

Introduction



Haiti, along with Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras, and Nicaragua, is one of the five priority countries of Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). A special Task Force created in 2003 provides special support for the PAHO/WHO Country Office in Port-au-Prince and assures that its activities respond to priorities for technical cooperation in health, including resource mobilization.

PAHO/WHO participates actively in the "Group of Friends of Haiti" created by the Organization of American States (OAS), and PAHO's Director, Dr. Mirta Roses is a member of the Regional Directors Team for Latin America and the Caribbean (DRT-LAC) Team of the United Nations System, which maintains Haiti as a priority on its agenda.

In the aftermath of the earthquake which struck Haiti last 12 January 2010, PAHO/WHO has been very active in providing rapid response to immediate needs. In this sense, through the PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center (EOC) it was possible to gather information, organize logistics and coordinate humanitarian aid. Since PAHO/WHO Country Office was partially damaged, the team was relocated to PROMESS premises to remain operational. PROMESS, the Essential Medicines Program managed by PAHO since 1992 is located near the Port au Prince airport and has played a key role in drug supplies and essential medicines distribution.

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago travelled to Dominican Republic and Haiti ten days after the earthquake. High level meetings took place with Haitian authorities, as well as, UN, the Interamerican System and other relevant partners in an effort to deliver a coordinated response and carry out actions to meet special needs of the Haitian population in the short term.

Additionally, on May 1st 2010, Dr. Roses travelled to the border between Haiti and Dominican Republic (Fond Parisien and Jimani) to launch vaccination activities in the context of the Vaccination Week of the Americas.

PAHO/WHO's technical cooperation program had to be reoriented to face the new demands and needs as a consequence of the disaster, and country presence was strengthened accordingly. Sustained support to national authorities within the Ministry of Health and Population (MSPP) - which suffered severe damage and is now functioning in different premises around Port au Prince which were provided by different partners- as well as coordination of actions within the UN Health Cluster have been key.

Technical cooperation actions undertaken by PAHO/WHO in Haiti have been carried out in continuous interaction with the MSPP, the National Commission created in the aftermath of the earthquake, as well as with other ministries local authorities and nongovernmental organizations. PAHO/WHO has also coordinated actions with other agencies of the United Nations, MINUSTAH (UN Stabilization Mission for Haiti) as well as with many NGOs (Partners in Health, Aide Medical International, Merlin, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Medecins du Monde, Save the Children, International Medical Corps (IMC), among others).

In addition, PAHO/WHO coordinates its technical cooperation efforts with major donors such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Spanish Agency of International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Reina Sofía Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank (WB), the European Commission (EC), European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (ASDI), the Cuban Health Brigades, International Federation of the Red Cross and its National Societies, and many Latin American and Caribbean countries, which expressed their solidarity and generosity to Haiti. France, Indonesia, Israel, and Russia have also contributed with field and military hospitals. Italy, Japan and Monaco contributed with funds for emergency response in different domains.

The PAHO/WHO Country Office team in Haiti consists of international and national advisors and administrative support personnel. At the moment of the earthquake, a total of 52 staff members were working in the office. After January 15 more than 130 experts have been mobilized to coordinate health response and to provide support in mass casualty management, management of dead bodies, medicines supply, vaccination, resource mobilization, water and sanitation, coordination, logistics, among other areas.



**Pan American
Health
Organization**

Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

HAITI

PAHO/WHO's Technical Cooperation
in the aftermath of the earthquake 2010



Introduction



In the aftermath of the earthquake, PAHO/WHO's technical cooperation in 2010 has been reoriented to respond to the following priorities:

- Strengthening the steering role of the National Health Authorities and governance of the health sector.
- Leadership and coordination of the health response through the Health Cluster.
- Restoration of basic health care services
- Emergency and Disaster Response
- Development of the Health Information Systems
- Strengthening the Essential Drugs Program: PROMESS
- Priority Communicable Diseases: vector control, tuberculosis, lymphatic filariasis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS
- Environmental health
- Pandemic Response H1N1
- Vaccination: strengthening EPI and organizing a Mass Vaccination Campaign
- Nutrition
- Mental Health and rehabilitation
- Gender based Violence
- Relaunching the Free Obstetric Care (SOG) Project - Maternal and child Health
- PAHO/WHO has Strengthened its Haitian Country Office (CO) to provide effective support to national health authorities including mobilization of resources and coordination with Dominican Republic. PAHO/WHO's CO in Dominican Republic has also been strengthened

For details on each of these areas, please see the Fact Sheets that follow.

Useful links:

<http://www.paho.org/disasters>

<http://www.paho.org/promess>

www.livestream.com/paho (for PAHO's live debriefing's on Haiti)

www.paho.org Click on Vaccination Week of the Americas (VWA).

www.paho.org/haiti