



**TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
TO THE EI EXECUTIVE BOARD
TO THE EI REGIONAL OFFICES**

Brussels, 14 January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Education International
Internationale de
l'Education International de
la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

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President

Susan Hopgood

General Secretary

Fred van Leeuwen

Re: HAITI Earthquake Solidarity Fund - Urgent Action Appeal

Education International, concerned about the humanitarian impact of the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti earlier this week, has launched a Special Fund to help the families of teachers who have been affected and to support our member organisation CNEH, the *Confédération Nationale des Enseignants d'Haiti*, to re-establish its work of caring for teachers and promoting education.

Communication is extremely difficult but Education International is doing its best to establish contact with colleagues in Haiti. Initial reports suggest that the destruction and loss of life is considerable. The Haiti Press Network reports that many school buildings have collapsed and that hundreds of students are trapped under the rubble. The President of Haiti, René Préval has described a bleak situation to the Miami Herald, saying "Schools have collapsed. There are a lot of schools that have a lot of dead people in them."

Our thoughts are with the survivors and people of Haiti during this difficult time. Immediate rescue efforts are vital and humanitarian aid agencies must be supported in their work. The long-term impact of the earthquake is immense and EI is committed to assisting CNEH so that they can support teachers, students and communities in their task of rebuilding their lives and returning to work and school.

We urge member organisations to demonstrate solidarity with Haitian colleagues and contribute to the EI Solidarity Fund. Donations can be made through CTF via cheques payable in Canadian dollars, should be made out to CTF, annotated "EI Solidarity Fund – Contributions to Haiti by (Name of your Organisation)", and forwarded to the CTF office.

EI will continue efforts to liaise with Haitian colleagues to assess the impact on schools, teachers and students so as to determine how best to contribute to alleviating the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Updates will be available on the EI website. Unions interested in further information on EI plans for assistance should contact Nicolás Richards, EI Senior Coordinator, Solidarity and Development Unit at nicolas.richards@ei-ie.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred van Leeuwen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary