

'NGO inflation' hurting organizations trying to help

From page 1.

MAKING CONTACT

education for disabled children, community-based rehabilitation and clubfoot programs.

Prior to the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake, Mr. Epp said about 10 per cent of the country's population was disabled. Now, he estimates that number to be around 15 to 20 per cent.

During the last 12 months, CBM Canada has provided 126,000 vital medical treatments and helped more than 63,000 people thanks to donations from Canadians.

To date, CBM Canada has spent about one-third of the \$1 million it received in donations, with the intention of spending the remaining two-thirds over the next two to three years before it actively seeks more funding.

The Christian development organization's goal is to assist the disabled through rehabilitation and prosthetics, but to also make Haiti an accessible country, once it is rebuilt.

"It's easier to make a doorway a little bit wider than break down a whole building to make it accessible," Mr. Epp said. "Haiti could be

shunned and virtually exiled from society.

But now, according to Mr. Epp, although many of the disabled are still rarely seen and live in the back of tents, attitudes towards them are changing.

The disabled are no longer just those suffering from birth defects, but also people who were once able-bodied co-workers, teammates and neighbours dealing with the after effects of surviving an earthquake.

"It's hard to have a stigma against someone you know already. ... That's another teachable moment," Mr. Epp said. Teachable moments, like this one, along with a proper education system are part of what will transform Haiti.

"It's going to take this generation of kids going to school and getting an education to change Haiti," Mr. Lock, who is currently in Haiti, said. Over the past 12 months, Mr. Lock has been to Haiti about seven times to help with aid relief, but to also assist in the rebuilding of their two orphanages for girls - Freedom House Bethesda in Port-au-Prince and Freedom House Grace in Jac-

mel - both of which were heavily damaged in the earthquake

The Locks, who promised God they would establish a home for orphans and abandoned children, created Freedom House Haiti Christian Orphanages in 2006. Haiti has long had a reputation for abusing girls and women, so their orphanages are dedicated to treating and educating girls to stop that cycle.

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While reconstructing its home in Jacmel, the orphans lived in a rental property. Now that the girls and staff have moved into their new home, the Locks decided to retain the rental home and open an orphanage for boys. They welcomed their first boys three weeks ago.

"Where ever they were, they weren't taken care of," Mr. Lock

said this week.

Immediately following the earthquake, organizations from around the world descended upon Haiti to provide aid relief. Many have since left, some still remain.

However, the presence of some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are wreaking havoc for the likes of Freedom House.

"They're actually doing more harm than good because they've got big cheque books," Mr. Lock said. "The NGOs have caused a mini inflation and are hurting people like me," Mr. Lock said.

Just a few days ago, Mr. Lock and a co-worker went into a hardware store for supplies. According to Mr. Lock, as soon as the employee saw they were white, the price of materials skyrocketed.

The next time they needed supplies, they asked a Haitian to go into the store to negotiate the price, while they waited outside.

The price ended up being much more reasonable, according to Mr. Lock, who said he then entered the store to pay.

"I take our donors' money much more seriously and treat it like my own," he said.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB

STOUFFVILLE MUSTANGS COMPETITIVE REP TEAM TRY-OUTS 2011 OUTDOOR SEASON



AGE (BIRTH YEAR)	LOCATION	TRYOUT DATES	DAY	TIME
U11 Girls (2000) & U12 Girls (1999)	Stouffville High School gym	Jan. 23 & Jan. 30 (U11G & U12G both days)	Sunday	3:00-4:30 pm
U13 Girls (1998) & U14 Girls (1997)	Stouffville High School gym	Jan. 23 & Jan. 30 (U13G & U14G both days)	Sunday	5:00-7:00 pm

Stouffville High School is located at 801 Hoover Park Drive.

Parents & Players please note

Try-out Registration forms will be available on the days above and must be completed prior to the player taking part

There is a \$5 tryout fee per player per session payable at the door upon entry

Please bring shin guards and indoor running shoes



WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB

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