

Haiti

- As of Monday, 29 October, 54 confirmed deaths were reported, 20 injured and 20 missing. 12,947 persons were evacuated to 102 shelters around the country.
- Strong rains and flooding caused damage to main routes, roads and bridges in Haiti; preventative evacuations of thousands of people took place. More than 4,000 houses flooded, 3,295 destroyed and 10,183 were damaged, translating into more than 18,000 families affected.
- An increase in the number of cholera alerts have been received, especially in the south, southeast, low Artibonite, Ouest, mainly in Metropolitan areas from several IDP camps and areas that are difficult to access.
- No damage is reported in hospitals and health centers with the exception of the maternity area of Les Cayes Hospital.
- Several Cholera Treatments Centers (CTC) were affected by strong winds and flooding. The CTC in Baraderes was destroyed. Teams of MSF Holland, PAHO/WHO, International Medical Corps (IMC), and the Ministry of Health (MSPP) in the area are assuring case management and that supplies are available and can be replaced.
- The major concern is access to health services and restocking supplies. Rivers are impassible in many places and roads are obstructed. Poor sanitary conditions as a result of the storm could increase public health risks.
- For the moment, we cannot attribute responsibility for the rise in cholera cases to the passage of the storm and the heavy rains that preceded the storm starting on 23 October. The incubation period of cholera must be taken into account and we expect a new increase of cholera cases in the coming days.

Cuba

- Following the passage of Hurricane Sandy, 11 deaths have been reported, 9 in Santiago de Cuba and 2 in Guantánamo, according to the Civil Defense.
- Preliminary reports indicate that several hospitals have been affected in all provinces as well as 375 health centers. Two hospitals experienced severe damage: The General Teaching Hospital in Mayarí and the General Teaching Hospital in Banes in the Holguín Province.
- The lack of electricity implies that running water supply is irregular. More than 820,000 people (only in Santiago and Holguin provinces) are lacking running water supply at this stage.
- The effect on health infrastructure could further complicate those areas previously affected by cholera and could impact food handling and other waterborne diseases. At this time, all hospitals report some type of damage although all report being able to function.
- Cuba has the response capacity for public health and disease surveillance; however, the large amount of damage to infrastructure and homes as well as the affect on the environment and sanitation systems is a concern. A large amount of people in shelters for long periods of time may create conditions of poor hygiene, and this requires an expanded evaluation of damage and needs in the health sector.
- The Cuban healthcare system is based on primary care, and small health facilities cover large portions of the population. If these facilities are out of service and unable to provide care, it could increase public health risks.
- The PAHO/WHO office is prepared to buy supplies for outbreaks. Experts are working with UN agencies and the Government to analyze the situation.

- With respect to housing, 160,800 houses have reports of damage, of which 17,211 totally collapsed (UNCT). Many people must reside in shelters or live with neighbors or friends.
- The Civil Defense is collecting information on the current situation and UN agencies are working together to assess the needs in Cuba.

Bahamas

- Hurricane Sandy hit the Bahamas as a Category 2 storm on Thursday, 25 October 2012. The area most affected is Grand Bahamas, some of the Southern Islands (Cat Island, Rum Cay, Long Island) and Abaco (particularly Treasure Cay) where there is a large amount of vulnerable populations. Two deaths have been reported at this time. Further community assessments are taking place.
- A total of 130 shelters have been established.
- Reports indicated flooding and damage to the roofs of the health clinics of Acklins, Eleuthera, Long Island, the doctor's residence, Cooper's Town, Clarence Town, Governor's Harbour, Spanish Well's and Abaco, with Fox town and the Cat Island Clinics experiencing compounded damage to their roofs as a result of unfixed damage from the last hurricane.
- A need for generators and back-up generators has been highlighted for the areas of Governor's Harbor and Fox Hill Clinic in New Providence.
- Disadvantaged populations such as migrant Haitian communities have been severely affected with exacerbated hygiene and sanitation issues. Community assessment teams from the Ministry of Health are currently assessing the full extent of the problems in key areas such as Abaco.
- Government officials visited the migrant community of Shanty Bank in Treasure Cay, Abaco where health officials reported "a significant amount of water settled on the ground" which could pose public health threat (ie cholera, dengue, malaria, and other water or vector-borne diseases).
- Similar flooding conditions were reported in other migrant communities, creating concerns of hygiene and sanitation issues, increased risk of diarrhea and other water and vector-borne diseases and possible zoonotic diseases.
- There are reports that the fresh water source in Long Island has been contaminated by salt water.
- The PAHO/WHO office is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Ministry of Health, Environmental Health, Public Hospital Authorities and NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency). Currently, there have been no requests for international support.'

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

- The PAHO Regional Response Team for the Caribbean is currently on standby, and two members of the team from the PAHO Barbados office are expected to travel to the affected areas.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in PAHO/HQ is in communications with PAHO country offices and continues monitoring the situation. PAHO/WHO offices in affected countries are fully functional.
- PAHO/WHO country offices maintain contact with the ministries of health to monitor the situation. In Haiti, the PAHO office is coordinating with the Emergency Joint Operations Center (EJOINT). The EOC of the Ministry of Health in the departments of Sud-est and Nippes are currently activated as well as the EOC from the Civil Defense. The PAHO office in Cuba has activated its contingency plan and maintains communications with UN agencies.

- In the regional warehouse in Panama, supplies are available for the treatment of water and quality control, laboratory testing kits, among others.
- The PAHO office in Haiti sent alert and response teams to verify the alerts and provide cholera supplies to CTCs.

For more information, visit www.paho.org/disasters

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