

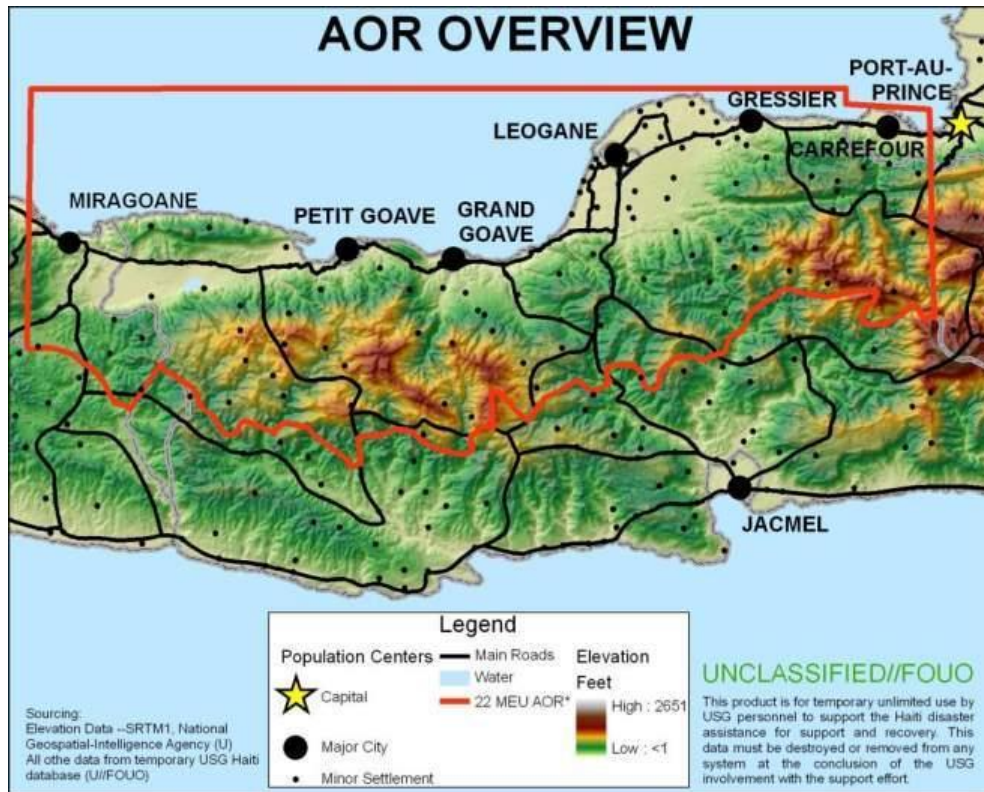


Haiti Open Source Digest

Operation Unified Response

1 February 2010

Roll-up assessment of news media reporting and Web 2.0 platforms



A note on reporting: as aid has saturated the western two-thirds of the AOR from Leogane to Grand Goave to Petit Goave, the amount of "SOS/911" calls have sharply dropped off. Thus, MCI's observations on these areas will focus on observing the sentiment and expectations of Haitians and NGOs towards the U.S., specifically the Marine Corps. For the area in and around Carrefour, including the neighborhood of Martissant, we will continue to observe the same dynamics and information, the need for aid and relief along with any obstacles or hazards that the Marine Corps may encounter.

Broad comments on the AOR:

The Washington Post ran an article this morning entitled, "[As food distribution improves, Haitians want U.S. to 'take over'.](#)" The increasingly prominent role of U.S. troops and civilian workers is creating high expectations among Haitians. "I want the Americans to take over the country. The Haitian government can't do anything for us," said Jean-Louis Geffard, a laborer who lives under a tarp. The article contains several quotes that underscore the fact that the average citizen has no confidence in their government,

but virtually 100% faith in the United States. Average Haitians are taking quick notice to how U.S. troops have brought order and efficiency to aid distribution.



Jean-Philippe Ksiazek/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

President René Prével of Haiti, center, speaks with Haitians between the railings at the presidential palace. Angry Haitians expressed their widespread opinion of no confidence in his government lashing out to him face to face. Some yelled for U.S. President Barack Obama to take over the country from him.

Martissant

Multiple observations on blogs, Twitter posts, and news media reports express hope that the new UN food coupon procedure will finally provide order and quell the chaos that has transpired during food and aid distribution.

The Toronto newspaper *Globe and Mail* [filed a report this morning](#) profiling Martissant. Sanitation and waste management are both noted as issues. The article focuses on a fascinating dynamic: survivors in each tent city or refugee camp are forming their own organizing committees to provide advocacy, security, and aid coordination. Profiled are 75 families, almost 400 people, living in an alley; it reports how the committee attempts to provide leadership for them as a sub-community of Martissant. The leader of the committee for this alley is a 22-year-old woman, Marnity Buisson. She states that this sub-community has received no aid and that their biggest needs are “food, tents, insect repellent, water, and medicine.” Some of the committees in Martissant are even issuing press releases and holding news conferences. The committees are holding roll call each morning and taking into account the needs that each family is reporting. The article ends by noting that UN food distribution in Martissant has been “chaotic,” but there is hope that the new food coupon procedure will provide some order.

Leadership might consider how to exploit the stronger-functioning committees in Martissant to disseminate information and provide leadership to the wider populace.

Theophat Saintilus, director of a Martissant school called the College Mixte Le Fraternel [states that his five-story school, though still standing](#), has serious structural problems. Saintilus is formulating the way ahead for his school. A UNICEF team based in Port-au-Prince and tasked with aiding the Haitian educational system has been active in the area, supplying area schools with tents and education supplies.

Oxfam and [the Haiti Water Project](#) both state that they are distributing clean drinking water in Martissant. Specific locations have not been provided. Their operations are most likely mobile.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is very active at Martissant 25, a health clinic also referred to as “the Martissant Hospital” in some reports. Dr. Morten Rostrup, a Norwegian doctor there with MSF, is posting observations to [his Twitter feed](#). Below is a sampling of his observations. His English is very good, but awkward in spots. Note that the presence of gunshot wounds most likely points to violent clashes within the community.

- “Almost all our focus is on the continuous treatment of trauma. The hospitals are full, new structures still being established.”
- “I heard there are about 260 NGOs here now. Quite a number and quite a coordinating challenge. Everybody wants to be present.”
- “Gunshots were treated in addition to fractures. We see less severe infections, but still we get patients with untreated fractures.”
- “Just finished my round in the ICU. 11 small children with dehydration, pneumonia or gastroenteritis. They all look stable now.”
- “There is night in Haiti. Just referred a gunshot to another hospital. The streets are calm, more or less deserted.”



Pictured left is the Martissant operation of Doctors Without Borders. Because of structural integrity issues, most are being treated in makeshift facilities directly adjacent to the hospital building.
(AFP/Julien Tack)

Carrefour

[A Reuters article this morning](#) profiles an impromptu tent city on the campus of Haitian Adventist University, located between the administration building and the chapel. NGO Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) notes that dehydration and diarrhea have both been problems. The report estimates that 15,000 are living in this tent city. The leader of ADRA at this location is Luiz Camargo.

[The Centre d'Accueil de Carrefour, an orphanage caring for 650 young boys in Carrefour](#), says it needs food, water, sanitation and shelter. It has only two functioning toilets for children and staff.

[The Seventh Day Adventist Hospital is profiled](#) in an article published today. It is depicted as being highly organized logistically, despite being short on medical personnel and supplies. A precise geographic location of the hospital is not given.

The 24th MEU moved into Carrefour yesterday to distribute aid and provide relief. The only open source reporting observed on this activity is from the 24th MEU's [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Flickr stream](#).



24th MEU Marines and Sailors moved into the Carrefour region to help facilitate the distribution of relief supplies. The personnel will set up additional supply distribution points and build a temporary hospital so patients can begin transitioning from naval vessels back to Haiti. (Official Marine Corps photos by Gunnery Sgt. Robert Piper)



Petit Goave

The USAID funded cash-for-work cleanup project that begins today on February 1 and will continue for 6 months. [Cooperative Housing Foundation \(CHF\)](#) will employ 300 people per day in Petit-Goave to remove rubble and debris from streets, public buildings, and private homes. Members of the APBD (Peasant's Association of the Lower 12th Section) relay water trucked into their area by U.S. Marines. In recent days, the Marines have been delivering food and water to stockrooms and offices run by a combination of local leaders and grassroots organizations. Most of these organizations are former implementing partners of CHF. In the aftermath of the earthquake, CHF has been linking both the Marines and newly-arrived NGOs to Petit-Goave organizations with a proven track record of success.



A Marine convoy navigates the narrow street of Grand Chemin in Petit-Goave en route to a community-run distribution point for food and water. In 2009, CHF had repaired and reinforced the road through Grand Chemin with 71 meters of retaining walls paid for by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Thanks to the CHF retaining walls, fully-loaded 7-ton Marine transport trucks were able to navigate through the area and deliver crucial aid to this needy corner of Petit Goave.

CHF portrays a highly favorable working relationship in Petit Goave with the Marine Corps in their online literature. They hope to lead other organizations operating in Petit Goave in an effort to ensure a seamless transition from the USMC humanitarian effort into more long-term NGO stabilization and development efforts.

CHF views itself as the organizer of HA/DR in Petit Goave, working with NGO's and the Marine Corps. CHF remarks with high praise on the expertise that the Marines bring to the relief effort. This may cause a perception that leans towards the Marine Corps staying in country for an extended period of time. Also with the "Cash for Work" program, Marines need to be conscious of the cause and effect of clean up missions, as to not eliminate jobs from the Haitians. There is perhaps a fine line between the perception that Marines are helping the community and the Marines are taking jobs away from the populace.

An intriguing blog post today explores the thought "[Will Soft Bigotry Hurt Haiti?](#)" The post quotes a missionary named Ed from Petit Goave.

“The people in Haiti should certainly know how Haiti “works;” they should be consulted about the handling of communities that are under great stress and will be further challenged by refugees out of Port au Prince. They should also be included in the management of recovering and rebuilding.

The story of one Haitian worker in Port-au-Prince illustrates this potential harm: Delande Jean-Michel is a technician at a private firm contracted by the Haitian electric company to provide power for the capital. Since the quake the plant remains off-line while technicians from three foreign-based companies evaluate the damage and make repairs. The foreign technicians, engineers and specialists are working without accompaniment by Haitian employees, who remain idle.”

The bottom line of the blog post: “...as repair and reconstruction begins, it *must* include the Haitian people, or the message they will be receiving is one that might be translated as part of the ‘soft bigotry of low expectations,’ – a message that they are incapable of taking care of themselves.