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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **OCDC members respond to Haiti disaster**

Washington, D.C. (Jan. 19, 2010) – When the 7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti, members of the Overseas Cooperative Development Council already had staff and projects in place to quickly begin disaster relief.

ACDI/VOCA ([www.acdivoca.org](http://www.acdivoca.org)) is the largest relief agency working in Haiti's southeastern department, which was hard hit by the earthquake. Teams are collaborating with other organizations to distribute high-energy biscuits, flashlights and tools for rescue workers and to assess the damage and needs in these communities.

CHF International ([www.chfhq.org](http://www.chfhq.org)) specializes in disaster relief and is working with local and international relief agencies to distribute water, supplies for rescue workers such as face masks and shovels, and hygiene/kitchen kits for homeless families. In addition to its work in Port au Prince, CHF also has teams providing relief in outlying areas of Haiti that were affected by the quake.

Land O'Lakes International Development ([www.lolidd.org](http://www.lolidd.org)) has a project in the neighboring Dominican Republic, but is not established in Haiti. However, Land O'Lakes, Inc. is making a donation to the American Red Cross and encouraging employees to donate to that organization or the Salvation Army and will provide a company match.

NRECA International ([www.nrecainternational.org](http://www.nrecainternational.org)) is sending teams to assess immediate needs and make short-term critical repairs to Haiti's electrical distribution network.

The World Council of Credit Unions ([www.woccu.org](http://www.woccu.org)) reports that the financial system in Haiti is shut down, everything is operating on a cash basis and cash is in short supply. WOCCU's office in Haiti is regrouping to support the country's credit unions and their members as they struggle to begin operating again.

You can read more about these organizations' efforts and make donations for Haiti relief at their Web sites.

"These members already were working at the grassroots level in Haiti to improve economic conditions, the financial system and infrastructure through cooperative development," says Rob Nooter, OCDC's executive director. "They're uniquely poised to provide immediate relief and as quickly as possible, begin transitioning to rebuilding Haiti."

OCDC brings together eight organizations committed to building a more prosperous world through cooperative development. OCDC's mission is to champion, advocate and promote effective international cooperative development. Its members are: ACDI/VOCA, AAC/MIS, CHF International, Communications Cooperative International, Land O'Lakes International Development, National Cooperative Business Association, NRECA and the World Council of Credit Unions.