

Plan Haiti – Plan ROA  
Situation Report No-03

Haiti Earthquake  
Haiti's South West and Central province

15-01-2010

Situational Update

- Three days after the earthquake, the flow of information within Haiti and to the outside world continues to represent a challenge, as does the circulation of much contradictory information.
- It is still too early to provide an official count of the dead from Tuesday's magnitude-7.0 earthquake. The Red Cross estimates that 3 million people are injured or homeless. Many people remain missing and corpses continue to be placed on the streets, often by loved ones, for collection and burial. Bodies are now being taken to Minustah HQ from where they will be taken for burial in one of 3 – 4 mass graves.
- The level of infrastructure damage is becoming clearer, with 50% of buildings severely damaged or destroyed in many areas.
- The airport continues to operate at reduced capacity with considerable congestion continuing due to the offloading of the US military equipment, reduced air-staff, no fuel available for refueling and a non-functioning air control tower. While some humanitarian flights were able to land today, many others had to divert, often at the last moment, and mainly to Santo Domingo where the airport is also becoming increasingly congested.
- Meanwhile the port cannot be used due to serious structural damage (including to the cranes) and blockage of the access roads by fallen containers.
- Fortunately road access between Santo Domingo and Port au Prince has improved allowing a relatively free and secure flow of traffic. The road is now already being heavily used as a supply corridor, though organizations are already experiencing problems hiring lorries of sufficient capacity in the DR.
- Eight hospitals have been so seriously damaged that they are unusable, five are functioning. The WHO has not as yet been able to assess the situation with respect to available medicines and supplies. Hundreds of injured Haitians are arriving every day at Jimani hospital, which is just across the border in the DR.
- There are increasing problems within the Capital with lack of food and water; a WFP warehouse was looted last night and looting of shops continues. Water is being used as currency and sold at much inflated prices. Diesel fuel is selling on the black market in Port-au-Prince for \$25 a gallon, while it usually sells for \$3 a gallon.
- MINUSTAH is patrolling and around 5000 US troops are expected to contribute to the security efforts as of tomorrow. In general the situation remains relatively calm, though there are increasing signs of unease

amongst the population as it awaits assistance. As a result there is much concern about the risk of an escalation of violence over the coming days.

- A lack of information about the situation of children continues to represent a major cause for concern, recognizing that they represent the most vulnerable group in this situation. Expert estimates suggest that 46 per cent of Haiti's nearly 10 million people are under 18 years of age. At particular risk are unaccompanied children and those who have lost parents in the disaster. The Protection Cluster has been activated and will probably include unaccompanied children and the need to prevent trafficking and abuse as key issues. There is a clear need to work with the communities to support them in keeping children safe and protected and to ensure that their special needs for food, shelter, play, education and protection are factored in from the very outset of relief efforts.
- The humanitarian relief effort is beginning to increase as international staff begins to arrive to support local staff, many of whom remain severely psychologically traumatized and - like most of the population - are suffering from a lack of food, water and shelter. The UN head of mission is still missing.
- An estimated 27 Search and Rescue teams are working flat out to recover people buried under the rubble.
- The World Food Program has been able to recover food from damaged warehouses in the city and has started distribution. They are expecting the arrival of nearly 150 metric tons of high energy foods over the weekend which will be used to start a distribution program for 2 million people. OCHA is working with the Haitian authorities to set up a field hospital in the national stadium.
- Meanwhile, lack of working space, accommodation, food and supplies for relief staff is already an issue and some agencies are delaying increases in personnel numbers until this situation improves. Officials caution that international aid teams arriving in Haiti need to be self-sufficient in terms of transportation, lodging, food, and water, or they'll be putting pressure on services that are already strained.

## Plan's Response

- The Support Mission arrived safely at the office in Port au Prince this afternoon, and has already met with Rezene Tesfamariam, the Country Director and his team.
- A Country Office team was already working flat out when this international support team arrived.
- In Jacmel, where three shelters for a total of 1000 homeless people have been set up, Plan staff has been working since the day after the quake in the distribution of family kits, food and water, in coordination with the governor and other organizations. The purchase of 4000 tents in DR is underway for homeless families from this city.
- With the arrival of the support mission, a systematic assessment will begin over the weekend, building on early work done by the Haiti Team. A team will also travel to Jacmel to undertake a needs assessment in this location. These assessments will probably focus on child protection, water and sanitation, and health – including sexual and reproductive health and HIV.
- Plan Dominican Republic continues to provide high levels of support, including for procurement of supplies, fuel and cash for purchases in Haiti as well as the provision of technical staff and vehicles. They plan to hire three additional logistic support staff to expedite these major efforts.

- Plan Haiti and the DR do not have the capacity to support journalists who wish to enter Haiti, nor governments wishing to send in supplies.

## **External Coordination**

- The international team that arrived in PAP this afternoon will be supporting the coordination of Plan Haiti's response with the broader relief efforts, through OCHA and the Clusters. In the meantime at the regional level, Plan ROA is coordinating with REDLAC.
- Plan ROA, which is currently the Secretariat of the Latin American chapter of the Global Movement for Children, will facilitate a meeting of member organizations on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 to discuss coordination and joint efforts, for instance in advocacy or documentation of the disaster and its impact on children. SOS Children's Villages has one big office outside of PaP in good condition and is offering the use of this facility to other members of the GMC.
- Plan DR is planning to coordinate a meeting with several of the larger sister organizations and USAID next Tuesday to discuss support to relief efforts.