



The neighbouring Dominican Republic was the first country to give aid to Haiti sending water, food and heavy-lifting machinery.



The first Search and Rescue team to arrive in Port-au-Prince was from Iceland, landing within 24 hours of the earthquake.



A rescue team sent by the Israel Defense Forces' Home Front Command established a field hospital which included specialised facilities to treat children, the elderly, and women in labour near the United Nations building in Port-au-Prince. It was set up in eight hours and began operations on the evening of 16 January.



The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was activated, allowing satellite imagery of affected regions to be shared with rescue and aid organisations.



Rescue efforts began in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, with able-bodied survivors extricating the living and the dead from the rubble of the many buildings which had collapsed, but treatment of the injured was hampered by the lack of hospital and morgue facilities.



The supercarrier USS Carl Vinson arrived at maximum possible speed on 15 January with 600,000 emergency food rations, 100,000 ten-litre water containers, and an enhanced wing of 19 helicopters; 130,000 litres of drinking water were transferred to shore on the first day.



The buoy tender USCG Oak and USNS Grasp were on scene by 18 January to assess damage to the port and work to reopen it, and by 21 January one pier at the Port-au-Prince seaport was functional, offloading humanitarian aid, and a road had been repaired to make transport into the city easier.



The United Kingdom's Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander called the result of the earthquake an "almost unprecedented level of devastation", and committed the UK to £20 million (US\$32.7 million) in aid.



Italy announced it would waive repayment of the €40 million (US\$55.7 million) it had loaned to Haiti, and the World Bank waived the country's debt repayments for five years.



Seven-year-old Charlie Simpson, whose pledge to cycle at least seven times around his local park in south London has so far raised more than £165,000, including £5,000 from Simon Cowell.



There was a peak of 22,000 US military personnel in February when large numbers were despatched to help the aid effort. The US military will end its disaster relief mission in Haiti at the beginning of June 2010, nearly six months after the massive earthquake struck. Some 500 National Guard troops and reservists will remain in Haiti to help aid workers.



Canada will build a new headquarters for Haiti's government. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Canada would spend CAN\$12m (£7.3m) on a temporary base after January's earthquake destroyed many government offices. The base, made of prefabricated modules and inflatable shelters, is to house key ministries for up to a year.



The US secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, who co-chaired a conference of about 120 countries and international organisations at the United Nations in New York, called the pledges "an impressive sum by any standard". The conference drew \$9.9bn of donations to rebuild infrastructure.



UNICEF: Nearly 3,000 school tents have been made available to provide interim classrooms. At the same time, school supplies have been delivered to learning spaces in camps and former schools ready to begin classes again.



foreignpolicy.com: After the earthquake demolished their houses, most residents were able to drag some of their rice, oil, or crackers out of the rubble. They all take a certain pride in the fact that they are now sharing what they have equally among themselves. "We are living communally," says Shelove Lindor, a thoughtful man in glasses. "We are helping one another."



foreignpolicy.com: Residents have piled up their garbage in a ravine and are burning it because, one woman explains to me, "it could be bad for the health" to have so much garbage on the street.



France has already said it was cancelling all of Haiti's €56m debt. The aid package will also include reconstruction money, emergency aid and €30m in support for the Haitian government's budget.



Oxfam has launched several cash-for-work projects, which give those living in camps a chance to earn an income while improving their environment by building latrines and clearing rubble.



Oxfam is distributing plastic sheets to help meet emergency needs for shelter. Their immediate goal is to provide sheeting to 28,000 people.



Towns in the eastern Dominican Republic began preparing for tens of thousands of refugees, and by 16 January hospitals close to the border had been filled to capacity with Haitians. The border was reinforced by Dominican soldiers, and the government of the Dominican Republic asserted that all Haitians who crossed the border for medical assistance would be allowed to stay only temporarily.



The UN Development Programme employed hundreds of Haitians to clear roads and to make fuel pellets in a cash-for-work scheme