

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 11:34 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: USA Today op-ed

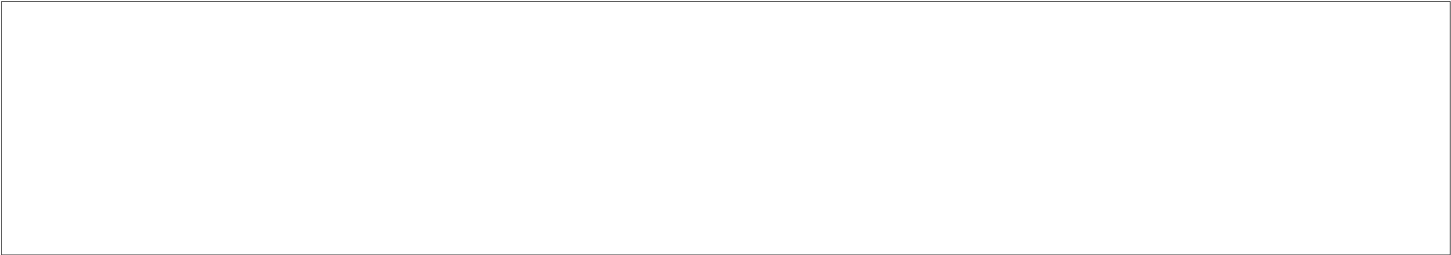
sigh

-----Original Message-----

From: Irwin Redlener [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 10:11 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Laszczych, Joanne
Subject: Re: USA Today op-ed

B6

OK. I'm in Jamaica, but try my cell [] - sometimes OK, sometimes not. Otherwise call my office in NYC (212) 535-9707.



Look forward to speaking with you.
Irwin

Mills, Cheryl D wrote:

> I continue to think this is an are we need help [] rather than generalized disaster assistance.

>

> I will call you today both to share my thoughts on your proposal, which I feel we have discussed b/f b/c it is similar to what I advised was not quite our need now and what I think our need actually is.

>

> The govt is closed today but I have calls all day and am sked to fly to Rome at 5pm so will likely call en route or at the airport.

>

> Cdm

>

> Best

> Cdm

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> **From:** Irwin Redlener [mailto:]
> **To:** Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D
> **Sent:** Wed Feb 10 20:53:03 2010
> **Subject:** USA Today op-ed

>

> This was in today's edition of USA Today. Please share with Hillary if
> she hasn't seen it.

> Best,
> Irwin

>

>

> As Haiti recovers, give children special attention

>

> *By Irwin Redlener*

>

> Given the extraordinary destruction wrought by last month's earthquake
> in Haiti, few will be surprised if this catastrophe is recorded as one
> of the deadliest natural disasters in recent history. But what is not
> well appreciated is that this disaster could disproportionately impact
> children, not only those who perished in the initial shocks, but also
> those who will not survive what is likely to be a cruel aftermath.

>

> *Photo gallery:*

> <<http://mediagallery.usatoday.com/A-long-journey-out-of-Haiti-/G1436>>

> As Haiti struggled to pull itself together in the days immediately
> following the 7.0 earthquake that hit the island nation, one Iowa
> family was waiting to hear whether the child they had pledged to adopt
> three years ago was still alive.

>

> Before the quake, many of the 380,000 children living in shelters
> <http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-01-24-haiti-children_N.htm>
> were placed there out of economic desperation; families could not
> afford to care for them. Now, many more children displaced by the
> earthquake will literally have no surviving family members, further
> swelling demand on social service agencies throughout the country.

>

> *Kids at risk*

>

> As the U.S. and other countries make plans to help Haiti get back on
> its feet, emphasis should be on enhancing that nation's resiliency —
> and that will mean dealing with the needs of its children. The unusual
> extent of child casualties will be driven by several factors:

>

> • About 50% of the Haitian population of 9 million is younger than 18
> <http://www.unicef.org/emerg/haiti_52590.html>. Even more striking is
> the fact that children 14 years of age and less make up more than 38%.

>

> • Everything about a natural disaster puts children at greater risk. A
> comparatively small chunk of dislodged ceiling would injure an adult,
> but it might well kill an infant or small child. Water deprivation
> will lead far more rapidly to dehydration and shock in an infant than
> it would in an adult.

>

> • Some seriously injured children have survived the initial trauma
> because they were among the few to get surgical attention provided by
> international medical teams. But access to follow-up care could be an
> overwhelming challenge. Compounding concerns, the Ministry of Health

> at one point asked physicians not to provide medical care
 > <http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-01-27-1Acomfort27_CV_N.htm>
 > that can't be sustained in Haiti.
 >
 > *Long-term needs*
 >
 > Between 1 million to 2 million Haitians will be "displaced" for the
 > foreseeable future. This means a minimum of 400,000 to 800,000
 > children will be in temporary shelter for months or years. But the
 > rainy season is coming in May, followed by hurricane season in June.
 > Families in tents or other flimsy shelters will be at grave risk.
 >
 > • What about the psychological impact? Grieving over loss and trauma
 > carries the potential of long-term consequences for every Haitian,
 > especially the countless children.
 >
 > Then there are Haiti's chronic problems that must be addressed head-on.
 > For decades, Haitians have experienced a seemingly intractable state
 > of poverty, accompanied by malnutrition and high rates of acute and
 > chronic illness. More than 50% of Haitians live on less than a dollar
 > a day, and more than 60% of its young children have nutritional anemia.
 >
 > Despite the efforts of international agencies and non-governmental
 > organizations, chronic illness abounds and access to clean water,
 > medical care and sanitation remains a significant challenge for
 > Haitians, particularly children.
 >
 > This is why the recovery and rebuilding of this fragile nation must
 > begin and end with a central focus on the immediate and long-term
 > needs of children. If there is to be a glimmer of hope for Haiti, it
 > will be because the international community understands that the
 > capacity to rise from the ashes of catastrophe is directly related to
 > the health, well-being and potential of its youngest generation.
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 > /Irwin Redlener is the director of the National Center for Disaster
 > Preparedness, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and
 > president of the Children's Health Fund./
 >
 > /(Getty Images.)/
 >
 > Posted at 12:15 AM/ET, February 10, 2010 in Foreign Affairs - Latin
 > America - Forum
 > <http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/foreign_affairs_latin_america_forum/>,
 > Forum commentary <http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/forum_commentary/> |
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 >
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 > discussions. Comments are unedited, but submissions reporte
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