



## Haiti – Earthquake

### Disaster Response Report 3

January 14, 2010

#### Background

On January 12, at 5:22pm local time, a series of earthquakes ranging from magnitude 6.5 to 7.3 struck Haiti in the highly populated area of Department Ouest, 10 miles southeast of Port-au-Prince. Aftershocks continue to occur.

#### Key Developments

- The American Red Cross, together with our global Red Cross partners, is conducting assessments on the ground to determine levels of damage, specific needs and available resources. Based on initial assessments, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) has released a Preliminary Emergency Appeal for US \$10 million to help meet the needs of 100,000 people.
- The Red Cross is laying the groundwork for a planned massive response operation. Specialized teams are arriving today to establish transport systems, staging areas and other logistics to transport relief items from Red Cross warehouses in Panama for rapid delivery and distribution to those in need. Additional Red Cross teams are en route to establish field hospitals, water/sanitation services, search and rescue, and telecommunications.
- The American Red Cross is releasing US \$10 million for immediate response needs. A disaster specialist arrives today to Port-au-Prince, to support Red Cross damage assessments and identifying needs. A 5-person American Red Cross Relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is also en route to Santo Domingo and scheduled to arrive in Port-au-Prince tomorrow.

#### Numbers at a Glance

<b>Total population in affected area</b>	3 million	International Federation – 1/13/10
<b>International Federation Response: Emergency Appeal Disaster Relief Emergency Fund</b>	US \$10 million US \$491,265	International Federation – 1/13/10
<b>American Red Cross Commitment</b>	US \$10 million	American Red Cross – 1/14/10

#### Current Situation

- Damage - The urban infrastructure in Port-au-Prince is severely damaged according to information provided by local authorities. Government and international organization buildings including hospitals, embassies, UN agencies and Red Cross have been greatly damaged. The official number of people affected is still unknown, but it is estimated that approximately 3 million people have been affected. A high number of casualties and injured is expected.
- Access – As of January 14, the Port-au-Prince airport is now reportedly open 24/7 for military and humanitarian flights, although the terminal is closed due to concerns of structural damage. The Port-au-Prince port remains closed until January 18. Access by land from Santo Domingo remains the easiest route into Haiti for humanitarian organization staff. Access within Port-au-Prince is difficult but passable for an estimated 75% of roads.
- Security – Despite some reports of looting, the population in Port-au-Prince is reported to be calm, although more tense in areas where damage is most concentrated.

- Health – According to an International Federation assessment of Port-au-Prince, hospitals are full and only one remains open to receive injured. According to the UN World Health Organization (WHO), current priorities include the treatment of people with large traumatic wounds, the prevention of infection in wounds and the provision of clean water and sanitation services. In the coming days, the prevention of communicable diseases will be the main priority.
- Shelter – According to preliminary assessments by the International Federation, an estimated 10% of houses have been destroyed, affecting an estimated 200,000 people. The worst destruction is concentrated in some 15 areas where destruction exceeds 70% of the houses. There are an estimated 40 gathering points throughout the city for displaced families.
- Power/Communications – There is a near-total blackout in Port-au-Prince, and the power grid remains significantly damaged. Due to limited electricity, communications remain difficult with phone lines and cellular infrastructure down.
- Food/Water – Because of the extent of damage to stores and water and sanitation infrastructure, food and water supplies are limited. The first flight shipments of humanitarian relief with basic food supplies are scheduled to arrive today.

## Maps

[Haiti Earthquake Intensity Map – USAID – January 12, 2010](#)

## Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Response

### American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is actively responding to this disaster in coordination with Red Cross partners in Haiti. At this time, the American Red Cross had committed US \$10 million for immediate response activities.

- The American Red Cross, together with our global Red Cross partners, is conducting assessments on the ground to determine levels of damage, specific needs and available resources. An American Red Cross disaster specialist arrives today to Port-au-Prince, to support Red Cross damage assessments and identification of needs.
- At the International Federation's request, the American Red Cross has deployed a five-member Relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU) to lay the groundwork for the coming massive relief distribution operation. These team members are arriving in Haiti today to help establish a system to transport relief items from regional Red Cross warehouses in Panama for rapid delivery and distribution to those in need.
- The American Red Cross has made available all relief supplies stored at its warehouse in Panama. These include blankets, kitchen sets, and water containers to meet the immediate needs of up to 5,000 families. An initial flight of relief supplies is scheduled to arrive tomorrow.
- The American Red Cross will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with the Haitian Red Cross and International Federation for future immediate action.

### Haiti National Red Cross

- The Haiti National Red Cross is providing first aid and helping to evacuate the injured. It is working with Red Cross partners in Haiti to perform assessments of damage, identify needs and coordinate the Red Cross response.

### International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation)

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) has released a Preliminary Emergency Appeal for US \$10 million to help meet the immediate needs of 100,000 people.
- In addition to deploying a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT), the International Federation has mobilized nine Emergency Response Units to provide support in logistics, relief and shelter, water and sanitation and health care, including specialists to meet basic health needs as well as provide complex care through a field hospital.

- Logistics specialists arriving today will be focusing on laying the groundwork for response by identifying staging areas for supplies, warehouses, health units and hospitals – all critical to successfully implement the large scale response operation planned by the Red Cross.
- The International Federation has activated its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to provide supplies from its warehouse in Panama. The Red Cross is working with airport authorities to transport these relief items into Port-au-Prince.
- The International Federation is coordinating the global Red Cross network response with the UN and other relief agencies.

#### International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- The ICRC is coordinating family tracing activities and will be focusing on helping people affected by the disaster in Haiti communicate with family members. Additionally, it will help manage the remains of the dead as well as provide medical care and assistance in places of detention.
- The ICRC has been distributing relief supplies from its limited stocks in Port au Prince.

#### **United Nations and Government Response**

##### United Nations

- The UN has release \$10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and a Flash Appeal is under development. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is mobilizing a United Nations Disaster and Assessment Team (UNDAC) as well as staff from its regional office in Panama. Multiple UN agencies are active on the ground, including the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme.

##### U.S. Government

- USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is the lead U.S. government office responsible for providing humanitarian assistance. To date, USAID/OFDA has deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), as well as two U.S.-based urban search and rescue teams. On January 14, the U.S. government pledged US \$100 million to support response efforts.

*The information in this report is compiled from a number of sources including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the U.S. Agency for International Development and involved national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. The American Red Cross strives to provide the most accurate and timely information possible; however, all information should be considered conditional until a final report has been issued.*