

Catholic Relief Services
Situation Report #15 for external distribution
Haiti Earthquake
Dates covered: January 29, 2010

AFFECTED POPULATIONS/NEEDS: New developments

The International Organization for Migration reported that it is working with its partners from the shelter cluster to finalize the first organized settlement for some 3,500 displaced persons in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Tabarre, a camp to be managed by French NGO ACTED.

While the press reported UN and US government officials stating that the “urgent” relief operations of the emergency response is over (Source: Bloomberg.com “[Haiti Relief Taking Hold, ‘Urgent’ Phase Ending, UN Says](#)”), the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator clarified that search and rescue operations and urgent trauma surgery activities are winding down but emergency relief continues until all affected people have been reached with food and emergency shelter assistance (Source: UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Key Messages Jan. 29).

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

CRS/Caritas Haiti has proposed starting a shelter working group, and will be having its first meeting Jan 30.

PROGRAMMING

Distributions

To date, CRS/Caritas Haiti has provided food to 108,678 people, and non-food relief items to 21,736 people. In addition to the populated camps in Port-au-Prince, CRS/Caritas Haiti has reaching people in need in Léogane, Petite Goâve, Gros Morne, Jacmel. CRS Haiti is also preparing for a very large rice distribution on Sunday, Jan 31st. The distribution, involving a multitude of agencies, the Haitian government, and the World Food Program, will provide rice to 27,200 families and estimated 136,000 people a day (25 kg of rice per family). The distribution will cover all 16 zones of the city, and will likely take place over two weeks.

Health

The first wave of eight doctors from the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) arrived today and immediately went to work, spending the day at St. Francois Hospital. They assessed the medical situation of patients, provided specialized care to hundreds of patients in critical condition, and began to identify ways to help restore the medical system. Twelve additional doctors are set to arrive over the weekend, with a tentative departure on the evening of January 30th.

WASH

CRS/Caritas Haiti's water and sanitation team is focusing on providing comprehensive WASH support in a temporary settlement behind the industrial compounds of a company called Accra. Program activities will include the distribution of hygiene kits in addition to the building of transitional latrines, drainage, sanitation, showers and hygiene promotion. Assessments and plans for WASH activities continue for 10 targeted areas throughout Port-au-Prince.

Shelter

The national shelter need for those affected by the earthquake is estimated to be between 900,000 to 1,100,000 people.

CRS/Caritas Haiti will be starting its emergency shelter distribution next week, depending on the arrival of materials. The distributions will take place in two phases: the first round including nails, rope, and plastic sheeting; and the second round including three woolen blankets, a mosquito net and two bed sheets. The materials were selected based on focused group discussions carried out with the community by CRS/Caritas Haiti.

The Shelter Cluster designed a prototype for transitional shelter made of timber, corrugated metal sheeting, and plastic. The group reviewed the prototype and added suggestions for making it resistant to various weather conditions, cost estimates, issues of procurement, ways of making it cheaper (bulk timber), etc.

In response to these unprecedented shelter needs, the cluster is proposing a four-pronged shelter and settlement program in support of Government-led relief and recovery activities.

- A. Support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are being hosted by others in urban and rural locations.
- B. Emergency and transitional shelter support to non-displaced families with destroyed housing in urban and rural locations.
- C. Reconfiguration of emergency and transitional shelter support to families living in 600 transitional settlement sites in urban locations.
- D. Creation of planned temporary settlements outside of urban areas for families (where settlement options A, B & C are unsafe or impractical).

LOGISTICS

Ten hospital tents and approximately 2 tons of water treatment and distribution equipment arrived yesterday in Santo Domingo from Dubai. The supplies have cleared customs and are on their way to Haiti by truck. Another 38 tons of ready-to-eat food, miscellaneous supplies, and IT equipment

that arrived from Miami are being cleared this weekend. Six pallets of medical equipment and supplies weighing approximately 3,800 pounds arrived at Port au Prince via TNT air charter to support the visiting doctors from the University of Maryland Medical Center. The rest of the equipment will be arriving as early as January 30th.

Six truckloads of ready-to-eat food and other miscellaneous supplies were loaded onto a Crowley ship scheduled to leave Miami tomorrow (Jan. 31st) and dock in Santo Domingo on Wednesday. A CRS-chartered aircraft departed Dubai yesterday carrying 98 tons of tarpaulins, wiikhall storage tents, and bagging equipment for dry food commodities. The aircraft will arrive in Santo Domingo tomorrow (Sunday Jan. 31st).

CRS Dominican Republic sent 1800 food kits and wood for shelter kits overland.

Security

MINUSTAH announced that a Joint Operations and Tasking Centre (JOTC) is in place to coordinate all military and police assets and set forth procedures on how humanitarian agencies can access security services.

CRS/Caritas Haiti is preparing for potential damage for aftershocks. Given the general opinion of organizations, the security team will more strongly advise that people sleep outside. CRS/Haiti will stock all guest houses and rooms with appropriate supplies, look for more outside space and tents to house people, and coordinate with other entities to get qualified structural engineers to assess our buildings as soon as possible.

OFDA reported three cases of presumptive dengue and one confirmed. CRS/Caritas Haiti is re-emphasizing the use of mosquito repellant during the day for the team.

Many cases of tension and near-misses in camps (often reported in the media) have been largely caused by inappropriate actions of photographers and press. The Caritas communication people and key program staff have been briefed on appropriate behavior. This will be a part of incoming staff briefing from now on.

Incidents of security problems include:

☒ A local person killed by a water truck at Pétionville Club site; no backlash or negative response was reported.

☒ Shots were heard in during the night of Jan. 27th in the vicinity of one of the CRS guesthouses. The security guard was very nervous afterwards. CRS is exploring options to improve the security guard situation.

☒ A patrol of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division happened upon and halted violent confrontation on Jan. 29th between looters and a private security guard who shot and killed one man inside an appliance store and appeared poised to shoot others (Source: Associated Press "[US Soldiers Halt Violence Between Guards, Looters](#)" Jan. 29).

MEDIA/CONSTITUENT OUTREACH/ADVOCACY

Senators Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) today introduced legislation to speed recovery efforts in post-earthquake Haiti. The legislation will relieve Haiti of its outstanding international debt with multilateral institutions, as well as any additional debt incurred in the aftermath of the earthquake. Additionally, it would encourage these institutions to make financial assistance available to Haiti in the form of grants, rather than loans. It will also foster the creation of an international infrastructure fund for Haiti to invest in electric grids, roads, water, sanitation facilities, and other critical infrastructure projects. Finally, the legislation would extend the deadline of currently enacted trade provisions for Haiti, helping to foster investment in Haiti and increase trade between the United States and Haiti.


In order to offer consistent messages to U.S. constituents and donors, US Operations and Charitable Giving and Awareness are coordinating on how best to integrate messages into ongoing communications that provide context on how CRS' efforts in Haiti are connected to CRS' programs around the world. For instance, Operation Rice Bowl will underline how the collection supports work worldwide, including Haiti.

CRS Global Fellows (priests and deacons who speak on behalf of CRS) around the country have so far reported speaking at 88 Masses reaching 29,000 parishioners. Additional collections for CRS Haiti relief were taken up at many of these Masses. As reported in Sit Rep #9, Sr. Mary Jane Meyer has agreed to jump out of a plane if students at St. Agnes High School in Oakland, CA raised \$25,000 for the CRS Haiti response; she will now have to jump: they have raised \$42,000!

A special mass was held at CRS headquarters on January 29 for the family and friends of CRS Haiti staff who perished in the earthquake.

Broadcast coverage of Haiti has declined, but print media continues to cover the story. A Catholic News Service crew will be arriving in Haiti today with CRS assistance to provide coverage for Catholics in the U.S., a key audience for CRS. Sean Callahan participated in a press conference Thursday with the University of Maryland medical team which was covered by all Baltimore-area television media. Interest in this story will continue, particularly because of the involvement of the Maryland Shock Trauma Center and Dr. Thomas Scalea in particular (very well known to Baltimore media). There was major coverage in the Baltimore Sun today. A Sun reporter interviewed Isaac Boyd for an upcoming story on the challenges of shelter, which will increasingly be a focus of media coverage with the approach of the rainy season. Finally, Karel Zelenka appeared on a panel at the Brookings Institution today in Washington on the Disaster Response in Haiti. US Operations staff and partners continue to be interviewed by local diocesan and secular media raising awareness of CRS efforts in Haiti.

Media coverage includes:

 **The Washington Post**, *Lack of crowd control hampers food and water delivery to Haiti*

quake victims, notes orderly CRS distribution at Petionville, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/28/AR2010012803618.html>

☒ **The Baltimore Sun**, Thousands find relief in fairway tent camp, coverage of Petionville Club, <http://www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/dining/bal-md.hs.crs29jan29,0,4277392.story>

☒ **The Baltimore Sun**, Social worker helps relief staff handle the emotional trauma of Haiti, <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bal-md.hs.contino29jan29,0,3459644.story>

☒ **Baltimore Sun website**, *CRS worker from Haiti talks about surviving Haiti earthquake*, very well done and moving video interview with Karel Zelenka, <http://www.baltimoresun.com/videobeta/?watchId=3823d2b3-0dd1-4084-a2dd-96e4774559aa>

☒ **Catholic News Service** (via U.S. Catholic magazine), *Caritas workers in Haiti supply aid to at least 50,000 people, details CRS and Caritas Haiti efforts*, <http://www.uscatholic.org/news/2010/01/caritas-workers-haiti-supply-aid-least-50000-people>