



Hurricane Matthew left a path of devastation when it struck Haiti on October 4, affecting an estimated 2 million people. Approximately 1.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, the majority in the southern departments of Sud, Grand'Anse, Nippes, Ouest, and Sud-Est. Other affected areas of Haiti include Artibonite and Nord-Ouest.

SITUATION UPDATE

Relief organizations continue to respond in Haiti two weeks after Hurricane Matthew heavily affected western portions of the country, destroying infrastructure and exacerbating existing humanitarian needs. As of October 18, official fatality figures from the Government of Haiti included 546 deaths; another 128 people are listed as missing. These figures are expected to continue to rise as government authorities and assessment teams reach communities in Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes that are as of yet largely inaccessible. Road access along the coast has expanded; however, many coastal communities in the southwest beyond Port-à-Piment remain isolated, according to the humanitarian Logistics Working Group. In addition, the extent of damage or the severity of need in inland communities farther from coastal Sud and Grand'Anse is not yet known.

Community-level frustrations with the slow delivery of food, relief supplies, water, and other assistance continue to spill over, particularly in Sud and Grand'Anse. The growing dissatisfaction has led to security incidents, including threats against aid vehicles, looting of storage facilities, and pillaging of trucks carrying assistance. In some cases, the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is providing security for aid convoys to ensure assistance reaches the intended destination.

The impact of Hurricane Matthew—extensive damage to health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, as well as flooding—has worsened Haiti's ongoing cholera outbreak. Government of Haiti data indicates at least

FAST FACTS

- An estimated 1.4 million people are in need of assistance in Haiti due to Hurricane Matthew
- Official fatality figures in Haiti indicate 546 deaths, while the full death toll remains unknown
- More than 175,500 people have been displaced to evacuation shelters

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

- International Medical Corps mobile medical teams have conducted more than 1,000 medical consultations in Sud
- Tensions are increasing due to frustrations over the pace of aid delivery
- 1,424 new suspected cholera cases have been reported
- International Medical Corps' cholera treatment unit is open in Les Anglais

1,424 new suspected cholera cases from October 2 to 15, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). The majority of the new cases detected thus far are in Sud Department, particularly in Chardonnières commune, where there have been more than 270 new cases. Relief organizations are seeking to mitigate the spread of cholera through restoring health care services, repairing and reactivating cholera treatment facilities, and addressing immediate WASH needs. WHO has also obtained 1 million doses of oral cholera vaccine for use in an emergency vaccination campaign in Haiti.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS: HAITI

International Medical Corps' emergency response team (ERT) is delivering health and WASH assistance in Sud, one of the departments most affected by Hurricane Matthew. Mobile medical teams are working their way to hard-to-reach communities to ensure people in need have access to medical care. On October 17, a mobile medical team—two doctors and two nurses—traveled to Randel, a town in Chardonnières where the number of new suspected cholera cases is particularly high. Reaching Randel required a two-hour hike in each direction. Over the course of two days, the mobile team conducted 190 medical consultations, including addressing 10 suspected cases of cholera. A second mobile team traveled to Kapafou, reaching the community by canoe, and conducted 144 medical consultations. Overall, International Medical Corps mobile medical teams have conducted more than 1,000 consultations since beginning operation on October 9. The teams work in coordination with local health facilities, and provide additional outreach in surrounding areas of need and within the facilities' catchment areas.



A child receives Ringers Lactate from International Medical Corps medical staff. The intravenous solution contains electrolytes and water for hydration.

In cooperation with Haitian health authorities, International Medical Corps' cholera treatment unit (CTU) opened in Sud's Les Anglais commune. Based at the Les Anglais Health Center, the CTU has inpatient capacity for 18 people. In the past three days, the CTU has received 30 patients, with 18 patients staying in the CTU. Staffing for the CTU includes three doctors and three nurses. The ERT's WASH team also supports the operation of the CTU, in addition to assisting with basic WASH repairs in other health facilities. At the hospital in Les Anglais, the ERT restored water supply to the hospital and rehabilitated the sanitation facilities. At Immaculate Conception Hospital in Les Cayes, the ERT completed the cleanup of the facility's maternity ward to provide a space for the hospital to use as an operating room. At a shelter in Les Cayes, the ERT has begun minor WASH repairs, improving drainage systems, and promoting good hygiene practices to help limit the spread of illness.



International Medical Corps assists local hospitals and health centers with repairs to WASH infrastructure, including sanitation facilities.

As health and WASH teams expand activities in Sud, additional supplies and transport have been donated by in-kind partners to support International Medical Corps' response in Haiti. On October 18, a total of 480 hygiene kits arrived in country; these include items such as toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and solar safety lights. To date, International Medical Corps has received nearly 38,000 pounds of medicines, medical supplies, hygiene items, and other commodities to support the provision of life-saving assistance in storm-affected departments.

In addition to Hurricane Matthew emergency response activities, International Medical Corps has an ongoing Haiti country program in place since 2010, implementing health, nutrition, and WASH activities in Nord, Nord-Este, Artibonite, and Ouest departments.

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