

# **‘Sustain Haiti’ helps relieve earthquake victims**

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Associated Press. People are seen next to the remains of their earthquake-damaged homes in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on April 22, 2010

**By MEGAN MORGAN**

One hundred and twenty volunteers, including students from BYU and Utah Valley University, are working in Leogane, Haiti, this summer in a relief project called “Sustain Haiti.”

Leogane, a city located just 16 miles outside Port-au-Prince, was the first city hit by the 7.0 earthquake in Haiti in January. As a result, all the buildings in Leogane were flattened or severely damaged. When the international community responded, relief effort was focused primarily on Port-au-Prince.

“Sustain Haiti” assessed the situation and felt Leogane was where efforts were most needed.

BYU professor Warner Woodworth, coordinator of “Sustain Haiti,” sent his first lead team to Leogane on April 27. Starting May 3, small groups of volunteers will follow every Monday through Aug. 16 to help local communities build long-term sustainable strategies for Haitian families.

“Within the community, we have so many wonderful people who want to do more than just write a check,” Woodworth said in a news release. “Some of them have already written checks, but people want to hold a baby in an orphanage, teach them songs, play with them and cheer them up.”

Volunteers will provide hands-on education in square foot gardening, provide sanitation and hygiene education, clean water technology and work with Haitian micro-finance institutions to identify micro-enterprise candidates.

“We will not limit ourselves to above-mentioned activities,” said Nadmid Namgur, executive director of “Sustain Haiti” and BYU student, in an e-mail. “In fact, we will be very flexible and responsive to the specific needs of each community. Some of our volunteers may be working with orphan children while others rebuilding hospital or school.”

“Sustain Haiti” had three months to plan and prepare, but the time frame increased the group’s advantage to hit the ground running once more volunteers arrived, Woodworth said.

“We may not be able to help everyone in Leogane this summer, but we will make a difference in lives of many,” Namgur said. “We’d like to invite everyone join us in our effort, either through your service or donations, to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti.”

For more information or to get involved with “Sustain Haiti,” visit [www.sustainhaiti.blogspot.com](http://www.sustainhaiti.blogspot.com)