



Haiti: A Common Purpose

Venezuela's Aid to Haiti

Food, Tents, Gasoline Sent to Haiti; All Debts Forgiven

Solidarity with Haiti is based on humanistic and historical reasons. Haiti played an important role in Venezuela's battle for independence, and as the world's first black republic it served as an inspiration to Venezuelan patriots. The devastation caused by the January 12 earthquake was a shock to Venezuela, motivating the government to marshal its resources to help the Haitian people in what is one of their most difficult times.

AID SHIPMENTS

Since January 13, Venezuela has 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 have included around 679 tons of food and 127 tons of equipment, including water purification systems, electrical generators and heavy equipment for moving rubble.¹

GASOLINE AND DIESEL

On January 17, President Chávez announced that Venezuela would send 225,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel to Haiti for use in generating electricity and in vehicles. The shipment arrived in the Dominican Republic on January 21.²

Prior to the earthquake, Haiti consumed approximately 11,000 barrels of oil products per day. Since the earthquake struck, Haiti has suffered gas shortages that have hampered search-and-rescue operations, the delivery of aid and basic reconstruction efforts. Based on pre-earthquake consumption of oil, Venezuela's shipment of gasoline and diesel could power Haiti for a full month.

- > 679 tons of food, 127 tons of equipment
- > 225,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel
- > 120 tons of tents, cots and AM/FM radios
- > \$352 million in debt forgiven
- > 23,000 medical consults, 2,000 operations

If you have any questions about the CITGO effort or would like to offer your support, please contact Daniel Cortez at (832) 486-5557 or Gustavo Cardenas at (832) 486-1740.

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 is being coordinated with the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Embassy of Haiti in Washington, D.C.³

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 will house 800 people, and arrangements are being made to provide necessary services to those living there. The second and third shipments of aid purchased by CITGO will be flown to Haiti by the Bolivian government.

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.

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FOREIGN DEBT AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

On January 25, President Chávez announced that he was forgiving Haiti's debt to Venezuela, which amounted to \$352 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."⁴

ALBA AND PETROCARIBE ASSISTANCE

Along with members of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA), Venezuela has 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 – have performed 23,000 medical consults, 2,000 operations and 7,000 vaccinations in 16 mobile hospitals.⁵

Since 2007, Haiti has been a member of Venezuela's PetroCaribe initiative, through which countries receive preferential financing arrangements on oil purchases. As a member of the initiative, Haiti has received 1,000 barrels of oil per day – 10 percent of its daily consumption – at savings of over \$225 million, which is available to be invested in social development projects.

Additionally, 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 "Venezuela Sends Needed Gasoline and Diesel to Haiti," Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, January 19, 2010.

³ "CITGO Starts Shipment of 120 Tons of Humanitarian Aid to Haiti," CITGO, January 22, 2010.

⁴ "Chavez Forgives Haiti's Debt," Agence France-Presse, January 27, 2010.

⁵ "Médicos del ALBA han realizado 23 mil consultas en Haití," ViveTV, January 26, 2010.