

HIGHLIGHTS

- At 6:03 this morning, another aftershock with a magnitude 5.9 struck Haiti.
- More than 36 countries and dozens of humanitarian organizations have already sent in-kind donations as well as monetary contributions to Haiti.
- UNDAC has completed the assessment missions to most affected communities of Port au Prince.



ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

The Health Cluster Sub-Group on Public Health Assessments led by NGO partner Merlin is looking to adapt and use the Inter-sectoral Rapid Needs Assessment (IRA) tool to rapidly determine priority needs. The Sub-Group has begun reviewing the questions to provide feedback today. The Health Cluster and other clusters have agreed to form multi-disciplinary teams to carry out this rapid assessment. OCHA will assist with the logistics necessary to do this in collaboration with UNDAC.

Assessments of hospital facilities will continue to look at hospital infrastructure, referral systems, and the organization of transportation of patients. Five hospitals (General Hospital, Hospital de la Paix, Isaie Jeanty, Hospital Choscal and Carrefour Diquini Hospital) have been assessed. The priorities are to reinforce the staff and to tackle the medical waste problems.

The assessment of hospital facilities indicate priority needs are establishing health facilities for post surgical follow up, more mobile clinics within the spontaneous resettlement camps, reinforcements of staffing, medical waste management, orthopaedic surgeons, nurses, security for mobile health teams.

GAP FILLING

The Health Cluster has divided its gap filling actions into four categories as listed here below.

1. DRUG SUPPLIES

Haiti's Central Procurement Agency for Drugs and Medical Supplies, managed by PAHO/WHO called PROMESS, is procuring additional supplies to cope with demand and will continue purchasing in the Dominican Republic to ensure rapid distribution. PROMESS states that they have sufficient stock of TB medicines for one year.

Flights are en route to Haiti carrying medicines and supplies that can treat 165,000 people for one month, plus drugs and equipment to treat 1,000 people with trauma injuries.

2. OUTBREAK CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Disease Surveillance is ongoing and an Early Warning system is being established

3. PROVISION OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES

18 hospitals are functioning in the Port au Prince area, with assistance from NGOs and the military. In addition to the existing field hospitals, there are 6 more field hospitals arriving in the country.

4. WATER AND SANITATION

Water and sanitation assessments have been carried out in four hospitals in Port- au-Prince (Isaie Jeanty hospital, Choscal, Diquini and Delmas 33). There are problems with sanitation and waste management problems.

COORDINATION

The Health Cluster is working closely with the newly established National Commission for the Management of the Crises, which integrates the Health Ministry, to support national priorities that include establishing mobile clinics in all the spontaneous camps that have been created, ensuring obstetric care and delivery kits as close to the population concentrations as possible and ensuring that the delivery of health care services is properly coordinated with the support of the Health Cluster.

The Health Cluster continues to meet daily at 16:00hrs with more than 40 agencies and over 75 individuals participating. In addition to the two sub-groups established by the Health Cluster (hospitals and public health assessments), the Health Cluster is considering setting up a third sub-group to deal with the drugs and medical supplies (reception and distribution).

IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES

- Damaged medical and sanitation systems and a lack of safe drinking water can lead to hygiene-related and food borne diseases. Outbreaks of diarrheal and other more serious gastrointestinal illnesses such as typhoid may occur.
- Population displacement and overcrowding can increase the risk of transmission of communicable diseases.
- Untreated trauma wounds and infection of wounds are major health concerns that need priority attention.

CONTACTS

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IMPORTANT LINKS

www.paho.org

www.who.int

<http://haiti.oneresponse.info>.