

**Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief  
Coordinator Valerie Amos  
Statement to the Security Council  
20 January 2011, New York**

Mr. President.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about the still extremely grave humanitarian conditions in Haiti, and for your continued attention to the situation there.

The one year anniversary of the earthquake was an occasion on which we remembered the terrible tragedy that took the lives of more than 200,000 people, among them so many of our colleagues. We will never forget them, or their sacrifices. Those of us who are involved in the humanitarian response have also been taking stock of what has been done to help earthquake affected people over the past year, and charting a course for the next 12 months and beyond.

Looking back at the humanitarian work done over the last 12 months, and taking into account the devastation that the earthquake caused and the pre-existing difficult conditions in Haiti, a great deal has been accomplished.

The UN's humanitarian agencies, MINUSTAH which gave unwavering support to humanitarian work even before the earthquake and without which far less would have been accomplished, the Red Cross and the non-governmental organisations we work with in Haiti have all played their part.

Since 12 January last year, some 1.5 million people have received help with shelter. Of those, around half - 800,000 – are still in camps. The rest have been able to return home, or have been provided transitional shelters or another arrangement. At least five litres of drinking water per person is being delivered to 1.2 million people daily. Over 11,000 latrines have been constructed, providing many people with the first modern sanitation they have experienced in their lives. Over 1.1 million children are receiving daily meals through the national school feeding programme, supported by the World Food Programme. 68 per cent of damaged schools have been cleared of debris, allowing more than 2 million children to return to school.

Over the last months Haiti has been tested by two further shocks that required a major international response. In October, everyone working in Haiti pulled together to prepare the country for Hurricane Tomas. Thankfully the hurricane did not have the devastating which had been feared, but the exercise highlighted the extremely serious vulnerabilities that exist for many of Haiti's poorest people, earthquake survivors and others.

Also in October, the cholera outbreak was confirmed. The outbreak has spread nationwide and affected almost 200,000 people, with over 3,700 deaths so far. Haiti has ideal conditions for cholera's spread. Poor and non-existent water, sanitation, and

healthcare infrastructure, in many urban and rural areas. The density of populations especially in the urban slums. And because cholera has not been present in Haiti for over 40 years, knowledge of how to prevent infections was non-existent and still is, especially in the more remote parts of the country. Nonetheless, today the overall case fatality rate has declined from a peak of 9 percent to around 2 percent overall, although there are still spikes in some regions. This indicates that while the infection is still spreading around the country, the treatment facilities and the intensive public information campaigns launched to educate people about how to protect themselves are working. In Port-au-Prince the mortality rate has dropped to 1.2 percent. Continuing this work requires stability in the country. If aid supplies and aid workers cannot move around freely, or if sick people cannot reach help in time, the fatality rate will quickly rise again. There is still an urgent need for massive mobilization activities to promote prevention and early treatment.

Mr. President.  
Excellencies.

Malnutrition, chronically weak health systems, appallingly low literacy rates, and widespread lack of access to clean water, sanitation, and other basic services, mean humanitarian assistance is still an essential lifeline for hundreds of thousands of Haitians. Aid agencies are still providing water to more than a million people every day, food to 2 million people every month, and helping to keep 2.2 million children in school. These efforts need to continue at least through this year, which is why we have launched another humanitarian appeal for 2011, this time for \$906 million, i.e. about 50 percent less than we required in 2010. From that, \$174 million is for the cholera response, only 27 percent of which has been provided to date. So we need to scale up and do more and do it quickly. Much more attention to the cholera response is needed if the improved response of the last weeks is to be sustained.

The relief effort has helped millions of people, but it has not – and will not – provide the long-term solutions which are desperately needed. Accelerating recovery efforts must be the absolute priority for 2011. For humanitarian assistance to phase down, recovery and reconstruction needs to pick up. The Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission is central to this effort. We welcome the increased strategic role of the Commission, and its support to technical ministries and partners to define national plans in key areas such as housing, debris removal and health.

But even with this happening, it is important to still be realistic about how long it is going to take to get everybody to where they want and need to be. We cannot expect that Haiti, the poorest and least developed country in the western hemisphere before the earthquake, will be rebuilt in one year or even two. Humanitarian agencies are prepared to stand beside the poorest and most vulnerable Haitian people for as long as it takes to recover from this last terrible year, and through whatever the years ahead might hold.

Thank you for your continued support.