

## **Background**

### **American Red Cross (ARC)**

American Red Cross, a PepsiCo Foundation disaster relief partner, is actively responding to the disaster and will be working with Red Cross partners in Haiti as well as with the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC). Currently, the ARC has released a total of \$1 million for immediate response activities; deployed a five-member Relief Emergency Unit (ERU) to manage the distribution of relief items to survivors; and has made available all relief supplies stored at its warehouse in Panama, including blankets, kitchen sets, and water containers to meet the needs of 5,000 families. The IFRC has deployed ERU's for Relief, Telecommunications, Logistics, Health/Mobile Hospital Logistics and a Field Assessment and Coordination Team. It has also activated its Pan American Disaster Unit in Panama. The ICRC is coordinating family tracing activities and will focus on helping people communicate with family members.

### **Save the Children (STC)**

Save the Children has offices in Port-au-Prince, and is sending teams by motorbike into the city to support emergency response efforts. STC will provide food, water, shelter and spaces to help children feel safe. The health care system will most likely not be able to keep up with the demand for services, especially those for children. Young people who have lived through an event of this depth are traumatized by the situation and fearful of what lies ahead. STC will offer its many years of experience in Haiti, providing both lifesaving relief and activities that support children's physical and emotional recovery from the shock they have experienced.

### **Friends of World Food Program (WFP)**

World Food Program is launching an emergency operation, mobilizing all available resources. Current data suggests that a massive emergency response will be necessary and that the need for food assistance will likely climb significantly. This will compound the situation where nearly two million Haitians who, prior to the earthquake, were already classified as food insecure. WFP has extensive in-country stocks of food that is pre-positioned for distribution. Some 200 staff are on the ground working to reach those in greatest need. Since many people have no access to cooking facilities, WFP will focus on the distribution of ready-to-eat high energy biscuits in the initial phase of this emergency operation. Ninety-four tons of high energy biscuits--enough to feed 30,000 people for a week -- are being airlifted from WFP's emergency hub in El Salvador. Additional efforts are being made to procure food including rice, beans, corn and vegetable oil from suppliers in the Dominican Republic.