

Relief Activity Report No. 1

14 January 2010

Haiti: Earthquake relief

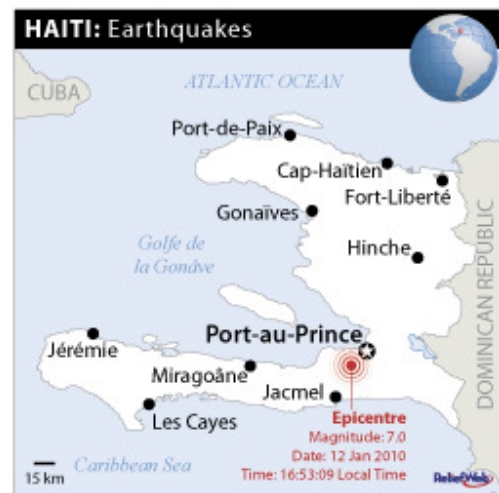
I. Overall Situation

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti in the late evening on Tuesday, 12 January. The quake's epicentre was only 10 miles (16 km) from Port-au-Prince, which has a population of about 1.3 million. It is estimated that overall three million people may be affected by Haiti's worst earthquake in 200 years. The quake destroyed an unknown number of buildings and homes and caused significant damage to the infrastructure, roads and the communication system. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, however, cannot be determined exactly until the extent of the damage is known. The death toll is still unknown but is expected to be high.

According to OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), immediate priorities include search and rescue, medical services and supplies, clean water and sanitation, emergency shelter, food, logistics and telecommunications. A limited number of search and rescue teams have arrived at Port-au-Prince airport. The members of the UN Disaster and Assessment Coordination (UNDAC) have started to arrive in the country. UNDAC will set up a reception centre at the airport in Port-au-Prince. The United Nations will release US \$ 10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Haiti is already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 8 out of 10 people living in extreme poverty and will therefore depend on international assistance in order to cope with this disaster.

For further information: www.reliefweb.int



12 Jan 2010 - A major earthquake hit Haiti, toppling buildings in the capital Port-au-Prince, burying residents in rubble and causing many deaths and injuries.

Map Sources: Global Discovery, OCHA, UNCS.
Reference Reuters - Alertnet. Big Haiti quake topples buildings, many casualties, 12 Jan 2010.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 12 Jan 2010 - www.reliefweb.int

Source: www.reliefweb.int

II. Malteser International activities

Today, 14 January 2010, Malteser International is sending an eight-headed medical team via the Dominican Republic to Haiti. The team consists of two members – one medical doctor, one logisticians – of “Ordre de Malte France”, 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 is the Malteser International emergency relief coordinator Dr. Georg Nothelle. All team members are expected to meet at the Santo Domingo airport (Dominican Republic) and then try to reach Port-au-Prince (Haiti) by car as the Port-au-Prince airport due to damages was closed for scheduled flights.

On the ground, the logistical preparation for the emergency relief mission is at present realized by His Excellency Hans Rothe, Ambassador of the Order of Malta to Haiti, residing in Santo Domingo.

The team’s mission will be:

1. provision of first aid and basic health care
2. needs assessment in the crisis region
3. information and communication into the English, French and German language areas



Young woman in Port-au-Prince
(Picture: Reuters Alertnet, www.alertnet.org)

Furthermore, three medical experts from the US associations, one water technician from the French association and further medical staff from the Malteser International Rapid Deployment Unit RDU are on stand-by in order to support the international Malteser team on the ground. Malteser International is extremely grateful for this support and preparedness. However, for the time being no additional staff will be sent unless the real need on the spot is known. Nevertheless, based on the further development and the assessment results that we expect for next week, it cannot be excluded that Malteser International might need additional volunteer staff, especially in the medical field, to support the team in Haiti. We shall keep you informed about all further developments.

For about 15 years already, the Order of Malta has been supporting a hospital in the north of Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

The emergency relief of Malteser International is coordinated within the worldwide international network of the Order of Malta.

Mr. Geoffrey Gamble, Vice-President of Malteser International from the USA is prepared to visit Haiti as soon as possible in order to meet our team on the ground.

III. Appeal for donations

Malteser International is extremely grateful for the donations that have already been announced by the Embassy of the Order of Malta in the Dominican Republic (10,000 US Dollars) and by the Canadian Association of the Order (10,000 Canadian Dollars). Furthermore, the associations in Austria, Germany, Great Britain and the United States have launched donation appeals or will do so within short notice.

Malteser International needs your support 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. 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 allows giving a reliable assistance based on their needs.

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 just 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.

Phone: + 49-221-9822-170

Cell: + 49-171-30 44 983

<mailto:peruvemba@malteser-international.org>

We shall keep you informed about all further developments.

Yours sincerely

Ingo Radtke
Secretary General