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Haiti: Hurricane Tomas Update Tuesday November 9, 2010



Note: New content has been inserted in red, italicized, bold font.

Overview

The death toll due to rains and flooding caused by Hurricane Tomas reached up to 20, according to Haiti's government and media reports as of Monday (November 8). ***No new official numbers of casualties have been reported as of Tuesday (November 9).*** (Tomas brushed past Haiti on Friday (November 5), but largely spared the earthquake-ravaged country from a direct hit and severe damages. Some coastal towns were flooded, and some 10,000 people were voluntarily evacuated from their homes. Despite bringing rains, the storm also largely spared crowded displaced camps in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. The humanitarian community had feared for the worst for Haiti's estimated 1.3 million displaced

survivors of the January earthquake. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), says that the overall humanitarian response will be minor as the impact of Tomas was not as severe as expected. ***The main concern of the humanitarian community remains the two-week old cholera epidemic in the country that has left over 500 people dead and affected more than 8,000 others. The UN and aid agencies are also concerned that the flooding may also increase the risk of other water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, malaria and respiratory problems. UNICEF says that it is especially concerned about the impact of flooding in the northwest, the epicenter of the outbreak.***

The UN reported that Tomas affected the agriculture sector the most severely. Fields were flooded, crops destroyed, and livestock were also affected.

According to the UN, Tomas caused flooding in the country's five southern departments and in other regions, including Artibonite, Centre, North West and Leogane and Gressier, west of the capital. Severe flooding also occurred in upper Artibonite, Gonaives, north of the Artibonite River. Around 15 displaced camps in the city of Leogane as well as other parts of the city have reportedly been affected by flooding from overflowing river water. The area around Leogane, Grand Goave and Petit Goave, were also badly hit, according to the World Food Program (WFP). According to the NGO, CARE, the areas of Nord-Ouest, Grande Anse, and Carrefour have also been badly affected. Flooding was also reported in Les Cayes and Jacmel. On Monday (November 8), USAID/DART reported that floodwaters in Leogane continued to recede with only minor flooding outside the central part of the city.

The NGO, ACTED, reports that in the mountains, shelters were swept away by strong winds and rains and falling rock have cut off several roads and led to the deaths of many animals. Additionally, the potential consequences to agriculture appear to be worse as peas are in the middle of blossoming and winds have destroyed buds and flowers that were going to become peapods in the coming weeks. The first assessment by the group indicate that 30 to 40 percent of the future pea harvest is lost. ACTED says that this is bad news as pea growing is the principal source of income for farmers who were already badly affected by the January earthquake. Some 80,000 people reside in the mountain communities, according to USAID/DART.

On Sunday (November 7) the UN said that as Tomas did not lead to an increase of humanitarian needs in Haiti, the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team was scaled down from five team members to three who will remain in Haiti to support OCHA.

The UN's World Food Program (WFP) reports that because it had pre-positioned food in some 30 strategic points in Haiti ahead of the hurricane season, the agency was able to deliver truckloads of emergency supplies to survivors in shelters as soon as flood waters subsided in flood hit areas. WFP says that in total, food sufficient to feed more than one million people for six weeks had been pre-positioned.

On Sunday the UNDAC team reported two aerial rapid impact assessments took place. The main findings were: only minor damages observed in the South – South West, while in the North, the impact of Tomas is moderate in some locations, having minimum impact in the majority of central and northern areas. The southern part of Gonaives City and the village of Grande Salines were possibly the worst affected areas. However, 80 percent of Gonaives is functioning normally, according to the Logistics Cluster. Possible major damages to agriculture sector, mostly between Grande Salines and Gonaives, leading to concerns over long term impact to the sector, according to UNDAC. More detailed assessments are currently being conducted according to the UN.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the country, Nigel Fisher, said that Tomas damaged the coffee crop and other crops such as bananas and urged the international community to focus on rebuilding the country. On Friday, the Haitian government and the UN appealed for international donors for some US\$19 million to cover urgent needs.

After sweeping past Haiti, Tomas swept over the Turks and Caicos Islands early Saturday (November 6) as a Tropical Storm, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or serious damages. Jamaica also reportedly escaped major damage, however, rains forced several thousand to evacuate in eastern Cuba and the Dominican Republic. By Monday, reports said Tomas had dissipated over the Atlantic.

On Thursday (November 4), Tomas left at least 23 people dead in Costa Rica's capital, San Jose, mostly due to a mudslide triggered by heavy rains. Earlier, the storm also left up to 14 people dead and several others missing in St. Lucia, after the storm hit at hurricane strength last weekend. ***St. Lucia has declared a national emergency and has requested international assistance. St. Lucian Prime Minister Stephenson King estimates that rebuilding will cost US\$500 million. (REDLAC, Govt Cayman Islands, Nov-8)*** The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and UN said that Tomas damaged 500 houses in Barbados and 1,200 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Tomas is the 19th named storm and 12th hurricane of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs approximately from June 1 to November 30.

Cholera Update

Immediately following the devastating earthquake in January 2010, outbreaks of the bacterial disease, cholera, were considered unlikely in Haiti, as the disease had not been recorded in the country for decades. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes two conditions have to be present for a cholera outbreak: 1) there must be significant breaches in the water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure used by groups of people, permitting large-scale exposure to food or water contaminated with *Vibrio cholerae* organisms; and 2) cholera must be present in the population. Both conditions now exist in Haiti, and according to the CDC, it remains unclear on how the bacterial disease was re-introduced to Haiti after an outbreak of cholera was confirmed on October 21, 2010.

In support of the Haitian government's response to the cholera outbreak, CDC is working closely with other US government agencies and international partners to make a combined effort to control and alleviate the outbreak. As of Wednesday (Nov-3), the CDC said at least 31 CDC staff had been deployed to Haiti. (CDC, Nov-4) On Monday (Nov-1), the CDC was able to provide the Haitian government with the results of laboratory testing, which showed that the cholera strain linked to the outbreak is most similar to cholera strains found in South Asia. However, additional research is needed to identify the origin of the cholera strain in Haiti. ***The Associated Press (AP) reported on Tuesday (Nov-9) that public health experts, including UN Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti Paul Farmer, have called for an aggressive investigation into the origin of the outbreak. (AP, Nov-9)***

On Friday (Nov-5), Hurricane Tomas brought heavy rains and wind to the already devastated country of Haiti. Due to the mudslides and population movements in many areas caused by Tomas, an increase in the number of cholera cases remains a key concern of the humanitarian community. (PAHO, Nov-8) Despite the wet, stormy weather, humanitarian agencies have reported that damages from the storm were less severe than forecasted. However, the cholera epidemic is expected to worsen, and as of Monday (Nov-8), Haitian Health Minister, Alex Larsen, told the media that the official death toll attributed to the outbreak was 544, among more than 8,138 confirmed cases. According to PAHO, the departments (provinces) of Artibonite, Centre, Nord, Nord-Ouest and Ouest, have registered cases.

On Monday (Nov-8), health authorities told the AP that cholera had spread into Port-au-Prince after a three-year-old boy had been confirmed to have contracted the disease. This first case of cholera in the capital endangers nearly 3 million people living there, with nearly half of them in unsanitary tent camps for the homeless caused by January's earthquake. More worrisome, is that unlike others suspected to be infected in Port-au-Prince, the young boy had not been in the known cholera zone north of the capital or at any of the area pockets of the country with confirmed cases, health authorities reported. Health officials in Port-au-Prince are now investigating more than 100 other suspected cholera cases. According to Health Ministry Executive Director Gabriel Timothee, many of the hospitalized patients in the capital with cholera are believed to have recently arrived from the Artibonite Valley, where more than 6,400 of Haiti's known 8,138 cases have been recorded. (BBC, NYT, AP, Nov-9) Health officials are desperately trying to prevent people from drinking unsanitary water, particularly from the Artibonite River, which is known to be contaminated with the disease. BBC News on Monday also noted that the river had flooded over the weekend, further threatening the vulnerable in the area. (BBC, Nov-8) The IFRC said that most of the cases are concentrated in the Artibonite and Central departments, which are two places that were not affected by January's earthquake, but have been home to thousands of people in its aftermath. (IFRC, Nov-4) ***Since the onset of the outbreak, cholera has spread to half of Haiti's 10 departments, while the number of those killed by the disease has increased by more than 100 in less than a week. (NYT, BBC, Nov-9)***

Health officials are most concerned with potential overflow from latrines and septic tanks contaminating the supply of fresh drinking water, which will exacerbate the spread of the bacteria. Additionally, Tomas' aftermath will further complicate the challenge of responding to the cholera epidemic. In response to the cholera outbreak in Haiti, several countries (US, Canada, Cuba, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Israel, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, France, Japan, and Dominican Republic, among others) have made contributions with funds and resources. Additionally, many NGOs are actively participating in the response measures, including the Red Cross, MSF and Partners in Health. (PAHO, Nov-3) Health and hygiene messages have been developed by the Haitian **Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSP)** in Creole and have been disseminated to the public. Health cluster partners continue to aid and support Haitian health authorities. (PAHO, Nov-8)

Cholera is an acute diarrheal illness caused by the infection of the intestine with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. It is a highly contagious water-borne disease that is mainly transmitted through contaminated water and food. Symptoms include severe diarrhea that can easily lead to dehydration and can be fatal if not treated immediately. The bacterial disease is both preventable and treatable under normal circumstances, in which up to 80 percent of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts. In Haiti, the disease is mainly being transmitted through water and bad sanitary conditions in many parts of the country combined with a large volume of rain or floodwater. Muddy waters can speed up the infection rate.

Background

January earthquake

On January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake left more than 250,000 people dead in Haiti. The epicenter was located near the town of Léogâne, approximately 25 km (16 miles) west of Port-au-Prince. Additionally, some 300,000 were reportedly injured by the quake. The earthquake caused major damage in Port-au-Prince, Jacmel and other settlements. An estimated 3 million people were affected by the quake and some 1.3 million survivors live in approximately 1,400 IDP camps.

Among the widespread damage in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere, vital infrastructure including hospitals in the capital, transport facilities and communications systems were severely damaged or destroyed. Approximately US\$5.3 billion in aid had been pledged after the earthquake but Haiti has reportedly seen little of the promised aid for rebuilding.

Haiti faces a potential major political disruption just a few weeks before presidential and legislative elections scheduled for November 28. According to CNN, election officials have not postponed the elections. On Monday, the UN's top representative in the country, Edmond Mulet, said that no discussions were being held with electoral officials and the government about postponing the polls. (Reuters, Nov-8)

Government Response

Haiti's government and the UN appealed to donors for nearly US\$19 million to provide for urgent humanitarian needs.

The **Government of Haiti (GoH) Department of Civil Protection (DPC)** assisted some 10,000 of the most vulnerable people countrywide to evacuate to official shelters before the Hurricane passed through. (USAID, Nov-7) Haiti's President Rene Preval has declared the outbreak a matter of national security. Haiti's President, Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive held an emergency meeting on Tuesday (Nov-2) with UN representatives. (ACT, Nov-4)

The **Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP)** in Port-au-Prince has established six cholera treatment centers (CTCs), of which four are fully operational. Their target is to construct 2,000 beds in these CTCs.

The MSPP is leading the communication working group and has so far produced and validated 12 health messages to be disseminated through posters and radio. These posters have been reproduced by the major newspapers in Haiti. PAHO and other UN agencies have also supported this effort. (PAHO, Nov-3)

United Nations (UN)

A team of **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** doctors and logistics specialists arrived at a local community hospital north of the capital, Port-au-Prince this past weekend to help construct a cholera treatment center, to isolate patients suffering from cholera from others. UNICEF is working with the Ecuadorian and Bolivian contingents of the **UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)** on this effort. They have filled the swamp adjacent to the hospital building with five truckloads of soil to create a stable foundation for construction of the CTC, which will hold 10, 40-square-meter hospital tents, serving as housing for suspected cholera cases encountered daily. Ten tents will provide room for about 100 patients in a hygienic environment, and a separate rest and recreation area for doctors and nurses. (UNICEF, Nov-4) Also, aqua tabs for water purification, soap and oral rehydration salts have been given out to some 88,000 people in cholera affected areas. (UNICEF, Nov-5) On Sunday (Nov-7), UNICEF reported their teams were conducting assessments and were preparing to receive a large shipment of supplies on Wednesday (Nov-10), which will include 1.2 million sachets of oral rehydration salts, more than 8 million water purification tablets and more than 5,000 tarpaulins for distribution in the most affected areas. (UNICEF, Nov-7) ***UNICEF is conducting on-site assessments to prepare for additional allocations of supplies and staff in the most affected areas.*** (UNICEF, Nov-8)

MINUSTAH's Joint Operation and Tasking Centre (JOTC) provided 30 troops and 15 trucks for security and the transportation of 2,000 IDPs with UNPOI also providing security escorts, according to the UN's logistics cluster.

A party of five **UN Disaster Assessment Coordination (UNDAC)** members are currently in Haiti with two support staff from the Americas Support team. One member has been sent to Les Cayes, while the rest remain in Port-au-Prince. They will be involved in aerial assessments of the northern and southern peninsulas planned for Saturday (Nov-6) morning to assess the initial impact and damage. (OCHA, Nov-5) The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team was scaled down from five team members to three who will remain in Haiti to support the OCHA office.

The **UNs International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** dispatched 30 broadband satellite terminals to Haiti on Friday (Nov-5) in preparation for the affects of hurricane Tomas. The terminals are intended to support relevant governmental and non-state humanitarian agencies. They have a high-speed data capability that is suitable for advanced telemedicine applications and will be useful to monitor and address ongoing health concerns in Haiti. Additionally, they will be used to support the overall recovery effort in order to strengthen early warning capabilities. (ITU, Nov-5)

The **UN World Food Program (WFP)** has reached more than 9,000 people with food distributions as of Monday (Nov-8). The agency also has a helicopter in Haiti, while a second one will arrive on Tuesday (Nov-9) and a third one on Thursday (Nov-11). Also they have three regional staff members on stand-by, focusing on Logistics, Emergency and ICT officers. (OCHA, Nov-8) ***WHO says that as soon as floodwaters subsided in Petit Goave and neighboring towns, WFP delivered truckloads of supplies to people in shelters and in schools and churches partner groups handed out five day rations of high-energy biscuits. WHO says that it has been able to rapidly respond in the aftermath of Tomas because emergency supplies had been pre-positioned ahead of the hurricane season in more than 30 major locations around the country with food sufficient to feed more than one million Haitian for six weeks. The agency also says that programs already in place to help quake victims to recover their lives proved to be an effective means of providing support. (WFP, Nov-9)***

The **UN Populations Fund (UNFPA)** has deployed four assessment teams working in coordination with the Civil Protection. (OCHA, Nov-8)

A **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** helicopter began transporting relief items to affected communities. (OCHA, Nov-8)

The **UN World Health Organization (WHO)/ Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** and health partners continue to support the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population in their response to the cholera outbreak. They are placing priority on measures for protection of families at the community level, strengthening primary health care centers already operating across the nation, while also setting up a network of special cholera treatment centers and designated hospitals for treatment of severe cases. (WHO, Nov-4) A team from PAHO/WHO has been deployed to Port-au-Prince to support the Program on Essential Medicine and Supplies (PROMESS) medical warehouse in distributing supplies to hospitals and organizations, in coordination with the Department of Civil Protection. (OCHA, Nov-8) ***Recently, PAHO/WHO have published a new video showing how PROMESS, NGOs and hospitals, continued working to distribute medical supplies, despite technical and logistic***

challenges caused by Hurricane Tomas. On Tuesday (Nov-9), PAHO/WHO's Deputy Director, Dr. Jon K. Andrus will be hosting a press briefing on the cholera outbreak. (PAHO, Nov-8)

NGOs/IOs

Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim, ACF) said on Saturday (Nov-6) that they plan to provide disinfectant and basic cholera kits to households affected by localized flooding, while reinforcing cholera prevention messaging. (USAID, Nov-7)

Actions by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance are clearing project workplaces, securing showers and latrines in camps and stocking up on water purification tablets and oral rehydration salts, tents and hygiene kits. They are also already planning repair work to damaged latrines, hand basins and showers once the storm passes on Sunday (Nov-7). (ACT, Nov-4) After Tomas made its way pass Haiti, it left the center of the city of Leogane flooded. ACT Alliance visited Leogane on Saturday (Nov-6) and found hundreds of people roaming the streets, looking for food, water and materials for shelter. Members of ACT, such as the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Finn Church Aid (FCA) are performing needs assessments, utilizing their knowledge of local school and their relationships with communities. FCA has ordered 8 million water purification tablets for distributing through local schools, plus jerry cans, buckets with lids and soap. Additionally, they are providing information for school children and communities on hand washing and basic hygiene practices. ACT Alliance members and partners in Leogane are now focusing efforts on cholera preventative measures. (ACT, Nov-7)

In the city of Leogane in Ouest department, Technical Cooperation and Development Aid Agency (ACTED) teams on Saturday (Nov-6) led the first day of evaluations in flood-affected areas. Bad weather on Sunday (Nov-7) complicated and hampered the continuation of their work, but was able to distribute 500 boxes of high energy biscuits in collaboration with the WFP in the afternoon. ACTED also noted the potential damage to the agricultural sector. Their first evaluations indicated that 30 to 40 percent of the future pea harvest was lost. (ACTED, Nov-8)

AmeriCares deployed their disaster relief team in Haiti that has been delivering lifesaving medical aid to partners serving the hardest hit communities. They recently deployed an emergency airlift of medical aid and relief supplies to fight Haiti's cholera outbreak, and have since restocked its warehouse. Following January's massive earthquake, AmeriCares has already delivered over US\$30 million in aid to help Haiti's survivors. (AmeriCares, Nov-6)

A CARE mission is arriving in Haiti to support the cholera epidemic and the emergency response if necessary. A Regional Emergency Coordinator is on stand-by. (OCHA, Nov-8) Since flooding from Tomas' heavy rains may speed up the spread of cholera, and increase the risk of other water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, malaria and respiratory problems, Haitian officials and CARE staff are closely monitoring the situation. As prevention measures, CARE has already given out hygiene kits, water purification tablets, high energy biscuits and essential non-food items to 15,000 people

in the most-affected areas. They are also disseminating cholera prevention tips to a wider audience in Haiti as the storm caused contaminated water to flow into homes, streets and schools. (CARE, Nov-8)

The **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency** commenced damage assessment, and has started more precisely to define the needs of the affected areas. Resource mobilization and humanitarian assistance has begun to arrive in the most impacted areas. They have distributed wool blankets, energy biscuits, purification tablets and lanterns, while work has begun on affected roads in the South to re-establish access. (CDEMA, Nov-6)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been preparing to respond to the affects of Hurricane Tomas throughout the country. Their staff has been digging drainage channels, sandbagging hills, building walls to decrease water runoff and moving the most vulnerable families to more secure locations. They have also stockpiled emergency supplies and prepared personnel. Emergency food supplies are set for distribution to 25,000 families, as well as hygiene kits, blankets, tarps and soap. (CRS, Nov-5)

The **Church World Service (CWS)** has prepositioned about 10,000 tarps and a sizeable stock of hygiene kits for immediate needs. Following the exit of the storm, CWS staff in the capital will commence damage assessments and determine appropriate action.

Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) Haiti, which is led by Internews in Haiti, is establishing communications centers in at least two humanitarian hubs where press conferences and liaison activities between the Haitian authorities, humanitarian agencies and local and international media can be held. They are also deploying a liaison officer to Leogane. (Internews, Nov-8)

The **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** launched an appeal for US\$6,413,920 (6,322,842 Swiss Francs) to ramp up its response to the worsening cholera outbreak. Funding will help support the Haitian Red Cross Society and the Dominican Red Cross reach 345,000 people in Haiti and 150,000 people in the Dominican Republic over a six-month period. The IFRC will focus their efforts on the provision of clean and potable water, sanitation activities, health and hygiene promotion and relief and curative health sciences. Hundreds of Red Cross volunteers have been spreading cholera prevention messages in communities across affected areas, as well as in the capital. (IFRC, Nov-4)

The International Medical Corps (IMC) deployed assessment teams staffed with medical, nutrition and water and sanitation experts to the town of Cada and other badly hit areas of Leogane, Port-au-Prince, Nippes and Petit Goave. IMC teams have distribute hygiene kits and blankets, and have found that potable water and sanitation facilities are desperately needed in flooded areas. In response to the growing cholera outbreak, IMC is establishing a Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) to support Robateau Hospital in Gonaives, the capital of Artibonite and another one set for the outbreak in the northwest. (IMC, Nov-9)

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** is mainly focusing its efforts on protecting the vulnerable from its impact, while working to ensure that cholera does not spread further into the community. On Thursday (Nov-4) evacuated over 2,000 people from the exposed Corail camp to a nearby disused hospital with young children, women, the elderly, the infirm and several handicapped people being given priority for the move. They were offered ready-to-eat sealed meals and aqua tabs to purify water to prevent further spread of cholera. IOM is also launching an appeal this week for US\$15 million to provide immediate support for the Haitian Government's National Cholera Response Plan. They deployed teams to four strategic border areas with the Dominican Republic to monitor movements and conduct cholera sensitization and awareness campaigns. (IOM, Nov-5) Aiding evacuees in temporary shelters from Port-au-Prince, the IOM distributed meals ready to eat to three temporary shelters that housed about 3,000 people.

The **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** had three teams assessing conditions in 13 Port-au-Prince camps on Saturday (Nov-6). They will be prioritizing repairs to latrines, washing stations and other sanitation facilities as needed and ramping up cholera prevention efforts as the epidemic worsens. (IRC, Nov-6)

Internews is helping local radio stations play a vital role in providing life-saving information to Haitians already struggling to deal with the cholera. They have sent teams to some of the most vulnerable areas, such as Gonaives, Les Cayes, Leogane and the capital. Internews has been producing special radio programs with the Haitian National Meteorological Center and the Department of Civil Protection (DPC). (Internews, Nov-8)

Medair conducted an initial damage assessment in Jacmel after it was safe to leave shelter. There was extensive damage in Pinchinat Camp, but said Jacmel appeared relatively undamaged. Medair says the team will continue to focus on providing shelter for those most in need, and are coordinating with the UN Cluster system and local authorities on how to respond to the need of those made homeless again. (Medair, Nov-8)

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Canada is working with Cite Soleil's Bureau Communal to establish transitory rehydration centers and provide ambulance transfer services to Choscal hospital or to nearby cholera treatment centers (CTCs). (PAHO, Nov-3) ***According to PAHO's update on Monday (Nov-8), MSF teams have treated over 6,400 patients suffering from acute diarrhea so far. They are also supplying IV solution, oral rehydration salts, IV sets and hygiene materials to strengthen existing health clinics in rural areas. Additionally, MSF continues to construct CTCs prepare for possible cholera transmission. In Leogane, a 20-bed CTC was set up in addition to the existing hospital, while in the capital, MSF is working to establish 850 beds in the CTCs. (PAHO, Nov-8)***

Medical Teams International (MTI) relocated three volunteers to Port de Paix, Haiti, on Thursday (Nov-4) in preparation to help treat new cholera patients who are at risk of being affected by the hurricane. The experienced cholera workers will also help train local medical workers on the treatment of cholera, and assist with any health needs that may arise from the hurricane this week. (MTI, Nov-4) MTI started to mobilize medical volunteers on Saturday (Nov-6) to La Pointe Hospital to help curb the spread of cholera. (MTI, Nov-6)

Partners in Health (PIH)/ Zanmi Lasante (PIH/ZL) *remained at their posts and continued aid activities in the Artibonite and Central Plateau departments despite stormy conditions from Hurricane Tomas. PIH activities included staffing and support of CTCs and crucial primary healthcare, nutrition programs and HIV/TB programs. Last Thursday and Friday (Nov 4-5), PIH/ZL community health agents in the capital were set to conduct education activities regarding the approaching storm. They also have a logistical team that is providing a large volume of support in the form of medical supplies to 16 additional medical centers throughout the Artibonite Valley. (PIH, Nov-8)*

Plan International has 16 assessment teams working in coordination with the Civil Protection.

Save the Children (SC) earthquake emergency response teams are quickly moving into IDP camps in the capital, Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Jacmel and Gonaives to provide additional shelter materials and medical assistance. The agency is constructing more diarrhea and cholera treatment centers, providing hygiene chlorination, newborn kits and plastic sheeting, and collaborating with other aid agencies in the distribution of aqua tabs, latrines, health sensitization, water and training. SC has teams at 15 sites where ongoing earthquake emergency programs operate. (SC, Nov-6) USAID noted that SC provided 30,000 liters of water to camps. (USAID, Nov-7)

Foreign Governments

Canada: Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs announced on Thursday (Nov-4) that the Government of Canada had contributed US\$9.5 million toward the construction of new headquarters for the Haitian National Police (HNP). Additionally, the government has provided US\$1.3 million to St. John Ambulance for an instructor-training program on basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and disaster preparedness that will be made available to members of the HNP. The construction project will be implemented over two years by the Canadian Commercial Corporation. (GoC, Nov-4)

Cayman Islands: *The Government of the Cayman Islands, working in close partnership with the Red Cross, is spearheading a drive to gather much-needed supplies for the affected Caribbean Islands. After collecting items such as, cases of water, water purification tablets, lanterns, blankets, baby food and formula and preserved can foods, they hope to send these items on a special Cayman Airways charter scheduled for Wednesday (Nov-10). (GoCI, Nov-9)*

United States: To help Haitians brace another disaster, the Obama administration has deployed a 20-member Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the USS Iwo Jima back to Haiti. The ship is carrying a crew of 1,600 medical, engineering, aviation, logistical and other support personnel to provide immediate lifesaving aid if necessary. Also onboard are 10 helicopters and two amphibious landing crafts units to help transport relief supplies to remote locations. So far, the US has prepositioned an estimated 40,000 blankets, 16,000 hygiene kits, 32,000 water containers and 20,000 kitchen sets to be sent to Haiti, in addition to the supplies that are already in the country.

USAID is also able to quickly bring more supplies to the country from its warehouse in Miami. (GoUSA, USDOS, Nov-4) A US Navy helicopter off the USS Iwo Jima transported a team to Gonaives to conduct damage assessments, including assessments of the storm's potential impact on the cholera outbreak in Artibonite Department, on Sunday (Nov-7). The team included four USAID/DART staff, including public health advisors and WASH experts and a US CDC member. Also, the USAID/DART authorized the release of pre-positioned stocks in the capital, including 20,500 blankets, 11,100 hygiene kits, 19,000 10-liter water containers, 9,600 kitchen sets, and 4,800 plastic sheets to assist between 20,000 and 55,000 people. (USAID, Nov-7)

Note: This report has been compiled from publicly available information. Although information has been gathered from sources deemed reliable, the currency and completeness of the information reported herein is subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Inquiries, updates and comments are welcome and should be directed to PDMIN@coe-dmha.org.