

## Canadians demonstrate the co-operative and credit union difference

January 26, 2010

Canadians have truly demonstrated the co-operative and credit union difference. The co-operative principle of “people helping people” is reflected in CDF donor’s immediate response and concern towards the Haiti disaster.

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF) is taking action and reaching out in support of the people of Haiti to help them through this crisis. They are able to do this because of the incredible generosity of donors – to date CDF has received over \$ 30,000 from Canadians.

Working in partnership with the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), CDF is able to provide relief to those affected by the disaster. Your support has enabled assistance to Haiti’s 175 credit unions, and other partners, and the nearly half-million members that they serve. Together, we are making a difference.

CDF received an update from WOCCU and their 16 staff are all okay – however their offices were destroyed. WOCCU are already helping staff that has lost homes and offices with immediate relief of cash for food, clothing and satellite phones. WOCCU is partnering with Food for the Poor to provide general relief in the immediate Port-au-Prince area.

WOCCU has begun a preliminary assessment of the devastation caused by the earthquake and its impact on WOCCU’s program in Haiti and the credit unions the program serves. The largest part of WOCCU’s work in disaster efforts will be on rebuilding credit unions. This not only assists credit unions with their losses, but is also helps credit union members and the economy rebound. When WOCCU is able to assess all credit union damage, they will begin a formal rebuilding program to get credit unions back on their feet and assist them with helping as many members as possible. This will include things such as helping rebuild their buildings, training their staff to implement emergency loan programs, and advising them on crisis management strategies.

CDF will be accepting donations to the Haiti Relief Fund until March 1, 2010. We will continue to post updates on our website so make sure to check back frequently. To support Haiti’s credit unions and their members through the international credit union disaster relief fund, make payments via cheque, credit card or mail. Donate online [NOW](#) or by mail at [Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada](#), Suite 400, 275 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 2L6. Please indicate that your donation is designated for the **Haiti Disaster Relief Fund**. Phone or email [Sarah Richardson](#), CDF Fundraising Officer. Email: [sarah.richardson@coopscanada.coop](mailto:sarah.richardson@coopscanada.coop) Phone: (613) 238-6711 ext. 217

*The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF) is the charity of choice for Canadian co-ops and credit unions. CDF raises money to support the development of co-operatives and credit unions in Africa, Asia, The Americas, and Eastern Europe. Co-operatives and credit unions have proven to be effective tools in helping poor people work their way out of poverty. The money raised by CDF is primarily used by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), in its efforts to reduce poverty in more than 20 countries around the world. CCA is a national association representing co-operatives and credit unions in Canada.*

