

**For public distribution
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Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #2 **Haiti Earthquake**

Two days after a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, search and rescue efforts continue at a frantic pace. Communication within Haiti is still difficult although some international calls are getting through. This is hampering the collection of real time information on the health impact of the earthquake. On the ground, members of the Regional Response Team are assembled in the Dominican Republic and will be in Haiti by Friday.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT

- A 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on Tuesday afternoon, January 12, 2010, close to the nation's capital of Port-au-Prince. The quake was felt in the Dominican Republic and as far away as Jamaica.
- There are still no clear estimates of the numbers of dead and injured. The Red Cross estimates around 3 million injured and homeless. A variety of sources estimate the number of dead from 50,000 to 100,000 people.
- Around 200 UN staff in Haiti, including peacekeepers from the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), remains unaccounted for.
- Reports state that people are placing dead bodies in sheets on the streets; the chief of UN police has decided they should be taken by MINUSTAH to a central location.
- **Impact on health facilities:**
 - At least 8 hospitals and/or health centers have collapsed or sustained damage and are unable to function. More information will be made available when the PAHO/WHO assessment team makes their report.
 - Health facilities are overwhelmed, forcing people to be treated in makeshift areas.
 - Two hospitals were also damaged in the Dominican Republic, in Barahona and Santiago. Damage to the Santiago hospital was minor. Both hospitals are still functioning.
- The airport is intermittently open and closed. In addition, supplies arriving into the country are piling on the tarmac.
- Roads from the border town of Jimaní in the Dominican Republic to Port-au-Prince appear to be open. Injured people are seeking medical help in Jimaní.

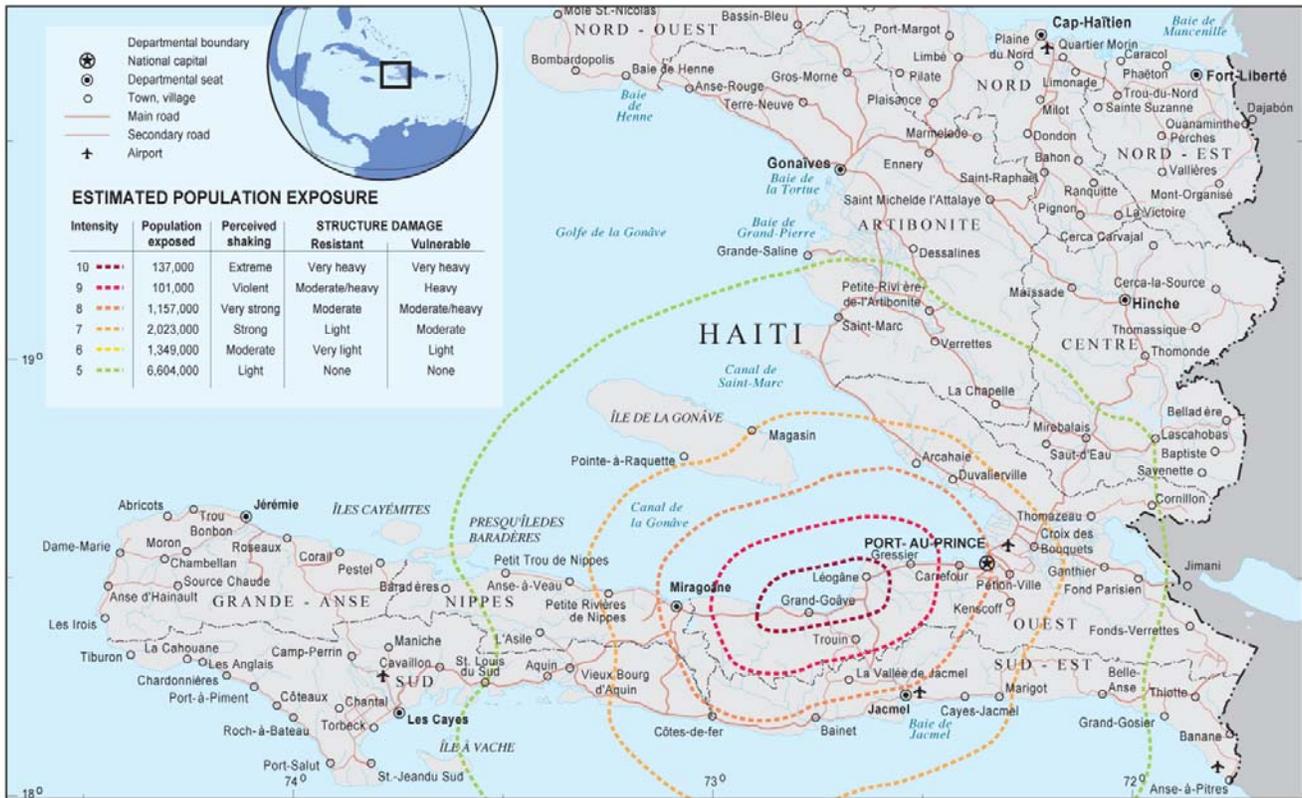
PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

- Experts from the PAHO/WHO Regional Disaster Response team are in the Dominican Republic and will travel tomorrow, Friday, to Haiti.

- Due to damage to the building, the PAHO/WHO office has relocated to the PROMESS compound, the pharmaceutical warehouse of Haiti's Ministry of Health.
- PAHO/WHO is establishing a field office in Jimaní (Dominican Republic) to serve as a permanent bridge between this border city and to Port-au-Prince (PAP) - about a 90 minute journey. The office will be a staging/transfer point for emergency humanitarian supplies and personnel needed in the Haiti response operation. The same office will be used in the future for logistic purposes to assist the population with transport, the increased influx of trauma patients, fuel for hospitals, equipment, etc.
- The PAHO/WHO office in Santo Domingo will receive additional resources such as financial and logistical support including human resources to carry out response operations until the PAHO office in Haiti becomes fully operational.
- A rapid deployment satellite kit will arrive over the weekend. Once established, full internet/voice/email connection should be available.
- Technical areas within PAHO/WHO (maternal-child health, immunization, communicable diseases and others) are working with the Emergency Operations Center to organize specialized services.
- Warehouses in the Dominican Republic lack space for supplies and new donations are coming in rapidly. They are trying to distribute stocks to health centers along the border area to be able to house incoming relief supplies. PAHO/WHO has been collaborating with USAID and Management Sciences for Health (MSH) to exchange logistics information regarding medicines and medical supplies.
- The LSS/SUMA humanitarian supply management system will be installed in Jimaní to handle the management and distribution of resources.
- Initial support has been provided for the UN Health Cluster Coordinator, Logistics Officers, Communication Officers, health systems and others.
- PAHO/WHO has advanced US\$ 200,000 from its disaster response fund to initiate immediate critical activities and has worked today with WHO to prepare a UN Flash Appeal which will be launched by the end of the week.

OTHER ACTIONS

- At least 13 countries in the Americas have confirmed the deployment of medical teams. In addition, six countries have sent search and rescue teams. Many PAHO/WHO member countries are also providing funds and supplies and are awaiting reports in order best meet the needs in country.
- WHO has released US\$ 75,000 from its Rapid Response Account and is deploying 2 logisticians and 2 experts in water and sanitation.
- All teams sent to the area must be self-sufficient in terms of food and water as well as financial means (cash).



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Source: ReliefWeb.

The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center Situation Report will issue situation reports as the situation requires.

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