

Send in the Clowns



Sam Lee

Sam Lee, director of the film, has been working in film and television for almost twenty years. Her film credits include *Trading Women*, a documentary about sex trafficking narrated by Angelina Jolie and *Pleasure and Pain*, a film on the musician Ben Harper. Most recently she finished David Feingold's film *Life and death at Preah Vihear* and produced and edited *dream/killer*, which premiered at Tribeca Film festival and is about the wrongful conviction case of Ryan Ferguson. *Send in the Clowns* is Sam's second feature documentary.



Greet Schaumans

From 2011 to 2014, Greet Schaumans was responsible for the coordination of the Haïti Relief and Reconstruction Programme coordinated by 11.11.11. In this role, she was able to contribute to the discussion paper for Belgian NGOs concerning the relation between humanitarian and structural development. Before that, she held the position of Programme Officer for Haïti and Central America at Broederlijk Delen.



Axel Vande Veegaete

Axel Vande Veegaete is the Scientific Coordinator for the Belgian Red Cross Flanders and has worked in the humanitarian sector for over 35 years. He has held several high-level positions in the Belgian Red Cross and ICRC including Head of the Liaison Office of ICRC and Head of International Affairs of Belgian Red Cross Flanders. His professional experience in this field has provided him with an in-depth understanding of various aspects of relief and development activities in the humanitarian sector, both from an NGO and an International organization perspective.



Christophe Verhellen

Christophe Verhellen is the Communications Officer for the Benelux at United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC). After his studies at the Belgian Film Institute (RITS), he worked as a radio journalist for the Belgian public station "Studio Brussel". He started his career with the UN in 1992 when he worked as a Communication for Development Expert for the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Uganda. In 2011, he went on to work as the Head of Public Information for the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan before joining the UNRIC Brussels team in 2014.

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On the road to recovery – Humanitarian Aid in Haiti

This year marks five years since Haiti was rocked by a massive earthquake. That disaster – the deadliest in the Caribbean nation’s history – killed an estimated 217,000 people and left 2.1 million people homeless. In close collaboration with the Government of Haiti, the UN and its humanitarian partners have supported more than 1.3 million people on the road to recovery. Almost 95 per cent of those living in camps have been able to return home, or find new lodgings. This decrease is largely the result of return and resettlement programmes, including a cash grant programme that has provided more than 75,000 families with money to rent new homes.

Concerted national and international efforts have led to a steady reduction in the number of people affected and killed by cholera over the past three years. The number of suspected cases has reduced significantly each year; from more than 350,000 cases in 2011, to just over 100,000 cases in 2012, to approximately 26,000 cases in 2014.

Haiti is better prepared for future disasters as national capacities for disaster preparedness and response have been strengthened as a result of the response to the earthquake. The country now has emergency operation centers in each of its 10 departments, as well as the capital Port-au-Prince. Departmental and national emergency plans have been developed. A national plan to reduce seismic risk has been created, and almost two dozen disaster simulation exercises have been carried out across the country, allowing authorities and aid groups to test preparedness and response plans.

However, despite these improvements, significant humanitarian needs still exist in Haiti and sustained commitment from humanitarian and development actors is still needed. An estimated 80,000 people are still in camps. Across the country, only 26 per cent of Haitians have access to acceptable sanitation facilities – and this figure drops to 17 per cent for rural communities.

Haiti still remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The Government estimates that 500,000 people could be affected by natural disasters in 2015, including by storms or other extreme weather events influenced by the El Niño phenomenon. Every year, thousands of families lose their livelihoods during the hurricane season.

In all, an estimated 2.5 million Haitians still need assistance to access proper medical care, clean water and sanitation, or to overcome the crippling consequences of poverty.

