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Haiti – Cholera

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

November 16, 2010

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- 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 23, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) deployed a health advisor to support the USG response and USAID/OFDA Haiti program office staff began to respond to emergency health needs.
- On October 26, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Haiti, including additional 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 with technical assistance to the Government of Haiti (GoH) Ministry of Health (MoH) 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.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$4.4 million for emergency response activities and relief supplies, including bleach, cholera beds, hygiene kits, water bladders, and water containers. On October 30, a USAID/OFDA flight transported 1,000 cholera beds to Haiti for use in cholera treatment centers (CTCs) countrywide.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE | | SOURCE |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Cholera Caseload | 14,642 | GoH MoH – November 12, 2010 |
| Deaths Due to Cholera | 917 | GoH MoH – November 12, 2010 |

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE FOR CHOLERA

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti for Cholera..... | \$4,354,405 |
| Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Haiti for Cholera | \$4,354,405 |

CONTEXT

- The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the U.N. World Health Organization have indicated that Haiti could experience up to 200,000 cases of cholera over the coming six to 12 months. USAID/OFDA cholera response programs target approximately 5.4 million people, or more than half the population, through health or WASH interventions.
- As of November 10, the MoH reported confirmed cholera cases in 7 of 10 departments in Haiti. Public health personnel working in Haiti note that the spread of the outbreak to date has been consistent with the health community’s projections and the case fatality rate is not increasing. Response efforts have focused on minimizing infections through chlorinating water sources, promoting hygiene, and minimizing the case fatality rate by providing timely and effective treatment.
- The MoH 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; transition centers at health service sites where patients can receive oral rehydration and basic intravenous therapy; and CTCs for treatment of severe 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 33 CDC staff are deployed to Haiti to support the MoH 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

- As of November 8, the Health Cluster reported 10 CTCs were treating patients in the Port-au-Prince area, with seven CTCs in Artibonite Department and one CTC each in Center and North departments.

- As of November 15, the Health Cluster noted that facilities in Artibonite, North, and Northwest departments each contained supplies to treat 60,000 people for one month.
- From October 26 to 30, USAID/DART health and WASH advisors conducted assessments of Mirebalais, Center Department, Varrette, Saint Michel, and Gros-Morne municipalities and Gonaïves city, all in Artibonite Department, as well as Port-de-Paix city in Northwest Department, following reports of cases in each area. Early USAID/DART assessments helped USAID focus resources on areas of greatest need and target prevention efforts in areas adjacent to reported outbreak locations.
- USAID/Haiti partners have distributed commodities including oral rehydration salts, water purification materials, intravenous treatment sets, Ringer’s lactate solution, and bleach. These commodities have been consigned to USAID-supported health sites and other sites dealing with cholera cases. USAID/Haiti partners have also procured and delivered additional commodities to bolster the existing response capacities.
- Since October 30, USAID/DART staff have conducted assessments in the Port-au-Prince area and Gonaïves, Artibonite Department, to evaluate treatment capacity, health infrastructure, and needs for additional interventions. Assessment results have informed USAID’s ongoing efforts to target populations and communities in need.
- As of November 11, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the MoH and assessed 19 sites in Port-au-Prince for suitability as cholera treatment units (CTUs)—primary cholera treatment facilities. IOM and PAHO have assessed an additional 20 sites adjacent to hospitals and clinics for CTUs, should additional capacity be required.
- USAID/Haiti has been working with the MoH and PAHO to plan and respond to the cholera outbreak. Together, they are developing a gap analysis to determine medical and other supplies necessary to respond to the immediate crisis and to have enough supplies to respond as it spreads to other areas of Haiti.
- USAID-supported service delivery sites are preparing for the expected influx of cholera patients. USAID/Haiti partners are conducting staff trainings and pre-positioning supplies.

WASH

- As of November 11, USAID/OFDA partners had mobilized 2,000 people to teach communities about cholera prevention. In addition, USAID’s food security partners have trained approximately 140 community health workers to promote proper WASH practices. As of November 15, IOM had launched a cholera communications campaign in the Cité Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. To accompany the communications campaign, humanitarian agencies are providing water purification tablets at more than 200 water points as well as safe drinking water.
- On November 10, the USAID/DART WASH advisor reported that five public water points tested in the Port-au-Prince area contained adequate levels of chlorine to kill cholera. In addition, private vendors and the public water utility have safe drinking water available for purchase at subsidized prices in Port-au-Prince.
- As of November 3, the GoH National Direction for Potable Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) and the WASH Cluster had distributed a two-week supply of water purification tablets to 100 percent of the households in the outbreak priority zone along the Artibonite Department River in southern Artibonite Department. DINEPA also provided chlorine to all major water systems in Artibonite Department and distributed chlorine to smaller communities for treatment of local water systems.
- USAID/Haiti partners have engaged in a variety of ways to spread cholera prevention and treatment messages. USAID/Haiti partners supported and advised the MoH in the development of effective messages related to cholera prevention and treatment. Partners have distributed educational materials, including posters and pamphlets; conducted hygiene trainings; and broadcast messages. USAID/Haiti partners have also hired and trained new community mobilizers and health workers to reach more people.
- USAID has directed its partners in education to provide special instruction about cholera prevention to children in USAID-supported schools.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR CHOLERA

| FY 2011 | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Implementing Partner | Activity | Location | Amount |
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| CDC | Health | Affected Areas | \$275,000 |
| International Medical Corps (IMC) | Health, WASH | Artibonite, North, West Departments | \$1,500,000 |
| Management Sciences for Health (MSH) | Health | Affected Areas | \$825,617 |
| Mercy Corps | WASH | Center Department | \$432,438 |
| Samaritan's Purse | Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH | West Department | \$499,524 |
| | Logistics and Relief Commodities | Affected Areas | \$794,773 |
| | Administrative Costs | | \$27,053 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$4,354,405 |
| TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR CHOLERA | | | \$4,354,405 |

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 16, 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/