

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 390 national and international organizations have registered with the Health Cluster.
- The Ministry of Public Health and Population has guaranteed that medicines and medical products will be provided free of charge to all public health facilities nationwide until 12 April.
- Handicap International, Miami University, Healing Hands, and soon, CBM, are covering the physical therapy needs in 50% to 60% of existing hospital facilities.



ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- UNFPA estimates that about 3 million people were affected by the earthquake of 12 January, including 750,000 women and girls of childbearing age. Of these, approximately 63,000 were pregnant and 7,000 delivered in the first month after the earthquake.
- The Ministry of Health will complete a National Plan for Disability by 1 March. It will include topics such as rehabilitation centers, prosthetics, orthotics, and accessible structures.
- Handicap International, CBM and the le Secretariat d'Etat a l'Integration des Personnes Handicapees (SEIPH) are currently working on funding for the set up of a common database and a hotline. SEIPH has creating linkages and agreements with their counterpart in Dominican Republic and resources should be available.

GAP FILLING

DRUGS AND SUPPLIES

- Public health institutions and Departmental Supply Centers (CDAI) shall have access to medicines and medical equipment at no cost through PROMESS; the Ministry of Public Health and Population has made a commitment to guaranteeing that these medical products shall be free to all public health facilities throughout the nation's territory until 12 April 2010
- Health services, including mobile clinics in camps for displaced persons and spontaneous settlements that are not dependent on any international non-governmental organization (NGO) and are accredited by the Ministry of Public Health and Population shall also benefit from free medicines and medical supplies;
- International organizations, international NGOs, national NGOs, and charitable and religious organizations authorized to operate by the Ministry of Public Health and Population shall be considered qualified to obtain supplies from PROMESS and should defray the cost of the medicines under the payment modalities in effect prior to the disaster of 12 January;

- Medicines and medical supplies received by PAHO as donations shall be distributed at no cost to public health facilities through PROMESS. Such donations shall conform to the quality standards established by PAHO/WHO.

PROVISION OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES

- UNFPA has assembled nearly 7,000 hygiene kits, of which, 5,648 kits have been distributed in Haiti. The kits contain basic products such as towels, soap, toothbrushes, and other female hygiene products. 10,000 other kits are being assembled in the Dominican Republic and an international tender has been launched for the assembly of 15,000 other kits. The emphasis is based on local production to stimulate economic recovery.
- Cordaid (Caritas the Netherlands) has two trauma teams in Hospital Notre Dame de Lourdes (Delmas 19), where they are treating complicated fractures and wounds. It acts as a referral center. Cordaid plans to start a primary healthcare program and has a long term commitment of 4-5 years.
- Bonaventure Hospital (between Jacmel and Les Cayes), a public/private hospital under the Ministry of Health, is currently receiving patients discharged from the USNS Comfort. They are expecting to receive 12 spinal cord injuries. Their capacity is between 50 to 60 beds. They have no surgical capacity or rehabilitation, only medical care. Medishare is setting up a post-operative rehabilitation hospital that will be ready in the next few weeks and will be located close to St Germain.
- The Ministry of Health met with PAHO/WHO and other partners working on HIV/AIDS to analyze the preliminary assessment of HIV/AIDS care institutions. The Ministry of Health will make four working groups.
 - Working group 1: Migrant populations
 - Working group 2: People living with HIV
 - Working group 3: Epidemiological surveillance for HIV/AIDS
 - Working group 4: HIV/AIDS strategy in temporary settlement
- A committee (Minsitry of Health, PAHO/WHO, Sogebank Foundation, FOSREF, World Bank, ONUSIDA and others actors) is tasked with recommending an HIV/AIDS emergency government response plan based on the assessments. The committed meets twice a week to develop the strategy by the end of February.
- IOM is working with some 40 agencies in the field of mental health and psychosocial support to provide emergency help to tens of thousands of people living in spontaneous settlements in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. IOM and its partners from the Faculty of Psychology of Port-au-Prince University and other international experts will train 550 humanitarian workers, religious leaders and community health professionals to increase their understanding of the psychosocial consequences of the earthquake and to provide them with the knowledge and skills to manage the short, medium and long term needs of affected individuals.

WATER AND SANITATION

- WASH Cluster continues to provide safe drinking water (5 liters per person per day) to over 780,000 people through water tankers and water treatment plants at 300 sites across Port au Prince, Leogane, and Jacmel. The cluster aims to scale up provision of safe drinking water to a total of 1.1 million persons per day. Approximately 2.1 millions liters of water are delivered per day to about 500 000 displaced persons in 184 sites
- The strategy for the emergency calls for chlorination and water disinfection for government-subsidized or NGO supply networks, water trucks and kiosks. DINEPA's water trucks are now disinfected in Port-au-Prince by staff trained by PAHO/WHO.

CONTACTS

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IMPORTANT LINKS

www.paho.org

www.who.int

If you are a recent member on our contact list or if you just arrive in Haiti, please take time to read all the Health Cluster Bulletin at <http://oneresponse.info/Disasters/Haiti/Health/Pages/default.aspx>