2010 Haiti Earthquake, Disease Risk and Recovery

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The magnitude 7.0 earthquake occurred in Haiti on 12 January 2010. Fifty-nine aftershocks occurred between 12 January and 23 February. The Haitian Government reported estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 people had injured and 1.1 million people had displaced. An estimated 100,000 houses were destroyed, and 190,000 houses were damaged. Initial earthquake destroyed Haiti, and diseases followed by the earthquake will affect Haiti in a serious way. Concerned illnesses are dengue fever, diphtheria, hepatitis, leptospirosis, lymphatic filariasis, malaria, tetanus, tuberculosis, and typhoid. Especially, malaria and typhoid have been pandemic disease in Haiti, and significantly under-vaccinated Haitian population against Tetanus brings more anxieties. Contaminated water and food, contaminated wound, and sewage problem can worsen the situation with diseases. Psychological disease is another consideration after horrendous natural disaster. Three months after the earthquake, Haiti is still facing problems with displaced people, medical aids and resources. Even though there are international aids from governments and non-government organizations, there is a long way for Haiti to recover from dreadful earthquake from 12 January 2010.