

UN: 1 million in need of shelter

■ **Too few tents** leaving many in capital homeless

■ **Government's message:** Get out of Port-au-Prince

BY VIVIAN SEQUERA AND MIKE MELIA
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The collapse of much of Haiti's capital has a large part of the nation struggling just to find a place to sleep.

As many as 1 million people need to find shelter, the United Nations estimates, and there are too few tents to put them in.

That leaves about 700,000 other people living on the streets around the city under whatever they can salvage. In the case of Jean Anthony's family, that's a blue plastic tarpaulin for a ceiling and a faded pink sheet with a floral print border for two walls.

"I'm not sure what you'd call it, but it's much more than terrible," said Anthony, 60, the owner of a collapsed restaurant. Thousands of people were camped around him yesterday across from the collapsed National Palace amid piles of trash and the stench of human waste.

"We live like dogs," said Espiegle Amilcar, an unemployed 34-year-old who has been staying under a sheet of plastic.

Disturbances erupted near the camp later when Uruguayan UN peacekeepers fired pepper spray to try to disperse thousands jostling for food aid. Undeterred men surged forward to grab bags, emblazoned with U.S. flags, filled with pinto beans and rice. It was not immediately clear whether anyone was hurt.

Aid organizations say they are collecting tents, but few so far are in evidence. And the International Organization for Migration, an intergovernmental agency, says it could take experts weeks to search out suitable sites for enough tent cities.

Haiti's government wants many of the homeless to leave the capital city to look for shelter with relatives or others.

The world's nations have pledged some \$1 billion in emergency aid to Haiti. Organizers of Friday night's "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon reported the event raised \$57 million, with more pledges still coming in.



A man obtains water yesterday at one of the many makeshift tent camps where homeless survivors are living in Port-au-Prince.



Al Brandel, chairman of Lions Club International Foundation, returned recently from Haiti.

Visit 'overwhelmed' couple

BY JENNIFER MALONEY
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Standing in a circle of Lions Club volunteers outside a hotel near the Dominican Republic's border with Haiti, Al Brandel and Maureen Murphy held out tokens of support to their Haitian counterparts and wept.

The gesture was ceremonial but also a practical one. They placed reflective vests on the shoulders of 11 Haitian Lions Club members, inducting them into an international response committee and marking them as relief workers.

"They were overwhelmed," Brandel, of Melville, said yesterday of the trip he and his wife made last week. "Their eyes welled up. We reassured them that they're not alone [that] things are going to be OK. We're going to help you."

Brandel, 60, is chairman of

the Lions Club International Foundation, which mobilizes immediate relief and long-term recovery projects after major humanitarian disasters. Murphy, 51, Brandel's wife, is an anesthesiologist at Winthrop-University Hospital.

When the two flew to the Dominican Republic on Wednesday, the Dominican Lions Club organization already had begun sending in trucks laden with food, water and medical supplies. As the flow of emergency aid continued, Brandel convened an international team in Jimani, a city in the Dominican Republic, to begin looking to the future: What will Haiti need? What can we do to rebuild it?

Murphy recounted how William Eliacin, chief of Haiti's three Lions Club chapters, addressed the group.

"Tears came to his eyes, his

voice broke. He was apologetic," she said. "He'd been working nonstop for 12 days. William's house was not damaged, but he and his wife had been sleeping in their car" because they're afraid to sleep indoors.

The Lions foundation, an organization with 1.3 million members in 205 countries, continues to work in those areas, offering vocational training and rebuilding homes, schools and villages.

The couple returned from Haiti Saturday.

Brandel said he and his colleagues are now considering long-term projects there. "We don't want to duplicate what other people are doing," he said, explaining that the group's Haitian members will direct them to the greatest needs.

Three Haitian Lions died in the earthquake, he said.