CARICOM RESPONSE TO THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE  
March 5, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS OF REGIONAL SUPPORT TO DATE

| Search and Rescue | • 23 Rescue Operations conducted by 10 man team  
| • 6 persons rescued |
| Shelter | • tents provided with capacity housing for approximately 3,500 persons  
| • Established Model Tent Camp of 80 Tents at Mais Gâté |
| Food and Relief supplies | • **20,000** families received food and relief supplies (as of January 23)  
| • Forty –six (46) forty foot(40’) and six (6) twenty foot (20’) Containers delivered or awaiting shipment  
| Additionally  
| • Tinned Food - 164 tons  
| • 3000 Boxes of over the counter medical supplies and miscellaneous items, 4 Tons  
| • Water (Potable) 120.2 tons  
| • Assorted Food – 4.5 tons  
| • Rice – 43.25 tons  
| • Temporary Roofing and other related pallets - 14.5 tonnes |
| Health Care | • 140 medical professionals deployed to Haiti (As of February 23)  
| • 9,192 patients treated through emergency health care services delivered (As of Feb 23). |
| Security & Logistics | • Security Escort Duties for the medical teams, the relief supply distribution teams  
| • Provided 125 escorts/convoy protection missions |
| Resource Mobilisation | • Community mobilized resources from government resources, international donors, private sector and civil society in cash, technical resources, medical and humanitarian supplies. |
| Technical Assistance | Support to Haiti’s Civil Protection Department in the coordination of emergency response including:  
| • Translation to English of Haiti National Disaster Plan  
| • Developed guidelines for shelter, relief distribution and camp management  
| • Work programme for technical teams deployed  
| • Guidance for improved donor coordination (through collaborative mechanism involving Haiti Government, UN Cluster Group; other major donors and relief organizations) |
| Personnel Deployed | • More than 500 persons from fourteen (14) CARICOM States: Jamaica; Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Belize; Bahamas; Dominica; Guyana; Grenada; Montserrat; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Trinidad and Tobago; Turks and Caicos Islands; and the Virgin Islands. |
| Pledges/Donations | • CARICOM Countries have pledged cash/and in kind donations  
| • The Government of Australia, Caribbean Development Bank and Private Sector entities have also contributed |
1.0. OVERVIEW OF EVENT AND SCALE OF OPERATIONS

On Tuesday January 12, 2010 at about 5:53 PM Atlantic Standard Time (AST), Haiti was struck by the strongest earthquake recorded in this part of the Caribbean region. The epicenter of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake was located in the West Province 15 km (10 miles) South West of Port-au-Prince at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles). Aftershocks measuring up to 6.0 on the Richter scale have been reported since the main event and continue to present time.

The capital, Port-au Prince and nearby cities of Carrefour, Leogane and Jacmel have suffered damage and casualties of catastrophic proportions. Port-au Prince has been devastated with more than 80% of housing damaged or destroyed and water, electricity, telephone and medical services extensively disrupted. An estimated 3 million people or one third of Haitian population has been affected.

As at February 23, 2010, the Government of Haiti has reported an estimated 222,517 persons dead with injured persons numbering 310,000 and 600 persons unaccounted for. An estimated 1.3 million people are reportedly living in spontaneous settlement sites, and in need of shelter with two (2) million in need of food. There is an emerging exodus of persons from Port-au-Prince to rural communities and towns estimated at 604,215 generating additional capacity stresses on their utilities and limited services. Approximately 162,509 displaced people have moved to the Artibonite Department.

The catastrophic impact of the earthquake generated a flood of uncoordinated humanitarian response in which the intervention of the CARICOM States is embedded. The United Nations (UN) reported that as of February 6, more than five hundred (500) agencies including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been operating in the impacted area. Additionally, this generated demands for emergency related flights approximated at up to 160 per day. The result has been extensive congestion in the Haitian airspace and of emergency supplies on the ground.

Priority needs identified by the Government of Haiti are emergency shelter, site management, sanitation and food. With regard to health, the displaced populations are at high risk from outbreaks of water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as, food-borne related diseases, due to reduced access to safe water and sanitation systems.

In the aftermath of the devastating impact of the Earthquake, the CARICOM Region has been providing immediate and tangible assistance to its sister nation Haiti, who became a member of Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) on September 1, 2009. Haiti’s population of 9 million people, outnumbers the combined total of the populations of all the other 17 CDEMA Participating States.

2.0 REGIONAL RESPONSE

CARICOM’s response efforts were initiated within hours of the event, firstly through Jamaica, the Sub-Regional Focal Point (SRFP) for Haiti under the CDEMA system and by January 13, through the Regional Response Mechanism. To date, this has been divided along seven (7) lines of intervention.

2.1 Sub-Regional Focal Point

The frontline of the regional response was initially spearheaded by Jamaica, the SRFP. Within minutes of receiving notification of the event, the CDEMA System was on alert. Attempts to establish contact with the head and other members of the Haiti Civil Protection Department were unsuccessful. As such, CDEMA immediately assembled a response team at the Coordinating Unit to initiate the necessary actions for emergency response.

Discussions were held with Jamaica with regard to mounting an immediate response and within 24 hours of the impact, the Government of Jamaica dispatched a Jamaica Defence Force Vessel with emergency relief supplies and technical, medical, and military personnel. The Sub-Regional Focal Point was supported by broader regional resources within five days of the event.

2.2 Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

CDEMA initiated on January 13, 2010, a Level 3 response, the highest level of activation within the system which triggers the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). This decision was taken following
initial reports from news media as to the scale of destruction and CDEMA’s failure to establish contact with Haiti’s disaster management personnel and other senior government officials. (Communication was established with the Department of Civil Protection on January 14). Activation of the RRM allowed CDEMA to commence arrangements for a coordinated regional response that would involve the assistance (cooperation and collaboration) of CDEMA Participating States, Regional and International Agencies.

2.3 Regional Coordination Centre (RCC)
The Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) at the Coordinating Unit in Barbados was activated each day from January 13, including weekends and was the hub for the management of the emergency response. The RCC facilitated various arrangements for ensuring emergency relief reached the victims of the Earthquake and these included the mobilization and deployment of emergency personnel, monitoring the Haiti emergency and providing reports to Participating States, Partners and key emergency response agencies.

Operations of the RCC are now reduced as the CARICOM Intervention transitions from Emergency and Specialized Care to Primary Health Care Services. The RCC will be stood down on March 5, 2010.

3.0 CARICOM TARGETED RESPONSE

Heads of Government in conferring on the focus of the Community’s response to Haiti identified the health sector as the niche area of intervention. The Community has provided emergency and specialized care through its frontline response teams in the aftermath of the earthquake. Following a meeting of Haiti’s health cluster on February 8, The Government of Haiti requested that such assistance be provided to the Leogane area and surrounding communities. Since February 12, The Community has been providing medical outreach activities in the area of Gressier-leogane-Grand Goave-petit-Goave and Miragoane and to date medical teams have attended to over 9,000 persons. The Community is proposing to deliver from March 19, Primary Health Care Services to a target population of 20,000 in the Leogane area.

Generally, CARICOM response efforts have been divided along seven (7) lines of intervention.

I. Emergency Response Coordination
II. Search and Rescue
III. Search and Rescue
IV. Medical Assistance
V. Logistics (distribution of relief supplies and engineering Assessments)
VI. Security
VII. CARICOM Civilian Evacuees

4.0 EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION

Through this component the Community has been able to deliver critical technical support to the affected state whilst seeking to establish a mechanism for in country coordination of the Community’s intervention.

4.1 Tactical Advance Party Deployed
Within five days of the event the Tactical Advance Party for CARICOM arrived in Haiti on January 17, 2010 and met with the Cabinet Minister of the Interior Ministry, Mr. Pierre Andre Paul, to discuss Haiti’s immediate needs and CARICOM’s proposed responses. The team harnessed intelligence and established logistical arrangements to facilitate the delivery of CARICOM’s intervention in Haiti.

4.2 Special Coordinator Established
The Executive Director, CDEMA, in consultation with the Commanding Officers of the disciplined forces being deployed including the Regional Security System (RSS)/Central Liaison Office (CLO) and the impacted state, appointed Belizean Brigadier General (Retired) Earl Arthurs of CDEMA as Special Coordinator. The Special Coordinator has been responsible for ensuring that the Caribbean Community’s
Haiti Response for the Haiti earthquake is effectively pursued on the ground and for being the link between CDEMA and the stricken country, other humanitarian actors and coordination mechanisms on the ground. The Special Coordinator has been operational in Haiti since January 18, 2010.

4.3 Technical Assistance for Strengthening Haiti Civil Protection
Seven personnel from the region experienced in Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) Management and Logistics were deployed on a rotation schedule to support Haiti’s Civil Protection Department in the coordination of national emergency response actions, a priority area. Efforts were focused on releasing the immense backlog of relief supplies and food at the ports which had accumulated and were trickling and also addressed sheltering of the hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

This EOC technical team has been instrumental in developing guidelines for shelter, relief distribution and camp management. The translation of the Haiti National Disaster Plan from French to English by a member of the Technical Team has also been achieved. The team engaged in the first rotation has also been responsible for establishing the work programme for CARICOM technical teams being deployed to Haiti.

The following provide further details on the areas of Technical Assistance provided for emergency response coordination:

i. **Haiti National Disaster Plan Translated to English** - This document was translated into English to facilitate enhancements and to guide operations. This will be useful by the many humanitarian actors who have been seeking to access the English version and will be an input into strengthening better coordination with Civil Protection Department in Haiti.

ii. **Guidelines for Relief Supplies Collection Points, Warehouses & Distribution Centres** - The purpose of this document is to provide clear guidance for the procedures to be taken in relations to Relief Supply Collection, Storage and Distribution by the Haitian Disaster Committee.

iii. **Guidelines for the Establishment and Running A Camp Site** - This tool was developed in response to the Government’s request for 200,000 tents and provides guidance on strategic coordination and management of Mid to Long – Term Camping at campsites in Haiti.

iv. **Work Programme for Technical Teams from CARICOM** - The Technical Support team developed a work programme for technical support teams being deployed to Haiti from CARICOM. The immediate focus was on enhancement of the relief supplies management system focusing on the collection, storage and distribution of supplies - through a collaborative mechanism involving the Government and the UN Cluster group.

v. **Guidance for Improved Donor Coordination**
The Executive Director of CDEMA, Mr. Jeremy Collymore visited Haiti on January 27-28, 2010. The Executive Director’s mission was instrumental in providing guidance to the Government of Haiti in strengthening/framing the specific requests and support for improved donor coordination from the international community including mapping contributions to date and identifying areas of operation and the targeted beneficiaries.

4.4 Shelter Management
With the rainy season approaching, shelter is at the top of the Government of Haiti’s priorities, as they hasten to find temporary shelters for the homeless. According to UNOCHA there are an estimated 696, 458 people living in 434 sites and these totals do not include sites and displaced people in Petit and Grand Goave. Many of these sites are at the risk of flooding and landslides during the upcoming raining season. Heavy rains on Thursday, February 18, flooded parts of the Port-au Prince and on February 27, flood damage was reported in Nippes and Sud Departments.

CARICOM has responded to the Government’s appeal for shelter by assisting the Civil Protection Department in developing guidelines for camp management. The CARICOM Team in Haiti has also
supervised the establishment of a Model Tent Camp at Mais Gaté to serve as guide for the proper laying out of Tents with the required facilities, such as latrines, bathrooms, water points and waste disposal. This tent Camp is expected to accommodate about 600 families.

CDEMA has also provided 101 tents sourced from Participating States and an additional 100 purchased at a cost of $252, 200. These tents will accommodate approximately 3,500 people.

5.0 SEARCH AND RESCUE

With a small team of just ten (10) men, the Community has been able to provide significant search and rescue support. The Jamaica Fire Brigade has worked with MINUSTAH Headquarters, the Search and Rescue Coordination center, the Government of Haiti, Jamaica Defence Force representatives and UN OCHA. In total the Search and Rescue Team responded to twenty-three (23) requests and contributed to the rescue of six (6) persons including persons trapped at the collapsed UN Headquarters. The Search and Rescue efforts were stood down on January 21, 2010.

6.0 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

As of February 23, 2010, one hundred and forty (140) medical professionals (on rotation schedule) had been deployed to Haiti, treating over 9,192 patients through emergency health care services delivered. Health support included: – screening, triaging, and stabilizing patients, major and minor surgeries, back slabs to stabilize fractures, skin tractions for fractures, delivery of babies, immunization and counselling.

Initially, the medical team comprising health personnel from the Jamaica Defence Force and the Jamaica Ministry of Health provided support to the Centre Sante Bernard Mevs and Freres Hospital de la Communau. A clinic was also established on 18 January 2010 at the Food for the Poor Headquarters. Service to the Freres Hospital de la Communau was discontinued on Feb 3, 2010.

Since February 12, as part of the CARICOM Health Intervention, a team 20 health personnel (reaching as much as 26 in rotation periods) from the broader CARICOM states, joined the Jamaican team on the ground in Haiti. These medical volunteers drawn from Barbados, Bahamas, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been providing medical outreach to thirteen (13) locations.

7.0 LOGISTICS (DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES AND ENGINEERING ASSESSMENTS)

7.1 Relief Supplies

A CARICOM Regional Logistics Center (CRLC) has been established at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica to process the inflow of relief supplies from around the region. Two personnel were also deployed to Jamaica from Bahamas and Virgin Islands to assist the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in logistic coordination.

A 26-man CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit was deployed to Haiti for the period January 24 to February 9, 2010 to support the distribution of relief supplies. Significant assistance was also provided to Food for the Poor in Port-au-Prince in their distribution of supplies

As of January 23, 2010, the CARICOM relief supply operations had impacted 20,000 families through relief supply distribution efforts in Port-au-Prince and several other areas. These included Killick; Leogane; Archaie; Montrouis, Ile de la Gonave, Gonaives; Cabaret; Gressier; Ganthier; Diegue; Crois de Bouquet, Signeau, Mathieu and Laboudry. The distribution of supplies was accompanied by medical outreach in these areas.

Over 15,500 cases of drinking water, tinned products and food items have been distributed along with 565 kg of rice and sugar and 132 temporary shelter kits and generators. Supplies are also being provided to
reputable NGOs who are working with camp sites in Port-au-Prince, to be channeled into these areas through their local networks and distribution systems.

Thirty two (32) forty foot (40’) containers of food and an additional 3,000 boxes of water, over the counter medical supplies and other miscellaneous items have been dispatched to Haiti via Jamaica by several states across the region. Another fourteen (14) forty foot (40’) and six (6) twenty foot (20’) containers have been pledged by countries and are awaiting shipment. However, with the large number of vessels taking relief items to Haiti, there have been some delays in docking and unloading at the port.

7.2 Air Bridge Between Jamaica And Haiti

With the assistance of the Canada air bridge established on January 18, the Canadian Forces aircraft completed many flights into Port-au-Prince carrying critical DIGICEL equipment, medical supplies for the Jamaica team that led the CARICOM Health support Response, and other essential equipment for the CARICOM Contingent. To complement the air bridge established by Canada and to redress some of the uncertainty of airlift for the region, the Community established an air bridge between Jamaica, the CARICOM Staging area, and Port-au-Prince. The Regional Security System aircraft made two scheduled flights per day into Haiti.

7.3 Engineering Assessments Conducted For Vulnerable Populations

A technical team composed of senior builders, electricians and plumbers was deployed to five locations across the breadth of Port-au-Prince with a view to carrying out urgent technical inspections for conducting much needed repairs and reconstruction on buildings which housed vulnerable groups. A senior citizens home, a home for physically and mentally challenged children and the Food for the Poor Warehouse benefited from their assessment. Repairs were carried out to the damaged perimeter walls of the Food for the Poor Warehouse.

8.0 SECURITY

The CARICOM team has been providing escort duties for the medical teams, the relief supply distribution teams, as well as security for the Bases. In addition convoy security and other support is being provide to a number of NGOs working amongst significantly displaced populations, many of whom are below the radar of humanitarian assistance. As of February 26, the team has provided 125 escorts/convoy protection missions.

9.0 CARICOM CIVILIANS EVACUATED

In the days following the earthquake, the CARICOM Contingent facilitated the evacuation of several CARICOM nationals who requested flights out of Haiti. Many persons camped outside the CARICOM contingent base at the airport to await flights. The evacuation required the involvement of immigration authorities of each nation to process persons accordingly.

10.0 RESOURCE MOBILISATION

The Community has been mobilizing resources from government resources, international donors, private sector and civil society in cash, technical resources, medical and humanitarian supplies. This has largely been led by the national efforts of CARICOM member states and through cooperative arrangements of the regional response mechanism. The Community’s actions outlined below have been significant in advancing resource mobilization for Haiti.

Jamaica’s Prime Minister, Bruce Golding visited Haiti Thursday, January 14 for a first hand assessment of the situation where he met with Prime Minister Preval. Later that day he hosted a high-level meeting convened by the Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, Chairman of CARICOM and Prime Minister of Dominica which discussed and established the vision for a CARICOM Intervention in Haiti following the event.
There has been a positive response to the appeal made by the Prime Minister of Haiti for the Caribbean Community to play a role as advocate on behalf of its fellow member state. In that regard, the former Jamaican Prime Minister Mr. PJ Patterson led the CARICOM contingent which included CDEMA’s Executive Director, to the Ministerial Preparatory Conference in Canada on where discussions focused on humanitarian relief, transition and reconstruction of Haiti. This conference has paved the way for a larger donor conference to take place later this year.

A high level CARICOM delegation headed by the Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica met with Haitian President Rene Preval on February 6 in order to advance plans for the region’s intervention in Haiti’s recovery and reconstruction in the medium to long term period. The CARICOM Mission also included CARICOM Secretary-General, His Excellency Edwin Carrington; CARICOM Special Representative to Haiti, Most Honourable Percival Patterson; CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign and Community Relations, Ambassador Colin Granderson; and the Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Mr Jeremy Collymore.

A Special Unit established at the CARICOM Secretariat will further facilitate the coordination of the Region’s continued assistance to Haiti over the long term in the wake of the catastrophic earthquake of January 12.

CONTACT DETAILS: The CDEMA CU 24-hour contact number is 1(246) 425 0386 1(246) 425 0386; e-mail - cdema@cdema.org