



WORLD CONCERN JOINS OTHER GLOBAL RELIEF ALLIANCE MEMBERS TO INCREASE THE REACH OF RESPONSE EFFORTS

SEATTLE - Sunday, January 17, 2010 (1:45 p.m. PST)

World Concern Senior Director of Disaster Response, Merry Fitzpatrick, has provided the following updates from our response headquarters in Port au Prince, Haiti:

- As a member of the Global Relief Alliance, we are beginning to coordinate efforts to be able to reach more people. We appear to have the largest standing office in Haiti for members within the alliance, and thus we will be providing office space for the communication needs of others. A high-speed VSAT internet/phone system is going to be installed onto our office roof. The World Concern building is unscathed while the next door building collapsed on Tuesday -- 12 bodies recovered, but 10 thought to still be in the rubble, some still visible.
- Satellite communication has been set up with our staff in Haiti.
- Merry Fitzpatrick and World Concern Haiti Director Christon Domond have organized and implemented a new plan for our staff working on the ground in Port au Prince. A particular focus is to use preexisting networks to organize response.
- 16 World Concern staff-members are still unaccounted for at this time; we continue to search for them.
- Shops are afraid to open due to fear of being robbed. Supplies are still not at a high enough quantity to satisfy needs.
- With Haitian government buildings destroyed, officials and other government staff are working in various places, which is making organization a difficult task.
- At night, there is no electricity anywhere in the city.
- Today or tomorrow all telephone networks are expected to drop because of the lack of fuel in the country.
- None of the banks are open.

World Concern Communications Officer Derek Sciba is currently traveling to the Dominican Republic en route to Haiti. Others in Derek's traveling group include an AP photographer and three-person documentary film crew. We hope to make Derek available for interviews via phone or video conference after he has successfully joined our response team in Haiti.

Until Derek returns, please note all questions and requests can be directed to Jason Hamilton or Katie Riese of Richmond Public Relations. They can be contacted at the following: by office phone at 206-682-6979 or cell phone at 206-595-2593 (Jason) and 425-922-4197 (Katie); via email at jasonh@richmondpr.com and katier@richmondpr.com, respectively.

Seattle-based World Concern has worked in Haiti since 1978 and currently provides hope to 125,000 people. Our work with the poor includes microfinance, agriculture, disaster response and small business development. World Concern works with the poor in 24 countries, with the goal of transforming the lives of those we touch, leading them on a path to self-sustainability.

Worldwide, World Concern offers life, opportunity and hope to more than six million people.

For more information and to donate, visit www.worldconcern.org or call 1-866-530-5433 (LIFE)

After A Disaster: World Concern's Expected Sequence of Events

1. Provide water, shelter, blankets and food. People are thirsty and the water is unsafe. They no longer have homes, and need blankets and shelter, which usually comes in the form of tarps. Assist when possible to rescue survivors, but focus on the living.
2. Ramp up emergency food distribution. This will become increasingly important from the second and third day on. Among the shipments expected to arrive in the port, the US government should be shipping in emergency supplies from the Guantanamo Navy Base.
3. Reconnect children separated from their parents. In a disaster like this, an organization like World Concern can serve as an intermediary, reuniting families. In cases where parents may have died, we try and connect children with relatives or other guardians.
4. Coordinate with the UN and other relief agencies. The effort should begin in the next three days. The UN has faced the collapse of its headquarters, according to news reports, so it has work to reestablish itself as well as a coordinating agency.
5. World Concern staff and their families who have lost homes will live in our offices that remain standing.
6. After several days, people within cities will likely check on relatives in rural areas – both to see if they have survived, and see if they have a better living arrangement.
7. World Concern expects to set up transitional care camps for survivors without homes. These camps, which will likely be large tents with cots, will stay in place for at least three months.
8. In the weeks and months after the earthquake, World Concern will begin the process of rebuilding lives. This includes assisting people with new homes, new livelihoods, new schools and a more promising future. World Concern is committed not only to a prompt emergency response, but also to stand with the people of Haiti in the months and years to come.

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