HAITI

PAHO/WHO Technical Cooperation

in the aftermath of the earthquake 2010-2011





Pandemic (H1N1) Preparedness 2010

Since the onset of the Pandemic (H1N1), the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP as per its acronym in French) has been organizing coordinating meetings with PAHO, and participating in technical teleconferences on the Influenza with the Ministries of Health of the Americas, which are coordinated by PAHO.

On April 28th 2009 the Minister of Health and Population chaired a meeting with all stakeholders at the PAHO/WHO office in Haiti. The main item on the agenda was the discussion of means of addressing the threat of the Pandemic (H1N1). Representatives to this meeting were drawn from the Prime Ministers Office (Communications); Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development; Ministry of Public Health and Population; United Nations, PAHO/WHO; the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH); the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS); Food and Agriculture Organization -FAO); and Partners (United States Agency for International Development - USAID); Centers for Disease Control- CDC).

A technical task force for the Pandemic (H1N1) was set up by PAHO with participation of the Minister of Public Health and Population, MINUSTAH and the Cuban Brigade. In 2009, approximately a hundred cases of the Pandemic (H1N1) have been confirmed in the country. There was no death reported.

The earthquake of January 12th 2010 has dramatically affected the country. The offices of the Ministry of Health were destroyed and many activities were suspended, including weekly influenza meetings of the MOH, PAHO/WHO, MINUSTAH and Cuban Brigade Taskforce. However, surveillance activities for acute respiratory infections have been reinforced throughout the country with case definition forms sent to all health institutions.

Next steps:

- Reactivation of the Pandemic Influenza task force
- Support to MSPP to organize meeting between all concerned actors to revitalize the influenza prevention, surveillance and diagnosis process in the post disaster situation.