

Hope for Haiti, Naples, Florida – Update – February 2, 2010

For Immediate Release

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In addition to *Hope for Haiti's* on-going programming (including 37 primary and secondary schools with 12,000 children and 500 teachers, medical distribution to 60 healthcare facilities, mobile medical mission teams, clean water, and reforestation), we have broadened our focus to include a comprehensive emergency relief strategy and refugee short and long term care between Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes.

The Emergency Relief effort has been divided into three main categories:

1. Distribution and delivery of medical and emergency relief supplies,
2. Consistent rotation of emergency medical volunteers
3. Survival and care of 20,000 refugees in Carrefour and surrounding areas (Located approx. 30 minute drive south of the city center of Port-au-Prince).

With each day the relief efforts continue to develop and change as the needs become clearer and resources become more available. Over the past week, the *Hope for Haiti* team has been focusing on the following:

1. Distribution and delivery of medical and emergency relief supplies:

In the past 14 days, *Hope for Haiti* has moved over \$10 million worth of emergency relief supplies including medications, food, water, construction materials, clothing, and tents/tarps. Mike Stewart "Mikey," *Hope for Haiti's* Country Director, has worked to quickly assemble a local Haitian work team of approximately 100 people who have assisted in safe and immediate distribution of materials as soon as they have reached the ground. The supplies are currently being distributed to 5 geographical locations (Port-au-Prince, Carrefour, Leogane, Maraguane, and Les Cayes) and to multiple medical sites in each location. Distribution and delivery is going extremely well and *Hope for Haiti* is partnering with any and all organizations that are in need of supplies and have the capacity on the ground to act immediately. Hiring of local staff is critical during this time of desperation and provides loyalty and protection. Money is needed to flow through the local economy and providing work also improves the morale of families during this time of severe emotional heartache.

2. Consistent rotation of emergency medical volunteers:

Hope for Haiti has continued to fly volunteer medical teams to both Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes. We are also working with International Medical Corps (IMC) an organization that has a team of approx. 60 medical personnel in Port-au-Prince and the outlying areas. Teams are rotated on a weekly to biweekly basis. The General Hospital in Port-au-Prince is still the primary medical facility that is operational and providing 24-hour pre and post-operation care. Medical teams working at the General Hospital include, *Hope for Haiti*, International Medical Corps, the Red Cross, Partners in Health and others, all of whom are coordinating with one another to create on-going shifts.

Mikey estimates that there are more than 1,000 patients at the General Hospital who are in critical condition - 70 % of whom need major surgery or amputation. In Les Cayes, there are more than 2,000 people entering the city from Port-au-Prince each and every day, flooding the local hospital with patients in need of primary and secondary care.

According to Elizabeth Davison, *Hope for Haiti*'s Executive Director, "the volunteer medical teams are doing an incredible job and are truly heroes during this time of such enormous need and when saving lives is exceedingly time sensitive. All medical centers are in need of continued medical supplies, and *Hope for Haiti* is working to provide a continual pipeline of medications, medical equipment and materials, entering the country each week."

One Arrow Cargo DC10, is capable of carrying between 130-150,000 lbs of supplies will be leaving Miami later this week, with another full DC10 planned to travel the following week.

3. Survival and care of 20,000 refugees in Carrefour and surrounding area:

Over the past two weeks, two refugee tent camps have been established in Carrefour, a location approximately 30 minutes south of the main city center of Port-au-Prince. Both camps (Don Bosco & Gracia) have approximately 10,000 people each who have been displaced with nothing left and nowhere to go. Mikey, along with our partners and the local Haitian community, is overseeing the effort to coordinate multiple organizations in creating a comprehensive relief strategy for both camps. Currently, this includes three primary action areas:

- **Public Health:** (outreach includes, but is not limited to the following)
 - Immunizations (measles, tetanus, etc...)
 - Wound change and primary medical care
 - Vitamins (A, pre-natal, etc...)
 - Instituting new medical documents for each person
 - Safety and security

- **Water and Sanitation:** (outreach includes, but is not limited to the following)
 - Installation of comfort stations (latrines, showers, washing etc...)
 - Water purification
 - Constructing water fountains from an existing well
 - Trash management
- **Housing and Food:** (outreach includes, but is not limited to the following)
 - Power
 - Nutrition/Food rations
 - Tents/shelter

JoAnne Kuehner, President and Founder of *Hope for Haiti*, reports “beyond the immediate survival needs of the camps, one of the greatest concerns for the near future is creating protection as Haiti approaches the rainy season that will start in April and will go through September. The flooding that is expected in Haiti during the rainy season can be extremely destructive and this seasonal change must help frame what structures are put in place within the refugee camps to ensure that they can withstand heavy rain.”

At this time, *Hope for Haiti* is working to collaborate and coordinate efforts between multiple organizations on the ground. The list below includes some examples:

- International Medical Corps
- Oxfam
- buildOn
- Red Cross
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- Feed the Children
- Our Little Brothers and Sisters (NPFS)
- Silesian church
- Americares
- Lambi Fund
- US Military

Mikey Stewart was visiting our Naples office this past weekend, and was amazed at the number of volunteers who have extended *Hope for Haiti's* relatively small office space into the parking lot with a tent to answer phones, and to pack, sort, and organize supplies.

He strongly believes that the past three weeks have been a testament to the power of the private sector.

Stewart tells us that “in addition to people volunteering their time and precious hands, there has been an unbelievable outpouring of love and support throughout the United States and internationally. This spirit has allowed *Hope for Haiti*, as a relatively small non-profit, to move incredibly fast and strategically on the ground. We know that this relief and reconstruction effort is going to take a full international united front and it is a marathon that needs to be paced with the right resources and a paved one-way road.”

In Haiti, “Konbit” is an ideology felt strongly by Haitians that means that a community must work together. It means your neighbor must help you plow your land and reap your harvest, and you must do the same for your neighbor. It is clear that one’s community does not end outside of our doors, and the team at *Hope for Haiti* wishes to thank all of its supporters and volunteers for making Haiti a part of your community and for working with us and the Haitian people to heal the bodies, hearts and souls of our neighbors.

Bon Koraj! “Have Great Courage!”