

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN ACTION – CUBA'S RESPONSE IN HAITI

"One of the most important medical forces on the ground giving medical care to the Haitian people in the first 72 hours after the earthquake." Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) report on the Cuban response.

When the earthquake struck in January, 344 Cuban health professionals were already stationed in Haiti and able to respond immediately to the humanitarian disaster. Within hours they had set up field hospitals in the rubble – treating more than 2,000 people a day and a total of more than 25,000 survivors by 26 January.

Cuba, a poor blockaded country itself, donated 10 tons of medical supplies, 400,000 tetanus jab vaccines and sent a further 60 health specialists with experience in similar international catastrophes who arrived with drugs, medical supplies, food, serum and plasma. They are working to save lives alongside 400 Haitian doctors – all graduates of Cuba's Latin America Medical School.

Cuba has been supporting public health initiatives in Haiti since 1998. Since then, 6,094 Cuban doctors have volunteered in the country, carrying out 14 million consultations and saving 230,000 lives. Today, 570 Haitian students study in Cuba on free medical scholarships.

"...it was an enormous advantage that they [Cubans] were already here before the quake. They know the situation, the Health Ministry, the Haitian people...theirs is an enormous contribution." Dr Mirta Roses, PAHO Director



CUBA IN HAITI - over a decade of working together

- ▶ 6,094 Cuban health personnel have volunteered in Haiti as part of the Comprehensive health programme since 1998
- ▶ 225,000 surgeries carried out
- ▶ 100,000 birth deliveries attended by Cuban health professionals, 230,000 lives saved
- ▶ 47,273 eye operations performed as part of Operation Miracle
- ▶ 917 professionals from Haiti trained in Cuba, 570 out of them physicians
- ▶ 160,030 Haitians taught to read through Cuban educational support
- ▶ Today, 660 young Haitians study for free in Cuba, 541 on medical scholarships

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

- ▶ 1,504 Cubans working in Haiti today, As of 23 March 2010 they had treated 227,143 patients (more than the US, Canadian and MSF teams combined) and carried out 6,499 surgeries
- ▶ 403 Cubans were in the country on Tuesday 12 January, when the earthquake struck.

SUPPORT CUBAN MEDICAL TEAMS – SEE INSIDE FOR HOW TO PUBLICISE AND DONATE TO THE WORK OF CUBAN MEDICAL BRIGADES IN HAITI