

International Medical Corps' Hurricane Matthew emergency response activities include operating mobile medical units in Sud and Grand'Anse; improving basic WASH conditions in shelters and health facilities; and operating a cholera treatment center in Les Anglais commune.

SITUATION UPDATE

Relief and recovery efforts are ongoing in storm-hit regions of Haiti one month after Hurricane Matthew caused significant destruction, particularly in Grand'Anse and Sud departments. International Medical Corps and other relief organizations are supporting the Government of Haiti to address the needs of some 1.4 million people who are in need of assistance due to the storm. Although progress has been made, the extent of humanitarian need remains significant. Accessing isolated communities in the interior regions of Sud and Grand'Anse is still difficult. Some communities are only accessible on foot, motorbike, or by boat, which hampers reaching them with critical assistance. Furthermore, perceptions that aid delivery is occurring slowly and/or unevenly are contributing to tensions in some areas, including in the urban centers of Les Cayes and Jérémie.

Approximately 141,500 people continue to reside in approximately 200 temporary shelters, living in overcrowded conditions and—in many cases—without basic necessities. The environment in the shelters, including inadequate hygiene and sanitation facilities, presents health risks for occupants, especially in light of the current cholera outbreak. The living situation affords little opportunity for privacy for women, children, and other vulnerable groups; along with insufficient security and a lack of assistance, this exacerbates the risks of gender-based violence and exploitation. The accessibility of the limited assistance available is particularly difficult for older persons and people who are physically injured or disabled. With

FAST FACTS

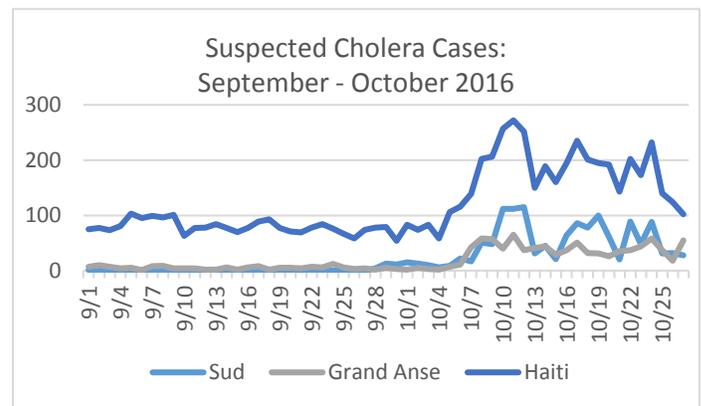
- An estimated 1.4 million people are in need of assistance in Haiti due to Hurricane Matthew
- More than 3,700 suspected cholera cases have been reported since October 4
- More than 141,500 people remain displaced in evacuation shelters

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

- International Medical Corps mobile teams conducted more than 4,400 consultations in October
- Conditions in schools serving as temporary shelters remain very poor, and a longer term shelter solution for displaced persons is needed
- A large-scale oral cholera vaccination campaign is scheduled to begin on November 8

86 schools in use as temporary shelters, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), improved and long-term solutions for housing the displaced need to be quickly identified, given the extent of housing damage in Grand’Anse and Sud. Schools in Sud have already begun to reopen, and schools in Grand’Anse are scheduled to resume on November 7. Schools also commonly double as polling stations, and Haiti’s rescheduled presidential elections are slated for November 20, adding more pressure to the need to identify a clear way forward.

Since October 4, approximately 3,700 new suspected cholera cases have been reported in Haiti. Suspected cholera cases spiked after Hurricane Matthew struck the country, with weekly case counts exceeding the seasonal rise seen in 2014 and 2015 that occurs amid the rainy season. The majority of new cases appeared in Grand’Anse and Sud—two departments that typically have fewer suspected cholera cases than other parts of the country. To limit the spread of the disease, the Government of Haiti is preparing to launch a large-scale oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign on November 8, targeting more than 815,000 people across 16 communes in Grand’Anse and Sud. Several organizations are assisting with the campaign, including International Medical Corps, the UN World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNICEF, the UN World Food Program, and many others.



Distribution of suspected cholera cases in Haiti by Epidemiological Week. [http://ais.paho.org/hip/viz/ed_haiticoleracases.asp] WHO/PAHO, 2016.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

International Medical Corps is providing operational support to Haiti’s Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) for the OCV campaign, including for training and microplanning. On November 3 and 4, staff and volunteers in Grand’Anse and Sud participated in a planning session led by MSPP and received training on the various components of conducting an OCV campaign. Aspects of the training included understanding the cold chain to maintain the correct temperature of the vaccine; vaccine administration; waste management; and documentation. Attendees included 37 participants in Sud and 44 participants in Grand’Anse. Following the training and microplanning exercise, participants will be responsible for cascading training to vaccination teams and will collaborate with their respective national



A nurse with an International Medical Corps mobile medical team takes the blood pressure of a patient at a site set up in a local school in Cavaillon.

supervisors and local leaders to oversee the vaccination campaign in the targeted communes. Representatives from PAHO/WHO, MSPP, UNICEF, and International Medical Corps helped facilitate the exercise. Additional campaign support by International Medical Corps includes payment and logistics for vaccinators, monitoring and evaluation capacity, community outreach support, and other activities.

International Medical Corps’ emergency response team (ERT) is addressing cholera, which is endemic to Haiti, through helping restore routine health services and improving access to health care for remote populations. In cooperation with local health authorities, the ERT is operating a cholera treatment center (CTC) in Sud’s Les Anglais commune. Since beginning operation on October 15, the CTC

had received 117 patients as of November 3, and has increased inpatient capacity from 18 to 26. ERT field teams have noted the difficulties experienced by people living in mountainous or otherwise isolated communities when attempting to reach functioning cholera treatment facilities, particularly since many were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Matthew. By the time cholera patients reach a treatment center, their condition has reached a severe state. To improve access to treatment at the community level, International Medical Corps has established oral rehydration points (ORPs) in five villages around Les Anglais. As sites where oral rehydration salt solutions can be provided, ORPs enable community health workers and local health staff to treat mild cases of suspected cholera, addressing the illness early and avoiding unnecessary hospitalization.



Workers contracted by International Medical Corps help lay gravel to improve drainage and eliminate stagnating water in the flooded courtyard of Ecole Dumarsais Estimé in Les Cayes. (Photo by Jefferson Mok)

In addition, International Medical Corps' ERT operates six mobile medical teams in Sud and Grand'Anse to deliver health care services to populations with limited or decreased access to health facilities as a result of the storm. During the month of October, mobile teams conducted more than 4,400 medical consultations across 14 communes in Sud and Grand'Anse. While conducting visits, mobile teams have observed a significant gap in available reproductive health care services. Women generally do not seek antenatal care, and choose to deliver at home—partially reflecting the lack of available reproductive health services at the health facility and hospital level. Teams have also noted a need for mental health and psychosocial support services for storm-affected community members as they move forward with rebuilding their lives.

To assist households displaced by Hurricane Matthew, the ERT is improving WASH conditions in schools in use as temporary shelters around Les Cayes and Les Anglais. In the past week, International Medical Corps repaired water systems in three schools and installed two 300-gallon water tanks in two schools to improve access to safe water. Cleaning and sanitation activities also continued, including working to repair non-functional toilets and conduct minor rehabilitation of sanitation facilities; hiring cleaners for shelter grounds and sanitation facilities; and arranging for the desludging of septic tanks in two shelters. International Medical Corps worked with occupants in two shelters to form WASH committees responsible for overseeing handwashing stations and making sure waste disposal activities are maintained. Hygiene promotion and awareness activities are ongoing daily in five shelters to promote improved hygiene practices, cholera prevention, and safe handling of food.

In addition to the ERT's Hurricane Matthew activities, International Medical Corps' Haiti Country Team is implementing ongoing health, nutrition, and WASH programs in Nord, Nord-este, Artibonite, and Ouest departments.

International Medical Corps Activity by Commune			
	Total MMU Consultations	CTC Cases	Facility-Based WASH Support
Aquin	220		
Arniquet	95		
Beaumont	150		
Cavaillon	233		
Chantal	294		
Chardonnières	1010		
Coteaux	34		
Ile a Vache	68		
Les Anglais	199	117	6 temporary shelters 1 hospital and CTC
Les Cayes	828		1 hospital
Roche-a-Bateau	117		
Roseaux	442		
St Jean du Sud	235		
Tiburon	506		
Total MMU Consultations	4431		

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