

HAITI Earthquake Response

Bulletin 4, 17-03-10: Achievements: Two months on



Additional information on the Haiti Earthquake Response is available on the Logistics Cluster website: <http://www.logisticscluster.org/ops/hti10a>

For all cargo movement and temporary storage requests: Haiti.cargo@logcluster.org

For all non-cargo related requests for PAP please contact: Haiti@logcluster.org

For all non-cargo related requests for Santo Domingo please contact: Logcluster.sdg@wfp.org

Context

On January 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti. The epicentre was located 17km from the capital, Port-au-Prince (PaP), which has more than 2 million inhabitants. Approximately 3.5 million people resided in the areas directly affected by the earthquake. The number of people living in spontaneous settlement sites is estimated at 1.3 million people, while 604,215 people have left Port-au-Prince for outlying departments.

Two months later there is an elephant in the room

The earthquake has damaged the major port in the country in Port-au-Prince, which has been partially restored to allow some humanitarian cargo to pass through the port but is not yet sufficiently rehabilitated to resume normal food import and distribution systems. Approximately 90% of all containerised imports and exports prior to the earthquake transited through the seaports at PaP. While capacity has been partially restored the rainy season and hurricane season pose significant challenges. The earthquake decimated the warehouse and storage capacity in the affected area, and regional warehouses were not widely available prior to the earthquake. Road conditions along the major supply routes are acceptable at the moment, but are severely vulnerable to deterioration and failure in the coming months.

LOGISTICS CLUSTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **The UN Humanitarian Response Depot Network (UNHRD)** was mobilized within 12 hours of the emergency. Immediate preparations were made to dispatch pre-fabricated offices, accommodation units, and warehouses, toolkits, blankets, jerry cans, generators, electrical distribution kits and ablution units among the items delivered.
- **Cluster Cells were established in Santo Domingo (SD) and PaP within 48 hours** of the earthquake enabling the first relief goods to be received in PaP and dispatched from PaP within 72 hours of the earthquake. The Logistics Cluster began handling **incoming air cargo and helicopter operations** on behalf of humanitarian actors.
- Within the first week, the SD cell liaised with the Dominican Republic (DR) authorities **to secure tax exemption** on relief items destined for Haiti entering at Las Americas airport.
- Logistics personnel were deployed to the main entry points: Las Americas International airport, and to Rio Haina and Caucedo seaports. **Storage capacity was immediately secured in SD.**
- Within one week of the earthquake, the cluster **established the overland supply route from SD to PaP** and deployed liaison staff to the Jimani border crossing in the first week to **coordinate the passage of humanitarian relief flowing across the border**. The fleet has expanded and now counts **85 trucks, flatbeds and closed containers, of 30-40 mt capacity**. This number can and will be augmented if required. This expansion occurred within two weeks in parallel with the launch of the **common truck service managed by Handicap International/Atlas Logistique** providing transport in Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Petit Goave, Gonaives and Cap Haitien. Within one month transit **hubs for cargo consolidation and trans-shipment** were established in Port au Prince, Petit Goave and Jacmel.
- The cluster has **augmented the storage capacity** in PaP by establishing three warehouse compounds for common use.

- Under the auspices of the JOTC (Joint Operations Tasking Centre) **the cluster has provided liaison and coordination** with the different military actors involved in the relief effort for the use of available military assets.
- **More than 18000m3 of relief commodities (tents, seeds, tools, kitchen sets, hygiene kits etc.)** and support equipment has been transported from Santo Domingo to various destinations in Haiti for **67 different organizations**. In addition to which more than **1540mt/6,653m3 has been dispatched: 94%by land and 6% by air from PAP.**
- Since the beginning of the operation UNHAS has transported more than **4,000 passengers** between SD and PaP
- The helicopters, one MI8 and two MI-171's have flown numerous assessment missions to more than 90 isolated villages (as evident in the photograph above) & **have delivered more than 80mt, largely medicines, food, & tents.**
- The **Clinton Foundation, through WFP**, has donated 40 Penske (International) trucks, 30 GMC pick-ups, 20 Mitsubishi Fusos (7MT), and 20 other pick-up trucks for the humanitarian community: 20 Penske (International) are for the GoH; 20 Penske already part of the inter-agency fleet; the Mitsubishi Fusos will be for the interagency fleet; the remainder, are in process of being allocated to humanitarian partners.



UNHAS cargo delivery, Moussambe (Ouest Province) Photo: WFP Jim Farrell

Further information is available at <http://www.logisticscluster.org/ops/hti10a>