



## AmericasRelief Team

### 30 Day Report February 12, 2010

**AmericasRelief Team is on the move.** On January 13, 2010, one day after the deadly earthquake in Haiti, we mobilized and activated our Emergency Operations Center, helping the general public understand the needs on the ground, providing collection sites in the community, and working with our partners to connect donations to available cargo space.

In collaboration with most all of the commercial shipping companies serving Haiti and the Dominican Republic, many of which are long time partners, we assisted a host NGOs and PVOs ship humanitarian aid to displaced persons in Haiti. We collaborated with ocean freight companies, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Southern Command (SouthCom) shipping options and strategies, getting goods in to Haiti early on – a formidable task given the destruction of the main port in Port-Au-Prince, security challenges, and poor road conditions.



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The United Nations recently reported that the death toll from the January 12th earthquake in Haiti had exceeded 220,000 people. Additional figures noted by Haiti’s Prime Minister, Jean-Max Bellerive, included 300,000 treated injuries, 250,000 destroyed houses, and 30,000 disrupted businesses , while 800,000 persons have been relocated to refugee camps. The U.S. Agency for International Development considers it “the largest long-term reconstruction project ever envisioned for a single country.”

#### **Here is a snapshot of what we have done in response to this crisis:**

- **Collaboration with NGOs and Shipping Companies:** AmericasRelief Team collaborated with air cargo service companies to provide transportation and space for aid to the NGO community. Some examples are:
  - **Lan Chile** provided space to send aid for:
    - *PADF, Cross International, World Vision*
  - **Arrow Cargo** provided transportation for:
    - *Salvation Army, Partners in Health*
  - **JaksAir** provided space to send aid for:
    - *Cross International, Partners in Health, Japanese Embassy*
  - **UPS Express Critical** provided space to send aid for:
    - *CARE*

- **FEDEX** granted space for the transportation of aid for:
  - *PADF, Heart to Heart, American Red Cross*
  
- **Procurement of Cargo Space**: AmericasRelief Team is collaborated with ocean carriers to provide transportation and space for aid to the NGO community. Some examples are:
  - Monarch Shipping Co.
  - Sante Shipping Lines Inc.
  - Haiti Shipping Lines Inc.
  - Laparkan Shipping
  - Antillean Marine
  - Crowley Maritime
  - Seafreight Agency
  - Seaboard Marine
  
- **Shipping Aid to Haiti**: Facilitated 6.8 million lbs of humanitarian aid to Haiti, representing donations collected from some 36 NGOs.
- **Facilitated Passenger Flights**: Collaborated with The Granted Wish Foundation and a key private charter airline partner to secure the first flight in to Haiti - a Beechcraft airplane - and transported 82 first-responders, including doctors and nurses.
- **Obtained and Loaded Cargo Flights**: Partnering with FedEx-assisted in chartering an available DC10 and loaded it with first-response relief supplies. We staged the goods, donated by notable member charities such as Heart to Heart, American Red Cross, and Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). This became the first private sector humanitarian flight to land at the Port au Prince airport following the earthquake.
- **Mini-Grants to NGOs**: Provided 8 mini grants of \$15,000 to international NGOs so they could ship needed equipment, supplies, and medicines in commercial vessels (Feed the Children, Harvest International, IRD, ADRA, others participated).
- **Communications**: Published nine different alerts on transportation, warehousing, and security to over 3000 individuals involved in Emergency Response.
- **Reports**: In collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Agents, and other military operations, establish a Logistics Cluster and, leveraging the collaborative efforts of this group, sent *Port Update Reports* to member organization, informing them of private source and Coast Guard information on logistics issues throughout the country.
- **Charity Goods Identification and Measurement**: Coordinated with US SouthCom to establish a public-private partnership that identified thousands of pounds of humanitarian aid in transit to Miami for trans-shipment to Haiti. AmericasRelief Team collaborates with SouthCom through a Memorandum of Understanding; the two organizations coordinate the selection of sites for humanitarian and civic assistance and provide community facilitation. Additionally, AmericasRelief Team provides support to NGOs on the usage of general military and Navy freight programs.
- **Staging Warehouses**: Provided over 100,000 square feet of pro-bono staging warehouse space for NGOs moving their donations cargo through Miami.
- **Trans-Shipment of Aid**: Accepted and then reassigned more than 120 tons of aid to smaller NGOs, upon notification that they could obtain a qualified consignee on the ground.
- **Telethon Fundraiser**: Provided volunteers to the charitable organization Neighbors4Neighbors to conduct five (5) telethons with CBS News to raise money for transport.
- **Newspaper Publications**: Authored an Op Ed piece, published in *The Miami Herald*, and other articles for both national and international media, on the subject of “Cash is Best,” and also on the importance of the complex area of humanitarian aid logistics during a disaster.

- **Volunteer Support:** Assisted TSA (Transit Security Administrators) volunteers and 100 airport workers at the Port au Prince airport by providing them with food and water for 15 days.
- **Location/Facilities Provision to NGOs:** Made available our *AmericasRelief Team Emergency Center* to 15 volunteers, representing 12 NGOs to use phones, laptops, printers, and other equipment.
- **Handling of Special Requests:** As follow up to a United Nations Logistics Cluster request, partnered with The Salvation Army to successfully locate free and rapid shipping for 1600 private donation *Care Packages* for Haitians.
- **Dissemination of Military-Related Information:** Relayed information and instructions to relevant logistics players and NGOs on access to US Navy ships and military aircraft that accepted private sector aid at different ports in the U.S.
- **Provision of Medical Personnel and Supplies:** In collaboration with the Department of Defense (DoD), have been providing much-needed medical personnel and medical supplies to the **US Comfort**, the floating hospital anchored in Port au Prince.

### **Activities for the Future**

AmericasRelief Team continues to be involved in the relief effort as well as the beginning stages of the rebuilding/reconstruction and long-term development efforts of Haiti. Key areas in which we are expecting to have direct involvement and provide assistance are:

- Home building/construction-related supplies and equipment
- Medical supplies (prosthetics, products for disabled persons, etc.)
- Apparel and shoes
- Continued warehousing procurement
- Emergency Assistance –related training programs for the community

AmericasRelief Team is collaborating with shipping ventures and formulating strategies to continue to reduce the backlog of humanitarian aid collected and in storage for Haiti. We are in discussion with USAID, major corporations, and others on how to best assist Haiti in the upcoming reconstruction phase.

### **Here are a few pictures that tell our 30-day story**





