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Haiti – Cholera

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

November 19, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 16, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 18, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) articulated an enhanced cholera response plan focusing on preventing cholera cases, reducing the number of cases requiring hospitalization, and reducing the case fatality rate. The plan outlines four elements including provision of chlorine to increase availability of safe drinking water, expansion of national hygiene education outreach, provision of oral rehydration salts, and increased funding for new cholera treatment centers (CTCs) and cholera treatment units (CTUs).
- On November 17, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the U.N. World Health Organization indicated that Haiti could experience up to 200,000 cases of cholera over the coming six to 12 months.
- As of November 15, the Government of Haiti (GoH) Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) reported confirmed cholera cases in 7 of 10 departments in Haiti. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), cholera cases had been confirmed in six of seven communes in metropolitan Port-au-Prince, as of November 16.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Cholera Caseload	18,382	GoH MSPP – November 15, 2010
Deaths Due to Cholera	1,110	GoH MSPP – November 15, 2010

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE FOR CHOLERA

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti for Cholera.....\$9,173,912
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Haiti for Cholera.....\$9,173,912

CONTEXT

- On October 22, U.S. Ambassador Kenneth H. Merten issued a disaster declaration due to the cholera outbreak. USAID’s Haiti Task Team (HTT)—comprising representatives from USAID’s Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Health, and Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance bureaus, as well as other U.S. Government (USG) agencies such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—began coordinating the USG response.
- On October 26, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Haiti, including technical advisors for health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). The USAID/DART has worked closely with USAID/Haiti and staff from the CDC to coordinate emergency response efforts, technical assistance to the MSPP, and longer-term health systems support.
- To support the coordination efforts of the USAID HTT and the USAID/DART, USAID stood up a Response Management Team in Washington, D.C., on October 26.
- USAID/OFDA cholera response programs target approximately 5.4 million people, or more than half of Haiti’s population, through health or WASH interventions.
- USAID/Haiti continues to work with the MSPP and PAHO to plan and respond to the cholera outbreak. USAID/Haiti partners are distributing educational materials, conducting hygiene trainings, and broadcasting messages. In addition, USAID/Haiti partners have procured and consigned commodities—including ORS, water purification materials, IV sets, Ringer lactate, and bleach—to USAID-supported health sites and other sites treating cholera cases.
- In addition to ongoing work to strengthen and rebuild Haiti’s basic public health infrastructure, CDC is contributing scientific leadership and technical guidance in response to the cholera outbreak in four key areas: preventing deaths in health facilities, preventing illness and deaths in communities, monitoring the spread of disease, and improving laboratory and diagnostic capacity. Currently 37 CDC staff are deployed to Haiti, who along with 164 CDC staff in the United States, are providing support to the MSPP cholera response. With USAID/OFDA support, CDC staff have also worked to design training for clinical care providers to diagnose and manage suspected cases of cholera effectively and efficiently.

Health

- The MSPP’s approach to the cholera outbreak has focused on three levels of care, including community level primary response to provide rehydration, disinfect affected areas, and promote health; cholera treatment units (CTUs) at health service sites where patients can receive oral rehydration and basic intravenous therapy; and cholera treatment centers (CTCs) for treatment of severe cases.
- On November 19, the USAID/DART reported MSPP plans to publish the official list of CTCs countrywide using local media. As of November 17, the Health Cluster reported 30 operational CTCs with a capacity of 2,000 beds countrywide. Nine of these CTCs, located in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, have a total estimated capacity of 1,000 beds.
- To date, with USAID/OFDA support, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has evaluated the suitability of nearly 70 sites in Port-au-Prince for placement of additional CTUs, finding 20 sites suitable for CTU placement. A November 16 OCHA publication reported 27 operational CTUs throughout the country.
- On November 17, USAID/DART staff visited two sites in the Cité Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, where USAID/OFDA partner Samaritan’s Purse (SP) is constructing a 200-bed CTC and operating a 20-bed CTU. The CTC will be the largest facility in the area dedicated to cholera treatment and will operate continuously throughout the day and night. In addition, SP is coordinating assistance and referrals in the neighborhood with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Médecins du Monde (MDM), and the Haitian Red Cross. MDM currently operates three mobile health clinics to serve 45,000 people in 14 Cité Soleil camps.
- USAID/DART staff also visited the 160-bed, SP-run CTC north of Cité Soleil. Within one week of opening, the treatment load increased 450 percent—from 40 to 180 patients per day. The case fatality rate in the CTC remains below 1 percent.

WASH

- Currently, 12 USAID/OFDA-funded NGOs are working to prevent cholera through WASH activities—designed specifically to change hygiene behaviors and practices—for more than 685,000 individuals.
- In recent days, USAID/OFDA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) has trained 40 community health workers in Gonaïves, Artibonite Department, to promote proper hygiene practices for the prevention of cholera.
- USAID/OFDA partner Save the Children also is training hygiene promoters in Léogâne, West Department.
- In response to concerns regarding lack of transportation for infected people in towns and rural areas, IMC began an ambulance service in Gonaïves, Artibonite Department, in partnership with PAHO, MSF, and the mayor’s office.
- As of November 17, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) had transmitted more than 2 million SMS messages—containing basic but critical information on cholera prevention—to people in Artibonite Department and Port-au-Prince. SMS messaging was reportedly effective in conveying timely and essential information to targeted communities in advance of Hurricane Tomas. IFRC plans to transmit an additional 2 million messages across the country in the coming week.
- On November 12, the GoH Minister of Education and a representative of the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) announced a national cholera response plan for schools, outlining provision of hygiene supplies and treated water to schools in coordination with and through the country’s 10 departmental education offices. The Education Cluster, in collaboration with Health and WASH cluster members, continue to finalize the contents of the minimum cholera response package for schools, which will include disinfectants, water purification tablets, chlorine, soap, and hygiene promotion materials.

LOGISTICS AND COMMODITIES

- Since the beginning of the cholera outbreak, USAID/OFDA grantee IOM has distributed pre-positioned commodities, including more than 13,500 hygiene kits—to benefit 77,500 people—and nearly 13,000 10-liter, narrow-opening water containers to reduce water contamination risks. IOM has distributed commodities in Port-au-Prince, West Department, Gonaïves, Artibonite Department, Port-de-Paix, Northwest Department, and Les Cayes, South Department.
- On November 17, a USAID/OFDA-funded flight delivered 350 cholera test kits—enough to test 3,500 samples—to the CDC in Port-au-Prince.
- On November 19, a USAID/OFDA flight transported 10,000 kg of calcium hypochlorite (HTH) to Haiti. USAID/OFDA will consign the HTH to IOM.
- The GoH Department of Civil Protection outlined a proposed process for rapidly clearing commodities through customs at the Port-au-Prince port and airport to expedite delivery of authorized items for the cholera response, according to the USAID/DART. Additionally, unregistered agencies will receive support in obtaining customs clearance—a significant update to previous guidelines.
- As of November 17, the Logistics Cluster continued to quantify the total number of WASH- and health-related commodities available in Haiti and in pipelines, in order to identify geographical coverage gaps.

- As of November 19, OCHA had requested data on all cholera-related activities operating in formal and informal settlement sites in Port-au-Prince in order to identify coverage gaps.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR CHOLERA

FY 2011			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CDC	Health	Affected Areas	\$275,000
IMC	Health, WASH	Artibonite, North, West Departments	\$1,500,000
IOM	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Artibonite, North, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, West Departments	\$4,600,000
Management Sciences for Health (MSH)	Health	Countrywide	\$825,617
Mercy Corps	WASH	Center Department	\$432,438
SP	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	West Department	\$499,524
	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$1,013,727
	Administrative Costs		\$27,606
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$9,173,912
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR CHOLERA			\$9,173,912

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 19, 2010.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for cholera efforts in Haiti can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Haiti may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/