



# HAITI EARTHQUAKE UPDATE



**28th and 29th January 2010** - Earthquake measuring 7.3 occurred on January 12th 2010

## **28th January 2010**

For the last 2 days, the HF medical team of 21 has been working from the UN refugee camp in Carrefour and the HF camp in Port-au-Prince. In Carrefour, the team dealt with 760 patients whilst in P-a-P the team handled 160 cases. On Tuesday the team had seen 650 patients. Most of the cases are chronic medical conditions.

Conditions in Port-au-Prince have been worsening. A combination of continued aftershocks have scared people, and even the HF team have been sleeping outside rather than risking the night inside. Outside, gangs are becoming increasingly active, with gunshots being heard every night.

The acute phase involving surgery is ramping down now, and many other agencies such as the teams from Russia, Israel and Spain have already left. The next HF teams are planning to leave on Friday, but the focus will shift to general medicine and the prevention of waterborne and other diseases.

## **29th January 2010**

The HF medical team of 21 continues to work from the UN refugee camp in Carrefour and the HF camp in Port-au-Prince. The team saw 600 patients on Thursday in these two camps and also visited some other outlying towns and regions west of Port-au-Prince but found that the need for surgery and medicine is starting to decrease. In Carrefour, the HF team is under UN protection.

With the next team from the USA and Canada about to leave via the Dominican Republic for Haiti, plans are being made for them to focus on general medicine and disease control. HF is also looking at the potential to set up food camps as well as longer term initiatives related to the

provision of earthquake-proof shelters, orphan care and vocational training. In this regard, we are also in discussions with other NGOs such as Save the Children with whom we have been collaborating elsewhere.

Our longer-term objectives would be to help Haiti stands on its own feet, but this will take years of effort. Even in the medium term, the Haitian President has been requesting tents and ready-meals to be distributed en masse in the region. Meanwhile, news of the scale of the disaster continues to filter out slowly. Most sources now seem to accept that the final death toll from the earthquake of two and a half weeks ago will top 200,000 people, and over 1.5 million people have been left dependant on aid.

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](http://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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