



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Haiti Earthquake: Urgent Relief Appeal

Miami, Florida – AmericasRelief Team (ART) has joined the voices from around the world in expressing its profound sympathy for the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck that country on January 12, 2010.

ART has activated its Emergency Center located in Miami, Florida. The center has wireless internet, printers, phones, and a Smart Board for web meetings for public-private partners working in the relief effort. The center has been organized around the various tasks being faced by the relief players including: communications, logistics, volunteers, donations, and others.

ART reminds all those who wish to help that the most effective way to do so is through monetary donations to credible organizations that are coordinating emergency response. ART is encouraging people to donate through its website www.americasrelief.org to help defray the cost of transporting pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, and other medical supplies to Haiti.

ART is a public-private collaboration of corporations and international non-profit organizations. Some of its partners include such well-know names as FedEx, Carnival Corporation, Food for the Poor, and Cross International, amongst many others.

ART works with USAID and other government agencies such as U.S. Southern Command to coordinate with and provide updates to international organizations involved in the relief effort. ART's objectives are as follows:

1. Coordinate immediate relief by collecting shipping and air cargo available space (including schedules, warehousing, trucking companies, etc.-all logistics)
2. Provide guidance on deployment of goods (types, consignees, timing, permits, using existing infrastructure, using information from assessment teams and OFDA, etc.), and
3. Together with International Relief and Development (IRD), assist in long term infrastructure rebuilding of Haiti.

“We believe that this is a great opportunity to perhaps do something significant that can help the people of Haiti for years to come reduce their vulnerability to this type of crisis” said Dr. Teo A. Babun, Jr. Executive Director of ART. “International support to Haiti is critical. We encourage all of our colleagues to play a part at this very difficult time”, he added.

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AmericasRelief Team's partners include top executives from American Red Cross of Greater Miami & the Keys; Antillean Marine Shipping Corp, Carnival Corporation; FedEx Latin America; Baptist Health System; Belle Plume Communications; Caribbean Central America Action (CCAA); Cross International: DRT International, Enterprise Florida; Feed the Children; Lucent Technologies; Caribbean Central America Action (CCAC); Florida Stevedoring; Food for the Poor; Miami-Dade Aviation Department; Miami River Marine Group; Port of Miami Terminal Operating Co. (POMTOC), Seaboard Marine; SeaFreight Agencies USA; Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA); Harvest International; Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); República; WorldCity Media; World Vision-South Florida.

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