

Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

Summary of DSRG and UNCT plans on assistance to cholera affected communities

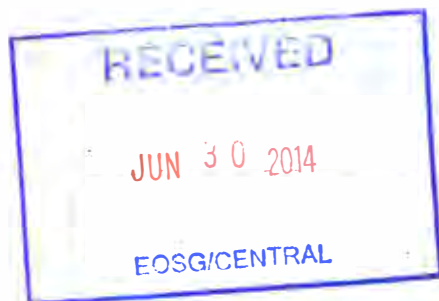
Further to the email of 24 June from DSRG Peter de Clerq, please find attached for your information, a brief summary of his main points. Also attached is the concept paper prepared by the UNCT Haiti on this subject.



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Received in ODSG

24 Jun 2014.

Seen by:

ER

Subject: DSRG and UNCT's approach to the issue of assistance to cholera affected communities

Summary of DSRG de Clercq email and paper

- 1. The High Level Committee has not taken any decision related to the design of a community based programme**, specifically targeting cholera victims. There was a presentation from one of the Prime Minister's advisors who talked about socio-economic "accompagnement" of families and victims. As this was the first time that any of the HLCC members, including the Government representatives, were confronted with this presentation, the Committee decided to refer the issue to the Technical Secretariat for further elaboration prior to being tabled at a subsequent meeting of the HLCC.
- 2. The UNCT cautions against the launch of a separate and parallel UN programme specifically addressing cholera** which might not attract financial resources. This could detract from the existing Total Sanitation programme and other programmes targeting poverty, displacement and also run counter to a broader and integrated Government agenda to fight extreme poverty. In addition, such a programme risks be perceived, or misused, as a form of compensation for individuals affected by cholera.
- 3. The UNCT proposes to continue utilizing existing community based programmes**, led by the Government and supported by the UN, such as resilience and social protection programmes related to extreme poverty. These programmes can assist communities impacted by cholera by including "communities affected by the disease" in the selection criteria of beneficiaries. (ie have a targeted approach within an overall wider programme) In addition, the UNCT is now mapping community based programmes in Haiti to ensure that they do indeed cover cholera affected communities. In the event of any gaps, this will then be addressed by **scaling up of existing programmes**. This approach is more sustainable and ensures that assistance to affected populations is based on vulnerability criteria. Furthermore, some funding is already available for the upscaling of existing interventions, which avoids trying to establish and fund a new initiative.
- 4. This approach will be discussed in the forthcoming session of the HLCC** as agreed during the first inaugural meeting. The HLCC Secretariat will **commence** preparatory discussions **with** the Government this week for the second HLCC session foreseen for 30 June.

5. The UNCT believes that such an approach acknowledges the lead role of the Haitian Government in setting its development and humanitarian priorities, which the UN should support. It also responds to a request made by the Minister of Human Rights and Extreme Poverty during the first meeting of the HLCC to support existing Government programmes that are effective but do need additional resources.

6. The modalities of **Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)** are advancing. The Government sees TSC as a much broader effort well beyond cholera to provide latrines, sanitation facilities, clean drinking water and waste management to all Haitians. Within this vision, it is proposed that the UN's contribution, spearheaded by UNICEF, focuses on the implementation of a programme that tackles the so called 'red zones', i.e. zones mostly affected by cholera. **UNICEF has already mobilized US\$14 million to roll-out the programme in a number of communes and the World Bank will be implementing the same type of activities in other communes which are yet to be defined.** Every effort is being made to ensure that the Secretary-General can launch the first phase of the programme, together with the Prime Minister, during his visit to Haiti.

7. Lastly, the DSRG makes the point that he and the UNCT are driving these efforts with limited or no dedicated resources. None of the posts in the Integrated Solutions Support Unit (ISSU) to be funded under the mission budget have been approved (still pending with the Fifth Committee) while the Mission's consolidation and retrenchment process is also affecting the humanitarian pillar.