



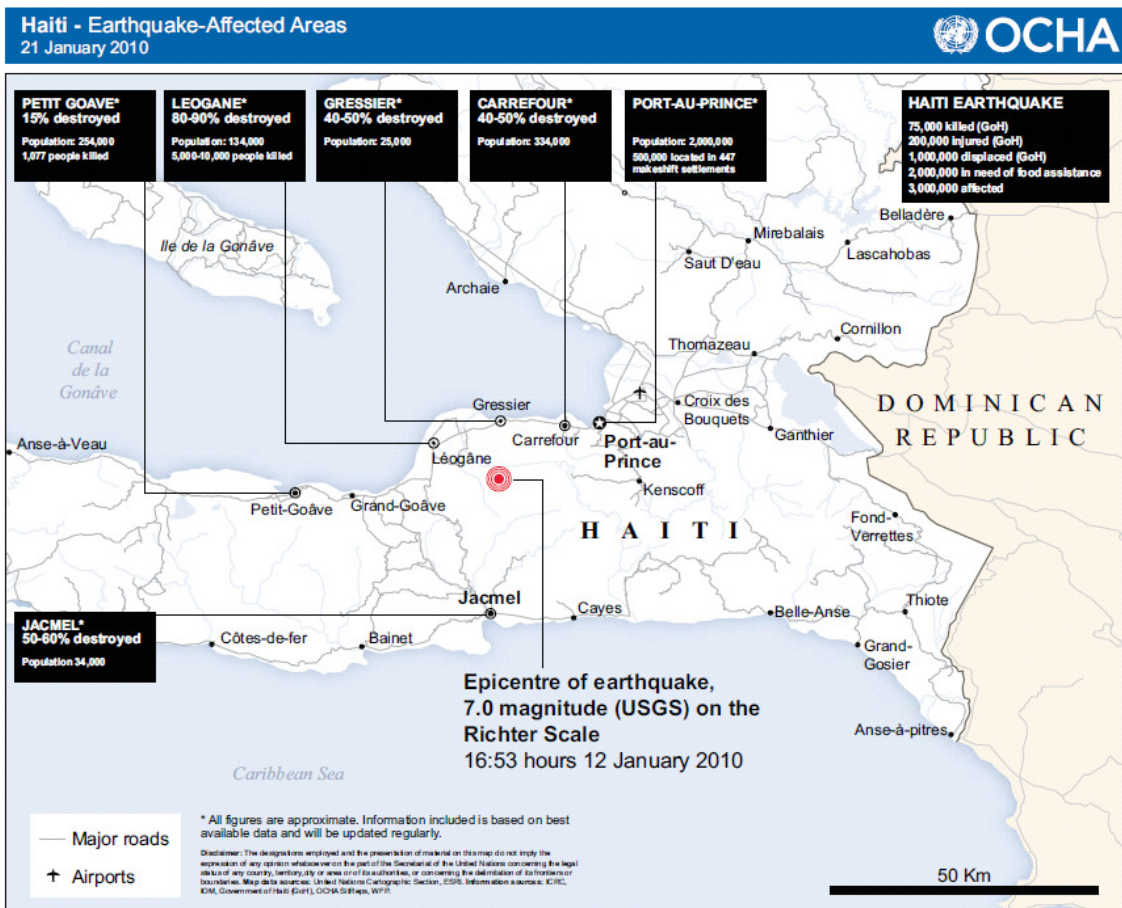
Relief Activity Report No.4

22 January 2010

Haiti: Earthquake relief

I. Overall Situation

A strong aftershock, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck Haiti on Wednesday 20 January centered 26 miles (42 km) west-northwest of Jacmel. The tremor rattled already shattered buildings but there were no immediate reports of damage or deaths. All Malteser International team members are fine.



According to the latest OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) report dated 21 January 2010, aid is getting through to more and more locations.

Water is available at many water points throughout Port-au-Prince but quality remains an issue. Tens of thousands of people still do not have access to shelter. The Haitian government is identifying sites for temporary settlements. Untreated injuries, infectious diseases and sanitary conditions remain a priority concern to prevent death.

The airport remains overstrained. Some 150 planes are landing daily and another 1,000 planes are waiting to get in. The road from the Dominican Republic remains the best option for the majority of incoming cargo. The port is partly functional again, first ships could already be unloaded. At present the port can receive 250 containers per day with an estimated increase to 350 containers per day by 25 January. The port at Jacmel is operational for small ships with drafts of up to 3 metres.

Haitian officials estimate the death toll from last week's quake could be between 100,000 and 200,000, and say that 75,000 bodies have already been buried in mass graves. According to the latest reports the overall security situation in Port-au-Prince remains stable, with limited, localized violence and looting occurring. Emergency relief distributions, including food, water, water purification tablets, medical supplies and shelter material, are continuing on a daily basis. However, a formal distribution system is not yet in place.

There is increasing coordination in aid efforts to help towns outside Haiti's capital. The assistance is more and more moving also beyond Port-au-Prince to other affected areas such as Jacmel, Carrefour and Leogane. In Leogane, the epicentre of the violent quake, the lack of advanced medical facilities prevented many severely injured from getting life-saving surgeries. The Government now has set up eight zones for the distribution of humanitarian assistance. Each zone will receive direct support by a national minister to coordinate the relief effort.

To ease coordination on the ground, OCHA has requested that agencies locate their offices/bases as close as possible to the main logbase camp in Port-au-Prince.

For further information, please visit: www.reliefweb.int

II. Malteser International activities

Dr. Georg Nothelle and the medical team are members of a convoy that has left for Leogane on Friday morning, 22 January. Malteser International will set up a field clinic in the town. Therefore, also the two emergency health kits will be brought to Leogane. – A few days ago, Dr. Mennewisch, one of the medical doctors from Germany, had participated as a medical consultant in an assessment in Leogane together with a delegation from the German Embassy. He reported that the town with about 200,000 inhabitants was nearly completely destroyed by the quake and that by the time only three relief organisations had come to Leogane in order to provide help.

Due to poor hygienic conditions, even simple wounds after first treatment can become dangerous for the patient. The Malteser International medical team is facing high infection rates for wounds that have already received basic treatment. Therefore, Malteser International will reinforce its assistance in the follow-up wound treatment. The two emergency health kits with antibiotics, medicines and dressing material which arrived in Port-au-Prince yesterday couldn't have arrived at a better time.

In addition, further international medical staff has arrived in Haiti on Thursday morning. On Friday 22 January, Dr. Alfred Kinzelbach, Malteser International regional coordinator for Great Lakes and highly experienced public health expert, will arrive from Uganda in order to reinforce the medical team.

In cooperation with COTEDO, a local partner organisation from the Dominican Republic,



Malteser International has started the distribution of food and medicines at five reception camps and emergency clinics on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Furthermore, COTEDO has sent a 25-strong medical team to the crisis region, accompanied by Malteser International expert Annette Waechter-Schneider; the team arrived well Wednesday night (20/21 January).

Annette Waechter-Schneider together with members of the local organisation COTEDO

Geoffrey Gamble, Malteser International Vice-President from the USA, arrived in Santo Domingo on Thursday, 21 January and from there proceeds to Haiti where he will stay until Sunday.

With regard to the aftershock on Wednesday, the Malteser International team in Haiti will now install an earthquake early warning system.

The Polish government provided general medical equipment that was sent to Haiti by a relief flight from Poland to Port-au-Prince and arrived on Thursday, 21 January. The delivery contains five tons of medicine, 1,000 blankets, 200 six-person-tents, three big tents as well as general supplies such as blankets and clothes. The relief goods will be brought to the Hospital Sacre Coeur.

The Hospital Sacre Coeur (73 beds) in the north of Haiti, which has been supported by the Order of Malta for many years already, up to now has received 112 additional patients who are brought to the hospital either by helicopter or by road. On 20 January, Denise Kelly, executive director of the hospital, reports: "US Coast Guard and US Navy are well aware of our capacity to treat the most severely injured. We are the best prepared hospital and perhaps only facility in the country right now equipped to meet the surgical needs of the most seriously injured. A lot of children and infants are now arriving in need of amputations. Many of them have lost their parents. It is very difficult emotionally for our medical volunteers and we will be rotating with groups not staying more than one week at a time. Various



organizations and the General Hospital in Port au Prince

Injured survivors of the quake are brought to the Hospital Sacre Coeur by helicopters

have contacted us to say that they have many urgently in need of surgery. We have told them that they just need to get them to us. In spite of the fact that we have already had an influx of 112 injured survivors of the quake, we have informed the US Navy and Coast Guard that we are willing to take an additional 100 of the most severely injured right away." -

- For further information about the work of the hospital, please visit the website www.crudem.org.

III. Staff

From Saturday (23 January) onwards, Malteser International will have 11 staff available on the ground:



Arrival of relief items in Haiti

Chief logistician Cesar Russo arrived in Haiti on Wednesday (20 January) and brought with him two emergency health kits containing antibiotics, medicines and dressing material to provide emergency relief and basic medical treatment for 20,000 people for three months.

The medical staff from the Cuban association (two medical doctors and three nurses) arrived on Thursday, 21 January and will replace the current medical team members from the Cuban and the French

Association who returned to their

home countries as well as the three German medical staff members.

Dr. Georg Nothelle will extend his stay to assure the handover of responsibilities to Beate Maass, who will coordinate all of Malteser International's relief activities in the crisis region for the next three months. Thus, Malteser International is already preparing to offer long-term assistance. Nothelle will probably return to Germany in the middle of next week.

Dr Alfred Kinzelbach, Malteser International Regional Coordinator for the Great Lakes and public health expert, will come from Uganda and arrive in Santo Domingo on Friday 22 January in order to proceed to Port-au-Prince. He will be in charge of the medical assessment.

Wanda Welker, Malteser International project assistant in Cambodia, will arrive in Santo Domingo on Friday (22 January) and will stay there until the return of Annette Waechter-Schneider for handover. She will then proceed to Haiti in order to take care of administration duties.

Today Malteser International decided to set up a health center in Leogane that is meant to run with rotating national volunteer teams. Further details will be worked out by next week.

Furthermore, Malteser International offers and recommends debriefings for helpers and journalists returning from Haiti. The members of our teams in Haiti are continuously confronted with terrible scenes: destruction, dead bodies everywhere and the smell of decay. This scenario resembles a 24-hour horror movie that one can only survive by being perma-

nently engaged in relief activities. Disaster operations can be a great strain for the helpers. The experiences and the scenes which have to be confronted in such a crisis region are beyond all imagination.

The staff specialised in debriefing are trained in the internationally accredited "Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)". Symptoms that may arise after such stressful disaster operations can be sleeping problems, restlessness, irritability and a changed social behaviour that is often noticed by family and friends. In case these reactions don't decrease after two to four weeks, professional assistance should be requested.

IV. Appeal for donations

Malteser International is extremely grateful for the donations that have already been sent by the Canadian Association of the Order (10,000 Canadian Dollars) and the British Order of Malta Aid Service (10,000 US Dollars). In addition, the British Association today confirmed a contribution of 120,000 US Dollars; the Embassy of the Order of Malta in the Dominican Republic announced a financial support amounting to 10,000 US Dollars and the Dutch Association an initial donation of 1,000 Euros. Furthermore, the associations and/or embassies in Austria, Belgium, Chile, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United States have launched donation appeals.

Malteser International needs your generosity to help the people affected by this severe earthquake. The homeless people, the injured and the hungry will need our support not only in the current disaster situation but also for the rehabilitation period – in Haiti as well as in the border region of the Dominican Republic. The extent and sustainable success of our assistance in these emergencies is largely depending on external and internal funding.

Malteser International is therefore highly appreciating all financial contributions to the benefit of the people in Haiti. Your contribution will directly support a workable and reliable relief effort based on the greatest needs of the earthquake survivors.

In order to avoid "fundraising confusion" and high bank fees, we suggest that all associations should first use their own internal system for collecting donations and afterwards transfer donations to the following Malteser International bank account:

Donation Account 2020122
Pax-Bank Köln, von-Werth-Str. 25-27, D-50670 Köln, Germany,
Sort Code 370 60 193
IBAN DE93 3706 0193 0002 0201 22
BIC GENODED1PAX
Reference: "Earthquake relief Haiti"

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We shall keep you informed about all further developments.

Yours sincerely

Ingo Radtke
Secretary General