

UN HAITI UPDATE

15 March 2010

Key developments

- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Haiti on 14 March, where he met with President René Préval and Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive in Port-au-Prince, and visited a camp for displaced people in Pétionville. Speaking after his meeting with the President, the Secretary-General praised the Haitian people for their courage and sense of solidarity in these difficult times. He said that even though time had passed since the January earthquake, the world would not forget Haiti.
- The Secretary-General noted that the revised Flash Appeal for the year, totaling \$1.4 billion, was 49 per cent funded. The challenge, he said, was to maintain this spirit of solidarity with Haiti through the upcoming donors' conference and beyond.
- In his remarks, the Secretary-General highlighted the progress made in supplying emergency food and water. Meanwhile, tents and tarpaulins have been supplied to approximately 60 per cent of the 1.3 million people in need, with the aim of reaching everyone by the end of April.
- On 11 March, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes told a news conference in New York that shelter remains the main priority in Haiti. He reported that the UN was scaling up efforts to ensure everyone had a roof over their heads by the time the rainy season began in May. "We will make sure that everybody we can reach has... proper, waterproof, makeshift shelter over their heads by the time the rainy season starts in earnest," Holmes said, adding that about 60 per cent of those that needed shelter had been provided with tents or tarpaulins, and that the aim was to reach everyone with emergency shelter by 1 April.
- Ahead of the hurricane season, which begins in June, UN agencies and their partners intend to put in place as much 'transitional shelter' – more solidly built structures with roofs made of wood or metal that can better protect against hurricanes – as they can. "We won't do that for everybody... that's the reality at the moment," Mr. Holmes stated, adding that the intention was to put up about 120,000 transitional shelters, covering about 600,000 people – or roughly 50 per cent of the homeless. He added that some of the people that were currently homeless might be able to move back into their original houses and that there was an exercise under way to assess the safety of those structures to determine whether they were safe to occupy now, or whether they needed to be repaired or demolished.
- The Secretary-General announced on 11 March the appointment of Major-General Luiz Guilherme Paul Cruz of Brazil as Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti ([MINUSTAH](#)). Major-General Paul Cruz replaces outgoing Force Commander Major-General Floriano Peixoto Vieira Neto of Brazil. The Secretary-General said that he appreciated Major-General Floriano Peixoto's performance while serving in MINUSTAH, where his dedication, professionalism and leadership greatly contributed to the United Nations stabilization efforts in Haiti.
- Major-General Paul Cruz will bring extensive leadership and operational experience with him when he assumes his responsibilities in MINUSTAH. He joined the Brazilian Army in 1972. He graduated as an infantry officer in 1978 and subsequently has had a distinguished military career, holding a number of senior command and staff positions. As a Colonel, he commanded the Military Police Battalion in Brasília, from 2002 to 2003. In 2008, he was assigned the command of the Brazilian

Battalion in MINUSTAH. After being promoted to the rank of General in 2008, Major-General Paul Cruz was assigned the Command of the 5th Armored Brigade, his most recent position.

- During a four-day visit to Haiti, the Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)), Jacques Diouf, said that the keys to a greener, more productive Haiti were a significant increase in national food production, rural employment and reforestation. Diouf met with President Préval and other senior government officials, including Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive and Minister of Agriculture Joanas Gue during his visit to the country to launch, with the government, the critical spring planting season.

Key Facts

According to the latest available statistics provided by the Haitian authorities:

Number of people killed – more than 222,500

Number of people injured – more than 300,000

Number of people displaced to other parts of the country – more than 597,800

Useful links

Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti:

www.haitispecialenvoy.org

MINUSTAH page on DPKO website:

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minustah/index.shtml>

MINUSTAH website (French only):

<http://minustah.org/>

UN News Centre News Focus - Haiti earthquake page:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=91&Body=Haiti&Body1=>

UN YouTube page:

http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=4F3959441305AAA3

WHO YouTube page:

<http://www.youtube.com/who>

ReliefWeb Haiti Earthquake:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=EQ-2010-000009-HTI&rc=2>