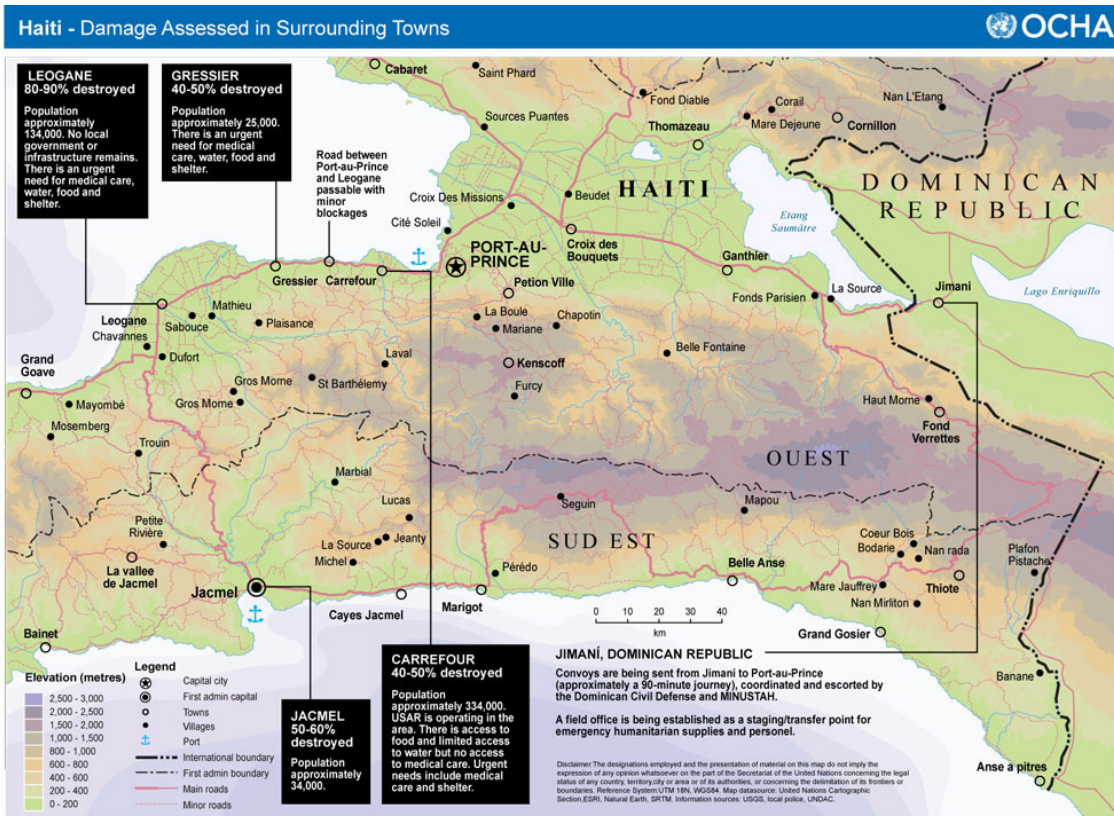




Haiti: Earthquake relief

I. Overall Situation

The strongest earthquake in Haiti in more than 200 years, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, rocked the impoverished Caribbean nation on 12 January at 4.53 p.m. (local time). The earthquake struck Ouest Province (population 2.2 million), with the epicentre some 17 km south-west of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. The nearby cities of Carrefour and Jacmel, as well as other areas to the west and south of Port-au-Prince, were also affected. Powerful aftershocks shook a desperately poor country where many buildings are flimsy. Tens of thousands are feared dead (Haitian government officials said the total death toll was likely to be between 100,000 and 200,000), many more are injured, and unknown numbers are still buried under the rubble.



Distribution of aid is taking place but access to shelter, sanitation, water, food and medical care is still extremely limited. Thousands of people remain in makeshift camps where the sanitation situation is precarious and where the lack of drinking water and food is still dramatically high. Medical facilities in Port-au-Prince still lack staff and medicine. The immediate priorities for the wider humanitarian response continue to be medical assistance, corpse management, shelter, water, and food and sanitation.

According to the latest reports, the overall security situation in Port-au-Prince remains stable, with limited, localized violence and looting occurring. It has assessed that most security incidents have been reported from areas that were categorized as high risk prior to the earthquake. Military escorts are required for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Government has declared a state of emergency throughout the country and national mourning for one month until 17 February.

The Port-au-Prince airport is now open but remains heavily congested. The pipeline of planes is an issue due to the lack of space to accommodate new arrivals. More than 30 countries have rushed rescue teams, doctors, field hospitals, food, medicine and other supplies to Haiti since Tuesday's quake.

The coordination of the relief efforts initiates, but still slowly. Clusters meetings are held more regularly.

For further up-to-date information, please visit: www.reliefweb.int

II. Malteser International activities

On Sunday, 18 January, 7.30 a.m. CET the medical team has been starting its work in the hospital "Francois de Sales" in Port-au-Prince which was not totally destroyed. The two German medical doctors took over the emergency hospitalisation and the anaesthesia and a surgeon from L'Ordre de Malte France is in charge of the surgical interventions. The three Haitian team members that were sent from the Cuban Association are medical attendants. The team now has split up: While the medical doctors are starting their work in the hospital, Dr. Georg Nothelle, emergency coordinator of Malteser International, and Prof. Dr. Klaus Runggaldier are in charge of logistics and are trying to prepare the necessary structures to support the team's work such as accommodation, supply systems, electricity and communication. In addition, they work on the integration of their relief activities in the context of the overall relief effort. On Monday morning, 18 January, Prof. Dr. Runggaldier has reported: "Finally, we can help the people directly and alleviate their suffering. Furthermore, our planning for a sustainable assistance after the first emergency relief phase is getting more concrete and more detailed. It is our aim to revitalize this hospital and render it again into a useable institution for the poorest and most severely affected population in downtown."

The team has finally found accommodation and a first office space at the house of one of the accompanying Haitian medical staff from the US-American association. Furthermore, the team got into contact with the German Embassy and THW (technical aid agency



In the hospital „Francois de Sales“ the Malteser team has been starting its medical work.

Germany). Dr. Siepe is currently on an assessment mission covering 3 hospitals while Dr. Mennewisch is on an assessment mission with staff from the German embassy and the THW to Leogane.

Meanwhile, the second Malteser International team has arrived in Santo Domingo. Annette Waechter-Schneider is in contact with the local NGO COTEDO (Comision de Trabajo Ecumenico Domenicano) and joins their mission to Haiti which comprises the distribution of food and drugs at five locations outside Port-au-Prince.

Beate Maass left for Port-au-Price on 19 January to take up the coordination on the spot.

Tuesday, 19 January, Cesar Russo, the Malteser International chief logistician in Myanmar when cyclone Nargis hit the country, starts from Oostende/Belgium to Haiti (the

flight, scheduled for Monday, 18 January has been delayed due to technical reasons) . He is taking with him two emergency health kits containing urgently needed medicines – antibiotics, pain relievers, dressing material and medical instruments - to ensure medical treatment for 20.000 survivors for three months.

In the north of Haiti the Order of Malta is supporting the hospital “Sacré Coeur”. Seriously injured survivors of the quake are brought to the hospital by helicopters and are provided effectually with medical assistance.

The Cuban Association agree to send two doctors and three nurses from Miami via private flight as soon as possible to Haiti to continue the work of medical team that will return to the United States, France and Germany presumably on Thursday, 21 January (the team will leave on Wednesday morning, 20 January, to Santo Domingo and take the flight back to Germany on Thursday). The members of the Cuban Association team are native Haitians and speak fluently English, French and Creole. Dr. Alfred Kinzelbach, Country Medical Coordinator of Malteser International in Uganda will take part in a joint health assessment with other (UN)-organisations. He is supposed to arrive in Haiti on Friday, 22 January. In addition it is intended to deploy a German speaking medical doctor or Public Health expert by Malteser International in order to lead and coordinate the health sector.

Next to this, more medical doctors and assistants are on stand-by to leave for Haiti. **At present, there is a demand for medical doctors with a fluent command of Creole.** Otherwise medical doctors with both good English and French language skills are required. A short distance between the current residence and Haiti is a further important factor. However no further staff will be sent without having clearly defined the need to do so!

III Future Planning

At present, Malteser International is expecting increasing impacts of the relief efforts through coordination by the UN. The Malteser International team in Haiti is integrated in this coordination.

We are fully aware of the fact of that Haiti needs sustainable assistance. The first important step will be to restore the “Status quo ante”. Beyond that, the international community is not to forget Haiti again after two weeks. Next to the emergency assistance, further aid efforts have to be ensured in order to support the country in reconstruction and development. Regarding the fact that the Order of Malta has been supporting Haiti for a long time (especially via the US Associations and the Cuban Association) and has established a wide network in the country, Malteser International proposes an integrated common effort of all stakeholders of the Order in Haiti. The President of Malteser International, Mr. de Cock de Rameyen, has therefore proposed to H.E. the **Grand Hospitaller** to hold a meeting to design a “Haiti Master plan of the Order of Malta” in due time.

V. Appeal for donations

Malteser International is extremely grateful for the donations that have already been sent by the Canadian Association of the Order (10,000 Canadian Dollars) and the British Order of Malta Aid Service (10,000 US Dollars) or announced by the Embassy of the Order of Malta in the Dominican Republic (10,000 US Dollars). Furthermore, the associations and/or embassies in Austria, Belgium, Chile, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United States have launched donation appeals or will do so within short notice.

Malteser International needs your generosity 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 – in Haiti as well as in the border region of the Dominican Republic. 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 will directly support a workable and reliable relief effort based on the greatest needs of the earthquake survivors.

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 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