

**For public distribution
Monday, 15 March 2010
6:00 PM, EST**

Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #23 **Haiti Earthquake**

Situation Overview

In just over two months since the 12 January Haiti earthquake, the situation on the ground remains complex and challenging, but humanitarian conditions are improving. More than 4.3 million people have received food assistance, 1.2 million people are receiving daily water distributions, and more than 300,000 children and adults have been vaccinated.

Since 12 January, PAHO/WHO has actively supported the Haitian Government through the provision of technical assistance in priority areas. Thus far, PAHO/WHO has deployed 126 experts to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to assist in areas related to crisis management, communication, epidemiology, radiology, gender-based violence, mental health, workers health, health systems services, essential medicines, field logistics, immunization, water and sanitation, and hospital engineering and maintenance.

As the UN Health Cluster lead agency, PAHO/WHO has facilitated coordination of 314 health partners to aid government efforts, resulting in targeted post-disaster health system support. Eight cluster subgroups have been established to manage the following areas: health care and mobile clinics, hospitals and trauma care, health information management, reproductive health, mental health and psychological support, disabilities, medical supplies, early warning of communicable diseases and reproductive health. Two satellite health clusters have also been established in the cities of Jacmel and Leogane.

For further information on Health Cluster activities and a situation overview, visit OneResponse at: <http://oneresponse.info/disasters/haiti/Pages/default.aspx>

PAHO/WHO Health Service Delivery, Coordination, and Support

Health Service Delivery

National Vaccination Program

- The first of a two-phase post-disaster vaccination program is near completion
- Over 300,000 people have received vaccinations under the program
- The second phase of the program will begin once the situation stabilizes, and includes mass vaccination of all people in affected areas, as well as a second dose of the appropriate vaccine to those who have already been vaccinated in the first phase

Basic Radiology Services

- PAHO/WHO, in coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has provided basic radiology services to hospitals inside and outside Port-au-Prince, including a donation of 8 mobile X-ray machines which have been delivered to strategic health facilities in Haiti
- The following hospitals received X-ray machines: Hôpital Departemental de Jeremie, Hôpital Universitaire HUEH, Hôpital de La Paix, Hôpital Ofatma, Hôpital Eliazar Germain and Hôpital Carrefour. The Minister of Health is determining the best location for the two remaining mobile X-ray machines

Health Service Coordination

Patient Referral System

- PAHO/WHO and other health partners are supporting the Haitian Ministry of Population and Public Health (MSPP) to develop a center to coordinate referral of patients from health clinics to hospitals and other specialized institutions
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Handicap International and PAHO/WHO have a planned pilot program in coordination with MSPP to coordinate management of patients discharged from the Hôpital Universitaire HUEH
- PAHO/WHO helped in coordinating and distributing 2,500 donated units of blood from other countries in the six weeks following the earthquake

Health Service Support

Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases

- Together with partners from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Cuban Brigades, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Médecins Sans Frontier (MSF), PAHO/WHO supported MSPP in developing an early warning system for the detection of communicable diseases, comprising 52 sentinel sites
- PAHO/WHO is supporting the National Tuberculosis (TB) Program in response to the emergency situation; an assessment of the current capacity is under way
- The Haiti Program for Essential Medicines (PROMESS), managed by PAHO/WHO, remains the leading actor in procuring, storing and distributing medicines and medical supplies in post-disaster Haiti
- PAHO/WHO, in conjunction with UNICEF, provided support to MSPP to develop a post-disaster vaccination plan for children and adults against tetanus, polio, diphtheria. The plan also includes provisions for children under eight to receive vitamin A supplements and to be vaccinated against measles, rubella, and whooping cough

Rebuilding the Health System

- PAHO/WHO and other partners are supporting the MSPP develop an intermediary plan to guide rebuilding of the health system
- PAHO/WHO is supporting the Government of Haiti in their development of a National Plan for Disability Rehabilitation
- PAHO/WHO is working with MSPP and other partners to seek funds and international support to build new premises for the National Center for Transfusion

Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)

- To support the Haitian Government, PAHO/WHO deployed a four member team to assist in a four week PDNA, which concluded on 12 March
- Key findings from PAHO/WHO experts include strengthening the community level health system, with particular focus on mobile clinics
- The PDNA is multi-sectoral; the health priorities identified in this assessment are to be presented in a donors' conference on 31 March in New York
- The preliminary estimate for rebuilding the health sector is USD 1.255 billion