



HAITI EARTHQUAKE UPDATE



26th January 2010 - 14 days after earthquake measuring 7.3

The grim statistics about the Haiti earthquake continue to emerge. In the latest summary from the Haitian Communications Minister Marie-Laurence Lassengue, it is suggested that over **150,000** bodies have so far been collected (and mostly buried) and this does not include some of the outlying towns of Jacmel, Gressier and Leogane and those still buried under the rubble. The official toll of the dead and missing is very likely to rise beyond 200,000.

International focus is now shifting towards the longer-term **rehabilitation** of Haiti and HF is involved in these discussions in Port-au-Prince and Toronto. Humanity First's Medical Director, Dr. Shahnawaz Rasheed in London, commented on the situation in Haiti:

“There is still a great need for medical assistance in Haiti. However the requirement is shifting in the next week from surgical to public health and the management of pre-existing chronic conditions. From our experience of other disasters, we expect to be working to help prevent or contain Diarrhoea, Cholera, Typhoid and Tetanus.”



Whilst the exact nature of HF's longer-term plans are still being finalised, they may include shelter, education, safe drinking water and immunisation.

Meanwhile, Humanity First's team of 19 **clinicians** from the UK, USA and Canada continue to see patients from our medical camp in Port-au-Prince. On Monday, the team dealt with 200 cases, largely to do with infected fractures and wounds. The team is also establishing operations in outlying areas such as Carrefour and Petionville based on local needs.

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Significant funds are needed to buy supplies of medicines, fluids and other urgent requirements. Please speak to your local HF rep or visit our website www.humanityfirst.org to donate through your nearest Humanity First operation.

About Humanity First

Humanity First is an international charitable trust established to promote and safeguard the preservation of human life and dignity. It is a non-political, non-sectarian international relief and development agency that works with the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Humanity First was established in 1995 and now has registered operations in **29** countries with projects in **6** continents.

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