

## **USAID/OFDA HAITI ONE-YEAR HEALTH OVERVIEW – JANUARY 12, 2011**

The January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti not only crumbled houses, but also injured bodies and toppled hospitals. Health officials estimate that 300,000 people sustained earthquake-related injuries, with as many as 1,500 individuals undergoing amputations. To address health needs generated by the earthquake, USAID/OFDA funded mobile clinics to treat the injured, stationary clinics to provide primary health care in displacement camps, disease surveillance, vector-borne disease control efforts, and a patient referral and placement system. USAID/OFDA also restored capacity of existing clinics by donating medical and surgical equipment to more than 20 medical facilities throughout the country. International efforts prevented major disease outbreaks in spontaneous settlements, and when cholera broke out in the non-earthquake-affected Artibonite Valley in October, USAID/OFDA was able to quickly respond through existing partners to distribute cholera treatment supplies and establish and operate cholera treatment facilities. As of January 12, 2011, USAID/OFDA had provided nearly \$56 million for earthquake-related health programs, as well as nearly \$39 million to address cholera needs.



*Patients receive treatment at a USAID/OFDA-funded cholera treatment center in Artibonite Department. (Kendra Helmer, USAID)*

### **MOBILE AND FIXED CLINICS**

At the height of the response, Health Cluster members reported that primary health care services were available at 160 fixed and mobile sites, with 31 percent supported by USAID/OFDA. Staff from USAID/OFDA grantees augmented in-country capacity by providing surgical and follow-up services for people with acute earthquake-related injuries, as well as basic and maternity care for displaced individuals. To enable early detection of diseases in the earthquake-affected population, USAID/OFDA encouraged health partners operating in camps to report to the Government of Haiti-run Internally Displaced Person Surveillance System.

### **VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE CONTROL**

In addition to supporting overall health coordination efforts, USAID/OFDA awarded a grant to the MENTOR Initiative to co-lead efforts to control vector-borne diseases, spread by mosquitoes in Haiti. The MENTOR Initiative developed a national vector-borne disease control strategy that involved distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets to earthquake-affected families while providing training on use of the nets and other control measures.

### **PATIENT REFERRAL AND DISCHARGE**

To assist with hospital transfers and discharges of highly vulnerable populations, such as the disabled, elderly, children under 5 years of age, HIV and tuberculosis patients, pregnant and lactating women, and victims of gender-based violence, USAID/OFDA funded the development of a comprehensive referral and discharge program. Implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the program conducted emergency health referrals, transported vulnerable patients who cannot otherwise afford or arrange travel to and from hospitals and clinics, and helped patients transition from hospital to home, particularly in the case of patients returning to displacement camps. The IOM system prioritized discharging patients to their original houses; however, if unsafe or infeasible, IOM assisted patients with

constructing appropriate shelters on their land, seeking shelter with host families, or moving to a resettlement site as a last resort. The program transported nearly 20 patients per day.

## **CHOLERA RESPONSE**

USAID/OFDA's cholera response plan focuses on preventing cholera cases, reducing the number of cases requiring hospitalization, and reducing the case fatality rate. The plan outlines four elements: providing chlorine to increase availability of safe drinking water, expanding national hygiene education outreach, delivering oral rehydration salts and medical supplies, and increasing the number of cholera treatment facilities, particularly in underserved and rural areas. In addition to providing water purification equipment, hygiene kits, cholera beds, cholera test kits, and cholera treatment supplies, as of January 12, USAID/OFDA has also funded 33 cholera treatment facilities, including new centers to treat severe cases, as well as locations at existing health facilities that provide basic cholera care for mild cases. In total, the USAID/OFDA-supported cholera facilities throughout Haiti have a 1,178-bed capacity, and USAID/OFDA grantees continue to conduct hygiene education and provide medical care at additional sites. Haiti's overall cholera case fatality rate (CFR) was 2.1 percent as of January 7, while the CFR in Port-au-Prince, which hosts the majority of displacement camps, was 0.9 percent. The lower CFR in Port-au-Prince reflects the greater accessibility of health facilities in the earthquake-affected capital city than in rural areas.