

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN HAITI UPDATE (18 January 2010)

On Friday 15 January, the Minister for Culture and External Affairs met with representatives of 12 non-government organisations (NGOs) in Scotland to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Haiti.

The Minister called the meeting to gather intelligence from the Scottish international development community on the latest situation and to help establish how the Scottish Government can best support the Scottish response.

A list of action points from the meeting are listed below:

Updates from NGOs

We are grateful to NGOs for their regular updates regarding the on-going situation in Haiti. These are extremely helpful and help us gain an insight into conditions on the ground and understand the challenges faced.

Funding

On Saturday 16 January the Minister was pleased to announce at least £250,000 of support to assist Scottish-based organisations, both DEC and non-DEC members, with their humanitarian aid efforts in Haiti.

If you have not already done so, it would be helpful if those organisations wishing to apply for funding could contact officials in the International Development Team to confirm their interest. Our contact details are given below.

In the meantime application forms and guidance are available to download from the Scottish Government's website at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/internationaldevelopment/idffundingguidance/humanitariancrises/haiti/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/

Temporary Secondment of Scottish Government Staff

The Scottish Government recognises that many organisations will be stretched to maximum capacity. During the meeting the Minister made the offer of temporary secondments of Scottish Government staff to provide administrative support enabling your staff to focus on operational matters.

If you would find this helpful please contact the International Development Team. It would be helpful if you could provide a brief note on how long you would need staff and what type of assistance you would require. This will help us to match staff who have an interest and the appropriate skills.

Links Between NGOs and Other Bodies

We have also agreed to assist in the raising awareness of the DEC Scotland and Scottish Aid Agencies fundraising campaigns amongst local government, trade unions and business organisations, so that others can contribute if they wish to this huge humanitarian crisis.

Officials have been in touch with the STUC, CBI, FSB, Scottish Chamber of Commerce and COSLA to ask them to encourage their membership to donate to the appeals launched by the DEC and Scottish-based NGOs. Initial reactions have been positive.

Officials will be in contact soon to facilitate a meeting with these organisations and NGOs to discuss possible links potential for future co-operation.

Please let the Scottish Government's International Development Team know if your organisation would be interested in attending.

Contact Us

Please e-mail us at:

internationaldevelopment@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Or alternatively if you wish to speak to someone before e-mailing please feel free to telephone Callum Stanners on 0131 244 1608.