

Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #25
Haiti Earthquake

HIGHLIGHTS

- Vaccination of over 500,000 individuals as part of the post-disaster vaccination program in Port-au-Prince, the West Department, Leogane, and Jacmel
- Installation of PAHO/WHO satellite field offices in Leogane and Jacmel
- Acquisition and current distribution of 937,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria
- Daily disease surveillance at sentinel sites and internally Displaced Persons Camps



SITUATION OVERVIEW

With the most intense period of the rainy season fast approaching, health and sanitation issues remain urgent priorities for humanitarian response agencies. The Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), PAHO/WHO and other health responders continue to focus on disease surveillance, provisions of essential medicines, referral services, targeted vaccination, and health service delivery in mobile clinics, health centers, and hospitals.

On 31 March 2010, world leaders gathered at UN headquarters in New York for the *International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti*. During the conference, the Government of Haiti presented the Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti. The plan is a roadmap outlining priorities for short and long-term reconstruction. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the need not just to rebuild, but to "build back better." To meet that challenge, UN member states and international partners pledged \$5.3 billion for the next 18 months, and a total of \$9.9 billion was pledged over the next three years.

Health will be a major component of "building back better," and health sector efforts will concentrate on improving access to quality primary healthcare for all Haitians. The health sector plans to focus on high-impact, low-cost actions targeting maternal and infant health, including caring for chronic and acute malnutrition.

COORDINATION

Health Cluster, Port-au-Prince

Since becoming operational three days after the 12 January earthquake, over 400 health partners have registered with the health cluster, including NGOs and bilateral teams. As Health Cluster lead, PAHO/WHO ensures coordination and prioritization of health sector activities. The cluster is supported by a total of six staff members in positions related to coordination, information, logistics, the Ministry of Health information cell, and field officers in Leogane and Jacmel. As of 5 April, the following Health Cluster sub-clusters are active:

- Mobile Clinics; Hospitals; Disability and Rehabilitation; Health Information Management; Disease Surveillance; Reproductive Health; Mental Health and Psychosocial Support; Two satellite sites: Jacmel and Léogâne

Locations of PAHO/WHO Field Offices in Haiti. April 1, 2010.



Generated by PAHO/WHO
Contact: maps@paho.org or visit <http://www.paho.org/disasters/haitimaps>

Sources: OpenStreetMap, PAHO/WHO

Health Cluster Satellites: Leogane and Jacmel

Leogane and Jacmel PAHO/WHO satellites were established in March to help strengthening local coordination of health responders. The presence allows local sub-cluster members better access to important information, guidelines, and medicines.

Leogane

In Leogane, the PAHO/WHO satellite covers three communes: Grand Goave, Petit Goave, and Gressier. PAHO/WHO presence is important because MSPP does not have a permanent presence in these communes. Weekly meetings are held for Mobile Clinics and Mental Health. In addition to PAHO/WHO, the following responders have been active in Leogane since the earthquake:

- MSF Suisse (hospitals); Save the Children (mobile clinics and nutrition); Cuban Brigades; German NGOs Maltezers and Johaniters; the Japanese Red Cross; US NGOs; the Canadian Army (logistics, transportation, rubble removal); Haitian National Police; Sri Lankan Battalion

Jacmel

PAHO/WHO priorities in Jacmel involve strengthening information management and Ministry of Health intervention coordination. There will be an emphasis on assessing health needs, providing standards of care among health partners in the region, and coordinating sub-cluster working groups for mobile clinics, hospitals, and logistics. Beyond PAHO/WHO, health responders include:

- MSF Spain in St. Michael Hospital, the Cuban Brigades, numerous US NGOs, and Save the Children. On 15 March the Canadian Army was replaced by a small Venezuelan battalion that provides basic health services to IDPs at Pinciant Camp (estimated to be 3,500-5,000 individuals)

PAHO/WHO UN Cluster Participation

In addition to its leadership role in the Health Cluster, PAHO/WHO also participates in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene cluster (WASH); Nutrition cluster; Logistics cluster; and the Gender Based Violence sub-cluster of the Protection cluster.

HEALTH ACTIVITIES

Mental Health

On 12 April Haiti will announce its first National Integrated and Inter-organizational Plan on Psychological Emergencies, Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support. This plan was developed with input from a PAHO/WHO mental health advisor in Haiti during February and will emphasize the need for a more decentralized system of service delivery and training of new mental health professionals. PAHO/WHO will have a new mental health technical advisor in Haiti during May to help improve technical cooperation.

Currently, 34 organizations are providing Mental Health and Psychological Support Services in 18 communes including the West (14 communes), South-East (1) and South (3) departments. The mental health sub-cluster meets on a weekly basis and recently has been working with religious leaders to engage them in psychosocial activities.

Drug Supplies

PROMESS, the medical warehouse managed by PAHO/WHO since 1992, delivered 91 medical kits to mobile clinics in the month of March. Each medical kit has 24 boxes of supplies, which are packaged with medicines, IV fluids, renewable supplies, medical instruments, and clinical guidelines/diagnostic and treatment manuals. Each medical kit has enough supplies for treatment of 1,000 people. Distribution of other important medicines and medical supplies continues through the PROMESS warehouse.

On 1 April, PAHO/WHO launched a Web site for PROMESS highlighting its role as distributor of essential medicines in Haiti. The site provides procedures for acquiring medicines and offers helpful links and multi-media. The site can be found at: www.paho.org/promess

Radiology

PAHO/WHO, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is providing basic radiology services to hospitals inside and outside Port-au-Prince, including a donation of eight mobile X-ray machines, four automatic film developers, and related supplies, which have been delivered to strategic health facilities designated by the MSPP. Following their delivery, successful installation of three digital X-ray machines, three film based X-ray machines, and two automatic film developers was completed.

PAHO/WHO will manage and distribute supplies for these X-ray machines such as X-ray films, developer liquids, lead aprons, protective panels, and personal dosimeters through PROMESS. In the weeks ahead, training is planned for personnel on proper use of the portable machines, radiation protection, storage of films and chemicals, darkroom techniques, machine maintenance, patient positioning, and use of different film screens and speeds.

Disease Surveillance

As of 1 April, a reporting system that gathers information from the National Sentinel Surveillance Sites (NSSS), the Cuban Brigade (including eight field hospitals), and IDP camps is being used to update information at MSPP.

Hospital specimens are being transported from remote areas to central labs using a system that began during the initial outbreak of H1N1 in 2009. The system relies on MINUSTAH and WFP flights, and is a collaborative effort between MSPP, PAHO/WHO, and the Cuban Brigade.

There has been no recorded increase in infectious diseases to cause concern (Ministry of Public Health and Population Epidemiology Bulletin, Vol 1 No. 4) but the country is to remain on immediate alert for the rainy season.

Update on Vaccination Campaign

PAHO/WHO, in partnership with UNICEF and Haitian Health authorities, has now vaccinated over 500,000 of the most vulnerable children and adults. The main objective of this campaign was to minimize the occurrence of vaccine-preventable diseases in the aftermath of the earthquake. The plan included immediate provision of Td/TT vaccine and tetanus anti-toxin to persons injured during the earthquake and those undergoing emergency surgeries, including amputations. It also included vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus (and whooping cough for children), measles and rubella, the provision of vitamin A supplements and albendazole.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Water

PAHO/WHO is assisting DINEPA with chlorination of water by providing HTH to the water trucks at filling stations. In addition, PAHO/WHO is recruiting and training the attendants at these stations. PAHO/WHO is carrying out water analyses at the truck filling stations to ensure quality, jointly with Technischen Hilfswerks (THW), a German NGO.

Sanitation

During the initial emergency response, PAHO/WHO paid for two pits to be dug in the Truitier Municipal dump, one for excreta and the other for Health Care Waste. PAHO/WHO has contracted, trained and vaccinated SMCRS agents to collect health care waste from hospitals to be transported the pits dug at Truitier Municipal dump.

CONTACTS

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Sub-Cluster Groups:	Mobile Clinics; Hospitals; Disability and Rehabilitation; Health Information Management; Disease Surveillance; Reproductive Health; Mental Health and Psychosocial Support; Two satellite sites: Jacmel and Léogâne

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