund provided immediate, urgent relief funds for every family in our three sponsor sites.

Through the assistance fund, all 1,891 sponsored children in Pochaiv, as well as 22 staff members, received the extra funds straight to their sponsorship bank accounts. The families were able to access their funds regardless of whether they stayed in Ukraine or fled across borders.

“Many families accepted this huge help, during the war time, with tears of joy, with words of prayer, with words of gratitude and blessing towards Chalice and each sponsor personally,” writes Roman.

He describes how the site social workers struggled to articulate their collective gratitude. They would say, “It’s hard to put into words...you should have just seen these tears of happiness...”

Yaroslav and Mykhailo are brothers sponsored through the Pochaiv site. When their social worker told them about the relief funds, they received the news with “an open heart and words of blessing and prayer,” wrote the staff. They dug a well at their family home, “together, as brothers should do,” adds the site, and used some of their relief funds to buy concrete reinforcement rings for their well. They also chopped and stacked wood together, in preparation for Ukraine’s cold winter and anticipated energy cost crisis.

The Pochaiv site staff expresses their gratitude on behalf of all the sponsored children and their families.

“This is happiness,” they write, “this is a blessing from God, this is love from the sponsor and from the whole Chalice.”



“The Disaster Relief Program has simply become a miracle of God for many families, without any exaggeration.”



Roman, Pochaiv sponsor site director

Families, orphans “eat their fill” thanks to relief funds

“How to express our gratitude to you for your fraternal support after the earthquake of August 14?”

Sœur Thérèse and her fellow Missionnaires de l’Annonciation remember well those immediate hours and days after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti’s southern region. The quake centred around the southern city of Jérémie in the Grand’Anse department, where Chalice’s Haiti South site supports sponsored children in partnership with Missionnaires de l’Annonciation - Semeurs d’Espoir (MASES).

At the time of the disaster, there were 230 sponsored children in Latibolière and 256 in Privilé, the two most affected communities.

The damage to the homes and public buildings was extensive, but the damage to the roads and bridges brought even greater challenges. These are the main arteries for food and essential supplies to come into the community.



“The God of mercy has never ceased to help us to help all those who are hungry, those who are sick, those who have no shelter.”

Haiti South site staff

“The road networks were damaged, which made transportation difficult,” the Haiti South staff describe, “many parents found themselves in a difficult situation to survive [because of the] vertiginous rise in the prices of necessary products.”

Thankfully, Chalice supporters responded quickly and generously to our Haiti Earthquake relief fund. This allowed us to send the Haiti South site emergency funds which they then disbursed to the families and caregivers in most urgent need. In total, 1 445 children and 1 188 families received relief funds in their bank accounts that helped them to buy food, medicine, water, and other critical essentials. The site also ensured that the orphanages, including L’Orphelinat Perpetuel Secours (L’OPS), schools and parishes had funds to continue their care for the most vulnerable.

“Chalice has brought its support to L’OPS by giving food rations for the children, a saving aid in a time of torment and sadness.” writes Mme. Elianne, the President and Founder of the orphanage. “L’OPS thanks you very much from the bottom of our heart.”

“We were really deprived of everything,” writes Sœur Thérèse. “Thanks to your donation we were able to get the necessities for our community, and for the people in our neighborhood really in need.”

The relief funds allowed MASES to buy clean and safe water for the children and youth they support.

“Food has made many happy and medicine has relieved many others,” she writes. “[We] have been able to serve people in the name of Chalice,” writes the Haiti South staff, “our presence has been real in the midst of the despair. People were able to eat their fill.”

Courageously planning a new school year in Lviv

“Air raid sirens sound less often than before, but the threat level is still high.”

Halya, our Lviv site director, knows how difficult it is for families to strike a balance between confronting the realities of war and getting on with life, as best as they can. And a part of life is the new school year, which will mean yet another new way of learning after returning to in-person classes last year. Many sponsored children and their mothers chose to leave Ukraine but intend to return at the end of August for the start of the school year.

The schools, colleges and universities are readying their bomb shelters as part of their preparations for the new academic year. If the school does not have an adequate shelter option, they will conduct their classes online.

“It is not known how long the war will last,” Halya writes. “Therefore, we need to get used to new living conditions and continue the education of our children.”

Between April and June of 2022, families received the second and third disbursements of the Ukraine Regional Assistance fund, launched in February.

“With these funds, the families bought food and essential goods and helped other Ukrainians who are currently in a difficult situation,” Halya writes. “They insulated their homes, because a new heating season with supply interruptions and high energy prices is ahead.” The funds helped the wider community, too, by supporting the local economy.

“Sponsored families and site workers are very touched and grateful to Chalice and all benefactors,” Halya writes, “for such an incredible support and solidarity. Thank you for your help and sincere love and care.”

