

**Haiti Earthquake
Update
January 21, 2010**

Key Developments

1. The infrastructure of Haiti is severely damaged – airports are clogged, roads are treacherous and there is no large seaport available. This is causing bottlenecks and making it very difficult to get aid into the hands of the survivors. Travel by road from the Dominican Republic, which was taking 8 hours, is now taking 18 hours.
2. The Red Cross wants to move aid faster, but it will take governments and relief agencies working together quickly to establish security and expand and repair airports, roads and seaports to get relief supplies moving faster.
3. After shocks are major causes of concern and affecting delivery of aid.
4. Many earthquake survivors continue to leave Port-au-Prince to seek shelter in other parts of the country, potentially expanding the geographic areas that will require humanitarian support.

Red Cross Response

1. Planes and trucks carrying Red Cross humanitarian assistance are arriving everyday. So far more than 550 tons of supplies have been mobilized.
2. Providing temporary shelter, water, food, medical services, tarps, rope, and cooking kits. We have provided 3 million pre-packaged meals and more than 1 million purification packets and thousands of jerry cans so people can collect and transport water.
3. 400 Red Cross workers from around the world and several thousand Haitian volunteers are on the scene.
4. Medical centers have been set up. First aid posts are scattered throughout the city.
5. 15 Emergency Response units are in place including two Water & Sanitation units that can, when ready, provide clean water for up to 50,000 people per day.

6. Availability of fuel is a major problem and is hindering the ability of all relief sectors to deliver aid.
7. In the first week, the American Red Cross has already spent or committed \$34 million to the relief effort. 50% of what has been committed or spent is being used to bring food and water to earthquake survivors. 30% has been spent purchasing and distributing supplies including tarps, blankets, soap, hygiene items, kitchen sets and first aid supplies. 20% is providing the logistical support and other items needed to keep the relief effort running, including vehicles to deliver relief, warehouse space, fuel, transportation costs and the deployment of our relief specialists.

Local Chapter Response

1. Public Information on relief activity and how to help.
2. Fielding calls to help, including giving money, volunteering and giving other items.
3. Accepting, acknowledging and processing donations.
4. Providing International Tracing Services.

How to Help

1. Best way to help is through financial contribution: Text Haiti to 90999. Call 1-800-redcross. Give online at www.redcross.org. Mail donations to chapter or hand deliver to chapter.
2. We cannot accept clothing or foodstuffs. We have nowhere to sort them, clean them or store them. Cost to do this becomes more than the value of the product. Best to purchase exactly what is needed to meet cultural requirements and to spur the local economy.
3. We cannot accept spontaneous volunteers to travel to Haiti. Those volunteering through the Red Cross must have advance training in International response, earthquake response and a foreign language.
4. There is no call to recruit blood donors to support Haiti. Any needs can be met by existing Red Cross supplies.