

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Haiti estimates the death toll from the earthquake to be 112,392, with 196,000 people injured. Around 300,000 people have left Port-au-Prince while 700,000 are living in temporary shelter sites in the capital city.
- Starting Monday, around 500,000 m3 of water will be treated daily in order to ensure safe drinking water for the population.
- Due to the large numbers of patients that are now homeless, hospitals are challenged with where to discharge patients as well as locating post-operative and rehabilitation beds.



Press conference on PROMESS, held by the Ministry of Health, PAHO/WHO and USAID.  
Photo: PAHO/WHO

## ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- On 28 January, 18 assessment teams visited 11 areas in Port-au-Prince as part of the inter-agency multi-sector needs assessment (IRA). Assessments of areas outside Port-au-Prince continued on 29 January with some delays due to the difficulty in accessing several communities, including Kenscoff and Carrefour. It is expected that the needs in these isolated areas will be especially high.
- There is a large number of NGOs interested in providing outreach services (mobile clinics), some of which are already working. A technical meeting to share experiences and agree on a standardized model will help plan the scaling up of the mobile clinic network. Given the complexity and the large need of the population in settlements, more NGOs are collaborating in the field to increase basic health services coverage. Save the Children Fund (SCF) is prepared to take over for those NGOs which came for the immediate emergency and will leave soon.
- Sanitation, which was already a challenge in Haiti prior to the earthquake, is an even greater challenge now, and will remain an important public health issue in the coming weeks.

## GAP FILLING

### DRUGS AND SUPPLIES

- On Saturday, 4,500 liters of fuel were distributed in the University Hospital (Port au Prince) and in the Departmental Hospital in Nippes. 7,500 liters of fuel went to the CDI Mirebalais.
- The Ministry of Health emphasized the necessity to make donations based on needs. See link for more details. [http://www.who.int/hac/crises/hti/appeal/medical\\_supplies/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/hac/crises/hti/appeal/medical_supplies/en/index.html)
- On Saturday morning, PAHO/WHO, the Ministry of Health and USAID held a press briefing on PROMESS, a long time supplier of medicines and related supplies to health facilities throughout Haiti. Following the quake, PROMESS was virtually the only source of drugs and medical supplies in the country, and there was a dramatic increase in demand from established health facilities and from temporary field hospitals that had mobilized to support the relief effort.
- According to reports from LSS/SUMA, from 16 to 21 January, 483,091 kg of pharmaceutical supplies and 4,990 kg of non-pharmaceutical health supplies, like rubber gloves and masks, arrived at Port-au-Prince airport. PAHO/WHO and USAID, with support from others, are organizing and distributing these supplied from the PROMESS warehouse. Around 250 types of medicines are being provided to more

than 30 institutions for the health facilities where they work. PROMESS has responded to more than 300 drug orders since 12 January, worth US\$ 800,000. The United States, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Spain and Queen Sofia Foundation, Chile, Taiwan and the Clinton Foundation, among others, have provided medicines.

- The World Food Program will be distributing food in 15 to 17 sites in Port-au-Prince on Sunday.

#### **OUTBREAK CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

- The Ministry of Health in Haiti, with support from PAHO/WHO and UNICEF, is planning a targeted immunization campaign for populations in temporary settlements. Immunizations are expected to start Tuesday and include rubella and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccines for children under 7 years of age and diphtheria and tetanus for older children and adults. Campaigns will begin in Port-au-Prince and will expand from there.

#### **PROVISION OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES**

- The Belgian First Aid and Support Team will be leaving Haiti on 4 February. The site will be taken over by another team.
- The Red Cross Referral Hospital is fully operational. It is situated in the Carrefour Soccer Stadium. It has 160 beds in total (25 paediatric, 25 maternity, 25 internal medicine and 85 surgical beds).
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is focusing on the challenge of where to discharge patients as many people are now homeless.

#### **WATER AND SANITATION**

- On Saturday morning, a WATSAN specialist from PAHO/WHO gave a press briefing in the MINUSTAH headquarters, later disseminated on local radio, to explain to international and national media the measures that are being taking for water and sanitation:
  - In collaboration with SMCRS (Le Service Métropolitain de Collecte des Résidus), PAHO/WHO has set up a collection system to remove medical waste in all hospitals and dispose them in a safe and organized landfill sites. Staff working on the collection of waste will be immunized against Tetanus. Equipment such as bags to contain waste, or safety boxes to contain needles and syringes will be made available soon.
  - Water and sanitation equipment have been delivered to partners and more is to come.
  - WHO is working with DINEPA (Direction Nationale de l'eau Potable et de l'assainissement) and the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief to monitor the quality of the water (sourced from deep boreholes) and is systematically adding chlorine to treat the water to ensures that the water is safe at the point of delivery and once collected by the population.
  - In collaboration with DINEPA, WHO is setting up a project to empty public toilets; a site has already been set up for the safe disposal of excreta.
  - Key messages such as washing hands, keeping water safe, and the importance of using toilets needs to be provided to the population. PAHO/WHO is reinforcing this message to reduce the spread of disease.

#### **COORDINATION**

- On Sunday, the following meetings will take place:
  - General Health Cluster: everyday at 4.00 p.m.
  - Epidemiology subgroup: everyday at 9.00 a.m. in the National Laboratory.
  - Hospitals subgroup (after the Health Cluster).

- Cluster partners who are prepared and interested in supporting the emergency vaccination campaign next week are requested to meet at the PAHO/WHO tent at logbase at 10 a.m. Further details will be provided.
- The first meeting of the disabilities subgroup was held Saturday, 30 January, with 18 agencies. The next meeting to be held Tuesday at 1pm in St Germain will focus on prosthetics. On Wednesday, a general meeting of the disabilities subgroup will be held at 2pm in the PAHO/WHO tent.
- The first meeting of the mental health subgroup was held 30 January.
- The Health Clusters in Leogane and Jacmel are functioning with coordination from Care and MSF, who maintain contact with the central cluster to provide feedback. They encourage organizations and local cluster partners to participate and engage in a coordinated relief response and to provide information on current distributions/actions (where and who).
- The Minister of Culture and Communication announced that the Government of Haiti is planning to issue a regular bulletin detailing ongoing humanitarian activities. To collect information for these bulletins, she requested all agencies, bilateral donors, NGOs and other aid workers to email their activities to: [succes33@yahoo.fr](mailto:succes33@yahoo.fr).

## CONTACTS

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Emergency Operations Center, Washington DC  
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Health Cluster in Haiti  
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## IMPORTANT LINKS

[www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org)

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

<http://onerresponse.info/Disasters/Haiti/Health/Pages/default.aspx>