

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health is developing a strategy for a one year mitigation plan and a five year plan to revitalize the health care infrastructure. They also announced that health care will be provided for free during a three month period.
- PROMESS, the pharmaceutical warehouse of Haiti's Ministry of Health, will continue providing essential drugs and medical supplies for free nationwide to all public hospitals and health facilities, including international and national NGOs and faith-based organizations that are supporting humanitarian activities.
- Save the Children is leading the Health Cluster in Leogane and co-leading the Health Cluster in Jacmel, with the Ministry of Health. Reports indicate that NGOs are present, coordinating and functioning; however, surrounding rural areas are underserved and lack health care services.



ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- The multi agency rapid assessment (IRA) evaluated several sectors including water, hygiene, security, and sanitation, visiting 108 locations within Port-au-Prince and 98 locations outside of Port-au-Prince. Data are still being assimilated and analyzed and will be made available soon.
- Post-disaster rehabilitation must consist of community based services with psychosocial support and institutional support.
- Reports from medical teams continue to show a decline in trauma injuries requiring treatment.
- The Ministry of Health's surveillance system reports acute respiratory infections as the main cause of morbidity. The health cluster will focus efforts on needs assessments of primary health care facilities. The agencies working within the health cluster will also monitor morbidity rates to track whether the health situation is improving.
- The CDC is working with PAHO/WHO to prepare a consolidated list of organizations providing services through mobile health clinics. These mobile facilities will play an important role, ensuring primary health care for the population during the upcoming rainy and hurricane seasons.
- Although post-crisis nutritional surveys and assessments are pending, the pre-crisis global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate was estimated at 4.5% for the affected areas, with severe acute malnutrition at 0.8%. At these levels, an estimated 17,500 children are suffering from acute malnutrition and 3,100 of these are severely malnourished and in need of life-saving assistance. Assessments are underway to determine the post-crisis GAM levels in highly affected areas.
- Malaria and dengue are widespread in Haiti in the rainy season (beginning in a few weeks) and the current conditions in which the displaced population is living will increase the risks of outbreaks.

- Sanitation is still a major challenge with not enough latrines being made available. This is of particular concern in the spontaneous settlements. According to UNICEF, for the current 1.2 million displaced persons, 23 000 latrines would be needed (ratio of 1 latrine for 50 persons). To date, only 5% of those latrines have been built.

GAP FILLING

DRUGS AND SUPPLIES

- On Saturday, 6 February, interagency emergency health kits (IEHK) were delivered to Hospital de la Paix. A Logistics Cluster officer, alongside a PAHO/WHO logistician, provided support on the ground. More deliveries will be made to other sites.
- Medicines and supplies for subsidized health programs for vaccines, tuberculosis medicine and contraceptives will continue to be distributed for free at PROMESS.

OUTBREAK CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- As of 7 February, a total of 10,000 people had been immunized against tetanus. The vaccination plan is finalized and will be available online for all NGOs within the week. The first phase of the plan targets temporary settlements and includes the following:
 - 6 weeks to 7 months: Diphtheria, Tetanus Pertussis (DTP)
 - 8 months to 7 years: DTP, Measles and Rubella (MR).
 - Over 8 years: Diphtheria and Tetanus (DT)
- In the past, Haiti has led several measles vaccination campaigns. The last one in 2007 was against measles / rubella for ages 1-19. The last case of indigenous measles reported in Haiti was in 2001. The current risk of a measles epidemic is relatively low, despite low rates of routine immunization coverage.
- In the coming days, Haitian citizens will be able to dial *733 and receive updated information on the vaccination campaign. Currently, over 1.2 million Haitians are notified of the new service via SMS. The service will be further developed to also offer information on HIV/AIDS prevention, condom distribution locations and guidance on water and sanitation provisions.
- PAHO/WHO is collaborating with the Ministry of Public Health to develop comprehensive programs in integrated vector control management and surveillance of vector borne diseases.
- A PAHO/WHO stock of 15,000 LLINs (long-lasting impregnated bed nets) is available for hospitals and health care centers to protect patients and families from vectors (mosquitoes, flies, etc). Priority is given to high risk areas as well as pregnant women or mothers with children under 5.

PROVISION OF BASIC HEALTHCARE SERVICES

- Sixteen mobile clinics are operating in Leogane, all of which are members of the Health Cluster of Leogane, and information is being gathering on the capacity of the clinics in the following technical areas: trauma treatment, surgery, post operative care, obstetrics, pediatrics, primary health care, orthopedics, rehabilitation, mental health, day and night, capacity to accept referrals, ambulance, access to fuel, water for patients, food for patients, waste management, sanitation (latrines) and medical supplies.
- Handicap International has opened five fixed points for rehabilitation care in Port-au-Prince
- MSF is setting up a site to take care of tuberculosis patients. More information to come.
- A team from the Chilean Ministry of Health is performing primary care at the Prime Minister's residence.
- Taiwan Mobile Medical Mission has 10 doctors and 2 nurses working near the airport with intentions of staying for two weeks.
- Project Concern International is working in temporary settlement clinics and performing primary health care and distributing food and hygiene kits. The group is funded for one year.

- The NGO Love-a-Child is currently focusing on post-operative patients in Fond Parisien, a border town with the Dominican Republic. They have teamed up with Harvard Humanitarian Initiative to provide post-operative and surgical care as well as rehabilitation.
- CMEP (Chinese Medical and Epidemic Prevention) Team just completed working in its mobile clinic. From 27 January to 7 February, the mobile clinic operated at Bicentenaire square and the community of Mais-Gaté, treating 3,921 patients and dispensing over US\$ 100,000 worth of medicine. Their epidemiological staff, with trained local volunteers, cleaned 51,000 square meters, set up 2,200 tents, 27 latrines and created rubbish collection points. They also distributed over 7,800 hygiene promotion and disease prevention pamphlets.
- A PAHO/WHO advisor is supporting the design of a mental health work plan for the affected population and participating in the interagency cluster in mental health and psychosocial support. PAHO/WHO has supported a mental health team deployed by the Dominican Republic in the border region at the General Hospital of Jimani. The team consisting of 1 psychiatrist, 4 psychologists and 3 nurses specialized in mental health developed an action plan to provide psychosocial and mental health support to patients in 5 institutions in the border region. The team is cooperating with all the professionals in these institutions and PAHO/WHO is providing technical support including, for example, advice on recreational activities for hospitalized infants and children. In the next phase, the focus will be on training of primary health care professionals to support families of patients.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support provides two services: psychological/psychiatric interventions and social support. Both are often linked. Sixteen NGOs are operating in the group.
- A meeting of the Reproductive Health subgroup was held with the MOH on February 8 to exchange strategies for integrating reproductive health in the different levels of care. The MOH will soon make available national protocols in the areas of family planning, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, prenatal care, delivery and responses to a rape.
- The Ministry of Health stressed the importance re-establishing the committee on HIV/AIDS, for which UNICEF will play a key role in prevention of mother-to-child transmission. The first meeting was held on 5 February, with some 15 organizations participating. Over 3% of the adult population (pre-crisis) is estimated to be living with HIV and approximately 5,000 babies are born each year with HIV, according to UNICEF.
- Action Relief is providing primary care in mobile clinics and the time frame in Haiti is one year.
- Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad (Chicago) is providing primary care, mobile clinics, and staffing assistance in many locations throughout Port-au-Prince and the country side of Haiti.

WATER AND SANITATION

- During the next six weeks, an expert from UNEP will assess the needs and possibilities for health waste care management. Health care waste continues to be a priority, due to the large amount of medical waste. If waste is not handled properly, it increases risks of vector proliferation and infection of workers and/or patients.
- In collaboration with the Service Métropolitain de Collecte des Résidus Solides (SMCRS), PAHO/WHO set up a system to collect and remove medical waste in all hospitals and dispose them in a safe and organized landfill site. Two teams of four people each are hired to work on the dumping site and to ensure that the disposal site for health care waste and excreta are kept clean.
- Different color bags used to separate waste and safety boxes to place needles and syringes will be available soon on sites where health care is provided.
- PAHO/WHO vaccinated some 600 SMCRS staff working on the collection of waste against tetanus by PAHO/WHO on 8-9 February.
- Due to the large number of patients and families living around hospitals, additional toilets have been built or brought in (portable) to respond to the urgent needs. Sanitation outside the hospitals is a top priority, as the rainy season will begin in a few weeks, thus increasing the risk of fecal contamination.

- In collaboration with DINEPA, PAHO/WHO is developing a project to empty public toilets. A site has already been set up for the safe disposal of excreta at the official landfill of Port au Prince run by the Société Métropolitaine de Collecte des Résidus Solides (SMCRS).
- 2,300 additional hygiene kits arrived from the Dominican Republic on Sunday, 7 February and were delivered to Care (1,300), Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland (250), disability services (500) and International Relief Committee (250).

COORDINATION

- UNHAS is establishing a passenger service for destinations within Haiti. It will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to Jacmel, Petit Goave and Leogane.
- Vector-borne diseases subgroup meeting moved to Thursday at 1pm at the National Public Health Laboratory for this week only.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
General health cluster meeting	Everyday except Sunday 4pm	OCHA Meeting tent
Mobile Clinics subgroup	Every Monday and Thursday 4.20pm	OCHA Meeting tent
Hospital subgroup	Every Tuesday and Friday 4.20pm	OCHA Meeting tent.
Information subgroup	Wednesday and Saturday 4.20pm	OCHA Meeting tent.
Health Subcluster Leogane	Saturday 3pm	LEOGANE OCHA office next to the Mayor Office srhashraf@gmail.com
Health Subcluster Jacmel	Monday, Wednesday , Friday 4.30pm	JACMEL Ministry of Health temporary office Hosanna mtavernier@savechildren.org
Mental Health and Psychological Support subgroup	Sunday 3pm	WHO meeting tent
Vector Control subgroup	Tuesday 1pm	National Public Health Laboratory
Epidemiology subgroup	Everyday 9am	National Public Health Laboratory
Disabilities subgroup	Wednesday 2pm	St Germain rehabilitation centre, behind Hôpital des Petits Frères et Sœurs / St Damien on the left before the US Embassy

CONTACTS

Pan American Health Organization
Emergency Operations Center, Washington DC
eoc@paho.org

Health Cluster in Haiti
haiclsan@paho.org

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 Bulletins at <http://onerresponse.info/Disasters/Haiti/Health/Pages/default.aspx>