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OVC Community and Interested Parties,

Please find below a situation report on orphans and vulnerable children in Haiti, disseminated today (January 26, 2010) by the USG Secretariat for Orphans and vulnerable Children.

It is an incredible compilation of the great work currently going on in Haiti, as our peers seek to get immediate services to affected OVCs, while attempting to assess the true level of need that is far from being fully understood. All organizations mentioned (and those that did not happen to make the compilation) deserve to be commended.

If you have any questions regarding the sitrep, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Kind regards,

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U.S. Government Internal Situation report on orphans and vulnerable children in haiti

Jan 20- 24, 2010

Haitian Children Affected by the Earthquake

The following information is organized according to: 1) Immediate Care and Protection Responses, 2) Orphanages, Tracing and Family Reunification, 3) Safety and Security Threats, 4) Adoption Issues, 5) Coordination on Child Protection Issues.

1) Immediate Care and Protection Responses

- (SBU) The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has raised concerns regarding reports of child kidnapping from multiple locations in affected areas, including orphanages and hospitals, the USAID/DART reported. Kidnappers are reportedly transporting children out of Haiti illegally via the Port-au-Prince airport or the Dominican Republic border. USAID and the U.S. Department of State have established an orphans and vulnerable children working group. [i] (Jan. 24)

- As of January 22, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partners had reached approximately 37,000 children with psychosocial support, emergency relief supplies, health referrals, and other assistance; however, UNICEF notes that registration of vulnerable children remains a priority. With support from UNICEF, mobile Haitian Institut du Bien Etre Social et de Recherche teams continue to conduct daily child protection rapid assessments in approximately 10 sites, with plans to reach 20 sites per day by the week of January 25. UNICEF notes lack of sufficient vehicles and transportation difficulties, as well as limited human resources, as challenges to conducting additional site assessments. [ii] (Jan. 23)

- Save the Children conducted rapid assessments at 15 sites around Port-au-Prince during the past week. Although Save the Children is still compiling data, preliminary results indicate potential food insecurity, especially in Carrefour-Feuille. [iii] (Jan. 24)

- WHO, UNICEF and WFP have prepared a joint statement calling for support for appropriate infant and young child feeding in Haiti. The statement explains that during emergency situations death rates among under-five children are higher than for any other age group due to the combined impact of an increased risk of communicable diseases and diarrhea. The cluster is translating key message on infant feeding into Creole for distribution via pamphlets and radio to affected communities.[iv] (Jan. 22)

- The Child Protection sub-group reports that a rapid assessment is being undertaken by partners and the

Government covering makeshift settlement sites, institutions and orphanages.

Non-food items are being

provided at these locations to meet urgent needs. A mechanism has been established for the referral of

unaccompanied children released from hospitals. At least 40,000 children have been reached by the cluster sub-group. The number of separated or unaccompanied children needing support is greater than the capacity to respond. Those under five and extremely vulnerable are being prioritized. [v] (Jan. 22)

- World Vision opened two children's centres (Child-Friendly Spaces) at the San Jose Recovery Centre and the Good Samaritan Hospital at the Haiti-Dominican Republic border town of Jimani[vi] (Jan. 21)

## 2) Orphanages, Tracing and Family Reunification

- Save the Children child protection teams are visiting camps, shelters, and communities across Haiti's earthquake zone to ensure the safety of children and to help unaccompanied children be reunited with relatives whenever possible. Many children were not with their families at the time the earthquake struck because they were in school or pursuing work or other activities. Others may have become separated from parents now receiving medical attention in a different area. Save the Children is actively setting up systems to locate and reunite unaccompanied children with family members. Save the Children has already established six Child Spaces at camps and shelters in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel and will open more in the days to come. Save the Children is working with the Haitian government and others to establish a wide-reaching system to identify separated children and reunite them with family members[vii](Jan. 23)

- IRC is sending IMS Tracing Database Expert Jennifer to Haiti early next week to assist the Child Protection sub-Cluster to institute the Inter-agency Information Management System. She will support each agency's child protection focal points (IRC, Save, UNICEF and many others) to put in place standard and consistent usage of the IMS. IRC is beginning to identify, hire and train social workers on child case management as well as use of the

- The ICRC RFL team and the Haitian National Red Cross Society will register unaccompanied and separated children in Haiti and actively trace their families. All Tracing Requests and registrations should be sent to the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva ([op\\_prot\\_haiti.gva@icrc.org](mailto:op_prot_haiti.gva@icrc.org)). A new version of the Family Links website has been put online on 20 January 2010.[ix] (Jan. 23)

### 3) Safety and Security Threats

- Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization: "There is concern about unaccompanied minors, both their discharge from hospitals as well as their transport out of the country. The Child Protection Cluster, activated on 20 January, is addressing these concerns." [x](Jan. 22)

- Other reports indicate that armed men are attacking orphanages and stealing "food, water, and medical supplies." On Wednesday night, an orphanage caring for 50 orphans came under attack according to aid workers and a "neighboring orphanage sheltering about 135 children has been robbed several times over the past few days." [xi] (Jan. 22)

- Idle youth and youth gangs are growing concern. Need for dedicate focus on engaging youth in help projects and cash for work in recovery efforts. [xii](Jan. 23)

- There are reports of children leaving the country without proper documentation from both the airport in PaP as well as the border areas. UNICEF is working with authorities, including the Brigade de Protection des Mineurs (Police Special Child Protection Brigades), to establish rapid mechanisms to prevent trafficking. UNICEF offices in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are working together to ensure a coordination approach to establishing mechanism on both sides of the Jimani/Malpasse border to prevent trafficking by land. UNICEF

will begin advocacy with the French, Spanish, Canadian and US Embassies, at both Haiti and UNHQ-level to ensure that they will not support children to leave Haiti without appropriate and verified documentation.[xiii] (Jan. 22)

- On January 21, the Security Director from InterAction, a coalition of more than 180 U.S.-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs), arrived in Haiti with support from USAID/OFDA. The InterAction representative plans to conduct a general safety and security review to assess the need for and potential viability of a collaborative NGO safety and security coordination mechanism. On January 22, USAID/DART staff met with 23 NGOs to further discuss the plan. [xiv] (Jan. 23)

#### 4) Adoption Issues

- There are many inquires about how to get kids out of the country. Adoption discussion and advocates in US worries actors there. Europeans also arriving. Holland took 50 children and several groups are lobbying congress in favor of adoption--several groups are merging to try to get this done.[xv] (Jan. 23)

- ICRC is tracing activities: people are eager to adopt Haitian children before confirmation that parents or other family members are deceased.[xvi] (Jan. 23)

- Embassy processed more than 100 orphans today. There is a new procedure for adoption cases. The GoH has said that there needs to be a list of the children who have received humanitarian parole accompanied with photos. Embassy is checking to see if there are enough cameras for fulfill this requirement. [xvii] (Jan. 22)

- (SBU) As of 1400 EST, Embassy Port-au-Prince issued 57 immigrant

visas January 22 for orphans being adopted in the United States.[xviii] (Jan. 22)

- Approximately 200 orphans have already been documented for travel and have joined families in the United States. Clearance paperwork for more than 180 additional orphans is under review at Embassy PAP[xix].(Jan. 22)

- Update: Ninety-two children (orphans) arrived in the Netherlands on Jan. 21; they are being adopted by Dutch families. (Note: These orphans were already slated to be adopted by Dutch families, but their paperwork had not been finalized. The Haitian government helped to fast-track these adoptions in the wake of the earthquake. [xx] (Jan 22)

- (SBU) Approximately 300 orphans are expected to arrive January 20 at the embassy for documentation to travel to the United States.[xxi] (Jan 22)

- Diaspora arriving with funds for orphanages. Priority Need for rapid and expansion cash transfer to keep children with poor parents. UNICEF appears reluctant to engage, perhaps NGOs would be better option[xxii] (Jan 23)

##### 5) Coordination on Child Protection Issues.

- According to the USAID/DART, staff from the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights have arrived in-country to more fully activate the U.N. Protection Cluster. [xxiii] (Jan. 24)

- Secretary Clinton Statement: "We are coordinating closely with the Haitian government, the United Nations, our other international partners, and NGOs on the ground to ensure that aid reaches Haiti's orphanages and that newly

orphaned children are accounted for and cared for. We will also do everything we can to reunite the many children and families who have become separated in the aftermath of the earthquake. And this is a crucial point: we have to be very careful not to exacerbate this difficult situation by removing children from Haiti who might have surviving family members. We will not let red tape stand in the way of helping those in need, but we will ensure that international adoption procedures to protect children and families are followed. "The State Department is heading up a joint task force with the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to streamline this process and ensure that families are united as quickly as possible while ensuring that proper safeguards are in place to protect children in our care.[xxiv] (Jan. 20)

- Observation by pediatrician at GHESKIO (the HIV/AIDS clinic in Port-au-Prince) that many children being triaged and referred for emergency care by USG medical teams are being separated from their families in the process. US doctors proposed dropping post-operative kids at an orphanage and others say they want to try and adopt the children themselves. Need to inform and raise awareness among US medical teams.[xxv] (Jan 24) There is a need for cross-sectoral communication and coordination regarding basic principles and ensuring that health personnel look to the CPWG in Haiti for guidance

- G/TIP: reprogramming and scaling up funding for child TIP prevention in Haiti and the DR. This work is tied with the child documentation and family tracing efforts. G/TIP seeking coordination and more information about status of the child protection cluster and organizations ready to scale up.[xxvi] (Jan 23)

- UNICEF spoke with US Ambassador at the Embassy about media reports in the EU and in Haiti that children are disappearing from hospitals and from the country. The GoH sent a police protection brigade to the airport to check documentation of departing children. The police brigade told UNICEF they were asked to leave the airport by the U.S. military. The insinuation was that the order to leave the airport suggested U.S. complicity with the unauthorized departure of children. The Ambassador promised to check on the order. On-the-ground, rumors are starting to spread that children are leaving Haiti and that the GoH does not have a handle on it. Separately, UNICEF reported that in a Portuguese-controlled section of the airport, a group Love Beyond Borders was operating. UNICEF checked all the children and while they had valid passports and visas, they did not have adoption papers, only adoption files. [xxvii] (Jan 22)

· A rapid assessment of the child interim care centers/institutions, included a mapping undertaken before the onset of the disaster. Of these, only 3 remain in full working condition, and are currently caring for some 200 children and have capacity, once they receive support, to care for an additional 700 children, bringing the total to 900. By week end, the target will be to ensure that all SUAC between 0-5 in intervention sites are under care and have their minimum needs (shelter, food, water, NFI, etc) met.[xxviii] (Jan 22)

· Eight INGOs endorsed the Child Protection Working Group Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Haiti, namely - the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children, Terre des Hommes (TdH), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Vision International (WVI), Plan International, and War Child UK. [xxix] (Jan 22)

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[i] U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA) OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) USAID Haiti Earthquake Taskforce (SBU) Situation Report #22 - January 24, 2010.

[ii] BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)

OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) HAITI - Earthquake

Fact Sheet #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 January 23, 2010. USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)

[iii] U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID), BUREAU

FOR DEMOCRACY,  
CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA) OFFICE OF U.S.  
FOREIGN DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE (OFDA) USAID Haiti Earthquake Taskforce (SBU) Situation Report #22

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January 24, 2010 0400 Hours EST

[iv] OCHA Situation Report #11 OCHA Jan 22 Sit Rep

[v] Ibid

[vi] ReliefWeb: Haiti / Dominican Republic: World Vision opens "Child-Friendly Spaces" to protect Haitian survivors on Dominican border Source: World Vision, Date: 21 Jan 2010.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KHII-7ZX96R?OpenDocument>

[vii] ReliefWeb. Jan 23. Agency Staff On the Ground Reaching More than 85,000 People with Mobile Health Units and Medical Supplies Save the Children

[viii] Email Correspondence IRC & USAID/DCOF

[ix] Email DOS/PRM, Jan 23 Internal ICRC update

[x] Source: DHS/USCIS SITREP from Jan 22

[xi] Ibid

[xii] email Jan 23 - Professor of Clinical Forced Migration and Health

Director, Program on Forced Migration and Health Mailman School of Public Health Columbia University, 212-342-5213, [www.forcedmigration.columbia.edu](http://www.forcedmigration.columbia.edu)

[xiii] Source: UNICEF Situation Report to OCHA: Jan 22

[xiv] BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA),  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) HAITI - Earthquake Fact Sheet  
#11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 January 23, 2010. USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at  
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[xvi] Email DOS/PRM, Jan 23 Internal ICRC update

[xvii] Notes from Jan 22 1800 Interagency Conference Call

[xviii] [http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Crisis\\_Haiti\\_Earthquake](http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Crisis_Haiti_Earthquake)  
(TF1/Embassy Port-au-Prince e-mail)

[xix] Source: OSD Executive Summary 22 January 2010. (DOD)

[xx] (TF-1/Embassy The Hague email) Source: Haiti Task Force Update:

[xxi] (TF1/CA e-mail) Source: Situation Report

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[xxiv] Source: Jan 20 White House Press Release

[xxv] email from field CP Sector Specialist World Vision US

[xxvi] GTIP email - Jan 23

[xxvii] Source: Notes from Jan 22 1800 Interagency Conference Call

[xxviii] (19) Source: UNICEF Situation Report to OCHA: Jan 22

[xxix] Source: Haiti Task Force Update: (TF-4/Orphans and Vulnerable Children  
Taskforce email)

[1] U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA) OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) USAID Haiti Earthquake Taskforce (SBU) Situation Report #22 - January 24, 2010.

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[1] Source: UNICEF Situation Report to OCHA: Jan 22

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ASSISTANCE (DCHA), OFFICE  
OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) HAITI - Earthquake Fact Sheet  
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