



Haiti: A Common Purpose
Venezuela's Aid to Haiti
Food, Tents, Gasoline Sent to Haiti; All Debts Forgiven

Since the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010, Venezuela has provided aid and offered support to help rebuild the Caribbean country. Solidarity with and support for Haiti are based on a shared history and deep commitment to helping the Haitian people.

In March 2010, the Charge d'Affaires of Haiti's Embassy in Venezuela, Christian Toussaint, recognized the aid and support provided to Haiti by Venezuela: "Not a day has gone by that Haiti has not been able to count on Venezuela's support." Additionally, in a press briefing on March 31, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Arturo Valenzuela noted that Venezuela and regional organization UNASUR had been providing vital assistance in Haiti, calling it "vigorous and very, very helpful."

AID SHIPMENTS

Starting on January 13, Venezuela sent six shipments of food aid, equipment and trained professionals to Haiti to help with search-and-rescue operations, tend to the injured and provide basic necessities to survivors of the earthquake. The shipments included around 679 tons of food and 127 tons of equipment, including water purification systems, electrical generators and heavy equipment for moving rubble.¹

In late February, the government of the southwestern State of Bolivar sent more than seven tons of water, canned food and medicines to Haiti.² And on March 12, 204 years to the day after Venezuelan independence hero arrived in Haiti seeking aid for his revolutionary movement, a Venezuela ship arrived with more supplies including food, water, medicines and equipment.³

- > \$2.4 billion in assistance (2010-2016)
- > 679 tons of food, 127 tons of equipment
- > 225,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel
- > 120 tons of tents, cots and AM/FM radios
- > \$395 million in debt forgiven
- > 23,000 medical consults, 2,000 operations

OIL, GASOLINE AND DIESEL

On January 17, President Chávez announced that Venezuela would send 225,000 barrels – around 9.4 million gallons – of gasoline and diesel to Haiti for use in generating electricity and in vehicles. The shipment arrived in the Dominican Republic on January 21.⁴

Prior to the earthquake, Haiti consumed over 11,000 barrels of oil products per day. Since the earthquake struck, Haiti had suffered fuel shortages that hampered search-and-rescue operations, the delivery of aid and basic reconstruction efforts. Based on pre-earthquake consumption of oil, Venezuela's first free shipment of gasoline and diesel could power Haiti for a full month. Additionally, from January to March, 192,100 gallons of diesel were used for the generation of electricity, for hospitals, water distribution centers and other important humanitarian facilities.

Since 2007, Haiti has been a member of Venezuela's PetroCaribe initiative, through which member countries receive preferential financing arrangements on oil purchases. As a member of the initiative, Haiti received 7,000 barrels of oil per day at savings of over \$225 million, which was made available to be invested in social development projects. After the first shipment of 225,000 barrels of gasoline diesel, regular shipments through the PetroCaribe initiative have resumed.

During a regional summit on energy and climate in Washington, D.C. in mid-April, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said of Venezuela's aid to Haiti: "I want to thank Venezuela, who is represented here, for the support that you have given to Haiti in supplying energy to the people of Haiti."



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United States

CITGO AID

On January 22, the CITGO Petroleum Corporation, which is owned by the Venezuelan State Oil Company, shipped 20 tons of aid to Haiti in the form of tents, cots, and non battery-operated AM/FM radios. The shipment was the first installment in what will be 120 tons of aid aimed at helping between 8,000 and 10,000 Haitians left homeless by the earthquake. The aid was coordinated with the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Embassy of Haiti in Washington, D.C.⁵

The first CITGO shipment of aid allowed for the construction of the first tent encampment, Simon Bolivar 1, in the city of Leogane about 35 miles from Port-au-Prince. The encampment houses 800 people.

The CITGO tents are in addition to five other camps set up and run by Venezuela and its 400 personnel in Haiti, serving 14,000 a day with necessary health, food and education services.

Additionally, CITGO is conducting a fund-raising campaign, aimed at increasing the help to the people of Haiti. This campaign involves CITGO's 3,600 employees and more than a thousand energy companies, suppliers, marketers and owners of CITGO branded service stations, as well as non-governmental/non-profit organizations, especially those with which CITGO is partnering in different social development initiatives.

Furthermore, the Simón Bolívar Foundation is also matching dollar-for-dollar, up to \$600,000 in monetary donations by CITGO employees, which could add \$1.2 million to the total aid being provided.

FOREIGN DEBT AND OTHER ASSISTANCE

On January 25, President Chávez announced that he was forgiving Haiti's debt to Venezuela, which amounted to \$395 million – or roughly one-third of Haiti's total debt.

In making the announcement, President Chávez said, "Haiti has no debt with Venezuela - on the contrary, it is Venezuela that has a historic debt with Haiti."⁶

On March 13, Venezuela announced that it would give Haiti \$100 million through the Andean Development

Corporation (CAF in Spanish). The money would be used to build houses, repair schools and hospitals and promote agricultural projects.⁷

On March 31, during the UN's International Donors Conference for Haiti, Venezuela informed the UN that its assistance to Haiti from 2010 to 2016 would amount to \$2.4 billion, for the purposes of reconstruction. The first part of this assistance came through the forgiving of the \$395 million debt to Venezuela and \$37.2 million from the regional organization UNASUR, the Union of South American Nations, of which Venezuela is a founding member. UNASUR has pledged \$100 million in assistance.

ALBA AND PETROCARIBE ASSISTANCE

Along with members of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA), Venezuela shipped an additional 5,248 tons of food aid to Haiti. President Chávez also proposed that ALBA create a \$100 million Humanitarian Fund to strengthen sanitary, energy, financial and educational aid and assistance to Haiti.

Additionally, doctors from ALBA member-countries – including Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – performed 23,000 medical consults, 2,000 operations and 7,000 vaccinations in 16 mobile hospitals in the weeks following the earthquake.⁸

Through PetroCaribe Haiti has seen the installation of three power plants (60 megawatts), in locations of Carrefour, Cap Haitien and Gonaives; the reconstruction of a market in Port au Prince, adding 50 new warehouses; the provision of 23 vehicles for solid waste management and the construction of housing for 128 families in the Cite Soleil neighborhood.

For more information visit our website:

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**Press and Communications Unit
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¹ "A Look at Foreign Quake Aid for Haiti," Associated Press, January 20, 2010.

² "Gobernación de Bolívar despachó 15 toneladas adicionales de ayuda para Haití," Agencia Bolivariana de Noticias, February 27, 2010.

<http://www.abn.info.ve/noticia.php?articulo=222449&lee=2>



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United States

³ “El 12 de marzo llegará a Haití barco venezolano con insumos,” Agencia Bolivariana de Noticias, March 10, 2010.

<http://www.abn.info.ve/noticia.php?articulo=224106&lee=16>

⁴ “Venezuela Sends Needed Gasoline and Diesel to Haiti,” Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, January 19, 2010.

⁵ “CITGO Starts Shipment of 120 Tons of Humanitarian Aid to Haiti,” CITGO, January 22, 2010.

⁶ “Chavez Forgives Haiti’s Debt,” Agence France-Presse, January 27, 2010.

⁷ “Gobierno venezolano donará 100 millones de dólares adicionales a Haití,” Agencia Bolivariana de Noticias, March 12, 2010.

<http://www.abn.info.ve/noticia.php?articulo=224566&lee=16>

⁸ “Médicos del ALBA han realizado 23 mil consultas en Haití,” ViveTV, January 26, 2010.