

PRESS RELEASE 13/01/10

## **DISABLED PEOPLE MOST AFFECTED BY HAITI EARTHQUAKE**

It is a sad fact that disabled people are the most vulnerable in a disaster and emergencies like these create more people with disabilities especially physical and physiological.

Haiti is the poorest nation in the Americas and people with disabilities are amongst the poorest of the poor. They are the most vulnerable people in natural disasters, often finding it difficult to find essential help and care.

At the time of writing this there is massive infrastructure damage, no electricity, water or phone services. CBM has two disability programmes already in Haiti funded by our UK supporters, one of which is based in the capital city which has been severely affected. These Community Based Rehabilitation programmes work in the local communities around Haiti to provide essential rehabilitation services to people with disabilities. The majority of this work concentrates on children with disabilities who live in rural and slum areas. It is likely that many of these children have been injured or killed but in any case, they will need urgent assistance.

CBM is right there to provide essential rehabilitation to disabled people and their families, including medical care, physiotherapy, nutrition support and orthopaedic aids. This work provides essential services to people with disabilities.

Once some sort of order has started to return to Haiti and the emergency has passed, CBM will still be there to continue the long term support for people with disabilities, offering medical care and vocational training, helping people with disabilities to earn a living and lift themselves out of poverty.

[www.cbmuk.org.uk](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk)

### **cbm** UK

Vision House, 7/8 Oakington Business Park, Dry Drayton Road, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3DQ  
Tel: 01223 484700 • Fax: 01223 484701 • Email: [info@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:info@cbmuk.org.uk) • [www.cbmuk.org.uk](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk)



## **CBM Information For Editors**

**CBM** (formerly the Christian Blind Mission) provides medical care and rehabilitation to as many blind, low vision, deaf and physically disabled people as possible. We work in over 90 countries through our network of international offices and we are recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

### **What We Do**

CBM acts upon the needs and rights of people with disabilities and supports the provision of more than 900 projects in over 90 countries. It is estimated that CBM reaches out to **over 16 million people** worldwide across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and South America.

Wherever possible, it is the aim to provide these services within the communities and therefore Community-Based Rehabilitation programmes are provided where possible to leave communities with a legacy of skills.

### **Cause & Prevention**

Our focus is on the prevention and treatment of diseases wherever possible, and on education and rehabilitation so that people with disability can be included into their society as equals and lead a largely independent life.

CBM always works in partnership with national and local organisations and provides an important advocacy link between the blind, deaf and disabled and their respective governments. – ends-

[www.cbmuk.org.uk](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk)

### **For further information please contact:**

CBM UK Tel: 01223 484700

Viv Ayas [viviennea@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:viviennea@cbmuk.org.uk) (07986 606025) or Laura Townsend  
[laurat@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:laurat@cbmuk.org.uk) (07779 259609)

### **ENDS**

#### **cbm** UK

Vision House, 7/8 Oakington Business Park, Dry Drayton Road, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3DQ  
Tel: 01223 484700 • Fax: 01223 484701 • Email: [info@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:info@cbmuk.org.uk) • [www.cbmuk.org.uk](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk)

CBM (UK) Ltd. Charity Registration No. 1058162. Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, Gonville Place, 95-97 Regent Street Cambridge, CB2 1BQ