

Monetary Donations vs. Donated Items

Monetary donations are the best form of assistance to the Haiti Relief effort. They allow international relief organizations to purchase the exact quantity and type of items required to help those in need.

To give you an example of the benefit of monetary donations, let's follow the logistics involved with a donated item such as a box of baby formula. If an individual were to donate a box of baby formula to a relief organization, the formula would most likely be taken to a collection site for drop off. The formula could be at the collection site for a few days until enough items were collected and ready to be transported to a local warehouse. At the warehouse, all donated items are typically sorted into like categories by volunteer workers. This sorting process could take another few days until the formula is packaged and is ready to be shipped. Once the shipment is ready it must be transported to either a cargo ship or plane to be loaded. Upon arrival to the shipping yard or airport, all items must be inspected by United States Customs. Once cleared by US Customs, the items are now ready for transport. Depending on the mode of transportation it could take a few hours or a few days to arrive in Haiti. Upon arrival in Haiti, your donated formula will be offloaded and have to clear Haitian Customs before it can leave the port.

Upon clearing Haitian Customs donated items would be loaded onto a truck for transport to an agency distribution center. At the distribution center, pallets or shipping containers are broken down into smaller quantities so relief workers can travel into the various areas affected by the earthquake. All of these steps could take days, if not weeks.

Monetary donations allow for organizations to order relief supplies and purchase pre-packed items for transport avoiding logistical delays in collecting, sorting, packaging, and shipping for donated items such as the baby formula referenced above.

In addition to the logistical advantages, monetary donations also help to ensure that relief efforts contribute to the long-term sustainability, economic growth and self-reliance of the affected region. This is the case when commodities have been procured locally.

Monetary donations are the quickest and best way to help those in need in Haiti. If you have the ability to donate in this manner, your contribution will have a greater impact on the Haiti relief effort. Please donate to the trusted organization of your choice or check our website for a list of organizations the County has partnered with.