

The volunteer portal on <http://www.usaid.gov/haiti/> has been activated and should be the sole source to refer those seeking to volunteer for Haiti to. USAID echoes the message that spontaneous/unaffiliated volunteers are heavily discouraged, and has designed the site to reinforce this message. The composite of volunteer registrations will be accessible to NGOs, should they have a need, and allows NGOs to specifically post needs (i.e., seeking specific skill sets).

The below message is being sent to other-federal-agencies informing them of the volunteer portal's launch, as well as the cash and in-kind portal features.

As you know, USAID is leading a United States whole-of-government response to assist the Government of Haiti in the wake of last week's devastating earthquake. In an effort to provide consistency among government agencies, USAID established the <http://www.usaid.gov/haiti/> website to direct those interested supporting the response and recovery operation.

Cash contributions are still being encouraged, and the site contains a link to the Clinton – Bush Foundation for doing so. Cash allows established organizations to purchase the exact type and quantity of items needed to help those affected by the earthquake without having to pay the high costs associated with transporting physical donations to Haiti. Financial contributions can be transferred quickly and reduce the challenges posed by limited staff, equipment and space. Cash donations often ensure that culturally and environmentally appropriate assistance is rendered.

The website also offers those interested in **donating in-kind** a portal to register their goods online, which then become viewable by NGOs that may have a need for such goods.

Lastly, the site now allows **unaffiliated/spontaneous volunteers** interested in volunteering a portal to register their interest. NGOs will have access the volunteer portal to match their needs with the registered individuals in the system. It is important to note that NGOs are reporting that their capacity to absorb additional volunteers is limited and as a result, individuals generous offers to support relief and recovery in Haiti is greatly appreciated however may go unneeded.

USAID asks for your assistance in sharing this unified message, and encourage messaging regarding the <http://www.usaid.gov/haiti/> website.

If you have questions regarding the volunteer portal, please contact Sarosh Hussein, ODP/PSP, shussain@usaid.gov, (202) 712-5395.