



EMERGENCY UPDATE-HAITI EARTHQUAKE

HAITI UPFDATE No. 1

January 14, 2010

Background:

Haiti with a population of 10 million people is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. The major languages spoken are Creole and French and most of the inhabitants are Christian. Decades of poverty, environmental degradation, violence, instability and dictatorship have left it as the poorest nation in the Americas. The past two decades of Haitian history have been characterised by a brutal dictatorship, military coups and bloody rebellions. The Haitian economy is in ruins and relies heavily on international aid for its recovery. The United Nations deployed 11,000 peacekeepers -he United Nations Mission in Haiti-UMIH) in Feb. 1993 to maintain and secure a stable environment and to promote the rule of law. However, civil strife and rivalry among armed gangs and political groups continues.

A powerful earthquake of 7.0-magnitude on the Richter scale struck shortly before 5 p.m. Tuesday. It centred about 10 miles (15 km) southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince as well as outlying districts of Grand and Pepite Goave. In addition, two major powerful aftershocks magnitudes 5.0 have struck causing further damage to infrastructure and buildings. The capital city of Port-au-Prince is flattened.

Current Humanitarian Situation

According to the Red Cross and the Haitian Government, the death toll from the Tuesday earthquake is reported to exceed 100,000. Thousands of people are injured and many are waiting for medical assistance. They are lying on the streets while an unknown of people are trapped inside collapsed buildings. Make-shift hospitals will be required because the Port-Au-Prince hospital is not working. Overall, the provision of basic services including water and electricity has been disrupted. The government of Haiti has requested for international

assistance from the international community-this assistance is required urgently in the form of search and rescue teams, medicine, shelter, water, food etc.

In the twelve hours, some humanitarian aid has reached Haiti but there are difficulties in the transportation of supplies to earthquake survivors. This is because poor roads and debris as well as a faulty control tower at Haiti airport are impeding access.

The United Nations Secretary General has sent a representative to coordinate humanitarian efforts of all humanitarian actors in Haiti. It has earmarked US\$ 10 million from the central emergency response fund (CERF). .

In addition to the above, bilateral agencies (World Bank, IMF) are pledging large sums of money. For instance, the World Bank has pledged US\$ 100 million for the reconstruction of earthquake affected areas in Haiti. This money will be disbursed through a multi-donor trust fund.

Yesterday, members of the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC)-of which IRW is a member-held a teleconference among its members to understand the situation. It was clear that many UK-base agencies will provide humanitarian assistance to Haiti because most of them had staff and office in Haiti.

Humanitarian Response of Islamic Relief:

IR participated in a teleconference with all DEC members on Jan 13th 2010. Then a meeting of IRW Emergency Response Committee was held. This was chaired by Dr. Hossam and attended by CEO (Saleh Saeed), Affan, Heshmat and Lokuju. This was followed by a DEC Trustee teleconference (attended by the CEO) on the situation in Haiti. An additional teleconference with Partners was done by the CEO

From the above, IRW will deploy a team to Haiti within the next 48 hours. The team will include Moustafa Osman, Moadh Kheriji (IR UK) and one member from the Media Unit. The team has been tasked with carrying out the following objectives: 1. Assessment of the situation 2. Identify potential partner/s. 3. Identify potential project/programme. 4. Implementing quick impact project and 5. Collecting media materials.

The Emergency Response Committee has approved and earmarked US\$ 250,000 (IR USA), and £ 100,000 (IR UK) towards the emergency response in Haiti.

Islamic Relief's Future Plan:

Selection of partner organisations and proposal development.

Contacts: For any further information related to Haiti Crisis please contact the desk officer,

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