

# HURRICANE MATTHEW

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PAHO HQ- Washington DC



This report is produced by PAHO/WHO in collaboration with PAHO Country Offices, Ministries of Health, and with inputs from official organizations. This report covers the period from 09-10 October 2016 at 21:00 EST.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Post-hurricane conditions are favorable for an increase in vector-, water- and food-borne diseases in countries affected by Hurricane Matthew
- In all countries, health care facilities of all capacities were partially or completely damaged, affecting the continuity of access to health care services
- It must be considered that essential services were greatly affected, forcing people's displacement to shelters and other forms of housing
- It is essential to strengthen the monitoring and control of diseases and to reinforce the distribution network of essential medicines, medical supplies and the cold-chain
- To all UN Agencies, be advised that they can request MINUSTAH Security escort to protect field missions in Haiti

### *Bahamas:*

- The largest hospital in the country is overwhelmed with patients but operational. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has opened 3 emergency services in clinics in Nassau and is increasing its capacity

### *Haiti:*

- Preliminary evaluations are showing results and it is time to increase response actions
- Regarding the primary assessments, it is necessary to reinforce the response and surveillance in Nippes and Nord-Ouest Departments
- Cholera situation: an increase of cases in Grand' Anse (148 cases), Sud (53 cases), and Nord-Ouest (6 cases); outside of the affected areas, there are 28 cases reported in Artibonite

### *Cuba:*

- MINSAP medical surgical brigades are providing primary care service to the affected population and rehabilitation of health facilities is in progress

### *United States:*

- 16 confirmed fatalities: 152 shelters with 6,846 occupants throughout four states

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- More than 80 PAHO staff members were activated across the region to respond to Hurricane Matthew's impact
- 5 priority activities have been identified in the Action Plan for the response in public health post-Matthew:
  - Restore health care capacity to facilitate access to health services in the most affected areas, including cholera treatment and emergency care and treatment for chronic diseases
  - Reinforce epidemiological surveillance to ensure early detection and timely management of disease outbreaks
  - Increase vector control and ensure water quality and sanitation as well as community promotion campaigns in order to prevent probable increase of transmittable diseases
  - Ensure a rapid and effective response to cholera outbreaks in affected communities

- Support health authorities in the efficient coordination and information management of humanitarian assistance in public health

## RESPONSE ACTIONS:

### HAITI

- Two PAHO field offices were set up in Jérémie and in Les Cayes, both fully staffed with technical personnel
- A ship from the Royal Netherlands Navy has arrived and is providing essential medicine to Haiti, and its crew is working to reestablish water and electricity as well as ensuring that the hospital is in sanitary working conditions
- The cold chain has completely collapsed in Grand' Anse and is 25% operational in Les Cayes. A PAHO-UNICEF joint team is in route to these locations to address the cold chain issues
- Security issues are compromising the response including the delivery of food and medical supplies in Grand'Anse; Civil Protection closed 40 shelters due to the outbreak of new cholera cases. All agency partners arriving to the department should register with the official sanitary director. 7 health care facilities are partially operational
- In Port à Piment, Sud, a cholera treatment unit was destroyed and rebuilt by MSF with the support of PAHO/WHO, another 11 Cholera treatment facilities remain closed
- One health care clinic in Nord-Ouest was severely damaged and 6 acute diarrhea treatment centers were affected

### MSPP:

- 7 Rapid Response Teams were deployed to several communes in Sud Department
- Chairing daily coordination meeting of the health sector with all partners

### PAHO/WHO:

- Delivery of medicines and supplies for cholera treatment as well as 70 cholera beds to Randel
- Replenishment of emergency care service of Saint Antoine Hospital in Jérémie with emergency kits

### *Health Facilities*

- A total of 35 of 197 Health Facilities including hospitals, clinics, CTCs, CTUs and diagnostic clinics, were affected by the flood and heavy winds in the following departments: Grand' Anse, Nippes, Nord-Ouest, Sud and Sud-Est

### THE BAHAMAS

- Over a total of 85 health facilities across the Bahamas, 64 are operational, 6 are not operational, 11 are closed and 4 have unknown status
- The MoH has opened 3 emergency services in clinics in Nassau and is working to have a fourth one operating by tomorrow
- Two of the most affected communities, Lowe Sound and West End, continue to have access to adequate and safe sanitation. However, the environment is contaminated with fecal matter
- Four persons and 10 health facilities have been affected. There are 601 people in shelters
- Electric supply in Grand Bahama is expected to be completely restored within 4 to 6 weeks due to extensive damage across the island. The water supply which often relies on pumps has also been affected. Safe drinking water is readily accessible

**Government:**

- The MoH and Public Hospital Authority are completing the damage assessment on health care facilities
- Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT) are conducting assessments in Southern Shores and Misty Gardens, which had been impacted by storm surge ranging from 4-6 feet

**PAHO/WHO:**

- PAHO-Bahamas (with support from PHE consultants) developed a health facilities assessment plan which was implemented today by the MoH
- The Bahamas MoH sought PAHO's technical participation highlighting contributions post-hurricane response

**CUBA**

- 10 provinces affected
- Approximately 365,602 people affected

**Government:**

- Indicated the need to chlorinate drinking water to prevent water-borne diseases
- Those in inundated areas are at risk of acquiring leptospirosis, it is important to establish preventive measures to prevent the onset of disease

**PAHO/WHO:**

- PAHO and MINSAP are preparing a CERF proposal and are working on the 6-month Plan of Action after the CERF
- A donation of essential medicines and other relief supplies is expected to arrive shortly from the Government of Canada

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC***Health Facilities*

- The MoH reported that all affected hospitals are now functioning. Damage assessment is ongoing for Municipal de Vicente Noble Hospital

**NEEDS** 

- **Bahamas:**
  - Drinking water, food, and actions to prevent water- and vector-borne diseases as well as Public Service Announcements (health awareness) and Psychological support
  - According to preliminary assessments, several health facilities need to be repaired
  - Health staff cannot report back to work due to damage to their homes
  - There is a great need to restore the electrical supply in Grand Bahama
- **Haiti:** Priorities are focused on providing access to health care, safe water, and hygiene and sanitary conditions, in addition to recovery and reinforcement of health services
- **Cuba:** Essential and preventive equipment so that the health institutions can continue to save lives and electrical generators with different engine power

Sources: *CDEMA; OCHA; PAHO-HTI; PAHO-CUB; PAHO-BHS; PAHO-JAM; NOAA-NHC; DC COLOMBIA; FEMA; MPH-OEA; NEMA*

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