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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N°110

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"In my opinion, one must not be afraid in life, one must venture"



Dear Friends,

In Sudan, the situation is a very difficult one to handle for Kamal and his team, with a raving inflation on essential commodities, a lack of foreign currency, and a very unstable political situation as we are approaching the referendum of January that might lead to a secession of the South.

As for Haiti, our latest news dated from of our letter of March. Sadly, the situation on the island is still appalling. In Hinche, the arrival of many displaced prompted Jean-Claude Francois, the head of our programs on site, to create a secondary school (900 pupils!) and to initiate university courses, in partnership with a university that had been destroyed in Port-au-Prince.

HAITI, ELEVEN MONTHS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Currently, 2 million Haitians are living in tents.

Evacuees are still housed in makeshift camps where they survive in awful conditions.

This summer, a cyclone has destroyed hundreds of thousands of tents.

In early November, a **hurricane** has made dozens of casualties...

The current cholera epidemic has killed 1,300 people and sickened 17,000 others.

Port-au-Prince is still a **wasteland of wrecked buildings**.

The magnitude of this earthquake is huge for a small country with few resources, except those that

the international community agrees to grant him. Haiti has neither the money nor the equipment to clear the thousands of tons of rubble remaining in the streets. According to UN figures, after 6 months, only 250,000 m³ of debris had been removed from Port-au-Prince; that is just over 1% of the rubble!

The international community has pledged money for the reconstruction of the country, but the expression remains somewhat vague, and what is actually facilitated is the reconstruction of public buildings, hospitals, schools, to the detriment of private homes.



The contacts between the international community and the Haitian government were all the more reduced during the last few months that presidential and legislative elections were held on November 28. Before this date, many incidents and acts of violence occurred that were related to these elections (clashes between supporters, firing on vehicles of candidates and journalists etc ...). The current President Rene Preval, who, according to the Constitution, could not run for another mandate, has been running for the premiership.

Meanwhile, those in dire need still lacked money.

Part of the money was released to provide food. But it is not distributed fairly, and sometimes it ends up for sale on public markets. Another consequence of the aid distributed in kind: peasants begin to demonstrate, because they cannot sell their products.

HELP US BUILD A UNIVERSITY IN HINCHE!

In Hinche, the need for further training is essential for the young survivors, who have already been heavily distressed both by the loss of their relatives and by the necessity to start living, with fewer resources than before, in a new environment.

In spring, to cope with the emergency, Haiti-Cosmos has associated its technical school, Polytec, to the

University Jean Price-Mars, which had been destroyed in Port au Prince: the first university courses of the semester started in April in its school buildings. 839 displaced students were registered, but during the summer, more than half have left, mostly to the capital, where some universities had begun to operate under tent. Many of the students who remained in Hinche could not take the exams, because of their precarious living conditions, not conducive to study (under canvas or hosted by local people). Finally, this first semester ended in late August 2010 with 500 students (including 350 IDPs).



Haiti-Cosmos, who wishes to participate in the reconstruction of the country, **now wants to build a complex of 13 buildings on a 12ha piece of land north of Hinche, in order to house a university with five faculties: Economics and Social Sciences, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Agronomy, Nursing, and Law. We are currently estimating the costs of construction of this university that will accommodate 2,500 students. It's a huge challenge for Haiti-Cosmos and ASASE is ready to help taking it up!**

If you want to help us finance this project, or other programs of Haiti-Cosmos, remember to specify on your postal check **"For Haiti"...** Otherwise your donation will be allocated by the Committee according to program needs.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING, PROMOTE ASASE!

ASASE has partnered with "Give Me Hope" a young company that *"offers the opportunity to shop" clothing and fashion accessories on the internet "while participating in a common effort and a collective consciousness"*: 10% of the purchases on their website are donated to four different associations each quarter. ASASE decided to use this free promotion, and is presented on their site as of the 15th of December. But you do not have to buy anything! To support us, **just click (once a day maximum)** on our presentation. At the end of the quarter, 10% will be distributed among the 4 associations in **proportion to the number of obtained clicks.**

Then go on www.give-me-hope.com and spread the word! Thanks!

And I wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Patrick Bittar
Chief executive