

**ARCH Coalition SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)**  
**Haiti Earthquake – 01/2010 – Glide: EQ 2010-000009**

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***Background***

An earthquake measuring 7.0 hit 15km from the capital Port-au-prince on the 12/01/2010 at 17.02 local time (9.53 pm UTC). The earthquake was shallow with only a depth of 10km. This is a densely populated area with major towns such as Henry, Aboni and Bellevue. A series of strong aftershocks were felt within hours of the first earthquake. A tsunami warning was given for the surrounding islands, such as Cuba, where coastal populations were evacuated. This has caused significant damage to the building infrastructure, where many people were at home at the time. The worst affected area of the Island is the Western province, which is also one of the poorest areas. Haiti has been in recent times inundated with a series of natural disasters such as Hurricane Jeanne in 2004 and violent and political conflicts that have left the population vulnerable. Power lines have been disrupted and water is in very short supply. The Port-au-Prince airport tower has been confirmed as destroyed in the quake which is making it difficult for aid to be landed on the runway that is still mostly in tact. Tens of thousands of homes are destroyed-most of the infrastructure is in tatters. The most urgent course of action being taken is the rescue of those trapped and to supply food, water and medical supplies to those in need. People are now moving across the border into Dominican Republic to seek medical care and receive food and water. The Dominican Republic's border towns and hospitals are overwhelmed with tens of thousands of people moving into the country. Concerns are over resources being depleted. The main prison has had to let all of their convicts out of the cells as there is a concern that they will be left to starve without anyone there to look after them. Aftershocks continue to plague Port-au-Prince which is hampering aid efforts in rescuing those trapped.

Trucks have been moving into the city in an attempt to remove the tens of thousands of dead bodies from the streets, mass burials have taken place. However thousands of those killed are still trapped under the rubble, concerns over the spread of disease mount every day. It has been difficult for aid trucks to get through the streets as people are clogging the streets looking for aid trucks and carrying coffins.

The pace of relief is picking up with more aid getting through each day, as access is made easier through the airport more planes with aid are able to touch ground. Disease has been forecast as the next major problem after supplying people with food and water. There are concerns over the threat of tetanus, gangrene, measles, meningitis and other general infections from injuries. There are concerns that this will add to the already rising death toll.

Relief continues to get through with the help of added security. International aid organizations are reporting that they have been able to reach more of those otherwise cut off last week and over the weekend. Further tremors have been felt through the capital which has caused panic in some communities where the threat of unstable buildings is still an issue.

***Key Messages***

***General Overview of the Humanitarian Situation***

It is estimated that over 3 million people have been affected by the earthquake. Tens of thousands are estimated to be dead or severely injured. Many homes and buildings have collapsed, with the main hospital in Port-au-prince all but collapsed. Rescue efforts are under way in an attempt to free those trapped in rubble or under partially collapsed structures. The population is extremely vulnerable with extreme poverty and ongoing violence. Aid agencies are often present all year round due to the ongoing humanitarian situation; however more staff will be needed to help with the rising numbers of people affected. The Red Cross is reporting that their supplies are already running low. The US government is sending an aircraft carrier and 3 amphibious ships, 1 of which will carry 2000 marines to help in the rescue efforts and delivery of aid. Due to aftershocks most

people who are not trapped in buildings are sleeping out in the streets for fear of further collapses. It is being reported that many simple injuries to treat such as broken legs and arms are being left as there are not enough medical staff or supplies to treat them-many are left to die in among dead bodies, there is a huge fear of disease spreading in the next couple of days. Haitian President Rene Preval has stated that he fears up to 50,000 have died so far. A Number of commercial companies have lent their support through pledges of money, companies such as Digicel Group and Kraft Foods. A reception centre has been set up for the aid agencies and humanitarians entering into the country; however there are issues with the airport and sea ports coping with the numbers of organizations trying to get in. the Haitian Red Cross have reported that they have run out of body bags and are in need of more emergency supplies.

UN aid trucks were able to get through to some of the trapped communities in among the rubble to deliver aid packets and boxes of water. Santo Domingo is fast becoming the humanitarian response hub to enter into Haiti.

It has been estimated that between 100,000 to 200,000 people have died so far. This does not account for those still buried under the rubble. More humanitarian organizations have been able to get their staff on the ground.

There are great concerns over the lack of aid and support being given to those in rural Haiti outside of PaP, there are some medics working in the field hospital but this is under supplied with what is needed to treat the most basic of injuries. Communication networks and damaged roads are making it difficult for international aid workers to access these areas. There are concerns that with warnings over disease being the next stage medical organizations will be overwhelmed with the need for specialties such as surgery.

### ***Official figures***

#### ***UN figures***

UN peacekeeping mission MINUSTAH have established a Joint Operations Centre (Cell) which - among others - is coordinating/facilitating the evacuation of injured UN staff to the airport. UN clusters are currently being mobilised. UN reporting that 16 of the 9,000 UN police so far have been confirmed dead. Reports are also being released that up to 100 UN staff are trapped in the collapsed building. United Nations will immediately release US\$10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

US Special Envoy to Haiti, Bill Clinton is now in Haiti as of yesterday and is there to shed light on the devastation and the need for investment to repair and build up Haiti for the future. He was seen to be helping unload aid from aircraft as soon as he landed in Port-au-Prince.

### ***External Assessment***

IFAW and WSPA as co founding partners of the coalition have been closely monitoring the situation. From the last figures taken on live animal numbers (1000 per head) in Haiti in 2007 by the FAO it is estimated that there are; 5925 poultry, 210000 assess, 1450000 cattle, 1900000 goats, 500000 horses, 80000 mules, 1000000 pigs and 153000 sheep.

### ***Response***

WSPA and IFAW have co founded the Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti known as ARCH in response to the earthquake, which will represent a coordinating function in getting aid to animals in Haiti. The alliance is made up of other supporting partner organizations. Please see below;

American Humane Association, Best Friends, RSPCA (UK), United Animal Nations, American Veterinary Medical Association and The Kinship Circle have confirmed their membership and are delighted to be a part of the coalition. We are incredibly pleased that so many organizations have joined as members so far.

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