

HIGHLIGHTS

Kris Allen, from the US television show American Idol, visited the temporary settlement Petite Place Cazeau in Port-au-Prince, currently home to 3,300 people living in makeshift tents. There he witnessed the UN in action as PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, WFP and UNICEF carried out a nutrition programme on behalf of the MSPP to prevent malnutrition in infants and children. Together with UN Foundation coordinator Kathy Calvin, a video crew filmed interviews with camp residents and learned that food, latrines, nutrition and equipment for newborns were among the displaced population's top priorities. On 25 February, footage from the visit will air on U.S. TV to raise funds for the recovery and reconstruction of Haiti.



Kris Allen distributes food supplements to prevent malnutrition in infants and children

ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- An initial needs assessment led the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) and PAHO/WHO to identify four core activities for disability and rehabilitation:
 1. Reconstruction of the few specialized service centres that had been available in the country prior to the disaster, and construction of new rehabilitation centres in Port-au-Prince and the provincial capitals;
 2. Intensive training of local health staff and provision of expert technical support in all aspects of rehabilitation;
 3. Donations of technical equipment for rehabilitation centres;
 4. Donations of technical accessories and aids for different types of disabilities.

Additionally, mobile clinics will broaden their activities to include the identification and referral of handicapped persons.

GAP FILLING

OUTBREAK CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Since 16 February 2010, 10% (62,533 persons) of the target population in temporary settlements has been vaccinated. The MSPP and NGOs are training additional staff to support the campaign, which is scheduled to end in March.
- Respiratory infections are the main cause of illness, followed by trauma/injury, diarrhoea and suspected malaria;
- There have been no confirmed disease outbreaks. The following have been reported:
 - Two laboratory confirmed cases, one each of typhoid fever and malaria;
 - 18 suspected cases of measles and one suspected case of diphtheria
- Data received from selected IDP camps, not part of the sentinel sites, is showing higher than normal cases of hypertension.

WATER AND SANITATION

- In light of the health risks associated with exposure to healthcare waste, an interagency working group will focus on the management of healthcare waste. The medium and long-term plan developed from the Post Disaster Needs Assessment should include considerations for waste management protocols in health care institutions.



Heavy rains inundated the shelters of many displaced persons in the capital.

PROVISION OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES

- PAHO/WHO began distributing fuel to public health facilities on Monday, 22 February.
- The work of the clusters has contributed to continuous improvements in coordination of hospital services. Public and private hospitals are beginning to offer services on a regular schedule and health care providers are progressively returning to work;
- International volunteers and NGOs are leading in providing specialized services through existing local institutions and hospitals established during the emergency;
- The MSPP, with the assistance of PAHO/WHO, is establishing a clinical coordination centre to improve the patient referral process;
- The International Organization for Migration is working to provide sufficient tents to house patients from the l'Hopital Defilée de Bedeut, the sole hospital for chronic mental diseases, which was seriously damaged in the earthquake. Since then, most of the 76 patients have slept in the garden with no protection.

COORDINATION

- The health cluster now meets three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:00 pm in the OCHA Tent #1, Logbase. Sub-groups continue to meet according to their own schedules;
- The MSPP is creating an emergency health information cell for emergency and post-emergency actions. It will be located in Petionville, Rue Bornet 41.

- The Haitian health authorities will sign a memorandum of understanding with agencies working in Haiti for at least six months. A template of the MoU is available at the health cluster section of www.oneresponse.info.
- NGOs and other partners are requested to include an element of capacity building in their activities.
- Salary guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health are available at www.oneresponse.info. These aim to decrease the salary differentials among organizations and facilitate the handover of operations to the State upon departure of relief agencies.



New health cluster tent to replace the old one inundated by rain

IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES

With the start of the rainy season, it is important to let the public know how to prevent and control dengue and malaria. For more information, please see:

- Link to guidelines on dengue diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control:
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241547871_eng.pdf
- Link to WHO documents regarding malaria and complex emergencies:
http://www.who.int/malaria/epidemics_emergencies/emergencies/en/index.html

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 arrived in Haiti, please take time to read all the Health Cluster Bulletin at <http://oneresponse.info/Disasters/Haiti/Health/Pages/default.aspx>