

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Haiti and the Dominican Republic: Cholera outbreak -response and preparedness

Preliminary Emergency Appeal n°
MDR49007
GLIDE n° EP-2010-000210-HTI
17 November 2010

Period covered by this Ops Update: 3
November to 14 November 2010.

Appeal target (current): CHF 5,946,897 (6m US dollars or 4.3m euro) in cash, kind, or services to support the Haitian Red Cross Society (HRCs) and the Dominican Red Cross (DRC) to assist 345,000 beneficiaries (80,000 beneficiary families) in Haiti and 150,000 people (30,000 families) in the Dominican Republic for six months.

Appeal coverage: Current coverage of the Appeal stands at approximately 50.28% (including soft pledges).

[<click here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched on 3 November 2010 for CHF 5,946,897 for 6 months to assist 345,000 beneficiaries in Haiti and 150,000 people in Dominican Republic.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 78,852 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the Dominican Red Cross with preparedness and response measures.

Summary: Since the outbreak of cholera that originated in the department (region) of Artibonite where many displaced had taken refuge as a result of the 12 January earthquake, this Operations Update no.1 highlights the activities accomplished to date under the health, water and sanitation and hygiene promotion integrated interventions that are currently taking place under the earthquake response operation.

At the outset of the outbreak, Red Cross partners rapidly mobilized all available resources to address the developing emergency. The Haitian Red Cross Society, with support from the Federation, has reached some 15,000 people residing in or near camps in Port-au-Prince with cholera prevention and hygiene awareness messages through specially trained volunteers. Many more thousands of Haitians have been reached through the hygiene promotion activities of Haitian Red Cross Society and Red Cross partners across the country.

The ongoing training and mobilization of community-based hygiene promoters by the Haitian Red Cross Society and Red Cross partners present in Haiti is ensuring that these important, life-saving messages reach across the country into the community.



Haitian Red Cross volunteers carrying out awareness-raising with a megaphone in one of the camps. Source: Aya Hasegawa/Japanese Red Cross/IFRC

To date, 2.7 million SMS messages have been sent to communities across the country providing simple information on how to avoid cholera. In the first four days of the campaign, more than 75,000 people called the toll-free Red Cross information line for additional information on cholera prevention and treatment.

Two cholera treatment centres (CTCs) have been established by Red Cross partners with a combined maximum bed capacity of 125 beds. The Federation has provided these facilities with cholera kits and other material support.

Red Cross is also supporting CTCs established by other organizations through water supply, sanitation services, and other material support in some instances.

The Japanese Red Cross Society is mobilizing a Basic Health Care Emergency Response Unit for the Federation response, with a six member medical team, that will contribute urgently needed resources to cholera patient treatment. The Red Cross is distributing hygiene kits, aquatabs, soap and oral rehydration salts to affected communities.

Cholera response trainings have been conducted with health workers, including a train-the-trainer course for doctors, and a two-day training programme in which 75 Haitian Red Cross ambulance workers received information on cholera patient response along with health and safety information.

The preparedness operation in the Dominican Republic has begun with pre-positioning of water treatment plants, in particular in the border area with Haiti, to guarantee safe water supply for local populations should an outbreak of cholera occur. In addition, the Dominican Red Cross has held hygiene promotion talks as well as talks focusing specifically on the prevention of cholera with explanations about the bacteria causing the disease and how to respond in the five border Provinces: Montecristi, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Independencia and Pedernales as well as in Barahona, Bahoruco, San Juan and Santiago, and a total of 3,822 people have been reached by these talks. An SMS messaging campaign has also reached a total of 1,447,280 persons between 28 October and 1 November.

The situation

The cholera outbreak has been present in Haiti since 19 October 2010. At the beginning of the outbreak when the first cases were confirmed, the Ministry of Public Health and Population reported a high number of deaths and cases of acute diarrhoea in the Artibonite region (located two hours from the capital city of Port-au-Prince). Since then, cholera has spread throughout the country including the departments of Centre, Nord, Nord Ouest, Ouest and Sud. Cholera is a diarrhoeal disease caused by infection of the intestine with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. Cholera is associated with poor social and economic environments, precarious living conditions, insufficient water supply, poor sanitation, poor hygiene practices and high population density such as in the makeshift camps in Port-au-Prince where inhabitants live in cramped and difficult conditions, often with inadequate water supply and sanitation services. Humanitarian organizations and government authorities fear the continued spread of the bacterial disease, propagated by contaminated drinking water or foods, which has the potential to move rapidly through the camps in which many of the 1.3 million people displaced by January's earthquake are residing.



Haitian Red Cross volunteers disseminating key cholera messages in one of the camps. Source: Aya Hasegawa/Japanese Red Cross/IFRC

In the post-earthquake Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti, the Government underlines the importance of rebuilding 30 of the existing 49 hospitals and related training structures in the three departments

(regions) most heavily affected by the earthquake. This process has not yet started and there is immense pressure on the already-stretched health system to treat the growing number of cholera patients in addition to their usual caseloads. Thus, there is urgent need for medical staff and medical supplies.

As at 14 November 2010, the Ministry of Public Health and Population has reported **14,642** hospitalizations and **917** deaths due to cholera. These include cases in Port-au-Prince and a number of cases in Carrefour, Cité Soleil, Delmas, Kenscoff, Petion Ville and Tabarre. Municipal authorities in Gonaïves (department of Artibonite) have reported a rise in the number of deaths related to cholera and many suspected cases. Local authorities indicate the epidemic is affecting the majority of districts in Artibonite and it is spreading quickly.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) has developed the National Response Strategy to the Cholera Epidemic, and it prioritizes measures to protect families at the community level, strengthening primary health care centres already operating across the nation, establishing a network of special cholera treatment centres (CTCs) and strengthening designated hospitals for treatment of severe cases.

Under the MSPP plan, services are organized at three levels: CTCs (which are stand-alone facilities with an average capacity of 100-200 beds), cholera treatment units (CTUs), which are typically in or next to health facilities and have a smaller capacity than CTCs), and around 300 oral rehydration centres (that treat patients with non-life threatening conditions). The CTUs and rehydration centres serve as a first point of entry for those displaying cholera symptoms, and patients are either stabilized and sent home, or referred to CTCs for more intensive treatment. Currently, eight CTCs, with total capacity of around 1,000 beds, are operational in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, and are in addition to 14 public and private hospitals that are each providing 10 to 50 cholera beds.

On 5 November, in the midst of the cholera outbreak, Hurricane Tomas brought heavy rains to Haiti's south-western departments. The Civil Protection Directorate reported 21 deaths and damage to 1,004 homes. The Hurricane Tomas response interrupted some cholera response and prevention activities and the floods have aggravated the cholera situation.

The cholera outbreak in Haiti led the Ministry of Public Health in neighbouring Dominican Republic to issue an epidemiological alert on 23 October 2010. The Dominican Red Cross, with its close ties with the Haitian Red Cross Society, is offering support in containing the outbreak of cholera in Haiti, while working on preventing the outbreak of the disease in the Dominican Republic through a public awareness campaign and other preparedness measures.

Coordination and partnerships

From the onset of the outbreak the Federation and Red Cross National Societies present in Haiti have worked in close collaboration with the Haitian Red Cross Society, as well as the Ministry of Public Health and Population, to support response efforts. The Federation coordinates with the government's water authority, DINEPA, and has donated 10,000,000 aquatabs.

The Federation and Partner National Societies are participating in daily health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) meetings in order to bring together all available resources and provide a coordinated response to the cholera outbreak. The Health Cluster and Water and Sanitation Cluster are holding regular meetings to coordinate cholera response operation. The Federation actively participates in all cluster meetings as well as government health coordination meetings. The Health, WASH and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters have developed an operational plan, in support of the Ministry of Health's National Cholera Response Plan, and have mounted a coordinated response to the outbreak. The synergy in cholera interventions between WASH and health sectors includes activities in health centres and prevention activities in community settings.

The Red Cross response to date is focused on hygiene promotion, water and sanitation services, distribution of hygiene items, and prepositioning key medical supplies. The Federation supports the activities of the Haitian Red Cross Society and Partner National Societies active in Haiti. These partners include: the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Colombian Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross.

Red Cross activities to date include:

- The American Red Cross: hygiene promotion, training of volunteers in hygiene promotion, distribution of hygiene kits and water treatment tablets.
- The British Red Cross with the Finnish Red Cross and Partners in Health is treating people with cholera-like symptoms in La Piste through provision of rehydration salts and, where required, intravenous drip.
- The Canadian Red Cross is providing hygiene promotion in Jacmel and Léogane and seconded four delegates to the Federation for a short period: three medical experts and one water and sanitation specialist.
- The Colombian Red Cross has contributed a water and sanitation technician to the Federation's team.
- The Danish Red Cross is delivering hygiene promotion in Les Cayes.
- The French Red Cross is supporting the Haitian Red Cross Society in volunteer training, dissemination of hygiene messages, distribution of items, disinfection of public places, and installation of tanks and drinking water.
- The Japanese Red Cross Society has seconded two medical logisticians to the Federation and is deploying a Basic Health Care Emergency Response Unit (ERU) to Haiti with a team of six including a doctor, nurses and technicians to support the establishment of a Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC).
- The Finnish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross have each deployed a logistician to support the Federation's cholera operation.
- The Netherlands Red Cross has commenced volunteer trainings ahead of hygiene promotion activities in Jacmel and in Léogane and will also distribute jerry cans, soap and aqua tablets.
- The German Red Cross has opened a cholera treatment centre in Arcahaie.
- The Norwegian Red Cross plans to open a CTC in Petit Goave, to be managed by Médecins du Monde (MDM).
- The Spanish Red Cross is supporting the Haitian Red Cross Society with volunteer training, dissemination of hygiene messages, distribution of items, disinfection of public spaces, installation of tanks and drinking water in 21 camps in Port-au-Prince as well as provision of water in health facilities in Artibonite. The Spanish Red Cross is also supporting three CTCs, two in St Marc and one in Port-au-Prince.

The Dominican Red Cross / International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' cholera operation is contributing to the national cholera prevention efforts. The Dominican Red Cross is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health (Ministerio de Salud Pública), along with external partners such as the Pan American Health Organization, OCHA and NGOs. The National Society has been convened by the Government as one of the institutions to support in prevention, preparedness and response activities as needed in the event of the occurrence of an outbreak in its territory.

The IFRC, through its Regional Representation for the Latin Caribbean in Santo Domingo, is attending the coordination meetings organized by the UN system as part of the humanitarian country team. The Regional Representation based in Santo Domingo is ensuring close coordination with the Dominican Red Cross and its partners. The Spanish Red Cross, in support of the DRC, has arranged for the shipment of oral rehydration solutions which will be distributed immediately in the border area. Furthermore, in keeping with its mandate, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing support in relation to cholera prevention to detention centres.

National Society Capacity Building: Hundreds of volunteers from Haitian Red Cross Society branches are receiving training on hygiene promotion and are taking part in cholera prevention awareness-raising activities in schools, communal areas and markets throughout the country. More than 40 Red Cross ambulance health workers are being trained in the handling of cholera patients and related procedures. Approximately 102 Haitian Red Cross Society trained psychosocial support (PSP) volunteers are carrying out trainings on PSP and stress management in Petit Goave, Lafferonnay, St Marie and Carrefour.

In the Dominican Republic, through the operation 360 Red Cross volunteers together with senior Red Cross branch staff will be trained in hygiene promotion techniques. The knowledge on epidemic control of these 360 volunteers will be reinforced through the use of the PHAST methodology.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

Progress towards outcomes

Water supply

Outcome: The risk of cholera has been reduced through the provision of safe water.	
<p>Output 1: Continue delivery of treated water for drinking purposes for up to 345,000 people in camps, makeshift settlements and surrounding neighbourhoods.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Activities planned</p> <p>A minimum of 10l/p/d of drinking water is available to up to 345,000 people living in makeshift camps and surrounding neighbourhood populations supported by the Red Cross. Treated water for drinking purposes will be guaranteed with 0.5 mg residual chlorine.</p> <p>Residual free chlorine will be monitored at water storage and water distribution in at least 132 water distribution points where Red Cross Red is distributing water.</p> <p>80,000 families will receive 2 jerry cans and 1 bucket per family for storage and transport for water at camps, makeshift settlements and surrounding neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Treated water at household level will be guaranteed by enforcing residual free chlorine in household water.</p> <p>Weekly coliform water test at water source.</p> <p>Weekly water test for coliforms at every water point and random samples in camps and makeshift settlements.</p> <p>Microbiological tests will be conducted for all Red Cross water sources in Port-au-Prince as well as any new water resource.</p>
<p>Output 2: Health facilities in Artibonite continue delivery of treated water.</p>	<p>Provide water with a minimum of 75 litres/patient treatment for cholera treatment centres (CTC) for 3 months. It is estimated that the total per day could reach from 2,500 to 4,000 litres.</p>
<p>Output 3: Red Cross cholera treatment centres are receiving treated water.</p>	<p>Provide water with a minimum of 75 litres/patient treatment for Red Cross Cholera Treatment Centres (CTC) for 3 months. It is estimated that the total per day could reach from 2,500 to 4,000 litres.</p>
<p>Output 4: Communities in the five provinces on the Dominican/Haitian border have access to treated water.</p>	<p>Pre-position water and sanitation equipment at the border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti</p>

Federation water teams continue to deliver treated water for drinking purposes (2,000,000 litres per day) to 66 camps for displaced persons in Port au Prince. The concentration of residual chlorine in the water has been increased from 0.5 to 0.7 milligrams per litre. Federation teams conduct daily monitoring at camp water distribution points.

Two water tanks with 2,000 litre capacity each have been installed at the German Red Cross cholera treatment centre in Arcahaie. A delivery of 15,000 litres of water was made to the CTC on its first day of operation, along with 180 kilograms of high concentrate (HTH) chlorine for disinfection of the facility. The Italian Red Cross, via the Federation, has contributed 6,000 litres of treated water in sachets to the German Red Cross CTC.

The Federation is providing support to the activities of the French Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross in Saint Marc via daily delivery of 15,000 litres of treated water since the onset of the outbreak. Other provisions for activities in Saint Marc include 300,000 aquatabs to the Spanish Red Cross and 45 kilograms of chlorine to the French Red Cross. Further consignments of aquatabs will soon be delivered to both the Spanish and German Red Cross Societies. The Italian Red Cross has donated 12,000 litres of treated, sacheted water to a Cuban-operated cholera treatment centre.

The French Red Cross is supporting cholera treatment centres in Petite Rivière and Saint Marc through installation of water bladders and water trucking and has delivered 234,000 gallons of water, as well as distributing around 60,000 aquatabs.

In the Dominican Republic, a total of 24 water treatment plants have been pre-positioned in Montecristi, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Independencia, Pedernales, Azua, San José de Ocoa, Duarte and the "Distrito Nacional" as a preparedness measure in the event of an outbreak of cholera to ensure potable water supply. The water

treatment plants provide coverage of the border area and have been placed in areas with high population density and significant movement of migrants.

Sanitation

Outcome: Improve sanitation facilities for people in camps, makeshift settlements and surrounding neighbourhoods where Red Cross is involved and increase access to latrines in health centres.	
Output 1:	Activities planned
Appropriate sanitation for 345,000 people, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage is provided in camps, makeshift settlements and surrounding neighbourhoods.	<p>At least 400 existing community sanitation facilities, excreta disposal at latrine level and disposal sites will receive specialized treatment because of the cholera situation. This will be done by adding a high concentration of chlorine in latrines to treat the excreta.</p> <p>Provide sanitation facilities, excreta and solid waste disposal and running costs for Red Cross Cholera Treatment Centres (each centre will be provided with 6 latrines, 4 showers, 2 tanks with capacity of 2,000 litres each).</p> <p>Provide and maintain at least 66 existing hand washing points and 400 existing latrines with soap and water.</p> <p>Increase sanitation activities in camps identified with possible cholera cases. This could be done in camps serviced by the Red Cross as well as camps outside the current Red Cross distribution areas.</p>
Output 2: Sanitation is safeguarded through regular monitoring activities.	Implementation, supervision, monitoring and assessment of response activities.

Additional training has been provided to the Federation's 12 person vacuum truck service team to reinforce safe management of the latrine desludging operation. The team has been trained in safe handling of high concentrate (HTH) chlorine, which is used in the vacuum trucks to neutralize excreta, and is sprayed in and around latrines each time they are desludged to disinfect the facility. The team has also been trained in self-protection.

The Federation delivered 8 portable latrines to the German Red Cross cholera treatment centre in Arcahaie, and desludges and disinfects these latrines three times per week. In addition, the Federation sanitation team provides occasional desludging and disinfection service to the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) CTC in Port-au-Prince.

The Haitian Red Cross Society with the Spanish Red Cross is supporting a CTC in Dessalines with a disinfection team. Two disinfection teams have been established in the Saint Marc area, one of which carries out disinfection activities in the town and the other on the outskirts of the town. Three disinfection teams are active in camps in Léogane.

The French Red Cross has mobilized 40 people to undertake disinfection work daily in 18 camps and 4 neighbourhoods, and 80 drums for hand washing with chlorinated water have been installed. To date 1,561 houses accommodating 6,920 people have been disinfected.

Health, hygiene promotion, and relief

Outcome: To reduce cholera-related morbidity and mortality through a comprehensive approach to health promotion, hygiene promotion and improved National Society capacity in preparedness and response to the cholera outbreak.	
Output 1:	Activities Planned
Disease transmission is reduced through increased hygiene awareness of communities and HRCS volunteers and improved hygiene practices.	<p>Continue to provide hygiene promotion activities to 345,000 people through training and mobilizing of volunteers at the community level.</p> <p>Relief distribution of soap to 80,000 families in Red Cross supported camps, makeshift settlements and surrounding neighbourhoods: 250 grams per person, per month. For a total of 100 MT per month. This activity is planned for an initial period of 3 months</p>

	<p>Train staff and volunteers in epidemic control focusing on cholera response, active case finding in households and reporting. It is estimated that around 1,000 volunteers/staff will be trained using the Epidemic Control Toolkit for Volunteers (French/Creole)</p> <p>Produce and disseminate information, education and communication materials in the local language.</p> <p>Dissemination of key messages via mainly SMS and radio on cholera prevention and treatment to people living in Artibonite, Port-au-Prince and other locations. Other communication tools will be utilized for the Port-au-Prince to further intensify dissemination.</p>
Output 2: Hygiene promotion safeguarded through regular monitoring activities.	Implementation, supervision, and monitoring and evaluation of response activities
Output 2: Prevention and epidemic control activities are integrated into longer-term community based health programming.	Emphasis on prevention of cholera is included in the community based health programme planning for the on going Earthquake operation.

In the period 26 October to 14 November, the Haitian Red Cross Society and the Federation hygiene promotion activities reached some 15,000 people residing in or near camps in Port-au-Prince. The Red Cross has a presence in 66 camps in Port-au-Prince and is focusing the hygiene promotion and cholera prevention in 29 of these camps, having assessed that 37 of these were well covered by other organizations. The Federation is distributing hygiene kits that include soap and has distributed 20,000 kits to date.

A number of strategies have been employed by the Haitian Red Cross Society to deliver cholera prevention and hygiene promotion messages in the community. To date around 8,000 people have participated in group sessions, with 10 to 15 people in each session. A further 7,000 people have been reached through tent-to-tent visits in the camps and, in keeping with the recommended neighbourhood strategy of Haiti's National Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation (DINEPA), via school visits, and approaching people in the streets, markets, and taxi stands in neighbourhoods surrounding the targeted camps.

In coordination with the Federation's relief department, hygiene promotion dissemination is conducted with small groups of people while they queue for relief items; thus far this strategy has reached 800 people.

Visits have been made by volunteer hygiene promoters to camp and community-based food vendors to provide information on cholera prevention and basic hygiene practices. The volunteers found that food vendors were generally unaware of the cholera chain of transmission, and explained the importance of hand washing, using treated water, and how to handle food correctly.

Haitian Red Cross Society hygiene promotion volunteers are affixing a series of three posters in public spaces and are distributing information materials as part of their dissemination activities. The volunteers complete a reporting form that summarizes their activities; this tool assists the HRCS with their monitoring and cross-checking processes. Volunteers also complete daily reports and participate in daily debriefing sessions where issues are discussed and plans for future activities adjusted as required.

American Red Cross-trained promoters were deployed to 34 camps to disseminate information on hygiene and cholera. In the first phase the team delivered messages on cholera prevention, transmission, symptoms, vulnerable populations, preparing oral rehydration salts (ORS), and hand washing. The team has so far reached 8,237 people with messaging and has organized 1,092 hand washing demonstrations in the camps. In the second phase, the teams distributed hygiene kits that included soap and water treatment tablets. In the first four days of November, the team visited 12 camps, reaching 10,009 people with messaging. The team also organized 4,366 tent-to-tent hand washing demonstrations and distributed 25,690 pieces of soap and 51,380 water treatment tablets to 5,138 tents.

Canadian Red Cross-trained promoters have delivered hygiene promotion training in schools in Artibonite, reaching 1,282 school girls and 874 school boys. Their community mobilizers have reached 150,000 people in

the South East department, Léogane commune, and 29 localities in Les Nippes through hygiene promotion and awareness-raising activities.

More than 10,000 people have benefited from hygiene promotion activities organized by the French Red Cross, which has also distributed 1,600 hygiene kits and 2,415 ORS to affected populations, schools, and health centres.

The Spanish Red Cross is also enabling promotion teams to deliver hygiene and cholera information to camps.

Trainings:

Over one thousand volunteers have been trained to date in cholera prevention and hygiene promotion by the Haitian Red Cross Society, with the support of the Federation, and Red Cross partners including: the American Red Cross with 220 trained volunteers, Canadian Red Cross with 177 volunteers in Artibonite, the French Red Cross with 240 volunteers in Artibonite and 25 volunteers in Petit Goave. In the week commencing 15 November, the Netherlands Red Cross will train volunteers in Jacmel and Léogane ahead of hygiene promotion activities commencing 22 November 2010.

Over one hundred Haitian Red Cross Society staff members have received training in cholera prevention and response topics.



Training community-based hygiene promoters.

The HRCS has a core group of ten trainers who in July 2010 had undertaken a training of trainers' course using the Epidemic Control Toolkit for Volunteers. These trainers have been mobilized to various teams to support the cholera prevention and response activities. Two of the trainers have been appointed to the Haitian Red Cross Society's psychosocial support programme (PSP), which has trained 96 volunteers to date (with 20 in Sainte Marie, 22 in Lafferonay, 19 in Carrefour, and 35 in Petit Goave). The team is working towards training at least 115 volunteers to deliver cholera prevention information and hygiene promotion, and provide psychosocial support in their respective communities.

On 25 October Haitian Red Cross Society volunteers along with personnel from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Operations (UNOPS) participated in a joint training, led by the Federation, in cholera prevention and hygiene promotion. The organizations had collaborated previously in delivering hurricane preparedness messages in camps throughout Port-au-Prince, and have continued their cooperation in the cholera response.

On 25 October Haitian Red Cross Society volunteers along with personnel from the International

The Red Cross Base Camp is being used as the venue for many of the trainings undertaken to date.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Immediately upon receiving the cholera alerts, the HRCS and the Federation worked with IOM to develop a joint cholera communication as a guide for training volunteers over the first weekend of the response (23 – 24 October 2010). The cholera communication was translated into Creole and shared with Red Cross partners ahead of a rapid volunteer training programme. A handout about oral rehydration salts (ORS) was distributed to volunteers along with IEC materials from the Federation's Epidemic Manual for Volunteers. All materials were provided to volunteers in Creole. Volunteers were also equipped with a personal supply of soap, aquatabs, ORS, and plastic gloves. A flyer developed by Canadian Red Cross and non government organizations with key cholera prevention messages was also distributed in this first response phase.

Red Cross health officers are participating in the Hygiene Promotion Cluster, and a Federation health delegate participated in the technical working group with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) in developing IEC materials for the cholera response. These materials formed the basis of the cholera messages approved by Haiti's Department of Public Health and Population (MSPP). Upon confirmation of the messages by the MSPP, the Red Cross printed 1,000 copies as handouts in camps and communities. A major print-run of 100,000 is now in progress with funding assistance from the Danish Red Cross.

To date 2.7 million SMS messages have been sent to communities across the country providing simple information on how to avoid cholera. In the first four days of this campaign, more than 75,000 people called the toll-free Red Cross information line where they could access additional messages on cholera prevention and treatment.

The 11 November episode of Radio Croix Rouge Haitienne continued the programme's focus on cholera, providing people with messages on prevention and treatment, and offering people a chance to call in and ask questions. This focus will continue over the coming weeks.

In the Dominican Republic, as of 25 October, hygiene promotion talks as well as talks focusing specifically on the prevention of cholera with explanations about the bacteria causing the disease and how to respond, were carried out in the five border Provinces: Montecristi, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Independencia and Pedernales as well as in Barahona, Bahoruco, San Juan and Santiago given their proximity to the border region.

A total of 3,822 people have been reached by these talks through 120 workshops, as follows:

Primary Schools	14	1,947
Secondary Schools	4	704
Community Centres Neighbourhood groups	14	432
Prisons	1	87
Mothers' Centres	2	40
DRC Branches	6	182
Other groups	79	430
Total	120	3,822

In the five Provinces in the border region, workshops were held in the five municipalities which are closest to the border and took place in a total of 93 communities and neighbourhoods.

Six workshops in six Provinces were held for volunteers of the DRC regarding cholera response and preparedness, and 97 volunteers therefore received training on 29 and 30 October. These volunteers belong to the health teams from the branches who had previously received training in management of epidemics using the protocols and key messages provided by the Ministry of Public Health. Workshops took place using a participative methodology to ensure learning and enabling volunteers to identify people with symptoms of cholera.

The purchase of protective equipment for 300 volunteers is underway in-country and the Ministry of Public Health's standards have been adopted for this equipment.

5,000 posters and 25,000 brochures have been produced which have been distributed in the border region and in Santo Domingo. These were designed using key messages based on the guidelines from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. The material has been distributed to attendees at the workshops and posters been fixed at bus stops, schools, medical centres, parks, community centres and DRC premises. Key messages are mainly focused on prevention and the promotion of hygiene with emphasis on how to detect cholera and ensure appropriate and timely treatment.

The Dominican Red Cross, together with Orange launched an SMS campaign with the aim of reaching 1.5 million people in Montecristi, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Independencia, Pedernales, as well as in Barahona, Bahoruco, San Juan, Higuey (identified for messaging as a result of the dense population of Haitian immigrants) and Santiago, and in the capital, Santo Domingo. SMS messages recommend when it is necessary to wash your hands and to consult a doctor if you have diarrhoea and vomiting. A total of 1,447,280 persons received these SMS messages between 28 October and 1 November.

Health

Outcome: To reduce cholera-related morbidity and mortality through a comprehensive health approach including surveillance, oral rehydration solution (ORS) distribution and case management.

Output 1: Health cholera	Activities Planned
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services are supported to meet the health needs of the population.	Establishment of Cholera Treatment Centres with cholera treatment kits that will provide case management for the affected population functioning in health facilities, and using additional capacity from local health professionals in Port-au-Prince. The first CTC will be operated by the German Red Cross. The IFRC and PNSs will support this CTC with supplies, personnel and logistic services. The IFRC and PNS with other partners are preparing to establish 2 further CTCs. IFRC support to the MoH with cholera treatment kits and other equipment (specialized water treatment equipment) in the Artibonite region and if need be in other locations.
Output 2: Health workers have increased knowledge about cholera.	Training of health workers on cholera response as Haitian Red Cross support to the Ministry of Health.
Output 3: Low and moderate cases of dehydration are dealt with.	Establish up to 5,000 oral rehydration treatment corners (ORT).
Output 4: Health safeguarded through regular monitoring activities.	Implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of control activities.
Outcome 2: The Dominican Red Cross contributes to the design of a national preparedness plan in the Dominican Republic	
Output 1: The DRC is better prepared in the event of an epidemic outbreak.	Develop and implement a DRC cholera contingency plan linked with the national risk management system. Contribute to the national cholera preparedness plan.

Progress:

The German Red Cross opened a cholera treatment centre in Arcahaie on 31 October with 25 beds and capacity of support for a maximum of 50 beds. The Federation has equipped the CTC with tents, water tanks, a cholera kit, and oral rehydration salts, as well as providing water distribution and latrine desludging services. Up to 10 November, the German Red Cross had treated 308 patients at the CTC.

The British Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross are operating a CTC with Partners in Health in La Piste, Port-au-Prince. The CTC currently supports 30 beds and has capacity to expand to 75 beds.

The Japanese Red Cross Society has mobilized a Basic Health Care (BHC) Emergency Response Unit (ERU) that will shortly arrive in Port-au-Prince. The Federation is working with the Ministry of Health to determine the most suitable site for the BHC unit.

The French Red Cross has supported the installation of eight stabilization centres in Port-au-Prince with a supply of beds, human resources, medical equipment and supplies, and plans to support 20 more stabilization centres in the coming weeks.

Training of health care workers

A training module was developed for training of medical personnel working in health centres. A two day training of trainers' workshop was held with 9 doctors on cholera management and training techniques. The workshop covered the topics of:

- Introduction to cholera.
- Hygiene promotion activities and the importance of hand washing.
- Activities including triage, assessment and treatment.
- Instructions for sick people and their families.
- Making the three concentrations of chlorinated



Trainers after preparing the different concentrations of chlorinated solutions.

solutions and oral rehydration salts (ORS) and discussion of their respective uses

- Management of stool and other waste products of sick patients.
- Cleaning
- Management of corpses and advice pertaining to funeral practices.
- Infection control within health centres.
- Reporting and statistics.
- Adult learning methods.

The second day of training involved a practicum where the participants practised their skills in a real setting. The intention is that these doctors will share the information with their colleagues.

Training kits have been provided to the newly trained trainers. These kits include all items similar to those used in the workshop, handouts for attendees at future health staff trainings, a DVD with hygiene promotion jingles in Creole, a hygiene promotion information package, teaching notes and the IFRC epidemic control guide.

A total of 75 Haitian Red Cross ambulance workers, including cleaners and drivers, participated in a two-day workshop that focussed on cholera prevention and response along with health and safety issues.

Furthermore, the staff health unit has provided awareness training to the IFRC and HRCS staff in cholera prevention.

A contingency plan for potential cholera was drawn up by the Dominican Red Cross at the end of October 2010. This contingency plan has been integrated in the Cholera Preparedness Plan of the Ministry of Health which was defined during the first week of November 2010. A specific intervention plan has also been drawn up with all Red Cross partners in coordination with the Ministry of Health in case there is an outbreak of Cholera outbreak in the Dominican Republic.

Logistics

Outcome: To support the cholera response operation by ensuring that basic relief supplies are procured, delivered and distributed in a timely, transparent and cost-efficient manner, and that standard logistics procedures are followed.	
Output 1: Logistics support complements and facilitates the activities and assistance planned.	<p>Activities Planned</p> <p>Scale up the current supply chain and control supply movements from the point of entry to final distribution point.</p> <p>Make available from the current DP stock 6 Cholera Kits for health facilities including CTCs and replace them as soon as possible as well as others supplies.</p> <p>Provide to the PNSs the necessary logistical support such as transport and relief supplies from the Red Cross disaster preparedness stock</p> <p>Provide logistical and coordination support and supplies for the HRCS, and PNSs having activities in Artibonite and other locations.</p> <p>Provide logistics support for the cholera preparedness plan in the Dominican Republic relating to relief supplies and transportation.</p>
Output 2: Logistics are safeguarded through regular monitoring activities.	Implementation, supervision, monitoring and assessment of control activities.

To scale up the current supply chain, several items have been distributed and many others are due to arrive shortly:

Item	Status
ORS	Arriving this week
Ringers	Arriving this week
Medicines	Arriving this week
Cholera tests	Delivered

Body bags	Arriving this week
6 cholera kits	Received last week
Chlorine	Distributed
Aquatabs	Distributed
Buckets	Distributed

Six cholera kits have been delivered (to PNS and the government) and three are in stock. Additionally, support has been provided to the German Red Cross CTC with the set-up and supplies. When the Japanese Red Cross Society's BHC ERU team arrives, logistics will provide support with tents and the medical equipment already in the country.

Furthermore, logistical support has been provided to several PNS in the country including the American Red Cross, the French Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. Up to 35 logistics requisitions have been presented and supplies are being made available to PNS including medical material, water and sanitation supplies, cholera kits, body bags and protective equipment for volunteers.

For the implementation, supervision, monitoring and assessment of activities the logistics department in Haiti has been reviewing daily all active requisitions, providing prices, budget and cost approvals and procuring items locally, in Panama or Geneva (for medical items only). For more information, a mobilization table has been published in the Federation's DMIS:

https://www-secure.ifrc.org/DMISII/Pages/DmisEditorArea/DownloadFile.aspx?doc=MDR49007_MobTable_MDR49007.doc

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency.

The communications activities outlined in this Appeal are aimed at supporting the Haitian Red Cross Society to improve its communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications Department of the IFRC's Secretariat headquarters in Geneva and the Zone Office in Panama.

The focus will remain on supporting the Haitian Red Cross Society, positioning the Red Cross Movement as a key and credible actor in terms of cholera response and providing the wider Red Cross Movement partners with materials to effectively engage with their own audiences.

Beneficiary communications: SMS messaging resumed on 11 November to Voila mobile phone subscribers in Artibonite and Port-au-Prince. Messages for the Artibonite region have focused on explaining what cholera is, how it can be treated and how to protect oneself. Messages in Port-au-Prince have focused on prevention. More detailed information is also available on the Red Cross free information line (which was also promoted through SMS). The IFRC will continue to issue these messages as necessary, moving to different geographical areas if needed.

Emergency Red Cross Radio shows were suspended due to Hurricane Tomas, but have restarted on 11 November. As the situation develops, more radio broadcasts will be planned. A sound truck was hired to visit all Red Cross priority camps in Port-au-Prince. The sound truck visited approximately 50 camps, where a half hour package was played with key cholera prevention and treatment messages, health and hygiene adverts and sections from the radio show. As the truck drove from camp to camp, a condensed three minute cholera prevention advert was played on a loop. The sound truck can be reengaged as necessary and deployed to different areas of the country. The 3-minute advert was also shared with radio stations across the country. Twenty stations across the country have been replaying these messages.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red](#)

Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Haiti:

- Dr Michaèle Amédée Gédéon, President, Haitian Red Cross Society, phone: (509) 3492 5492; email: m.amedee-gedeon@croixrouge.ht
- Guiteau Jean-Pierre, Executive Director, Haitian Red Cross Society, phone: (509) 37233267 / 34160969; email: guiteau2001@yahoo.com
- Marcel Fortier, Country Representative for Haiti; email: marcel.fortier@ifrc.org
- Stephen McAndrew, Head of Operations in Haiti; email: stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org

In the Dominican Republic:

- Gustavo Lara, General Director, Dominican Red Cross; phone: +1 809 6291 673; email: ejecutivo1crd@gmail.com
- Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Regional Representative for the Latin Caribbean; phone: +1 809 334 4545; email: alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org
- Benoit Porte, Regional Disaster Risk Management delegate; phone: +1 809 334 4545; email: benoit.porte@ifrc.org

In Panama:

- Jorge Zequeira, PADRU Coordinator; phone: (507) 66750290; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
- Lorenzo Violante, Haiti Support Team Programme Coordinator; phone: (507) 380 0250; cell phone: (507) 65505287; email: lorenzo.violante@ifrc.org
- Ilir Caushaj, Regional Logistics Coordinator, Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU); phone (507) 316 1001; fax (507) 316 1082; e-mail ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org
- Lourdes Perez; Resource Mobilization Delegate – Haiti Operation; email: lourdes.perez@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 317 3050; mobile: (507) 6699 6217 and fax: (507) 317 1304.

In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41 22) 730 42 74; fax: (41 22) 733 03 95; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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