Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

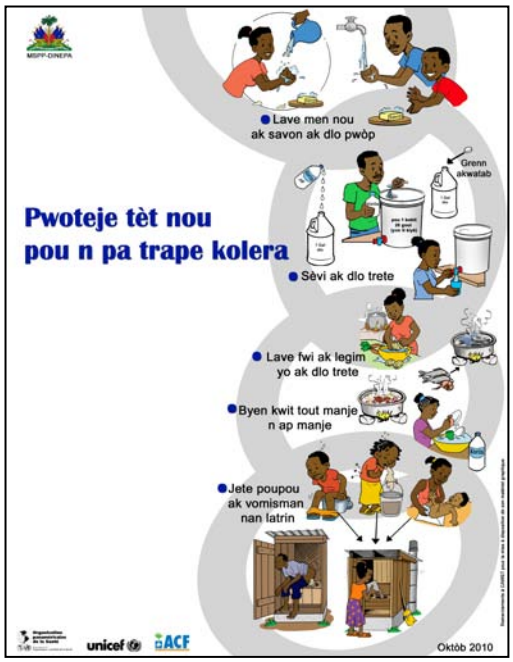
Wednesday, November 3, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT

EOC SITUATION REPORT #10

Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

- The cholera outbreak continues to spread to previously unaffected areas in rural communities. As of November 3, according to the MSPP, there were 6,742 hospitalized cases and 442 deaths. Five departments (Artibonite, Centre, Nord, Nord-Ouest, Ouest) registered cases.
- Several countries contributed with funds and resources, including the United States, Canada, Cuba, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Israel, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, France, Japan, and Dominican Republic, among others. Many NGOs are actively involved in the response to the outbreak, including Red Cross, MSF and Partners in Health.



Cholera prevention poster in Creole, developed by the MSPP and partners

Tropical Storm Tomas

- According to the latest advisory published by US NOAA's National Hurricane Center, tropical storm Tomas may acquire hurricane strength as it reaches Haiti, which is expected to happen on Friday. As of 5 PM EDT, Tomas had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph 75 km/hr.
- In collaboration with the Department of Civil Protection (DPC), the UN and humanitarian community have activated contingency plans for hurricane response. The contingency plan, which has been updated over the last eight months to reflect the post-earthquake landscape, has been put into operation. Health supplies that were part of the contingency plan are being replenished.
- The World Meteorological Organization informed that the official warning website for tropical storms in Haiti is: http://www.meteo-haiti.gouv.ht. This site was established through WMO coordination with the National Meteorological Service of Haiti.

Health Partners Response

National level

- A list of 80 health centers throughout the country has been compiled to act as triage oral rehydration centers. These centers are being assessed to ensure that human resources are in place and basic facilities, such as safe water, are available
- Training is taking place throughout the country for medical staff in case management of severe dehydration. The MSPP is also training community agents to train others on health promotion activities.
- The communication working group, led by the MSPP, and supported by PAHO and other UN agencies, produced and validated 12 health messages to be disseminated through posters and radio. The posters have been reproduced by the major newspapers in Haiti.
- Partners in the response to the outbreak were asked to focus on and support these messages and avoid disseminating different or conflicting messages. Other communication tools under development include illustrated books for community agents, phone messaging (SMS) and loudspeaker health alerts.
- Communication initiatives seek to reach all rural and urban areas, with a focus on the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. The International Office on Migration (IOM) sent 130,000 SMS messages to camp residents with Digicel network phones about Tropical Storm Tomas risk reduction practices, specifically about keeping drains clean to avoid potential flooding.

Port-Au-Prince

- Six Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) were established by MSPP in Port-au-Prince, of which four are fully operational. Four more are in the plans. The target it to create 2,000 beds in these CTCs.
- As soon after Tropical Depression Tomas leaves Haiti, cholera treatment tents will be established in fourteen hospitals of the capital.
- MSF Canada is working with Cite Soleil's Bureau Communal to set up transitory rehydration centers and provide ambulance transfer services to CHOSCAL or to nearby CTCs.
- Save the Children is working in five camps in Port-Au-Prince to reinforce disease surveillance and to provide hygiene education.

Artibonite

- One CTC is operational in St. Marc, with support from NGOs.
- In Gros-Morne, the primary health facility experienced a steady increase during the first week and reaching a peak in admissions in the last three days.

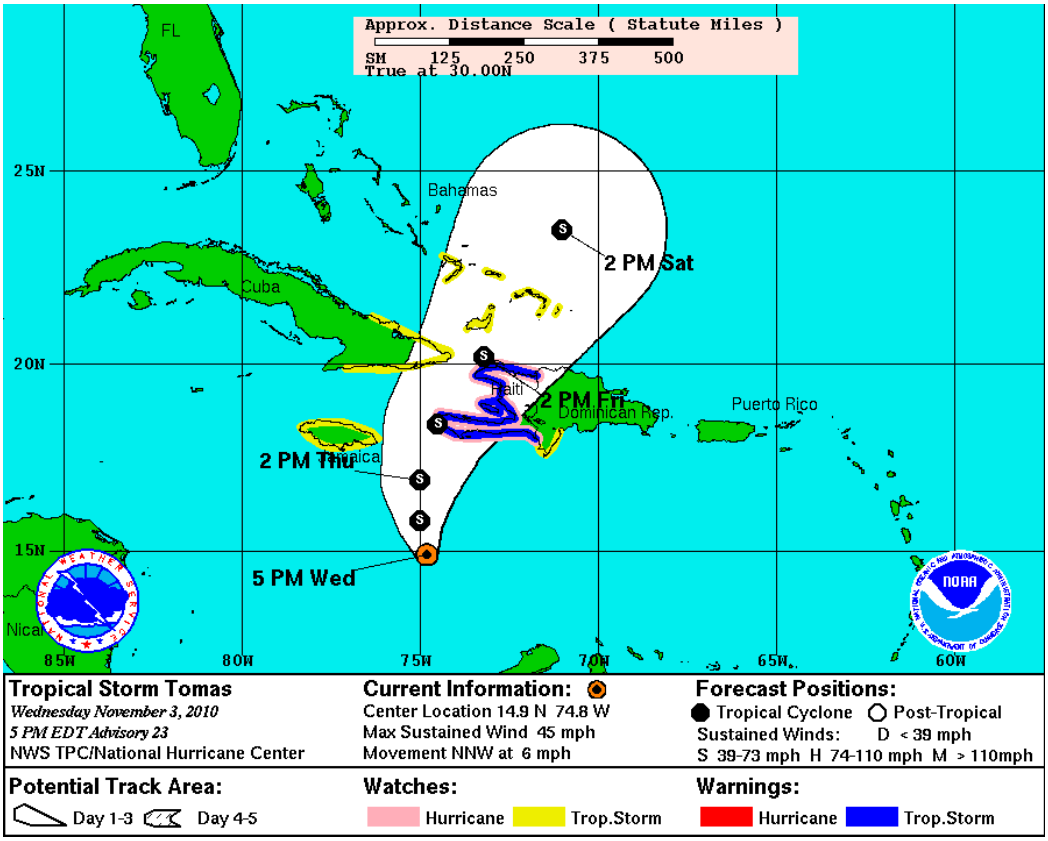
Central Plateau

- In the prison of Mirebalais, where five prisoners died and 100 required medical attention, the situation has stabilized and no recent cases were identified. Prisoners now have potable water (water bladder provided by ICRC), their cells have been cleaned, and infection control has been instituted.

Ouest

- Two CTCs are operational in the Ouest, in Leogane and in Arcahaie, with support form NGOs.

Five day forecast for Tropical Storm Tomas (US NOAA National Weather Service)



Cholera Key Facts

- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by exposition, ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae 0:1*.
  Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical in reducing the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

- Up to 80% of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts.

- There are an estimated 3–5 million cholera cases and 100,000–120,000 deaths due to cholera every year around the world.

Guidelines and Recommendations

Title	Link
Acute diarrheal diseases in complex emergencies: critical steps	English French
Be a Better Donor: Practical Recommendations for Humanitarian Aid	English Spanish
Cholera fact sheet	English French Spanish
Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness	English French Portuguese
Diagnóstico de Vibrio cholerae y Salmonella	Spanish
First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhea	English French Spanish
Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters: A Field Manual for First Responders	English French Spanish
Manual de Procedimientos Aislamiento, identificación y caracterización de Vibrio cholerae	Spanish
Five keys to safer food	Creole English French Spanish Arabic Chinese Russian
PAHO/WHO Position on Cholera Vaccination in Haiti	English French Spanish
Procedures for identification of Vibrio cholerae in the microbiology laboratory	Spanish **(updated)**
Recommendations for cholera clinical management	English
The Global Task Force on Cholera Control	English

Other Resources

- PAHO/WHO disasters homepage and PAHO/WHO's main website.
- SUMA Logistics Support System.
- Global Task Force on Cholera Control and WHO's main website.
- OCHA's Crisis Information Centre on Haiti.
- ReliefWeb Haiti Cholera Outbreak page.
- CDC Haiti cholera outbreak resource center.
- Post-Earthquake Health Resources for Haiti by NIH Disaster Information Management Research Center (updated for the cholera outbreak).
- MINUSTAH (*Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haiti*).
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti and other international public health information please check the PAHO/WHO EOC channel in Twitter.

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