



IOM HAITI EARTHQUAKE Health



Summary

IOM's Haiti Health Unit bridges **critical gaps in public health**, environmental health and psychosocial support. It does this through direct service delivery and by creating synergies with other IOM programs, in particular within IOM's role as CCCM Lead Agency. The health unit work closely with IOM's CCCM, Camp Management Operations, NFI and Shelter units to provide health perspectives and responses key to these programs. It also provides access shelter and camp management support for health, psychosocial and environmental health programs. **The unit takes a holistic approach to addressing health needs**, coordinating and collaborating across programs, clusters and agencies.

Key Activities include:

Psychosocial Support

IOM takes a lead role in providing psychosocial support to affected populations in collaboration with the Health and CCCM clusters, as well as undertaking individual and interagency capacity building and coordination activities.

- Direct Psychosocial Support in Priority Settlements and Psychiatric Hospitals through multi-disciplinary mobile psychosocial teams.
- Training of Humanitarian Workers, Community Leaders, Religious Leaders, and mental health professionals and others on psychosocially aware provision of humanitarian assistance and appropriate psychosocial responses.
- Co-chairing and secretariat of the IASC Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group.

Assisted Discharge and Referral

IOM provides **patient transport and assistance-service** to government and NGOs, hospitals and health clinics to assist in the return of vulnerable patients and families and improve access to appropriate health care and rehabilitation support. The units helps decongest overcrowded hospitals, projects provides transport, emergency and transitional shelter support and NFIs. It also facilitates appropriate camp placement and links patient needs with available follow-up services in the community. From a base at the university general hospital (HUEH), an **estimated 2,000 patients and their family members will be provided with an essential service** that interlinks IOM with other programs and essential health services provided by NGOs and the Ministry of Health.

Environmental Health

IOM's health unit is also working to **monitor, address and improve environmental health conditions** within priority IDP settlements through activities such as regular monitoring of WASH conditions in collaboration with the WASH cluster, CCCM and DINEPA, the governments water and sanitation agency; conducting direct environmental health mitigation activities in at-risk-camps; contributing to vector control measures through the distribution of mosquito nets and insecticide treated plastic sheeting; and developing hygiene promotion response messages and teams.

Mainstreaming health considerations in Shelter and Camp Management

IOM's health unit also **ensures health considerations are taken into account in shelter and camp management operations** for example coordinating training of condom distribution focal points in camps, allocating transitional shelter support for vulnerable patients as well as hospitals and health facilities, and ensuring actions such as site planning and service provision take into account health, psychosocial and physical vulnerability factors.

Supporting the Ministry of Health in priority public health areas

IOM works closely with the Ministry of Health (MSPP) to assist in **addressing critical public health gaps** in a range of areas including mapping of camps and health facilities, developing and implementing strategies to address infectious diseases such as tuberculosis amongst displaced populations, building transitional shelters in government hospitals and health facilities and working on health information and messaging to displaced populations.

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T-shelters under construction at the Defilet Buedet Psychiatric Hospital