

## **Best Practices for Hurricane Matthew Relief Aid in Haiti**

1. Support local community collaborations and initiatives. Haitian community networks mobilized to relocate, shelter and protect Matthew victims. They can most effectively and efficiently provide response and relief. International aid should support Haitian-led efforts.
2. Donate money. Money is easier to mobilize quickly in a humanitarian response. Donate funds to organizations that purchase locally and are able to reach communities faster.
3. Promote food sovereignty. Matthew devastated Haiti's crops and washed away nutrient-rich topsoil which may result in food shortages in the coming weeks, months and even years. Aid must support localized, community food production.
4. Provide cholera treatment and prevention. Rains from Matthew will bring a spike in cholera cases. Medical treatment and potable water are urgent. Water and sanitation infrastructure projects to eliminate cholera should be prioritized in the long-term. Attention should also be on the prevention of mosquito-borne diseases such as zika and malaria.
5. Consider vulnerable populations, including women, children, the elderly, as well as disabled and LGBTQ people.
6. Use a rights-based approach. Water, food and shelter are not charity, they are human rights. Relief organizations must be transparent and accountable for their work with aid beneficiaries.
7. Invest long-term. Monitor how aid is used and demand accountability from agencies to which you donate. Remain engaged as needs are clarified but Haiti fades from the news.
8. Research Haiti's political context. Many of these catastrophes such as Hurricane Matthew are not natural; they are created by government instability and ineffective interventions from the international community. Support participatory democracy-building and national sovereignty, including free and fair elections.