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Rapper Wyclef Jean announces emergency

relief alliance for Haiti

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 Wenig/AP/AP

Wyclef Jean, left, embraces songwriter Paul Simon during a news conference in New York announcing the formation of "Together for Haiti," Tuesday, May 20.

NEW YORK — Haitian-born hip-hop artist [Wyclef Jean](#) is reaching a helping hand out to his homeland - and he hopes you will too.

Jean has launched a charity called Together for [Haiti](#) to send back money, food and know-how to get one of the world's poorest nations back on its feet.

The move comes just days after the Bush administration committed \$20 million in emergency food aid for Haiti, including 30,000 tons of wheat, rice, beans and vegetable oil.

Skyrocketing food prices have sparked riots in the streets throughout Haiti.

Jean wants his group to do more than just give out free food.

"Haitian people aren't a group of people who want handouts," said Jean, stressing the importance of teaching better farming techniques to increase crop yield.

"If you keep giving me help, you are just crippling my economy," he said at a news conference at the [Hotel Gansevoort](#) in the [Meatpacking District](#).

He was joined by singing legend [Paul Simon](#) and tsunami-surviving supermodel [Petra Nemcova](#), who pledged their support.

"Wyclef is perfect to make people aware of the plight and suffering in Haiti," said Simon.

Together for Haiti is a collaboration of Jean's charity group, [Yéle Haiti](#), the United Nation's [World Food Program](#), and the [Pan American Development Foundation](#).

For more information, or to donate, go to **togetherforhaiti.org**.

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