



NEWS RELEASE

Canadian Feed The Children breaks ground on CIDA-funded Irrigation project in Léogâne, Haiti

TORONTO, ONT., April 12, 2011 – One month since work began, a Canadian Feed The Children-led irrigation project is on its way to returning agricultural production to Léogâne, Haiti.

Leogane, just 29 km west of Port-au-Prince, was at the epicenter of the January, 2010 earthquake during which up to 90 per cent of the city's structures suffered heavy damage or were destroyed.

With funds from a grant awarded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in January, 2011, Canadian Feed The Children will work alongside Service Oecumenique d'Entraide (SOE) and the University of Notre Dame d'Haiti Caritas (UNDH) to restore irrigation and improve farming in this community. The nine-month project will clear and rebuild the rubble-strewn dam and irrigation canal system located in prime agricultural land outside of Léogâne. The joint project also includes training for farmers on vegetable and crop production best practices.

"Farmers in the area have seen a drop in quantity and quality of their produce over the past 10 years as a result of their water supply slowly drying up, but since the earthquake, the situation has become quite serious with water flow being reduced again by half. More than 10,000 people depend on this land for their livelihood," said Debra Kerby, CFTC's Executive Director.

"Our role is to focus on the blocked siphon needed for irrigation in the area. We will also work closely with the local farmers to increase their production of vegetables," added Francoise Briet, CFTC's Program Manager for Haiti. Recently in Haiti on a monitoring trip, Ms Briet saw first-hand the need for organizations like Canadian Feed The Children to support longer-term development projects for sustainable food security and health.

In addition to the work on the irrigation canals, the CIDA-funded project also supports the stabilization of food security through the distribution of seeds and ongoing work with farmers to maximize crop yields.

Canadian Feed The Children has supported farmers in Léogâne since 2003, and has been in Haiti even longer providing targeted local health, nutrition and livelihood programs. The agency's focus is on developing self-sufficiency in programs that alleviate malnutrition among infants, children, pregnant and nursing mothers in Goyavier, Gressier, Courjeolles, Cameau and Thor, Haiti. It runs local and mobile health

clinics, and has been supporting cholera prevention with specialized resources and education – achieving a significant reduction in the spread of that disease where its clinics and education sessions have been held.

For more information about the work Canadian Feed The Children does in Haiti, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Bolivia and Canada, please visit www.CanadianFeedTheChildren.ca or contact Laura Nadeau, Communications Coordinator at 416 757-1220 or 1-800-387-1221, ext. 235.

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Founded in Canada in 1986, Canadian Feed The Children is an independent, registered Canadian charity that works with local partners in Canada and around the world to reduce the impact of poverty on children and enhance the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of their families and communities.

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