



ALERT No. 4 Earthquake in Haiti

January 18, 2010

AmericasRelief Team is monitoring this event

AmericasRelief Team's Emergency Center Report

The AmericasRelief Team's Emergency Center has been activated; the Center is staffed to help coordinate the shipping of relief aid to victims of the event.

HAITI: Bottlenecks slow aid delivery (compiled from InterAction and OCHA)

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 17 January 2010 (IRIN) - Haiti's tiny international airport has been overwhelmed by the international response to the earthquake disaster, clogging up the emergency effort, according to aid workers.

Distribution of aid is taking place but access to shelter, sanitation, water, food and medical care remains extremely limited. Thousands of people remain in makeshift camps where the sanitation situation is precarious. The availability of food in markets is limited and extremely expensive. Medical facilities in Port-au-Prince still lack staff and medicine.

"The airport in Port-au-Prince does not have the capacity to handle so many aircraft," Juan Carlos Porcella, the head of the civil aviation authority in neighboring Dominican Republic told IRIN. "You have planes sitting for hours on the runway. No one wants to take responsibility to unload."

The Government has said that its priorities are currently to evacuate survivors out of Port-au-Prince, create a more complete overview of incoming humanitarian assistance and address the fuel situation through re-establishing the port. It also plans on increasing the number of distribution sites. ICRC reports that Croix de Pré may be the most devastated neighborhood in Port-au-Prince with very few buildings left standing. It also reports that several thousand survivors are now living in one of the city's largest makeshift camps in Centreville on the Place du Champ de Mars.

UNDAC reports that Leogane is the most severely damaged area west of Port-au-Prince (a 15 January assessment found 80-90 percent of the buildings destroyed as reported in the previous sitrep). Little international assistance is occurring west of Carrefour.

A joint UNDAC/EU assessment on 16 January found 20 percent of the buildings were destroyed in Petit Goave (further west of Leogane). The local police reported many people were trapped in collapsed homes. Local response coordination is in place. There is very limited access to medical care, no power and sporadic mobile phone coverage. The police reported that people are reluctant to return to their homes due to concern of further aftershocks. Several makeshift camps had been established. Twenty family tents were distributed by the local Red Cross.

The fuel situation countrywide is becoming more and more critical. Fuel restrictions are now in place. The price for fuel has increased to the equivalent of \$10 per gallon. The Logistics Cluster reports that 10,000 gallons would be brought in from Santo Domingo by truck on 17 January. The national telecommunications system has been partly restored but without access to fuel, the mobile network will be cut off within days, which will have serious implications for the humanitarian operation.

The road from Santo Domingo to Port-au-Prince is congested with transit time running up to 18 hours. UN officials confirmed that convoys are now being sent from Jimani to Port-au-Prince, coordinated and escorted by Dominican Civil Defense and MINUSTAH. The Logistics Cluster has made a request to the Government of the Dominican Republic for approval to establish a major humanitarian hub in Barahona as an alternate for channeling humanitarian relief cargo from Santo Domingo to Haiti.

According to the Office of the Resident Coordinator in the Dominican Republic, hospitals in the border region are overwhelmed and have begun to refer patients to hospitals in other cities. The Dominican Red Cross and the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo are setting up a field hospital in Jimani. There is a shortage of specialized medical supplies, equipment, and physicians at these hospitals, and no clear inventory of what is needed. An effective waste management system is required for the border region in order to avoid disease and contamination of rivers.

The US government stepped in to help at the overstretched airport on 15 January by taking control and allowing in only humanitarian flights.

While some 180 tons of food aid had arrived by 15 January, getting the supplies out of the airport and into the hands of the needy has been a major hurdle, according to Kim Bolduc, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti.

"You have no idea the state of the roads...The traffic is dense. We may need to change the time of [food] distribution," she said. While main roads are reportedly open, secondary roads are still blocked.

On 16 January the World Food Programme provided an estimated 39,000 people with high energy biscuits, water purification tablets and water containers. It could reach only 9,000 on 14 January.

The government estimates three million people lived in the area hit by the 12 January earthquake.

When asked about criticisms that relief has been slow to get to the people, the UN's Bolduc replied: "Before the earthquake, Haiti was already a fragile state, and now almost everything has stopped [working]. The government is doing its best."

Local media reported that 27 out of 30 senators died in the quake, and half of the national police force has not been located, along with their equipment.

Latest Highlights

- Fuel remains an issue for humanitarian operations. Fuel restrictions are now in place. Some 10,000 gallons were trucked in from Santo Domingo today.
- The port remains unusable; incoming vessels are being re-directed to Cap-Haitien. The Port-au-Prince airport is heavily congested.
- Four distribution sites will be established at Petionville club, two soccer fields in Delmas, and Place Dessaline on Champ de Mars.
- Tents and shelter material will be required for temporary shelter sites in the coming week. At least 20,000 tents will be needed with only 3-4,000 tents already in country.
- The Secretary-General, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and other senior UN officials visited the disaster affected areas today and met with Government and UN counterparts.

Air Shipments from Miami

AmericasRelief Team has secured air space to Haiti. Initially the aid is restricted to prioritized items: food aid, health, nutrition, shelter and settlements, water, sanitation, hygiene intervention, emergency recovery activities, and medicines; absolutely NO passengers are allowed, this is a regulation.

Contact Coordinator: Eric Williams

305 884-0441

305 987-2030 cell

eric.williams@landstarmail.com

Port of Port-au-Prince

Haiti's main port in Port-au-Prince is not operational and perhaps will not be usable for at least two more weeks. There is also no ocean freight cargo distribution system in place in the capital city. There are alternate shipping methods under consideration but they are costly and security is not guaranteed.

Warehouses in South Florida

ART has available at no cost up to 50,000 Sq. Ft. Warehouse in Miami. We can receive all types of cargo except hazardous shipments for staging to Haiti. ART partners will receive priority. For more information contact AmericasRelief Team at (305) 884-0441, ask for Jessica or Teo.

Military Assistance for Logistics in Haiti

Here is a direct contact that has been established for NGOs providing relief in Haiti to use for clearing up any logistic issues that the military can help with. They want to help you move your supplies to the country and in country as fast as possible.

Todd Harvey, Director of Partnering, SOUTHCOMM

305 437-3660

305 877-4258 cell

thomas.harvey@hq.southcomm.mil

Navy Hospital Ship on its way

USNS COMFORT is now underway from Baltimore. Navy will use the Continuing Promise 09 manning package and she has 572 onboard. I will provide further details on that shortly. Majority of medical/health capabilities (surgery, primary care, preventive medicine disease surveillance); project medical forces ashore (force protection issues), utilize medical facilities or buildings of opportunity/tents. Platform for NGO/Interagency engagement; receives casualties from shore based facilities for definitive surgery/revisions; Coordinate with Interagency, NGOs, UN, HN health organizations.

Other Military Medical Assistance in Haiti or GTMO

USS VINSON: On-scene medical Command/ Control for NAVY in area (SMO/Staff). Triage and treatment of injured AMCITS for onward MEDEVAC to CONUS; no ability for projection of care ashore.

LHD Bataan: Surgically robust, Surgical Treatment ship package plus FST-8.

Triage/treat/immediate surgery/life saving procedures; onward movement/MEDEVAC to GTMO or CONUS for AMCITS; provide triage/treatment/definitive surgery for HN Citizens aboard.

Naval Hosp GTMO: 20 beds, limited surgical capability, no ICU, minimal holding; stress through-put of casualties; triage and onward transport of injured AMCITS back to CONUS. Migrant Ops first responder then over to US Army.

Donated Communications Equipment

ART has available at no cost to International NGOs, up to five transportable satellite communications systems which include ground cellular network with voice and internet for communications station(s) in Haiti. ART partners will receive priority. Please contact us at teob@americasrelief.org, place "Satellite Unit" in the subject line.

UNHAS Announcement

UNHAS is establishing a passenger service from Santo Domingo to Port-au-Prince (Cessna Caravan 208B, 10 passengers). The first flight will take place today, 17 Jan. As of next week UNHAS will operate two flights per day from Monday to Thursday.

Booking procedures: please write to

UNHASPAX.Haiti@wfp.org

Focal Points:

Santo Domingo: Jose.Odini@wfp.org

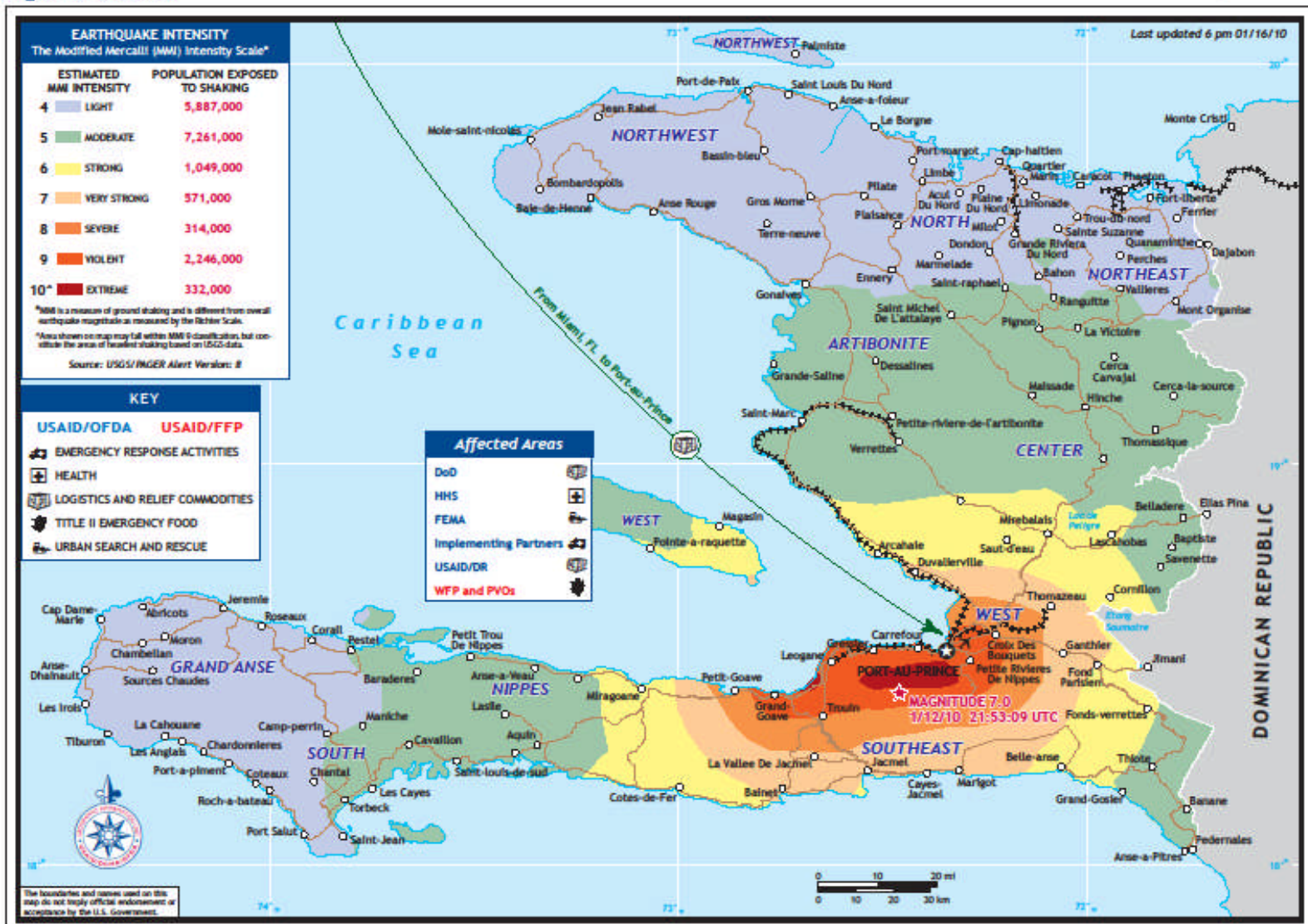
Paolo.Piconese@wfp.org

Port-au-Prince: Philippe.Martou@wfp.org

A flight schedule will be disseminated shortly.

From InterAction

DOD (which lists Red Cross, Mercy Corps and InterAction on its web site as ways to contribute) reports that the first 800 of the 3,500 troops from the 82nd Airborne have started to move out from the airport to establish FOBs (forward operating bases) in the city.



OUR MEDIA PARTNERSHIP



We are proud of our media partnership; created to give South Floridians an opportunity to reach out and help those who have been directly affected by catastrophic events.



AmericasRelief Team

AmericasRelief Team is a Florida private sector collaboration of corporations and non-profit organizations created to help our Latin America and Caribbean friends in times of crisis and disasters.

AmericasRelief Team reacts to immediate crisis, provides ongoing logistics assistance, and conducts plans for future events in the region which will require effective coordination of humanitarian relief.

For

More information Contact:

AmericasRelief Team

Phone: 305.884.0441

Fax: 305.260.4214

E-Mail: INFO@americasrelief.org

WEB: WWW.AMERICASRELIEF.ORG

