

STORY

In 2010 everything changed for Marie and her family. She lives in Leogane, a town about 18 miles west of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince with her husband, Jean, and their four children. They have a small plot of land where they grow vegetables to eat and sell. Jean does various other jobs to support the family. Life was hard but it became even harder on January 12, when a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti.

Thankfully, Marie's family was safe and her home was not destroyed. But that wasn't the case for others, especially those living in or near Port-au-Prince. Many people died, many people lost their homes and many people had no way to make money amidst all the destruction.

As a result, many people began to leave Port-au-Prince in search of a safe place to live and help getting by. There were so many people in need of help. Marie and Jean opened their home up to many family members and friends who had nowhere else to go.

But there was a problem. Even before the earthquake, things were tough. The family grew enough to feed the family and cover very basic costs, but things like school fees and supplies were a struggle. After the earthquake, with so many more mouths to feed, there was less food to sell and even less money for things like school for the children.

At this time in Haiti there is much suffering and many people struggling to make ends meet. There are many who want to help, but how? We are a relief organization with the task of aiding the people of Haiti in this difficult time where people have many needs. Would our first decision be to send A) a month's worth of food, so families like Marie's can have a more stable source of food, or B) school supplies, so families like Marie's can save the money they would be spending on supplies, while still giving their children an education. If you chose A (food for a month), proceed to point 1. If you chose B (school supplies), proceed to point 2.

POINT 1

Marie is now receiving food from a local organization, and it is making things much easier on her family. Life is still hard in many ways, but they now know they will have enough food for the next month to keep their family healthy, for the most part. However, Marie is still not sure she will be able to continue to supply all of her family members with the necessities they need AND send the kids to school. She wonders if the school's teacher would be able to give her advice on what she can do to keep her children in school, but isn't sure that she can spare the time for all of her tasks to walk all the way to the school and find out. Plus, she figures the teacher has plenty of problems of her own and doesn't want to bother her if there's nothing she can do. If you were Marie, would you choose to A) stay home and prepare food to keep your family fed, or B) spend the afternoon going to school and talking to your children's teacher to see if she has advice for your family? If you choose A, staying home, proceed to point 12. If you choose B, going to talk to the teacher, proceed to point 3.

POINT 2

Marie's family is having a hard time coming up with enough money to pay for all of the things that are important in their lives. Marie is concerned that in order to feed her family enough, she will not be able to send her children to school, because school fees and supplies can be expensive. She wonders if the school's teacher would be able to give her advice on what she can do to support her children's education, but isn't sure that she can spare the time from all of her daily tasks to walk all the way to the school and find out. Plus, she figures the teacher has plenty of problems of her own and doesn't want to bother her if there's nothing she can do. If you were Marie, would you A) stay home and prepare food to keep your family fed, deciding to spend your money on necessities like food and stop sending your children to school, or B) spend the afternoon going to school and talking to your children's teacher to see if she has advice for your family? If you choose A (staying home to focus on feeding your family), proceed to point 4. If you choose B (going to talk to the teacher), proceed to point 5.

POINT 3

Marie goes to her children's teacher to ask if she has any advice for how she can keep sending her children to school, despite school fees and the cost of school supplies. The teacher tells Marie that she is afraid she doesn't have any advice. There are many organizations that are reaching out to their community, sending food, clothes, and water, but the schools have been neglected, and everyday more parents are deciding to keep their children home to avoid the costs of school. The teacher says that unfortunately there may be nothing that Marie can do but keep her children home in order to save money for food. However, the teacher mentions that there are relief workers there to give a presentation about cholera, a disease that has been spreading since the earthquake. Marie has never heard of it, and is concerned that she has already spent quite a bit of time away from her daily tasks today. If you were Marie, would you A) go home in order to take care of your tasks and chores like feeding and taking care of your family, or B) stay to learn about cholera? If you choose A (going home to take care of your family), proceed to point 6. If you choose B (staying to learn about cholera), proceed to point 7.

POINT 4

Marie has chosen to stop sending her children to school, and is focusing on spending their family's money on food. Marie and Jean are able to support their children and their extended family that has come to live with them temporarily, but money is still very tight and they are faced with making difficult decisions every day. One day, two cousins from Port-au-Prince show up at their door. They tell Marie and Jean that their home has been destroyed and they are looking for help from family. They say that they understand that they already have a full house and many mouths to feed, but ask if they would be able to take them in for a week or two as well. Marie and Jean are concerned, because they already are low on food and other materials. If you were Marie and Jean, would you A) tell the cousins that they unfortunately cannot afford to feed and care for them right now, or B) allow them to stay for a few weeks, and try to support them with the little money they have? If you choose A (telling the cousins they cannot stay) proceed to point 8. If you choose B (taking the cousins in), proceed to point 9.

POINT 5

Marie goes to her children's school to talk to their teacher to see if she has any advice for how Marie can continue to send her children to school, despite the fact that money is tight and school supplies can be expensive. She learns that a relief organization will be distributing something called School Kits that contain the supplies her children would need to continue attending school, like pencils, erasers, and notebooks. The teacher asks Marie if she would like to receive School Kits for her children, and Marie gladly accepts. She is very happy that she can get help to continue sending her children to school! On the day that Marie comes back to the school to receive the School Kits, the teacher mentions that there are relief workers there to give a presentation about cholera, a disease that has been spreading since the earthquake. Marie has never heard of it, and is concerned that she has already spent quite a bit of time away from her daily tasks today. Besides, she has already received the School Kits that she came for. If you were Marie, would you A) go home with the School Kits in order to take care of your tasks and chores like feeding and taking care of your family, or B) stay to learn about cholera? If you choose A, going home to take care of your family, proceed to point 10. If you choose B, staying to learn about cholera, proceed to point 11.

POINT 6

Marie goes home from the school to take care of her family. Things are going well for a while. Money is tight, but there is enough food for everyone. She wishes that she had been able to send her children to school as well, but realizes that sacrifices have to be made in times like this. Unfortunately, one day her youngest child comes down with a bad illness, and Marie must take them to the doctor. The doctor visit is expensive, and Marie worries about whether this will affect her ability to feed her family, since it has been a month now, and they have stopped receiving food from the relief organization. It turns out that her child has cholera. The doctor tells Marie that cholera is an infectious disease — meaning people can spread it to other people — that is often contracted from drinking unsafe water or from not being able to practice good hygiene like hand washing. The doctor explains that after the earthquake, many people didn't have good sources of water and didn't have a way to practice good hygiene. Unfortunately, that meant many people were getting sick. Marie figures that her child must have gotten cholera when in contact with someone who went without good water or hygiene after the earthquake. Children have learned about this disease in school so they can do their best to avoid getting sick, but since Marie's children have had to stay home, and Marie didn't stay for the presentation on cholera, no one in their family knew how to protect themselves against it. Marie and her child return home, now understanding how cholera is spread and how to take care of it. Marie is concerned for the future, because her family has even less money now (after having to pay to go to the doctor), her children cannot attend school, and she must spend her time caring for her sick child. She keeps hoping, but is worried about the future of her family.

THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN HAITI” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.

POINT 7

Marie stays at the school to learn about cholera. She finds out that cholera is an infectious disease — meaning people can spread it to other people — that is often contracted from drinking unsafe water or from not being able to practice good hygiene like hand washing. After the earthquake, many people didn't have good sources of water and didn't have a way to practice good hygiene. Unfortunately, that meant many people were getting sick. Marie hasn't heard about this illness before, but she listens closely to the tips and advice the organization gives for protecting herself and her family. First and foremost, Marie wants her family to be healthy and safe, but she is also glad for this information because getting sick could mean an expensive doctor visit. Though her children are no longer able to go to school, Marie is glad that she is able to feed her family and keep them safe from disease. Though she knows that life will not necessarily be easy, she feels optimistic about the future.

THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN HAITI” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.

POINT 8

Marie tells the cousins that they cannot afford to take them in currently, and they are understanding. Marie feels bad, but knows that she did what she had to do to care for her family. Her family continues with enough food for a while, and Marie feels good that her family has enough to live on, even if they cannot afford to go to school. Unfortunately, one day one of her children comes down with a bad illness, and Marie must take them to the doctor. The doctor visit is expensive, and Marie worries about whether this will affect her ability to feed her family. It turns out that her child has cholera. Marie vaguely remembers cholera from her conversation with the school's teacher but she still doesn't know much about it. The doctor tells Marie that cholera is an infectious disease — meaning people can spread it to other people — that is often contracted from drinking unsafe water or from not being able to practice good hygiene like hand washing. The doctor explains that after the earthquake, many people didn't have good sources of water and didn't have a way to practice good hygiene. Unfortunately, that meant many people were getting sick, and her child must have caught the illness from one of the many people who was stuck without good water or hygiene. Children have learned about this disease in school so they can do their best to avoid getting sick, but since Marie's children have had to stay home, no one in their family knew how to protect themselves against it. Marie wonders if she had been more open to the community, to talking to the teacher and the cousins, if she would have been able to learn about this disease that was affecting so many people and would have been able to prevent her family members from contracting it. Marie and her child return home, now understanding how cholera is spread and how to take care of it. Marie is concerned for the future, because her family has little money, her children cannot attend school, and she must spend her time caring for her sick child. She keeps hoping, but is worried about the future of her family.

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POINT 9

Marie and Jean welcome the two cousins into their house to live with them for a few weeks. The cousins are very grateful. They chat about the earthquake and its aftermath, and the two cousins tell Marie that they've seen many people fall sick with cholera since the earthquake has left people very vulnerable. Marie has never heard of this disease, so the cousins tell her about it. She finds out that cholera is an infectious disease — meaning people can spread it to other people — that is often contracted from drinking unsafe water or from not being able to practice good hygiene like hand washing. After the earthquake, many people didn't have good sources of water and didn't have a way to practice good hygiene. Unfortunately, that meant many people were getting sick. Marie listens closely to the tips and advice the cousins give for protecting herself and her family. First and foremost, Marie wants her family to be healthy and safe, but she is also glad for this information because getting sick could mean an expensive doctor visit. She is glad that these cousins have brought them this important information, and is sure that they will be able to get by with taking care of them for a few weeks, even though money is tight. Though she had to make a tough decision by taking her children out of school, Marie is just glad that her family is together and surviving.

THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN HAITI” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.



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POINT 10

Marie heads home from school and takes care of her many daily tasks, including preparing food for the whole family. She is very happy that her children have received School Kits and have the supplies they need. Now she can feed her family AND help them get an education. Unfortunately, one day one of her children comes down with a bad illness, and Marie must take them to the doctor. It turns out that her child has cholera. Marie remembers the school teacher mentioning cholera but she still doesn't know much about it. The doctor tells Marie that cholera is an infectious disease — meaning people can spread it to other people — that is often contracted from drinking unsafe water or from not being able to practice good hygiene like hand washing. The doctor explains that after the earthquake, many people didn't have good sources of water and didn't have a way to practice good hygiene. Unfortunately, that meant many people were getting sick, and her child must have caught the illness from one of the many people who was stuck without good water or hygiene. Since Marie didn't stay for the presentation on cholera, no one in their family knew how to protect themselves against it. Marie and her child return home, now understanding how cholera is spread and how to take care of it. The doctor visit was expensive, but luckily, since they did not need to spend money on school supplies, they are able to afford it. Marie is glad that she is able to protect the rest of her family from disease, send her children to school, and still have just enough money to feed her family. She knows that times are tough and there may be suffering ahead, but she feels optimistic for the future.

THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN HAITI” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.

POINT 11

Marie decides to stay to learn more about cholera. She finds out that cholera is an infectious disease — meaning people can spread it to other people — that is often contracted from drinking unsafe water or from not being able to practice good hygiene like hand washing. After the earthquake, many people didn't have good sources of water and didn't have a way to practice good hygiene. Unfortunately, that meant many people were getting sick. Marie hasn't heard about this illness before, but she listens closely to the tips and advice the organization gives for protecting herself and her family. First and foremost, Marie wants her family to be healthy and safe, but she is also glad for this information because getting sick could mean an expensive doctor visit. Marie heads home, feeling very happy that she is able to continue sending her children to school with their new School Kits, AND able to protect her family from cholera. Plus, with the help of the School Kits, Marie won't have to worry about paying for school supplies and can focus on providing enough food for her family. Marie walks with a smile on her face, knowing that, although times are tough, she'll be able to continue providing education for her children.

THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN HAITI” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.

POINT 12

Marie's family continues with enough food for a while, and she feels good that her family has enough to live on, even if they cannot afford to go to school. Unfortunately, one day one of her children comes down with a bad illness, and Marie must take them to the doctor. The doctor visit is expensive, and Marie worries about whether this will affect her ability to feed her family, since it has been a month now, and they have stopped receiving food from the relief organization. It turns out that her child has cholera. The doctor tells Marie that cholera is an infectious disease — meaning people can spread it to other people — that is often contracted from drinking unsafe water or from not being able to practice good hygiene like hand washing. The doctor explains that after the earthquake, many people didn't have good sources of water and didn't have a way to practice good hygiene. Unfortunately, that meant many people were getting sick, and her child must have caught the illness from one of the many people who was stuck without good water or hygiene. Children have learned about this disease in school so they can do their best to avoid getting sick, but since Marie's children have had to stay home, no one in their family knew how to protect themselves against it. Marie and her child return home, now understanding how cholera is spread and how to take care of it. Marie is concerned for the future, because her family has little money, her children cannot attend school, and she must spend her time caring for her sick child. She keeps hoping, but is worried about the future of her family.

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