

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DEPLOYS MEDICAL TEAM TO HAITI**

Los Angeles, CA. (Jan. 26, 2010)– Transformation Development Agency (TDA) has immediately deployed a medical team of 50 doctors, surgeons, nurses, EMT's and other medical experts from Los Angeles to Haiti to help fill the medical need within the earthquake devastated country. TDA, an international non-governmental/non profit agency committed to bringing empowering change globally, quickly responded and developed their "Hope For Haiti" campaign.

"The need is overwhelming and the scenes of devastation unimaginable. The people of Haiti are so grateful for any help and their resilience is amazing in the face of such tragedy. We have already heard and witnessed scenes of hope and stories of reconciliation. Our commitment at TDA is for the long haul. We are privileged to be able to respond in their time of need," said team leader Rikki Alakija.

The team of phase one arrived in Haiti on the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and are currently working in Port Au Prince, setting up makeshift medical clinics in the tent cities crafted from bed sheets and wooden sticks, and performing urgent medical procedures including spinal cord injuries, pelvic fractures, skull fractures and many cases of hunger, stomach illnesses and dehydration. While medical work and medicines are being distributed other TDA members are sharing compassion and giving love wherever it was needed. Yesterday the team was posted at the Christian Light Ministry's "broken house" orphanage and saw over 100 patients. Time, love and attention was also given to the children of the orphanage who lost lives to the earthquake.

"We have seen some serious injuries and infections that could have been avoided had there been hospitals standing with medical staffing. One boy I saw yesterday had a serious gash on the back of his head that was getting badly infected and needed immediate attention. I am glad we were here to make certain he was given proper medical care," said Jolie Pfahler, MD, a ER doctor from St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica and member of TDA's phase 1 team.

Today the team is setting up multiple clinics in the downtown of Port-au-Prince, the capital and epi-center of the earthquake on Jan. 12 that killed at least 150,000 people as well as village outskirts. New Life Children's home has generously given the TDA team a "home base" to set up their own "tent city" as they work to bring some relief to many devastated people. One team has taken a separate vehicle to help one boy who has been separated from his family since the earthquake to find his family in another village.

“Many Haitians are currently struggling to find medical care for major injuries. While we are tending to the short term medical need in Haiti we are making plans for TDA to have a long term presence in this country. We are putting into place the next three to four phases of medical teams to embark after team phase one returns,” said Dr. Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alkija, MD and Founder and Executive Director of TDA. “We are committed and want to focus on alleviating this country’s suffering long term and developing solutions that are sustainable into the future,” she continued.

### **About Transformational Development Agency**

Transformational Development Agency (TDA) is a non-governmental/ non-profit agency committed to bringing empowering change globally. Through the shaping of government policy, the development and implementation of poverty alleviation programs, and social and business entrepreneurship, TDA works to bring sustainable change to nations.

TDA continues to make ongoing investment into the key sectors of society within the nations we are currently working alongside. This includes both infrastructural development and training, with the objective of bringing strategic resolution, excellence, practical provision and support.

Our primary sectors right now include health and family with a particular focus on women and children at risk. In this capacity TDA is involved directly with orphanages, centres and programmes dealing with orphans, street children, child prostitutes and child soldiers.

In all analysis and subsequent strategic planning TDA takes a long term view. Whilst working to alleviate human suffering in the short term we look to develop solutions that are sustainable into the future. We therefore have a particular focus on the development and support of micro enterprise ventures, prioritizing initiatives that work at a grass roots level, empowering the bedrock of society; women, their families and local community.

To learn more about TDA, please visit [www.tdaafrica.com](http://www.tdaafrica.com)