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Dear Soroptimist Friends,

We too have been saddened by the devastating news of the Haitian earthquake. The leaders, members and staff of Soroptimist International of the Americas wish to express our sympathy to the citizens of Haiti who have suffered unimaginable losses. Being aware of the already dire circumstances in Haiti prior to the earthquake, our hearts go out to the people of the country—especially the women and girls. We know from experience that women and girls will be disproportionately vulnerable to the effects because of existing gender inequalities that are magnified during and following any disaster.

We will also offer our support as Haitian women work to rebuild their lives and communities following this devastating disaster. SIA has made a \$10,000 donation to SIE to assist with their efforts to provide disaster assistance to women and girls. Furthermore, SIA will accept donations to fund future projects to help women and girls in Haiti recover from this disaster. Finally, we will encourage our clubs to advocate to ensure that the special needs of women and girls are considered, planned for and met as the international community joins together to assist Haitians in rebuilding their communities and their country.

Sincerely,

Cathy Standiford
SIA President

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*Improving the lives
of women and girls,
in local communities
and throughout
the world.*