



# Guidance on the Situation in Haiti

**22 January 2010**

## **Key developments**

- Search and rescue efforts are ongoing and the UN and many international teams are doing all they can to find and rescue survivors. At the same time, the UN is shifting its central focus to the effective and timely distribution of humanitarian assistance. According to Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General (A/SRSG) for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) Edmond Mulet, aid delivery efforts are now moving into a more structured and coordinated phase, with supplies reaching more and more locations, including outside Port-au-Prince. More than 500 organizations are now involved in relief efforts.
- The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on 22 January urging Member States to contribute to the emergency relief and rehabilitation of Haiti. The resolution called for continuing the emergency relief efforts with the aim of early recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in the medium and long-term.
- A statement of principles was signed on 22 January between the US Ambassador to Haiti and A/SRSG Mulet, delineating roles of the United States and United Nations in support of the Government of Haiti in earthquake relief efforts.
- The security situation remains generally calm, with sporadic and localized incidents of violence mostly in areas considered high-risk prior to the disaster.
- MINUSTAH continues to provide escorts for humanitarian aid to ensure it is delivered safely and distributed equitably.
- The cluster system led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is operational and working well, coordinating all UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian organizations on the ground.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has distributed more than 1.5 million food rations to approximately 250,000 Haitians affected by the earthquake, which amounts to 4 million meals. In the coming days, WFP is aiming to deliver five-day rations to 100,000 people each day.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is reaching children in Haiti with life-saving support. It is working with partners to ensure that, by the end of the week, all children under the age of 5 who are separated or unaccompanied, are cared for – in a safe place and properly fed. Concerns about their health, and the dangers of trafficking and exploitation, are real and serious.

- Aid supplies are arriving on 150-170 flights a day at Port-au-Prince airport, although a lack of equipment for unloading cargo and a shortage of trucks and fuel have contributed to bottlenecks.
- A/SRSG Mulet, the UN Force Commander, and advisors to President Préval visited Jacmel and Leogane on 21 January to examine the impact of the earthquake in those cities. They noted Leogane was the hardest hit, requiring urgent medical, sanitary, and food assistance. They also overflowed the municipality of Gressier, located between Leogane and Carrefour, which was also severely affected.
- Some Haitian banks are scheduled to open on Monday, 25 January, with security provided by UN peacekeepers.
- The UN echoes UN Special Envoy for Haiti Bill Clinton's calls for the general public not to send in-kind donations, but to send cash instead, as it will provide assistance that will reach people faster. Information on how and where to donate can be found at: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minustah/index.shtml>
- A/SRSG Mulet also noted that ad hoc aid efforts, while crucial in the early days of the crisis, should coordinate with the UN in order to access security.

### **Key Statistics**

- The Haitian Government estimates 75,000 people killed, 200,000 injured and 1 million displaced.
- 3 million are assumed to be affected.
- 2 million are in need of food.
- A minimum of 300,000 are in need of shelter.
- 70 UN staff are confirmed dead.
- 146 UN staff remain unaccounted for.

### **Situation summary**

**Security:** The security situation remains generally calm, despite some incidents of violence mostly in areas considered high-risk prior to the disaster, such as the Belair, Martissant and Cité Soleil communes of Port-au-Prince. MINUSTAH instituted a curfew in Port-au-Prince from 21h00 to 06h00. The US is providing additional escort capacity at the request of the UN and this is being coordinated through MINUSTAH. According to the UN Police, 70% of the manpower of the Haitian National Police (HNP) throughout the country has been reporting for duty and performing their tasks this week. The UN Police Commissioner, Gerard Chaumont, met on 20 January with the US Ambassador in Haiti, Kenneth Merten, to discuss the construction of 50-100 supplementary housing areas for prison inmates in the Port-au-Prince area. The mobile units have already reportedly been dispatched from the US. Local radio stations are broadcasting appeals for calm and getting local celebrities on-air to reinforce the message.

**Search and rescue:** No new updates: more than 121 people had been rescued by international teams and countless numbers by Haitians.

**Coordination—Haiti, UN and US:** On 22 January, the US Ambassador to Haiti and A/SRSG Edmond Mulet signed a statement of principles on field coordination between the UN in Haiti and the US Government in the earthquake response effort. According to the document, the Government of Haiti has primary responsibility for the response to the earthquake, including the maintenance of security and public order by the Haitian National Police, and in leading recovery and reconstruction efforts. Coordination of the

international community's earthquake response is being led by the UN (OCHA/MINUSTAH), in consultation with the Haitian government.

Consistent with its mandate under Security Council resolution 1542 (2004), MINUSTAH (the UN peacekeeping mission) is to ensure a secure and stable environment; assist in the restoration and maintenance of the rule of law, public safety and public order; protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence within its capabilities and areas of deployment.

The US will deploy a US Joint Task Force (JTF) Haiti to support the humanitarian response. The tasks of the JTF include seeking to ensure the functioning of the transportation infrastructure.

“The US is also prepared to assist the Government of Haiti as needed in augmenting of security in support of the Government, the people of Haiti and the UN and international partners and organizations on the ground.” US military forces will operate under a US chain of command. The US government “commits to take into account, and as appropriate, fully support priority humanitarian and logistical requirements identified by the UN in their response activities.”

The US and Canada are increasing their role in providing aid and security for the delivery of aid. The US will work in and around Port-au-Prince, and is responsible for directing air traffic through the airport. Canada will take the lead in facilitating the delivery of aid and security, alongside MINUSTAH, in affected areas outside of the capital.

**Coordination—The cluster system:** The cluster system is now working well, bringing together NGOs, UN agencies and all other humanitarian organizations. Twelve clusters have been established and are holding regular meetings. Haiti Government officials participate in cluster meetings and are coordinating through the cluster system. Logistics staff are coordinating the arrival of assistance in Port-au-Prince and the Dominican Republic, as well as at the border with the Dominican Republic. Six civilian-military coordination staff are now deployed from OCHA in Washington D.C., in Florida with the US Southern Command, and in the field. The UN logistics team also has dedicated civilian-military staff working 24/7 with military teams on the ground.

#### **Logistics:**

**Airport:** 150-170 flights a day are now landing at Port-au-Prince airport, up from 100 earlier this week and from 25 a day before the earthquake. There is a continued bottleneck at the airport, with a lack of equipment for unloading cargo and a serious shortage of trucks and fuel to move aid onwards. US teams are working to restore San Isidro airfield in the Dominican Republic.

**Port:** The port is operational following repairs on the South Pier and the first ship has docked with 123 metric tons of aid. The port is now able to receive 250 containers per day, which will increase to 350 next week. The majority of supplies will now come by sea.

**Roads:** Main urban roads are being cleared by UN peacekeepers. 224 roads were reported as completely blocked to motorized traffic, and 467 partially blocked in Port-au-Prince and Carrefour. Satellite images revealed 691 logistical obstacles in those cities alone. The logistics cluster is planning on bringing in 12,000 gallons of fuel every second day by road from the Dominican Republic.

**Medical/health:** The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that as of 20 January, 18 hospitals were functioning in the Port-au-Prince area with support from NGOs and the military. Six more field hospitals are en route. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and WHO are managing a medical facility that has provided free medicines and supplies to 50 organizations. WHO reports eight hospitals in Port-au-Prince were destroyed or seriously damaged (there were 11 before the earthquake). A US navy hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, has arrived with 500 medical personnel and 1,000 beds, and has treated more than 240 patients.

The feared spread of infectious diseases is not yet an issue. The most common medical issues include fractures, crushed bones, burns, head injuries, gangrene (requiring amputation) and complicated births. Many fracture cases now need urgent surgical intervention due to the period elapsed since the earthquake. Secondary infections from earthquake wounds are a major issue. Hospitals need water and fuel, and the removal of medical waste is a priority.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has expressed concern about the status of some 63,000 pregnant women in the impacted area, who no longer have reliable access to health services. Of these, 7,000 are due to deliver in the next month. UNFPA has supplied safe delivery kits and emergency reproductive health kits to meet the needs of 150,000 women. UNFPA is about to deliver another 173 reproductive health kits, meeting the needs of 1.5 million people. Each kit has enough supplies for a three-month period and includes life saving medicines, supplies and equipment to ensure clean and safe deliveries, handle obstetric emergencies, and treat other reproductive health issues. UNFPA has also sent 20,000 dignity kits which contain sanitary napkins, diapers, anti-bacterial soap, and other hygienic supplies.

The need to ensure the continuity of care for chronic conditions (such as HIV and tuberculosis) was identified as an immediate priority by a UN rapid public health assessment completed on 15 January 2010.

**Water:** Clean drinking water is a priority, and hospitals have been badly affected. Only 50% of Haitians had access to clean water before the earthquake. Aid agencies have established 82 water distribution points and 180 water trucks in Port-au-Prince, and capacity to distribute to 180,000 people. As of 20 January, 755,000 litres of water had been provided to 151,000 people, with additional support to hospitals and orphanages.

**Food:** Many survivors have had little or no access to food since the earthquake struck. The World Food Programme (WFP) has been distributing existing supplies, but far more is needed. Bringing in food remains a logistical challenge. In the week since the earthquake struck, WFP has delivered almost 1.5 million rations, equivalent to more than 4 million meals, to about a quarter of a million people. In the coming days, WFP is aiming to deliver five-day rations to 100,000 people each day. WFP has targeted orphanages and hospitals in recent days in order to reach the most vulnerable as a matter of priority. As the lead food, logistics and telecommunications agency, WFP is opening up air, sea and land corridors, and rehabilitating emergency telecommunications systems for the entire humanitarian community. The US Department of Defense has approved transfer of 16 million ready-to-eat meals, in addition to supplying WFP directly with 1.5 million meals.

**Protection:** Children separated from families remain a major concern. UNICEF is reaching children in Haiti with life-saving support and working with its partners to ensure that by the end of the week, all children under the age of 5 who are separated or unaccompanied, are cared for. Tracing and registration of unaccompanied children has begun. UNICEF has also publicly warned of child traffickers exploiting the tragedy. Twenty-nine organizations, including UNICEF, are pooling information and resources to protect children in Haiti. With the assistance of UN peacekeepers, hospitals have been visited to ensure that staff are aware of the need to check the credentials of anyone who tries to remove a child. When unaccompanied children are found, they are sent to one of the centres for unaccompanied children that have now been established. A hotline has been set up to allow officials and humanitarian workers to coordinate the protection of unaccompanied children and children in dire need. Messages are being broadcast on local radio stations advising Haitians about the protection of children and the reunification of families.

A joint Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)-United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) protection team was scheduled to arrive in Port-au-Prince today from the Dominican Republic. The five-member team is led by OHCHR's former director of field operations, and

includes two other OHCHR staff and two UNHCR staff. It is the first time these two United Nations organizations have fielded a joint protection team of this type during a crisis.

**Shelter:** Tents, kitchen and hygiene kits, mosquito nets and tools are urgently needed to allow establishment of temporary settlements for the displaced. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates more than 500,000 are living in approximately 447 makeshift settlements with limited water and sanitation. IOM has assessed over 350 makeshift sites across Port-au-Prince. Only one has a water source. New sites are being established in three neighbourhoods. IOM has begun distributions of non-food items aiming to reach 60,000 people a day. 25,000 received non-food items on 20 January. 9,000 people received hygiene kits on 18 January and the distribution of kitchen kits and bottled water was carried out on 20 January. UN agencies have distributed more than 3,000 tents. 1,185 family-sized tents from IOM arrived on 21 January; 2,130 tents and 18,550 plastic sheets will come from the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on 25 January.

**UNDP – Early recovery efforts:** The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has initiated a cash-for-work programme to jumpstart the local economy and facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance. On 19 January, nearly 400 Haitians – who had been previously employed in a UNDP-coordinated social project in Carrefour-Feuilles related to post-hurricane activities – were back working in rubble and road-clearing activities. They will also focus on rehabilitation of key public infrastructure. By 21 January, another 700 workers were recruited for cash-for-work initiatives with full support from the Municipality of Port-au Prince, which has made equipment and transport available. The cash-for-work projects are NGO-based programmes, involving community leaders. Projects will begin next in Leogane and Jacmel.

**Private sector:** Reginald Boulos, President of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has reported that: 30% of the gas stations are operational and there is no fuel shortage; the soft drinks industry is operational at 50%, and will be operational at 100% by next week; most surviving supermarkets will be functioning by next week, as will be the manufacturing industry; and telecommunications are expected to be operational by the end of this week.

**Information and outreach:** For affected communities, access to updated information greatly facilitates the provision of humanitarian assistance. The UN radio station in Port-au-Prince, MINUSTAH FM, resumed broadcasting on Tuesday, 19 January, with material and technical assistance from Radio France and Télédiffusion de France, providing vital information to the people of Haiti, in Creole and French. The President of Haiti has used the station to address the population in Port-au-Prince. In addition, 20 local radio stations are also broadcasting, and Internews is developing content for broadcast on those stations on behalf of the humanitarian community. Thomson Reuters is running the Emergency Information Service (EIS), which is providing information to survivors via text, e.g. which hospitals are open in which location.

**Flash Appeal update:** The UN has issued a Flash Appeal to donors for the following:

- \$246 million for food aid
- \$59 million for water, sanitation and hygiene
- \$37 million for shelter
- \$34 million for health
- \$33 million

So far, \$237 million has been received and \$102 million pledged. The Appeal is currently 41% funded.

### **Further information on MINUSTAH**

UN peacekeepers have been deployed in Haiti since 2004. In extending its mandate on 13 October 2009, the United Nations Security Council tasked the UN Support Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) with supporting the

Haitian political process, promoting an all-inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation, and providing logistical and security assistance for elections anticipated for 2010.

**Rule of Law:** MINUSTAH continues to support the Haitian National Police (HNP) in providing overall security for Haiti. MINUSTAH and the US military are working with the Director-General of the Haitian National Police to devise a method for paying the salaries of Haitian National Police as soon as possible. The UN has asked UN police-contributing countries to assist the Haitian National Police with material such as uniforms, so that the HNP can be fully operational as soon as possible.

Bangladesh has committed to sending two formed police units (formed groups of officers equipped to help maintain public order), which will arrive in Haiti by the end of this month. France has confirmed it will send 100 gendarmes to work as a formed police unit, and Italy will send one formed police unit within the next two weeks. MINUSTAH is supplying water to the Haitian National Police in the Ouest Department.

**Number of MINUSTAH staff in Haiti (as of 31 December 2009):**

- 6,900 military personnel
- 2,034 police (625 in Port-au-Prince)
- 490 international civilian personnel
- 1,248 local civilian staff
- 206 United Nations Volunteers

**Useful links**

MINUSTAH page on DPKO website:

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minustah/index.shtml>

MINUSTAH website (French only):

<http://minustah.org/>

UN News Centre News Focus - Haiti earthquake page:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=91&Body=Haiti&Body1=>

UN YouTube page:

[http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=4F3959441305AAA3](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=4F3959441305AAA3)

ReliefWeb Haiti Earthquake Appeal funding:

<http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/pagelader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&appealID=893>