

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health's strategy for the coming weeks shifts from focusing on emergency surgical cases to primary health care, health centers and hospitals. All health partners in Haiti support this strategy.
- There is a strong need to identify spaces for post-operative care and routine medical interventions.
- Amputees will need special care to prevent infection as well as mental health and psychosocial support.
- Departments in northern Haiti are receiving many internally displaced persons (IDP) thus increasing the demand for health services, placing a burden on existing health systems.



PAHO/WHO Director and Country Representative meet with national authorities in Haiti.

ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- The multi-cluster rapid assessment (IRA) will start today, Monday. This will provide a global overview of the health, nutrition, shelter, water, sanitation, and security status of the population as well as risk factors.
 - Training on how to use the IRA tool was provided. Teams will contact local authorities on-site. Information will be obtained using small group discussions, direct observations and individual interviews with key informants.
 - Assessment teams are aware that interviewees could be frustrated by questioning rather than receiving aid and will pay special attention to gender issues.
 - The assessments will cover 105 sites.
- There are now 48 identified hospitals with surgical capacity functioning in Port-au-Prince and 12 field hospitals.
- Nurses and physical therapists are needed.
- Reports from Port de Paix show that health facilities need medical supplies due to the large influx of internally displaced persons (IDP). Many hospitals throughout the country have reached full capacity.
- There is increasing concern about availability and access to medication for chronic diseases.

GAP FILLING

DRUG SUPPLIES

- More medicines and medical supplies will arrive on Monday to PROMESS.

OUTBREAK CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- The Ministry of Health is concerned with infectious diseases and epidemics, particularly in spontaneous settlements.

- Disease surveillance is ongoing.

PROVISION OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES

- According to the Ministry of Health, a vaccination program will start next Tuesday in collaboration with UNICEF and PAHO/WHO to vaccinate people against diphtheria and tetanus, DTT and measles.
- In Hôpital de la Paix, the Colombian Red Cross is distributing 25,000 liters of water daily to 1600 people in the hospital and surrounding area.
- The Cuban medical brigade is covering the following areas: Anse-à-Veau, Aquin, Petit Goave, Leoganne, Grand Goave, Jacmel, Carrefour, Port au Prince, Carrefour, Mirabalais and Gonaïves.
- In the last week, the Russian field hospital received 886 patients, 436 of them with trauma injuries and 136 operations were performed including 105 under general anesthesia.
- The Health Cluster is working to re-establish the health network and health programs Haiti had before the earthquake and improve logistics for transferring patients and supplies.

WATER AND SANITATION

- In collaboration with the WASH Cluster, WHO provided water equipment to partners such as Save the Children and Concern International to support safe water activities for affected communities in remote areas.

COORDINATION

- The Director of Pan American Health Organization, Mirta Roses, arrived on Sunday to Haiti. She outlined the importance of coordination among health partners and said the most important health concerns are water and sanitation and disease surveillance on a daily basis. We must work together to match needs with available supplies and human resources.
- The primary care/mobile clinics and medicines and medical supplies subgroups will be meeting today, Monday.
- PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with Handicapped International, is creating a sub-group under the health cluster to develop a plan for healthcare services for the large number of amputees.
- A standardized message was created for the hospital subgroup to announce vacant bed capacity for post-operative patients.
- The Health Cluster continues to have excellent coordination with MINUSTAH.
- Based on information from a CDEMA/CARICOM mission, the Health Cluster is reminding partners to always contact local authorities when setting up operations outside Port-au-Prince.

CONTACTS

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IMPORTANT LINKS

www.paho.org

www.who.int

www.haiti.onerresponse.info

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