

HIGHLIGHTS

- The revised Flash Appeal was launched yesterday, 18 February, and the total requirements for the health sector amount to US\$ 134 million.
- NGOs and health care providers were requested not to provide powdered milk.
- Starting 22 February, the Health Cluster will meet three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:00pm.



Prime Minister of Haiti with the PAHO/WHO Representative at the launch of the PDNA

ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- The Haitian Government launched the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) that will guide the future recovery and reconstruction of Haiti. The Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean-Max Bellerive, stressed that now was the time to put a health system in place so that in the mid and long term can offer the services to which the Haitian population is entitled.
- A thematic survey across health cluster partners is being conducted to fine tune the health needs. A systematic collation of information is underway.
- Key health partners, who have networks of service providers in Haiti, conducted a rapid assessment of the impact of the earthquake on their service delivery. These are being summarized by a technical overview committee.
- The Ministry of Health with support from UNAIDS carried out a rapid assessment of PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission) service delivery in Ouest Department that revealed that services are being offered and stock of medication is available. Laboratory reagents are in short supply and the number clients decreased to about 40-50 percent of pre-earthquake levels.
- Health care providers are reminded to notify the Ministry of Health of cases of acute hemorrhagic fever syndrome, meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, acute flaccid paralysis, measles and bites from an animal suspected of having rabies.

GAP FILLING

OUTBREAK CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- To date, there have been no confirmed outbreaks of epidemics. However, the Health Cluster warns that there is a risk of a large-scale outbreak of diarrhea, given the present overcrowding, poor sanitation and lack of effective waste disposal systems in spontaneous settlement sites.
- While the level of morbidity and trauma cases has decreased, affected communities still have difficulty accessing healthcare interventions.

PROVISION OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES

- The mobile clinics sub-group, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, is developing a strategy to implement a standardized primary health care system through mobile clinics. The strategy takes into account the different needs of the population and includes a strong call for social mobilization and health promotion.
- The Spanish Navy medical team, consisting of 20 doctors (paediatricians, surgeons, gynecologists and internal medicine specialists), is providing primary and secondary health care services (including obstetrics and minor surgeries) alongside the Wesleyan Community in Petit Goave. The Spanish Navy ship, the SPS Castilla, has two surgery rooms, X-ray and other diagnostic services, laboratories, a dentist and an eight bed ICU connected via satellite to their hospital in Spain. It has approximately 800 patients on board.
- The Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), WHO, WFP, UNFPA and UNICEF started a program to prevent severe malnutrition in infants and children living in makeshift shelters across Port-au-Prince. The program includes distribution of 3-week rations of high-energy biscuits to pregnant and lactating mothers and children ages three to five years, and a peanut-based paste to infants six to 35 months. The teams also identify and refer children suffering from severe malnutrition to mobile nutrition therapy centers. UN agencies hope to reach more than 16,000 women and 53,000 children living in more than 300 settlements in the capital with this program. The program has the support of Haitian students and the UN Police.
- UNAIDS and partners are working with government authorities to assure continuation of universal access for prevention, treatment, care and support of people living with HIV. An HIV/AIDS working group has been established under the leadership of the National AIDS Coordinator.
- A PAHO/WHO consultant on mental health is supporting the newly established working group on mental health that includes in its membership the Directors of Haiti's two psychiatric clinics (Centre Mars & Kline and Hôpital Defileé de Beudet), as well as representatives from PAHO/WHO, IMC, IOM, and other health partners.



A nutrition supplement program is being conducted in temporary settlements in Haiti

COORDINATION

- Salary guidelines have been issued for Ministry of Health staff.
- The Ministry of Health is requesting international organizations operating or wishing to operate in Haiti to obtain accreditation from the Ministry. Accreditation documents are posted on the One Response website.
- Beginning on 22 February, the health cluster will meet three times a week. The meetings will take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:00 pm in the OCHA Tent #1, Logbase. Subgroups will continue to meet according to their own schedules.



Meeting at the Emergency Operations Center in Port-au-Prince

CONTACTS

Pan American Health Organization
Emergency Operations Center, Washington DC
eoc@paho.org

Health Cluster in Haiti
haiclsan@paho.org

IMPORTANT LINKS

www.paho.org

www.who.int

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