

Daily Report from Haiti – 25.1.2010

Position of the team: No change (The University Hospital, Port au Prince)

Main activities:

1. Continued activity in the hospital clinic (Kelly and Uri), in the recovery room (Assaf and Ilan). The number of treated today was considerably greater (also yesterday). The first reason is better coordination with the other bodies working in the area of the hospital (something that causes patients to be sent from the emergency room to the clinic) and the second reason is the increased awareness of the inhabitants of the city as to the activities of the hospital, which makes many of them come for medical treatment. The assessment is that the number of people coming to the hospital will grow from day to day.
2. Today for the first time, a hospital ambulance, belonging to the Red Cross, went into use for the purpose of transferring victims from one hospital to another in the city. In the first round of transfers two wounded people were brought directly to the operating theatre of the Red Cross hospital and in the second round 3 wounded were brought to the triage tent situated in the hospital. Two rounds of transfers were carried out by Ilan Klein and a local driver.
3. A second ambulance has been prepared today as an ALS transfer vehicle.
4. Chaim Rafalowski has set up a hospital store room of the Red Cross with help from a local team of workers.
5. In the early hours of the evening the Israeli ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Amos Radian, visited the MDA delegation and held a working meeting with Chaim Rafalowski, the coordinator of the emergency preparedness of the Norwegian Red Cross and the leader of the delegation. The following needs were raised at the meeting:
 - Three tents.
 - Sterile robes for the operating theatre.
 - Hospitalisation beds (100)
 - Chemical toilets
 - Expendable medical equipment including drugs.

The ambassador said that the subject would be investigated and an answer given as soon as possible.

6. During the day additional tents were set up in the area of the University Hospital. At this point the University Hospital is functioning almost entirely in tents.
7. Many groups of the Red Cross are visiting the campus of the hospital, showing great appreciation for the MDA delegation and great interest in its work.

Main points of the situation:

1. Great efforts are being made to restore the University Hospital to its normal routine. Some of the workers have returned to work and the intention is to integrate them amongst the various groups working on the campus.
2. The Director of the Hospital reported today that if there are no further secondary quakes until the end of the week, he will order everyone back to work in the buildings inspected and permitted by the engineers. At the moment there is a great fear amongst those being treated and the medical staff to work in the buildings, without any connection to their constructional state.

3. It is expected that there will be a big rise in the number of people coming for treatment in the University Hospital, including cases in which the Red Cross ambulance will be used to transfer patients between the hospitals.
4. The Emergency preparedness coordinator of the Norwegian Red Cross today gave an update in which he said that since the day the Red Cross hospital clinic opened (17/1) about 1000 patients have been treated and from the day the operating theatre opened (19/1) about 70 operations have been carried out.
5. Daily coordinating meetings are held in which the management of the University Hospital takes part together with representatives of all the groups working on the campus. In the next few days a “worker’s card” will be issued to all those working on the campus.
6. The subject of sanitation in the hospital has still not been solved. Today a representative of the Sanitation Aid organisation toured the area and tomorrow a work plan on the subject of sanitation will probably be published.