

**Monday, November 1, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT**

EOC SITUATION REPORT #9 Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

- MSPP has not released new reports on cases. The latest available data is for Saturday, October 30: 4,764 cases and 337 deaths, reported in four different departments.
- Health partners throughout Haiti are preparing for the possible impact of tropical storm Tomas. The humanitarian community, including PAHO/WHO, is coordinating with Haiti's Department of Civil Protection (DPC). 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 Health Cluster will be represented at the humanitarian operations center, if it is activated.
- According to the latest advisory published by US NOAA's National Hurricane Center, Tomas slightly weakened and reduced its intensity from a level 1 hurricane (Sunday) to tropical storm (Monday). As of 5 PM EDT, Tomas is 640 km South-South West from Port-au-Prince. According to current forecasts it may reach Haiti on Friday.



Brazilian battalion BRABATT 2 and PAHO/WHO Representative, Dr. Lea Guido, coordinate logistics and transportation issues at PROMESS. Photo: Rosane Lopes.

Health Partners Response

- CDC has announced today laboratory test results of the cholera outbreak strain in Haiti. The results show that the strain in Haiti is very similar to cholera strains found in South Asia. According to Haiti's Minister of Health, Dr. Alex Larsen, this is not unexpected, since strains may move between different areas due to global travel and trade. The lab tests did not clarify if the strain was transmitted by contaminated food or water, or by an infected person.
- The Government of Mexico is supporting the Health Cluster's response to the outbreak with a Navy medical team and a 2.2 tons shipment of medical supplies. The team is already in Haiti, with a goal to help limit the impact of the outbreak. It includes three internists, two

public health specialists, six medical doctors, and four nurses, as well as other military personnel, to help coordinate logistical and medical actions.

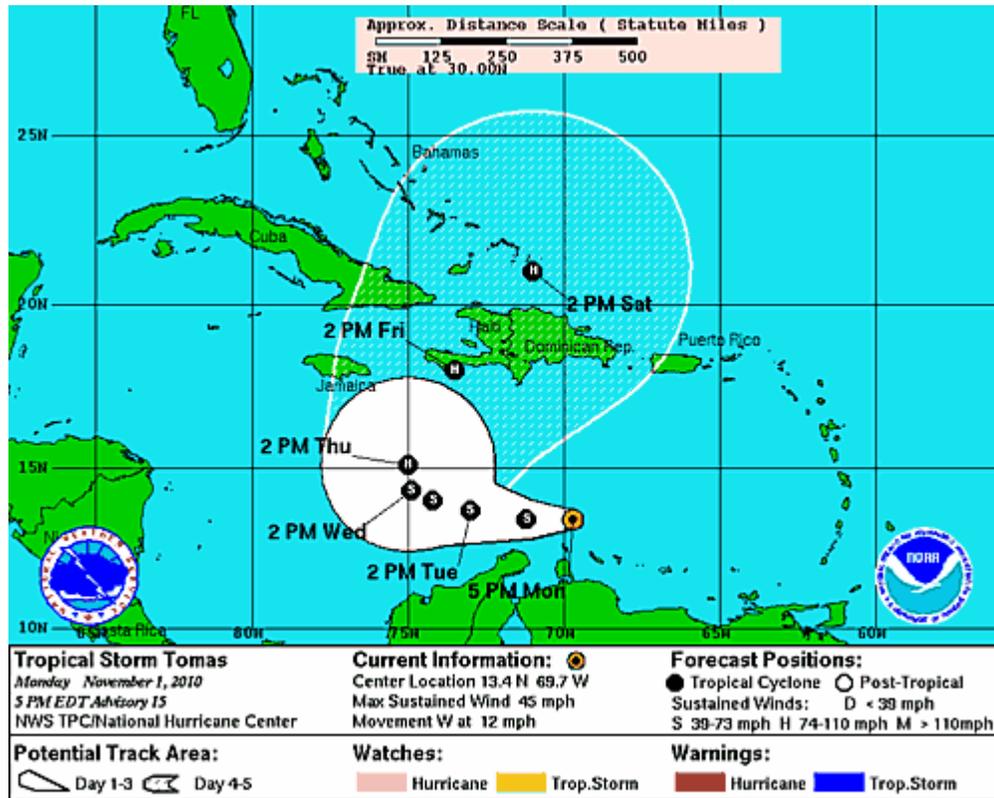
- The Ministry of Health of Ecuador, in coordination with the Risk Management National Secretariat, is sending several tons of medical supplies by air and sea to Haiti, which will be used for oral rehydration and cholera treatment. These supplies will be accompanied by a medical team and include IV fluids, oral rehydration salts, disinfectants, catheters, and other medical items, which will significantly augment the stocks already present and on their way to the country.
- The Ministry of Health of Peru is sending a team to the Dominican Republic, to support response efforts including an epidemiologist, a case management specialist, and a risk communicator.
- Save the Children has been working in Gonaives and Dessalines to implement hygiene promotion, distribution of aquatab and ORS, and to support Hopital Claire Heureue in Dessalines with medical supplies for the treatment of cholera cases (Ringer's Lactate, ORS and antibiotics). Save the Children is working in Maissade on hygiene promotion, community mobilization, distribution of aquatab and ORS, and providing support to health center with medicines and medical supplies for case management. Save the Children is also working in Port-au-Prince (5 IDP camps), Jacmel (2 IDP Camps and 4 communes in SE department), and Leogane, to support surveillance activities and implement health promotion campaigns.
- The American Red Cross has been actively involved in the response to the cholera outbreak. Urgent medical supplies and clean water have been sent to affected areas to support Health and WASH Cluster partners. The Red Cross has also been involved in sending radio and SMS text messages twice a day to 350,000 cell phone users in Port-au-Prince and another 30,000 in the Artibonite River valley. In addition, the American Red Cross has approximately 200 health promoters working seven days a week, going from tent to tent in Port-au-Prince's camps, in order to inform people about good hygiene practices.
- Handicap International has released information addressing the vulnerability of those with disabilities during a cholera outbreak. The information focuses on preventative messages to avoid separation of those with disabilities from their families; the need to communicate information related to health services for those with sensory disabilities; the increased risk of people with disabilities due to lack of access to hygienic facilities; obstacles treatment resources due to distance; and priority distribution of resources to those with disabilities.
- A new website, <http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info>, was launched to provide information on the cholera outbreak, as well as ongoing earthquake response information from the Haitian government and the humanitarian community. The OneResponse website, where humanitarian response was disseminated during previous emergencies, has now been

discontinued.

PAHO/WHO Response

- PAHO/WHO is supporting the logistics of the response with LSS/SUMA (Logistics Support System). A team of specialists, with members from the White Helmets of Argentina and the Regional Response Team, has been mobilized to Haiti. The installation of the system has already begun in Port-au-Prince, in coordination with MSPP and Department of Civil Protection (DPC). It will be used to support the registration of the international donations received by the country during this outbreak.
- In Dominican Republic, a series of measures have been taken to provide logistical assistance to hospitals in the border. They include the coordination of shipments to the PAHO/WHO warehouse in Haiti. Contacts with the Dominican Republic's Civil Defense and the Armed Forces have been established in order to mobilize personnel trained in LSS/SUMA if necessary.
- A three-person PAHO/WHO team based in St. Marc, which includes a WASH expert, a medical doctor, and an epidemiologist, continues to work with local health authorities and NGOs to coordinate the situation and strengthen the response in Artibonite. The health system in the department is organized into communal districts, and the PAHO/WHO team is working with leaders of those districts. PAHO/WHO is also leading a Health Cluster of NGOs who are involved in providing health services, including in CTC's.
- PAHO/WHO has been assessing hospital capacity in Artibonite and is trying to determine the capacity of each facility as it relates to cholera patients. PAHO/WHO is also training health care workers on how to triage patients with cholera symptoms.
- PAHO/WHO is coordinating a small group of NGOs that have operating Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC), or are preparing to open CTCs should the outbreak spread. The group is working on mapping of locations, operational capacity, and contingency planning for tropical storm Tomas. CTCs have made plans for the storm, which include transferring patients to secure locations if needed.
- PAHO/WHO has continued the mobilization of international experts during the weekend, including multimedia production, and disaster management experts.
- **Dr. Jon K. Andrus, Deputy Director of PAHO/WHO, will be hosting a press briefing on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 2:00 PM EDT regarding the ongoing cholera outbreak.**

Five day forecast cone for Tropical Storm Tomas



Source: 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 of Guideline	Link
Acute diarrhoeal 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 diarrhoea	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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