



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

HAITI – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

January 13, 2010

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On January 12 at 1653 hours local time, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck southern Haiti. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake epicenter was located 10 miles southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince, West Department. Numerous significant aftershocks followed the initial quake. According to the U.N., the earthquake caused extensive infrastructure damage in Port-au-Prince, including to the Haiti presidential palace and the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) headquarters. Residential dwellings and transportation networks also sustained significant damage.
- Immediately following the earthquake, U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to provide assistance to Haiti, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reported that the U.S. Government (USG) would provide military and civilian disaster assistance to affected families.
- USAID/OFDA has deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to Haiti—comprising up to 17 members—and activated a Washington D.C.-based Response Management Team to support the USAID/DART. The USAID/DART will assess humanitarian needs and coordinate assistance with the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, the international community, and the Government of Haiti (GoH).
- As of 1615 hours local time on January 13, seven members of the USAID/DART, the 72-member Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team, and four support staff had arrived in Port-au-Prince.
- Two USAID/OFDA-supported heavy USAR teams from Fairfax County, VA, and Los Angeles County, CA, composed of approximately 72 personnel, 6 search and rescue canines, and up to 48 tons of rescue equipment, are also deploying to Haiti. USAID/OFDA expects to support up to two additional heavy USAR teams from Florida. USAID/OFDA has also authorized the deployment of a three-person Americas Support Team (AST) to Haiti. The AST, staffed by additional Fairfax County USAR members and funded by USAID/OFDA, will supplement the U.N. Disaster Assessment Country (UNDAC) team in Haiti. In addition, both the Fairfax County and Los Angeles County Fire Departments are seconding staff members to directly support the UNDAC team.
- On January 13, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Kenneth H. Merten declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince for the implementation of an emergency response program. USAID/OFDA plans to provide additional assistance in accordance with the findings of USAID/DART and humanitarian community assessments, as access to affected groups expands over the coming days.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Estimated Number of Deaths	At least 100,000	GoH – January 13
Estimated Affected Population	Approximately 3 million people	International Media

CURRENT SITUATION

- Preliminary assessments from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent indicate the earthquake affected approximately 3 million individuals in total.
- Media reports indicate that an unknown number of individuals remain trapped under numerous collapsed buildings, including a hospital in Petionville town, West Department.
- Humanitarian organizations expect a considerable number of affected individuals to require emergency shelter assistance and other relief items. Access to affected populations remains limited at present due to extensive debris and damaged roadways.
- Priority assistance, according to the GoH, includes search and rescue capability, an offshore vessel medical unit, electricity generation capability, and communications equipment to facilitate GoH coordination and response efforts. The GoH has also requested assistance in evacuating patients from a damaged hospital in Petionville to hospitals in Miami, FL.

Emergency Food Assistance

- USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has contacted all active P.L. 480 Title II emergency food Assistance implementing partners in Haiti to determine the availability of commodity stocks in-country and the capacity of organizations to reach earthquake victims.
- On January 13, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) planned to airlift 86 metric tons (MT) of high energy biscuits from El Salvador, as well as emergency relief supplies from Panama.
- In addition, WFP approved an Emergency Operation, valued at \$500,000, in support of immediate relief efforts.
- On January 13, WFP planned to deploy seven logistics staff and three telecommunications staff to activate the U.N. Logistics and Telecommunications clusters in support of relief efforts. WFP also authorized a \$20 million Special Operation to further support logistics augmentation and coordination, as well as emergency telecommunication for the humanitarian community.
- Non-governmental organizations present across affected areas reported the looting of WFP warehouses following the earthquake.

Health

- The American Red Cross reported depleted Red Cross medical supplies in Haiti as of January 13 after distributing the limited supply of medical equipment and supplies in previously positioned stocks.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Haiti may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int