



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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HAITI: EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AFTER THE QUAKE

VIDEO

PORT-AU-PRINCE – DRIVE
THROUGH DESTROYED CITY

COLLAPSED HOSPITALS

MAKESHIFT CLINIC IN STREET

BEAUCOURT ON CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

Before the earthquake, Haiti was already the poorest country of the western hemisphere with a severely stressed medical system. Now eight of the 11 hospitals in the capital Port-au-Prince are destroyed ... and hundreds of thousands of people injured in the quake are desperate for help. (18.5")

Makeshift clinics were set up in the streets – doctors had to perform complex surgeries on the spot with few medical supplies, not even painkillers. Medical doctor Luc Beaucourt: (12")

BEAUCOURT: (English) **M**

"The main cases are fractures, open fractures; we have a lot of open wounds, gut wounds, very big wounds, a lot of traumas, head traumas." (9.5")

NARRATION

MAKESHIFT CLINIC IN STREET

Under dismal hygienic conditions, people even die from minor injuries when their open wounds get infected. What's more, many people in Haiti suffer from Aids, cancer or diabetes – making it a matter of life and death for them not to be cut off from medication. (16.5")

WOUND BEING TREATED

PATIENT ON STRETCHER

MEDICINE WAREHOUSE

The World Health Organization (WHO) supplies improvised clinics with medicines from the national central drug store in Port-au-Prince, and has shipped in additional supplies for tens of thousands of people. (13")

NGO TENTS

SURVIVORS BEING TREATED BY
NGOs

WHO coordinates the work of 55 aid organizations and agencies to provide primary health care to survivors. International solidarity was essential to respond to the scale of the need. (13")

USNS COMFORT TANKER

PATIENTS ABOARD USNS
COMFORT

Days after the quake, 1,000 hospital beds for Haiti's injured arrived with the floating hospital USNS Comfort, a converted super tanker. Its 12 operating rooms saw non-stop action, treating patients, some of whom had been crushed under the rubble for five days... Lieutenant Commander Dr. Mill Etienne. (22")

ETIENNE: (English) **M**

ETIENNE ON CAMERA

"So, for a lot of those patients, the legs are

dying and having that dead leg there puts you at increased risk for infection. And that infection in the leg can actually kill the patient. So we are having to do a lot of amputations.” (12”)

NARRATION

INJURED SURVIVORS IN TENTS

Physical therapy for amputees is only one of the multiple needs for injured Haitians to recover. Soon some field hospitals will shut down and the long road to rebuilding the medical infrastructure will begin. The focus is already slowly shifting back to primary health care. (18”)

CHILDREN IN HOPITAL

CHILD WITH DOCTORS

Meanwhile, worldwide solidarity has produced some small miracles, like in this Israeli field hospital, set up in one of the poorest areas of Port-au-Prince. Paediatrician Tarif Bader. (12.5”)

BADER: (English) **M**

BADER ON CAMERA

“This little baby came here with a serious infection to his leg. It could be a very easy decision to have its leg amputated. We consulted with orthopaedics and we decided to give him a series of antibiotics, and try to save his leg.” (19”)

NARRATION

PATIENTS IN FIELD HOSPITAL

The hospital is working around the clock to bring specialized care to 250 patients, many of them in desperate conditions. Five patients

have died in the hospital – but as a small sign of hope, three new babies were born. (15”)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Ingrid Kasper for the United Nations.