

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
Operations Update n° 2
30 November 2010

Period covered by this Ops Update: 15 November to 30 November 2010.

Appeal target (current): 5,946,897 Swiss francs 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: The donor response list on the IFRC web site is constantly updated; the Appeal coverage as reflected on the list currently stands at 45 per cent; however, the coverage including pledges yet to be registered is now of approximately 84 per cent.



A nurse inserts an IV drip into the hand of a cholera patient at the clinic at La Piste in Port-au-Prince. With support from the British Red Cross, this clinic has treated more than 900 suspected cases. IFRC: Ben Depp.

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- The Preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched on 3 November 2010 for 5,946,897 Swiss francs for 6 months to assist 345,000 beneficiaries in Haiti and 150,000 people in Dominican Republic.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** 78,852 Swiss francs was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the Dominican Red Cross with preparedness and response measures.
- The IFRC, in coordination with the HRCS and the DRC, are coordinating in order to review the current preliminary emergency appeal in light of the evolving situation.

Summary: During mid-October an outbreak of cholera occurred in the Haitian department of Artibonite where many families displaced by the 12 January earthquake live. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners in the country in close coordination with Haitian Red Cross Society (HRCS) are responding to the emergency using the earthquake response operation platform. The main activities accomplished to date include health, water and sanitation and hygiene promotion. Haitian Red Cross Society volunteers have been trained in cholera prevention measures and have been disseminating key messages in camps around Port-au-Prince.

The situation

A severe cholera outbreak has been affecting Haiti since 19 October. After the first cases were confirmed in Artibonite, cholera has spread throughout the country. As of 26 November the Public Health and Population Ministry (Ministere de la Santé Publique et de la Population - MSPP) reports 72,017 hospital visits and 1,648 deaths in ten departments of Haiti: Artibonite, Centre, Grand Anse, Nord, Nord Ouest, Ouest, Nord Est, Sud Est and Sud. The spread of cholera is associated with poor social and economic environments, precarious living conditions, insufficient water supply, poor sanitation and hygiene practices and high population density, which are conditions affecting communities affected by the earthquake in January as well as most of the Haitian population. The Health Cluster Bulletin #4 warns of an increasingly worse situation in the next weeks and the urgency to meet the population's needs as the outbreak grows. Currently, 24 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are providing health services in Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs) and Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs). Forty CTCs are operating with an average bed capacity of 100 to 200 beds.

Currently the country is going through an election process. The IFRC Haiti delegation has issued a yellow security phase (situation of heightened tension initiated). During the last few days an increase of demonstrations, some of them with a significant level of violence, has been observed. These demonstrations vary from political rallies to cholera related protests, showing animosity against specific international organizations. Even if there have been no significant incidents targeting the Red Cross, some activities have been hindered due to ongoing demonstrations. Essential services, such as distribution of water in the camps, are being maintained.

In the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Health informs that

as of 28 November, 101 possible cases of cholera were reported of which 9 are confirmed, 79 are negative, and 13 are suspected. Of the 9 cases confirmed, two were in Santo Domingo Norte, four in Santo Domingo Oeste and three cases in Norte (community of Navarrete). According to the Ministry, one additional case was imported.



A Red Cross volunteer talks to market vendors in Port-au-Prince, sharing simple information on cholera prevention. More than 1,000 trained Red Cross volunteers have been going door-to-door or tent-to-tent to disseminate crucial public health information. Source: Ben Depp/IFRC.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC and the Red Cross National Societies present in Haiti work in close collaboration with the Haitian Red Cross Society and with the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The IFRC is also in close coordination with the Dominican Red Cross.

The Health Cluster and the Water and Sanitation Cluster in Haiti meet on a regular basis to coordinate the cholera response. Furthermore, the IFRC is part of the committee of institutions operating CTCs. The IFRC actively participates in all cluster meetings as well as in government health coordination meetings. The cholera operation staff maintain coordination with the Health Cluster, PAHO/WHO, and OCHA and share information with these institutions. All Movement components in the country carry out cholera related coordination meetings twice a week so that synergy of all activities and appropriate implementation of activities is ensured.

The Spanish Red Cross continues working in Artibonite, Port-au-Prince, Léogane and Jacmel. It supports the Cuban Brigade-managed CTC in Artibonite. In L'Estere, the Spanish Red Cross and the Haitian Red Cross Society water plant provides safe water to the CTC. A total of 115,000 litres of water have been provided to the CTC patients, families and staff. Five hundred buckets and cholera pamphlets have been also delivered to the

CTC. In addition, the number of latrines has been increased to 8. In 21 IDP camps in Port-au-Prince, water is monitored to ensure chlorination of tanks and bladders. In order to start rehydration as a priority, a “small kit” including ORS, buckets, soap, gloves and protection materials, were delivered to each committee in the 21 camps where the Spanish Red Cross and the HRCS are working, in coordination with the volunteers of the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion project in the camps. The disinfection teams in each camp continue working in general disinfection and special disinfection when a case is detected.

The Japanese Red Cross Society Basic Health Care ERU has been mobilized in response to the Federation’s appeal for the cholera operation in Haiti. The team has successfully completed work in the National Prison of Port-au-Prince, working together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support the health facility in regards to the cholera outbreak. The team is in close contact with the IFRC and other PNSs to set up a Cholera Treatment Centre in Carrefour.

The British Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross Societies together with the Canadian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross Societies are supporting a CTU with 30 beds in La Piste camp, where 900 people have been assisted. The number of cases has risen from an average of 20–25 to 35–50 per day. Eighty per cent of the cases come from outside the camp and 20 per cent of the cases are acute cholera cases (needing IV treatment). The CTU was expanded to a capacity for 90 people. It will also be able to deal with the most severe cases, that have to date been sent to a nearby Cholera Treatment Centre. In addition, the British Red Cross will install three ORS points in Automeca, Delmas 19 and Annexe de la Mairie camp by 3 December.

The Canadian Red Cross is deploying an ERU to support the Red Cross 80-bed CTC in Carrefour (Port-au-Prince) to work alongside the Japanese and Spanish Red Cross Societies. The Centre is expected to open by 11 December. The IFRC is coordinating the deployment and providing technical and logistical support. The Canadian Red Cross is also involved in cholera related activities in the regions of Léogane and Jacmel.

During the period from 22 to 25 November, the **American Red Cross** hygiene promoters worked in nine camps (Pitimi, Mayard, Lindor 2, Sodomme, UTEPB, Parc Ste Therese, Saint Louis Gonzague, Ti Sous and Place Boyer) and provided cholera messaging to 7,675 persons in 5,574 tents. The promoters also conducted 5,373 hand-washing and 1,610 ORS demonstrations, in addition to distributing 29,690 bars of soap, 18,200 Aquatabs and 1,820 packets of ORS. On 26 November, the hygiene promoters returned to Place Boyer to complete their messaging, awareness-raising activities and distribution to approximately 136 tents.

The Finnish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross are working in partnership with the British Red Cross and Partners in Health (NGO) in the running of a Cholera Treatment Unit in La Piste camp. Forty volunteers, all trained in cholera prevention, are active in promoting cholera awareness in the Martissant area. The Swedish Red Cross has 10 active hygiene promotion volunteers in the same area for cholera response. There are 12 volunteers trained in psychosocial support now working with cholera related activities. There are 30 national staff members (including 4 doctors, 8 nurses, 2 clinic assistants, 3 interpreters), all of whom are trained in cholera and cholera awareness-raising when running the mobile health clinics. In addition, the Finnish Red Cross has distributed water purification tablets, ORS, and hygiene kits through Red Cross volunteers in Port-au-Prince.

The French Red Cross supports 11 Cholera Treatment Units, which have been installed in the primary health centres at Port-au-Prince. Seven are currently operational. On 24 November, an oral rehydration point became operational at the camp of Bonnefil. The French Red Cross sponsored hygiene promotion activities continue in schools, camps in Port-au-Prince, in Artibonite and in Petit Goave. Since the beginning of the operation, 29,000 people have benefited from hygiene promotion activities in Artibonite, 51,000 in Port-au-Prince and 7,200 in Petit Goave. Disinfections of houses, camps and public places in Port-au-Prince and Artibonite (by pulverization) are still conducted on a daily basis. In Artibonite, 6,300 houses have already been disinfected. The distribution of a 100 litter bins in French Red Cross-supported camps is ongoing. Moreover, the French Red Cross has distributed water to two primary health centres in Desdunes and Grande Saline and to three cholera treatment centres (Marchand Dessalines, Saint Marc and Petite Riviere). A distribution was also conducted in Duclos to the population. Today, more than 500,000 gallons of water have been distributed in Artibonite. The French Red Cross also supports 50 kindergartens and orphanages in the metropolitan zone of Port-au-Prince with training, soap, hygiene kits and chlorine.

As of 14 November, **the Netherlands Red Cross** together with the Haitian Red Cross Society in the South East and West Department carried out hygiene promotion activities and distribution of jerry cans, soap, and water purification tablets. The targeted population included families reached by the waster, sanitation and hygiene promotion programme that the Netherlands Red Cross is implementing in the South East and West departments of Haiti (10,000 households in the South East department, communes of Jacmel, Cayes Jacmel, Marigot, and La Valee; and 10,000 households in the West department, commune of Léogane). The Netherlands Red Cross also supported volunteer training in Léogane and Jacmel. Distribution in each department targets 10,000 households

per department with the following items: 10,000 jerrycans (10 litres each), 10,000 bars of soap; 20,000 information, education and communication (IEC) leaflets, 1,500,000 chlorine tablets / 20mg for 5 litre water purification (5 litres x day x 50.000 person x 30 days).

The German Red Cross manages a CTC in Archaie (covering an estimated population of 140,000). It also supports MSPP activities in the commune of Carrefour (population 500,000), including epidemiological data management. A German Red Cross sponsored mobile health promotion team disseminates prevention messages in Carrefour and Arcachie. The German Red Cross will continue its cholera response activities for a period of 6 months with possibility of extension and expansion based on needs. Through these activities, it has strengthened the capacities of HRCS volunteers to implement community-based activities in remote communities in the department of Grand Anse (population: 400,000), Nippes (population: 290,000) and Léogane (population: 15,000).

The Dominican Red Cross / IFRC 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 PAHO/WHO, 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 DRC works jointly with the Ministry of Health to develop its Cholera contingency plan and support the training of school teachers and headmasters at the national level. The DRC is coordinating with local universities to train students to be health promoters and facilitators. In addition, the National Society, with support of the Spanish Red Cross, is part of the Water and Sanitation group in the country.

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. 661 Haitian Red Cross Society volunteers were trained in hygiene promotion, cholera prevention, transmission and treatment. These volunteers have worked in their communities sensitizing over 5,000 people. An additional 102 volunteers belonging to the psychosocial support programme received similar training.

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

Progress towards outcomes

The following section describes the activities carried out since the start of the operation by the IFRC and HRCS under the preliminary emergency appeal framework. It is important to note that the IFRC is also supporting PNS in their response activities (as described under the Coordination and Partnerships section), which are part of the outcomes and outputs outlined under the preliminary emergency appeal targeting a total of 345,000 beneficiaries (80,000 beneficiary families) in Haiti and 150,000 people (30,000 families) in the Dominican Republic.

Water supply

Outcome: The risk of cholera has been reduced through the provision of safe water.	
Output 1: Continue delivery of safe water for up to 345,000 people in camps, makeshift settlements and surrounding neighbourhoods.	Activities planned 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. Safe water will be guaranteed with 0.5 mg residual chlorine.

	<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>Safe 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>
Output 2: Health facilities in Artibonite continue delivery of safe water.	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.
Output 3: Red Cross cholera treatment centres are receiving clean water.	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.
Output 4: Communities in the five provinces on the Dominican/Haitian border have access to safe water.	Pre-position water and sanitation equipment at the border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Progress: The IFRC continues to provide services to the vulnerable population also affected by the January earthquake. The current global average of litre/person/day in IFRC-supported camps and other distribution sites is 6.7 with a concentration of residual chlorine of 0.7 milligrams per litre (increased by 0.2 milligrams in relation to the usual 0.5 milligrams as a preventive measure against cholera). The IFRC continues to provide support to the German Red Cross CTC in Arcahaie, where there are currently two water tanks of 2,000 litres each. The following table shows the IFRC water and sanitation activities taking place in 132 distribution points in 66 camps and other distribution sites:

WATER SUPPLY	
• Total water points in camps/makeshift, in PaP	132
• Total Estimated beneficiaries	218,995
• weekly water distribution (PaP)	11,500,000 litres
• Monthly water supply (PaP)	45,988,948 litres
• Global average l/p/d	6.7 litres per day
• Number of trucks	27 trucks / rotation
TOTAL WATER DISTRIBUTED TO DATE	387, 710m³

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: Appropriate sanitation for 345,000 people, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage is	Activities planned
	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

provided in camps, makeshift settlements and surrounding neighbourhoods.	<p>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.

Progress: To date, during the cholera operation the IFRC water and sanitation programme has provided sanitation services to 85,137 people living in 30 sites:

SANITATION	
• Total number of sites	30
• Estimated beneficiaries	85,137
• Latrines (trench latrines)	133
• Tank latrines	220
• Global average lat/p	1/100
• Evacuation of excreta	479.7m3 of excreta
TOTAL NUMBER of LATRINES	
353	
SOLID WASTE	
• Solid waste disposed of	230m3

In Léogane, the IFRC Water and Sanitation programme will focus on carrying out a training of trainers in water chlorination. In addition, the team will prepare a mapping of wells within the areas that are being targeted with hygiene promotion. In coordination with the Haitian Red Cross Society and the Health programme, the Water and Sanitation programme also plans to meet with the community management committees (Comités d'Administration de la section communale – CASEC) of peri-urban sections, in order to have a better understanding of the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion needs and the movement of the population within communities or camps.

The Water and Sanitation project manager in Léogane coordinated with the IFRC Water and Sanitation team in Port-au-Prince to ensure an integrated response in all the affected areas.

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: Disease transmission is reduced through increased hygiene awareness of communities and HRCS volunteers and improved hygiene practices.	<p style="text-align: center;">Activities Planned</p> <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 a 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 3: 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.
Output 4: In the Dominican Republic, increased awareness and prevention of cholera is ensured through a campaign in 36 branches on the Dominican-Haitian border and the three most populated urban areas: Santo Domingo, Santiago and Puerto Plata.	<p>Carry out hygiene promotion talks in five border provinces and the three most populated urban areas.</p> <p>Carry out relief activities for 5,000 families supporting distribution of family hygiene, kitchen parcels and soap for 30,000 families.</p> <p>Conduct epidemic control workshops for communities and volunteers</p> <p>Provide personal protection equipment for volunteers who are working in affected communities or with cholera patients.</p> <p>Print and distribute public information, education and communication awareness materials such as brochures and posters.</p> <p>Carry out an SMS awareness-raising campaign targeting 1.5 million people.</p>

Progress: As of 24 November, the cholera operation had distributed relief items with the support of IFRC relief coordination in the communities of Delmas (Port-au-Prince) including the communities of Mais Gate, Village Castro, Le Terrain, Mais gate10, Mais Gate 12, Villam Betta, Mais gate 2 and Batimat as follows:

Per Household.	Item	Total Distributed	Household Reached
2	Jerrycans	9,185	4,593
1	Buckets	6,370	6,370
	TOTAL	15,555	10,963

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion coordination team in cooperation with the Haitian Red Cross Society has carried out hygiene promotion activities in 39 camps and seven public areas (market squares), reaching approximately 30,000 families. These included 10,429 visits to tents in 28 camps. Additionally, in other public areas 4,551 people received mass water, sanitation and hygiene promotion training, whilst another 198 received individual training. Around 11,876 persons participated in mass camp promotions and 10,370 individual households received similar training. After a promotion activity was carried out, the Haitian Red Cross Society and the IFRC made 600 random phone calls to verify whether individuals who participated in this promotion received and understood the key messages. In addition to this, selected people in 69 camps received Red Cross training on how to handle water and 149 Red Cross workers received training in cholera prevention.

The IFRC continues to support the Haitian Red Cross Society and Partner National Societies in their response to cholera; the IFRC promotes cascade training. Moreover, training in psychosocial support will be provided to volunteers also trained in cholera treatment. An SMS promotion campaign continues as described below under the **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information** heading. In addition, 30,000 posters for prevention and 30,000 for treatment have been printed and 200,000 flyers are ready to be distributed.

In the upcoming days, awareness-raising activities will be carried out with community members in Carrefour on the opening of the CTC. In addition, the IFRC will be facilitating the distribution of *Kit 1* (IEC materials) to the

volunteers, to be used in the communities. Distribution of these kits will be conducted through PNSs and the HRCS branches. Moreover, materials for *Kit 2* (materials for families) will be put together in the upcoming days. A Kit 2 contains water purification tablets (150 tablets), soap (1.25 kgs), one bucket and two jerrycans.

In the Dominican Republic, as of 28 November, 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 throughout the country in the following provinces: Montecristi, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Independencia, Pedernales, Puerto Plata, Duarte, Santo Domingo, Barahona, Bahoruco, San Juan, San Cristobal and Santiago.

A total of 5,402 people have been reached by these talks through 185 workshops, as follows:

Primary Schools	23	2,562
Secondary Schools	8	1,325
Community Centres Neighbourhood groups	25	645
Prisons	2	87
Mothers' Centres	6	75
DRC Branches	16	260
Other groups	105	448
Total	185	5,402

Sixteen workshops throughout the country were held for volunteers of the DRC regarding cholera response and preparedness, and 260 volunteers therefore received training. 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.



DRC volunteers place hygiene promotion posters in strategic locations. Above: Fruit market in Villa Linda. Source: Dominican Red Cross.

Five thousand posters and 25,000 brochures have been produced which have been distributed in the border provinces (Montecristi, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Independencia and Pedernales) as well as in Barahoran, Bahoruco, San Juan, Santiago and Santo Domingo. These materials 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 have 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. The current challenges faced are to extend the hygiene promotion campaign at the national level through all DRC branches and to increase the Dominican Red Cross' response capacity to adequately handle possible cases of cholera identified, regardless of the geographical location.

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 services are supported to meet the health needs of the population.

Activities Planned

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 IFRC is supporting PNSs and other organizations such as Bureau of Delmas, Médecins du Monde Canada, Médecins du Monde France, Save the Children, MERLIN and other health partners in their efforts in the field. A total of 45,000 ORS sachets, 1,000 ringer lactate, soap and tents, chlorine and water purification tables were given for distribution to CTUs and mobile clinics.

The IFRC provides assistance and supplies to IDP camps through organizations working in them. Moreover, ORS posts are to be established. The IFRC, supported by the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, has provided 6 pick-up trucks to support the HRCS ambulance service for cholera patients. This activity will be further strengthened.

The IFRC is also supporting the Bureau of Delmas and has provided medical training for 48 health workers from 26 health centres in cholera training. Support is also being provided to health centres through materials for disinfection and 26,000 ORS sachets.

The MSPP has approved the installation of a Red Cross CTC with 80 beds, which will be opened in at Camp La Mertan in Carrefour (in Port-au-Prince). The Centre will be operated with the support of the Red Cross National Societies of Canada, Japan and Spain, with support of HRCS volunteers. The Japanese Red Cross Society ERU is already in the country and started to work with the German Red Cross for the transfer of national staff from the German Red Cross Hospital to the CTC. An advance team from the Canadian Red Cross arrived on 26 November to work out the technical and operational aspects with the sister National Societies of Japan and Spain and the IFRC team.

One hundred health workers will be trained by the IFRC and HRCS to support the Canadian Red Cross and the Japanese Red Cross Society CTC. This training will take place from 1 to 4 December.

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. 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.	Activities Planned Scale up the current supply chain and control supply movements from the point of entry to final distribution point. 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

	<p>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.

Progress: The IFRC Logistics team provides supplies and services for the cholera operation. These supplies include chlorine, water purification tablets, cholera kits, ORS, ringer lactate, infusion sets, body bags, soap, buckets, tents and protective equipment for volunteers. For this purpose, between 22 October and 25 November, the logistics team managed and cleared four air shipments (34.2 tonnes).

In addition, support has been provided for the installation of the CTC to be operated by the German Red Cross, and MERLIN. Furthermore, a new warehouse was opened to provide dedicated service to Red Cross actors involved in the cholera operation.

To see the updated mobilization table, please visit the following link:

https://www-secure.ifrc.org/DMISII/Pages/03_response/0307_logistics_mobTab.aspx

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Beneficiary communications An important element of any cholera response plan is prevention; therefore beneficiary communication has played a key role in getting lifesaving messages out to the population. This has been achieved through SMS, the use of sound trucks, dedicated radio shows and widespread radio advertising.

SMS are being sent daily to Voila subscribers living throughout Haiti giving practical advice on how to prevent cholera, the symptoms and what to do if a person suspects herself or himself or someone in her or his family is infected.

- From 21 to 29 October and 11 to 21 November nearly 3.74 million SMS were sent successfully.
- Approximately half a million Haitians have received multiple messages about protecting themselves from cholera. These people can then share the messages with family and friends not on the Voila network.
- 89,120 people called the information line following the receipt of an SMS message. This recorded information line provided more information on treatment and prevention.
- A third cholera SMS campaign will resume following the elections. SMS messages provide advice on the use of water, information on cholera treatment centres and tackle the stigma associated with cholera.
- Information about what a cholera treatment centre is, why people should not be scared of it, as well as a list of the locations of all cholera treatment centres in Haiti will be added to the free information line. This will be promoted through SMS messaging.

Sound truck: A sound truck was hired to visit at-risk camps in Port-au-Prince and Léogane. The truck played a 30 minute package at each camp of key cholera messages on prevention, identification and treatment with songs and spots on hand washing and sanitation. A shorter three-minute cholera advert was played on a loop as it drove from camp to camp. For 6 days from 25 to 30 October the truck visited approximately 50 camps in Port-au-Prince, including the 26 camps on the IFRC priority list. For 9 days from 11 to 20 November, the sound truck visited 130 camps across Port-au-Prince, and extended the reach to market places and key locations where people gather. From Thursday 25 November onwards a sound truck will visit locations throughout Léogane once per week, accompanied by volunteers who engage the crowd and answer questions.

Radio: the Haitian Red Cross Society Radio broadcasts once per week for one hour, live on the *Radio 1* network, which has national reach across Haiti. A three-minute radio advertisement was distributed to radio stations across the country. 25 stations in Port-au-Prince and Léogane agreed to play the advertisement.

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 Advisor; 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

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)