

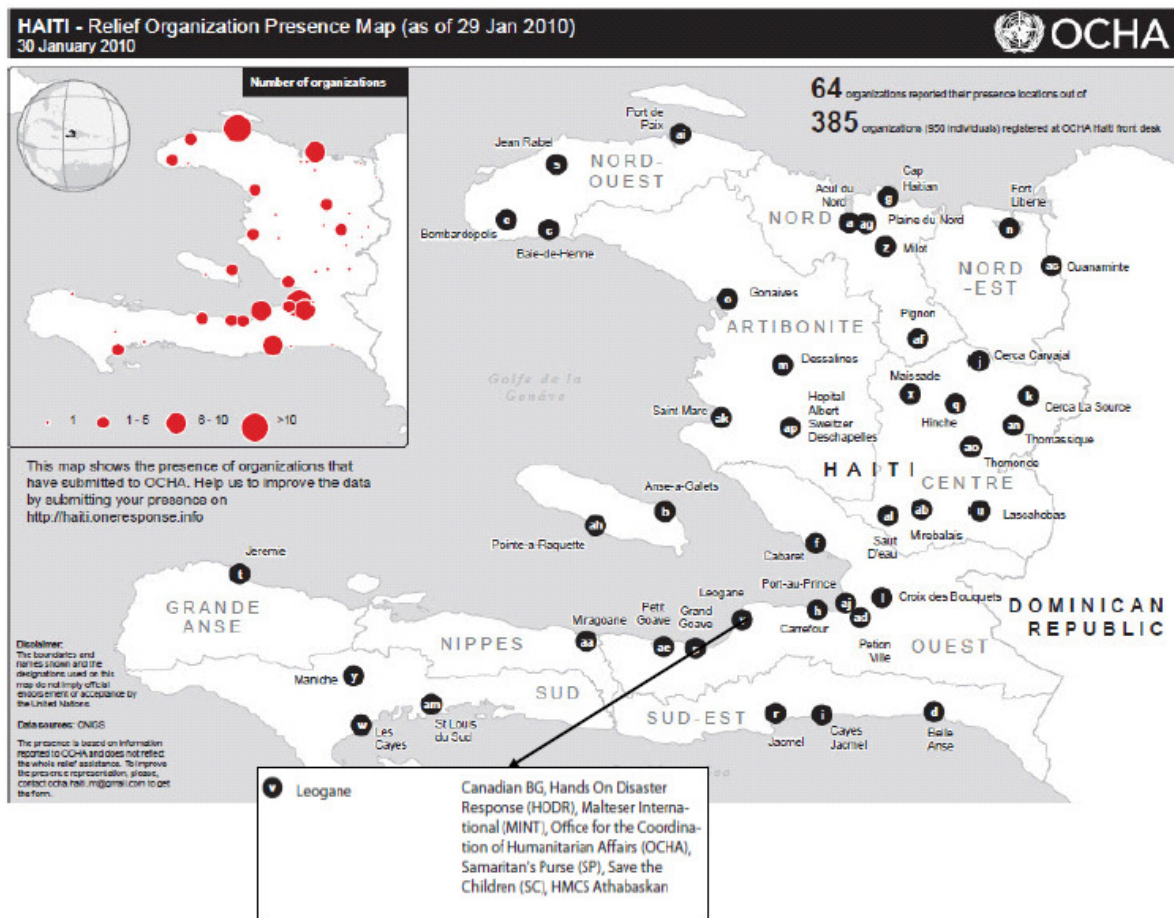
Relief Activity Report No. 6

5 February 2010

Haiti: Earthquake relief

I. Overall Situation

General: According to latest official estimations, more than 200,000 people are recorded as dead and about one million people was left without shelter in all affected areas. More than 230,000 IPDs (internally displaced persons) have already left Port-au-Prince for the rural areas. In Léogâne and the surrounding areas, up to now no shelter solutions have arrived, people are still living in make-shift tents and camps. The food situation is still poor, water is trucked to various places and provided in bladder tanks by relief organisations. First sprinkle of rains has started.



According to the latest OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) Situation Report, these are the key priorities for relief in Haiti:

Health: In Léogâne, medical teams have reported a growing caseload of diarrhoea in the last two to three days. There have also been cases of tetanus reported as well as suspected cases of measles in Léogâne. The World Health Organisation is working to strengthen surveillance networks to ensure that outbreaks of communicable diseases, particularly water-borne and respiratory diseases, are identified early for more rapid control and saving of lives. Targeted vaccination programmes will begin today, 2 February, for populations in temporary settlements. The need persists for the establishment of postoperative care and mobile facilities and mobile clinics. In addition, it is reported that the psychological impact of the disaster is becoming more apparent in the symptoms being seen at clinics; one, in Léogâne, reported that approximately half of the people receiving treatment were suffering from mental trauma.

WASH: According to latest reports, water is reaching 308,000 people through 133 distribution points in Port-au-Prince. Relief organisations are expanding coverage, specifically to Léogâne and Jacmel. Additional boreholes and new contractors are being identified to increase production and distribution capacity. Five private companies are currently involved in water production and distribution. In addition to water distribution, sanitation is a high priority, especially with the onset of the rainy season approaching. Latrines have been constructed in Léogâne, Petit Goave and Grand Goave, supporting 20,000 people. Sanitation will remain an important public health issue in the coming weeks in order to avoid the spread of diseases.

Shelter: The provision of shelter remains an urgent need for the hundreds of thousands of displaced people in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and Jacmel. With regard to the impending rainy season, plastic sheeting is now being prioritized over tents.

Nutrition: The World Food Programme of the United Nations and its partners reached 100,000 people on 31 January with a two-week ration of rice. This is part of a surge operation to reach two million people in two weeks.

Schools in unaffected areas of Haiti reopened on 1 February. Between 2,500 and 4,600 schools were affected by the earthquake, according to UNICEF.

In order to stimulate the local economy, UNDP has started engaging Haitians in cash-for-work programmes. So far, some 7,500 people have been hired for initial activities such as rubble removal and road clearing.

The security situation in Port-au-Prince and other affected areas remains stable. There has been a need for crowd control measures at food distribution points and some distributions have been disrupted. Military escorts are required for UN relief distributions.

The airport at Port-au-Prince continues to receive large quantities of incoming goods but the situation on the tarmac is improving. Goods are offloaded into a secure humanitarian cargo area with a military unit in place, with loading and transport for airlift if required.

Coordination: The OCHA Haiti Office is focusing on the establishment of a 'who is doing what where' (3W) matrix to support overall coordination and identify gaps in the response.

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

II. Malteser International activities

On 29 January 2010, Malteser International took over the health post in Léogâne from their Argentinean partners; they had already been working together in the camp for about one week. The currently 11-strong team, consisting of medical doctors, nurses, a midwife and a paramedic, provides basic medical assistance in the camp and the surrounding areas. Whereas the need for surgical interventions is decreasing, there is still an urgent need for post-operative care and epidemiological surveillance. Instead of emergency health care more and more primary health care and preventative health care is needed. That means, next to injuries caused by the earthquake, wound after treatment is needed. In addition, diseases like tetanus or diarrhoea occur and have to be attended. Therefore, the medical team will also support urgently needed vaccination campaigns. According to reports of the World Health Organisation some cases of tetanus have occurred as well as suspicions of measles though this has not been confirmed yet. (see: Overall situation)



The team at work in the health camp in Léogâne

„The conditions in the camp are still rudimentary, patients have to lie on the floor”, Beate Maass, humanitarian coordinator of Malteser International, explains. During the last weekend, in-patients were transferred to neighbouring clinics or field hospitals. Many hospitals are functional again, local staff is being supported by staff of relief organisations. Therefore, Malteser International will concentrate on outpatient treatment in Léogâne.

There is also an urgent need of latrines for the patients as well as a need for means of transport. Malteser International's partner organisation Arche Nova takes care of the water supply in the camp and is going to build makeshift latrines for the patients.

Medicine and dressing material are now available in Haiti. The problem, however, is a problem of distribution and of destroyed infrastructure. As consequence, the medical assistance as well as further relief goods do not reach all people in need. Therefore, Malteser International will also set up mobile medical teams for outreach activities.

To improve the supply of water and sewage and to avoid the outbreak of epidemics, Malteser International will bring two water treatment plants to the crisis region financed by the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Each of these is able to produce 6,000 litres of water which allows providing 8,000 people with sufficient drinking water daily. Furthermore Malteser International is going to start with hygiene and health promotion campaigns within the next few days.

On 3 February, a medical unit sponsored by EADS as well as further tents and dressing material, arrived in Haiti by a cargo flight from Luxemburg via Santo Domingo in order to be installed in the health post in Léogâne.

In cooperation with a network of 16 local relief organisations from the Dominican Republic sending volunteers to Haiti, Malteser International will provide further assistance to homeless people and give financial support to this network and their volunteers attending medical needs and preparing the distribution of 1,500 family kits for about 7,500 people in and around Port-au-Prince. The family kits contain food and non-food items such as blankets, soap, matches, candles etc.

In Milot, in the hospital "Sacre Coeur" which was not destroyed by the quake over 400 patients have been treated so far by the Order's partner organisation CRUDEM, capacities for 600 patients are available. The hospital in the north of Haiti is one of the few hospitals in Haiti where even surgeries of severe injuries can be performed. Malteser International is in close contact with the colleagues working in the hospital and at present is evaluating, together with CRUDEM, the possibilities of further cooperation.

Further planning:

Short-term: In addition to the health post in Léogâne, Malteser International is planning to set up a second health post in Darbonne, a village with several thousand inhabitants, close to Léogâne; both health posts will also serve as bases for outreach and vaccination campaigns.

Intermediate-term: Malteser International proposes an integrated common effort of all stakeholders of the Order in Haiti. The President of Malteser International, Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen, has therefore proposed to H.E. the Grand Hospitaller Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager to hold a meeting to design a "Haiti Master plan of the Order of Malta" in due time. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Miami in the beginning of March.

Long-term: Next to the emergency assistance, Malteser International is planning to ensure further aid efforts in order to support the country in reconstruction and development and to integrate its present activities in the field of basic health care into the Haitian health care structures.

What we have done up to now:

Port-au-Prince:

- On 14 January 2010, Malteser International has sent an eight-headed medical team via the Dominican Republic to Haiti. The team consists of two members of “Ordre de Malte France” – one medical doctor, one logistician – two medical staff members – both native Haitians – from the Cuban Association of the Order of Malta in Miami and three members – two medical doctors, one public health expert – of Malteser Germany. Head of the mission has been the Malteser International emergency relief coordinator Dr. Georg Nothelle
- On Sunday, 17 January, the medical team have started first aid and medical treatment for the injured survivors of the earthquake at the damaged hospital “Francois de Sales”
- Setup of a cooperation with a NGO from the Dominican Republic active in Haiti, COTEDO (Comision de Trabajo Ecumenico Domenicano), to join their mission to Haiti which comprises the distribution of food and drugs at five locations outside Port-au-Prince
- Participation in assessments of the UN of several hospitals in Port-au-Prince
- Participation in UN-cluster-meetings
- working together with OCHA, the UN’s office for coordination of humanitarian affairs, to assess the overall need for medical aid

Léogâne:

- On 22 January the medical team left for the Léogâne that is located close to the epicentre of the earthquake and there from suffered great damages (up to 90 % of the town reported to be damaged). In Léogâne the team has started its work in an already established Argentinean camp, giving first aid to the injured survivors, treating infections and acting as maternity clinic
- 2 emergency health kits (WHO standard) delivered to Port-au-Prince by chief-logistician Cesar Russo with a flight from Belgium. The EHK were brought to Léogâne with a convoy on Friday, 22 January. The two emergency health kits contain antibiotics, medicines and dressing material to provide emergency relief and basic medical treatment for 20,000 people for three months in Léogâne

Milot:

- In the north of Haiti the Order of Malta has been supporting the hospital “Sacré Coeur” for about 15 years already. Seriously injured survivors of the quake have been brought to the hospital by helicopters and have been provided effectually with medical assistance.

III. Staff

In a Malteser International conference call last Friday (29 January) with representatives of various member associations of Malteser International participating it was agreed that the health post in Léogâne will be staffed by volunteer teams sent by national associations of the Order of Malta for at least the next three months (February – April 2010). The general objective, however, is to employ as many local staff as soon as possible in order to make the Malteser International activities more sustainable. Malteser International will provide a short medical report on a weekly basis to ensure that teams are recruited according to the actual requirements in Léogâne.

All volunteer teams will consist of: two medical doctors, two midwives/gynaecologists, up to four nurses and two Creole speaking nurses (sent by either the Cuban or the French association for each team for the next three months). The minimum period of deployment per team is three weeks; an exception is made for the Creole speaking nurses. Furthermore, a fluent command of the French language is essential for the team members.

The following associations have already promised to send a volunteer team to Haiti:

- American team: 19 February – 16 March
- Italian team: 12 March – 6 April
- French team: 2 April – 27 April

All dates are subject to change and overlap to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities.

All other associations are encouraged and welcome to contribute to a team if someone has the language skill to integrate easily. Malteser International will cover flight (economy class), food and accommodation costs for the volunteers. Towards the third and fourth slot, teams may decrease as Malteser International will have to hire more local staff. Malteser International commits to communicate clearly and in due time the reasons for such changes in team size.

In addition to the volunteer medical team, a Chief Medical Officer will be employed on a permanent basis – if possible - in order to ensure the continuity of the work. In the midst of February, Dr. Branko Dubajic from Serbia, Malteser International Programme Coordinator Health and Country Representative in Pakistan, will assume this post for the next four weeks.

David Perry from the UK will take over the post of Cesar Russo as logistic coordinator and leave for Haiti within the next day.

At present, the Malteser International team in Léogâne consists of 11 team members, most of them being volunteers sent from the Cuban and the German association (Malteser Germany). A gynaecologist will leave for Haiti on 5 February 2010. Furthermore, the first local staff



Team member with a little girl in the health camp in Léogâne

members – among them three nurses – have been employed to support the work of the medical team.

In Port-au-Prince, the team consists of the humanitarian coordinator, an administrator and a logistic coordinator as well as first local staff.

IV. Appeal for donations

Malteser International is extremely grateful for the donations that have already been sent or announced. 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”

For further enquiries, please contact Mr. Sid Johann Peruvemba.

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We shall keep you informed about all further developments.

Yours sincerely

Ingo Radtke
Secretary General