



**American
Red Cross**

HAITI: EARTHQUAKES

February 5, 2010



On January 12, a series of earthquakes ranging from magnitude 6.5 to 7.3 struck Haiti. More than 50 aftershocks have occurred. This is already the largest, single-country, relief operation in global Red Cross history in terms of number of Red Cross emergency relief teams deployed. While the relief operation continues to focus on meeting the immediate needs of survivors, the American Red Cross and our global partners are beginning to develop longer-term recovery plans.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As medical teams in Haiti continue to evaluate and treat the victims of the devastating earthquake, the American Red Cross is coordinating shipments of blood and blood products to Haiti at the request of the Pan American Health Organization. On February 3, the American Red Cross coordinated the shipment of 350 units of blood to Haiti. In total, 1,100 units of blood have been sent to Haiti by the Red Cross and our partners to help treat earthquake victims.
- The International Organization for Migration estimates that 1 million people are in need of shelter.

CURRENT SITUATION

Health – The sanitation situation in Haiti is causing serious concern for a potential epidemic outbreak of water-borne diseases. A major vaccination program began Tuesday, February 2, to vaccinate more than 250,000 children, ages 6 weeks to 7 years, against measles, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus. This campaign also includes psychosocial support, community health and hygiene promotion activities, and will initially target displaced persons in settlement sites in the capital before expanding to other affected areas. Additionally, Red Cross health facilities have grown to see approximately 1,200 patients per day, with around 9,000 seen since the Red Cross relief operation began on January 12.

Water and Sanitation – Authorities are working with the Red Cross to identify permanent settlements within Port-au-Prince, a critical step towards developing a long-term strategy for water and sanitation. The Red Cross and our partners are providing daily water for an estimated 519,000 people at 133 sites in Port-au-Prince, Leogane and Jacmel. The Red Cross alone is now producing 1 million liters of water per day, enough for 200,000 people. In addition, Red Cross Mass Sanitation Emergency Response Units are constructing latrines in Leogane and the Port-au-Prince neighborhoods of Lacule, La Piste and Automeca.

Shelter and Relief Items – To date, Red Cross distributions of food and relief items have reached nearly 24,400 families (or 122,000 people). The involvement of local volunteers from the Haitian National Red Cross Society allows Red Cross teams to distribute aid in an orderly and efficient manner. Red Cross teams made up of local and visiting volunteers visit a community in advance to alert them that aid is coming, register beneficiaries and distribute vouchers. They return by the next day to hand out the supplies at a



American Red Cross volunteer Christophe Lobry-Boulanger, en route to Haiti, is greeted by jetBlue employee Adrian Lopez at Dulles International Airport. With jetBlue's support, the American Red Cross has sent 23 disaster response volunteers and 3 tons of relief equipment to the Dominican Republic free of charge.

Dennis Drenner/American Red Cross

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pre-determined location to recipients with vouchers. These steps have helped to ensure an orderly distribution without the need for security forces.

Logistics – The humanitarian aid pipeline is opening wider and wider and logistical problems are getting smaller and smaller. The Port-au-Prince seaport is open in a limited capacity, with the ability to offload smaller-sized 20-foot containers. The ports of Cap Haitian, St. Marc and Miragoane are functional but all have limited capacity. The Port-au-Prince airport is handling approximately 120 to 150 planes per day—primarily U.S. military aircraft, U.S. civilian flights carrying relief cargo, and international humanitarian flights. To date, more than 70 flights carrying Red Cross aid from around the world have arrived in Santo Domingo and Haiti. Four Red Cross warehouses in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are being heavily restocked and a fleet of 12 trucks are distributing the supplies throughout the Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas.



Andre Rovulus opens a box of heater meals provided to his family by the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross is working with the World Food Programme to distribute 3 million ready-to-eat meals to earthquake survivors.

Talia Frenkel/American Red Cross

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONSE

The American Red Cross has committed nearly \$78 million to meet the most urgent needs of earthquake survivors. Because of the generosity of donors, people in Haiti will receive more than immediate relief—they will receive resources, support and training from the Red Cross that will help them recover and rebuild in the years ahead.

Today, Red Cross teams are on the ground assessing ways to not only meet the immediate needs but also provide long-term recovery assistance, such as restarting the local market economy and addressing housing needs. The American Red Cross is in Haiti as a part of the broader and coordinated Red Cross and Red Crescent network. You can learn more about our response in Haiti by visiting www.RedCross.org/Haiti/.

SUPPORT OF DONORS

The American Red Cross can accept gifts designated to the ongoing response to the earthquakes in Haiti, but asks that donors consider making a gift to the International Response Fund. Donors can help the victims of countless crises around the world each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other support to help those in need. Donations to the International Response Fund can be sent to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013 or made by phone at 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting redcross.org.

To learn more about the work of American Red Cross in the U.S. and around the world, please visit redcross.org.