Pan American Health Organization
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Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #24
Haiti Earthquake

Situation Overview

Nearly two and one-half months since the 12 January Haiti earthquake, problems related to emergency shelter, management and security of settlement sites, and sanitation are emerging as priority issues.

Over three quarters of the 1.3 million people needing emergency shelter have received it, and providing materials to the remaining 25% should be achieved no later than 1 May. Despite emergency shelter provisions, the rainy season will pose acute health threats to those living in settlement sites. On Friday, one of the heaviest rainfalls since the earthquake flooded settlement sites in Port-au-Prince, causing latrines to overflow. Prevention campaigns for vector and water borne diseases have been established to reduce the risk of outbreak.

The UN and partners have installed 4,209 latrines, which remains a top priority in settlement sites. The UN and partners aim to install an initial figure of 11,000 latrines based on a preliminary standard of 1 latrine for every 100 people. Gradually, that number will increase. The goal is to provide 1 latrine for every 20 people. PAHO/WHO, UNICEFF and other agencies are working to provide more latrine provisions.

On 16 March, the UN and partners launched the first version of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) that references 460 sites (including sub-sites for the largest settlements) with a total population of 1,170,000 individuals in the Port-au-Prince area. The UN, through the WFP, has been able to reach a cumulative total of 3.4 million people with emergency food assistance since the earthquake. PAHO/WHO and Health Cluster partners are working to identify cases of malnutrition in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, and Jacmel.

Health Overview

As the UN Health Cluster lead agency, PAHO/WHO is facilitating coordination of over 400 health partners to aid government efforts, resulting in targeted post-disaster health system support. Eight cluster subgroups continue to function and are managing the following areas: health care and mobile clinics, hospitals and trauma care, health information management, 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 Jacmel and Léogâne.

Vaccination Update

PAHO/WHO, UNICEFF and the Ministry of Health continue to work with other partners to implement the national post-disaster vaccination program for displaced populations living in temporary settlements. The plan includes immediate provisions of Td/TT vaccine and tetanus anti-toxin to persons injured during the earthquake and those undergoing emergency surgeries, including amputations. PAHO/WHO is on the ground in Léogâne and Jacmel delivering vaccinations in those communes. The vaccination initiative is expected to expand to Petit Goave and Grand Goave this weekend. Below, Table 1 shows vaccination program progress as of 20 March. An assessment of 191 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) sites shows coverage of 57%.

AVAILABLE DATA AS OF		20 MARCH 2010		NUMBER OF VACCINES				ADMINISTRATIVE COVERAGE (%)			
LOCATION		SITES		1.5 to 8 mths	9 mths to 7 yrs	8 yrs +	TOTAL	1.5 to 8 mths	9 mths to 7 yrs	8 yrs +	TOTAL
DEPARTEMENT	COMMUNE	#	POPULATION					1.86	15.71	82.43	100.00
		191	744,207	26,949	83,452	316,664	427,065	195	71	52	57
Aire Métropolitaine	Carrefour	23	74,661	2,324	8,489	38,607	49,420	167	72	63	66
	Cité Soleil	7	21,600	859	4,011	14,346	19,216	214	118	81	89
	Delmas	29	174,125	1,875	12,759	69,068	83,702	58	47	48	48
	Kenscoff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pétion-Ville	22	163,600	3,864	16,872	52,727	73,463	127	66	39	45
	Port-au-Prince	99	281,653	17,616	37,544	128,120	183,280	336	85	55	65
	Tabarre	4	5,768	88	1,122	3,640	4,850	82	124	77	84
Ouest	Croix des Bouquets	7	16,800	170	1,785	6,966	8,921	54	68	50	53
	Gressier	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand-Goâve	0	6,000	153	870	3,190	4,213	137	92	64	70
	Léogâne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Petit Goave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sud-Est	Jacmel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Available data from completed sites

Gender Based Violence

Through PROMESS, the Haitian Program for Essential Medicines managed by PAHO/WHO, kits are being distributed to help women who are victims of violence. Rape and physical violence are an increasing problem in settlement sites. The Gender Based Violence Sub-Cluster, which is part of the Protection Cluster, has been working with the PAHO/WHO and the Health Cluster to provide rape kits in mobile clinics (approximately 160).

Mental Health

Mental health problems have increased since the earthquake and PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, have formed a working group to develop a long-term strategy addressing mental health needs of Haitians. The strategy outlines the need for a more decentralized system of service delivery and training of new mental health professionals.

Haiti Health Facilities Master List Database

PAHO/ WHO and a working consortium of international leaders such as the US Department of Health and Human Services, USAID, DoD, FEMA, Shoreland, Inc. Google, DataDyne, OpenStreetMap, IMA World Health, CrisisCommons, World of Hope, and Global Health Action developed the Haiti Health Facilities Master List database. The database contains updated information for over 1000 health facilities in Haiti, including temporary clinics. Beginning on 15 March, the data will be shared and managed with PAHO/WHO Haiti and the Haitian Ministry of Health.

In addition to this database, the PAHO/WHO led working group developed the Capacity Inventory that collects real-time information to inform health professionals and practitioners where they can send patients for necessary care based on availability of services and health facilities location.

This map, highlighting health facilities in Port-au-Prince in early February, was developed using the Health Facilities Master List.

Disease Surveillance

According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population Epidemiology Bulletin, Vol 1 No. 4, there has been no recorded increase in infectious diseases to cause concern. The most common illness reported to date was Acute Respiratory Infection and there is a constant increase in suspect cases of malaria. Malnutrition and mental health are persistent health problems identified by mobile clinics and permanent health care facilities.

Disease surveillance teams in 52 sentinel sites are reporting surveillance data to the Ministry of Health, and the Internally Displaced Persons Surveillance System (IDPSS) collects daily reports from ambulatory healthcare providers in 54 IDP settlements. The country remains on immediate alert for the rainy season.

Disabilities

PAHO/WHO has dispatched a pair of experts to work with the Ministry of Health in drafting a strategy for long-term disability services. The plan will help promote the design of disability services, procurement and delivery of assistive devices, rehabilitation services, and referral services.

Post Disaster Needs Assessment Update (PDNA)

The PDNA prepared by the Government of the Republic of Haiti, with support from the international community, has valued recovery and reconstruction needs at US$11.5 billion, with US$546.3 million needed for the health sector. Goals related to the recovery and reconstruction of the health sector include:

- Ensuring universal access to health services, particularly for vulnerable and affected populations.
- Strengthening the role of leadership, coordination and regulation of the Ministry of Public Health and its role as facilitator of the decentralized management of the health sector.
- Restoring and strengthening human resources in the sector.
- Strengthening governance at central and decentralized levels and ensuring the establishment of a solidarity financing-system based on performances.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient management of inputs and essential drugs and establishing mechanisms to ensure free distribution.

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