

International Medical Corps' emergency response activities in Grand'Anse and Sud include operating mobile medical units; improving basic WASH conditions in shelters and health facilities; and operating cholera treatment facilities in Les Anglais and Caivillon communes. International Medical Corps has also established oral rehydration points in communities with difficulties accessing the Les Anglais CTC.

SITUATION UPDATE

Two months after Hurricane Matthew struck southwestern Haiti, relief organizations continue to aid the government with meeting humanitarian needs resulting from the storm. International Medical Corps and other relief actors have been working since early October to deliver medical care following widespread damage to health facilities and hospitals; prevent the spread of cholera and other diseases; and assist families that have been displaced from their homes.

November brought new humanitarian challenges in the lead up to Haiti's rescheduled presidential elections, held on November 20. With some 86 schools in use as shelters, pressure increased significantly to empty the schools to enable their use as polling stations, as well as to facilitate the resumption of classes. Given the scale of damage caused to homes by the hurricane, humanitarian organizations raised concerns that alternative shelter arrangements were needed before families were removed. However, evictions from large school-based shelters moved forward and most were closed, leaving families to return to damaged homes or to relocate to smaller shelters that remained open. Gender-based violence and other protection issues remain a concern in the smaller shelters, as overcrowding and a lack of privacy were already present risks and have been further exacerbated by an influx of

FAST FACTS

- An estimated 1.4 million people are in need of assistance in Haiti due to Hurricane Matthew
- WHO/PAHO reports approximately 9,600 suspected cholera cases between October 4 and December 7, including 2,300 cases in Sud and 2,250 in Grand'Anse
- The Shelter Cluster estimates 370,000 housing units affected by the storm, including 30,000 destroyed

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

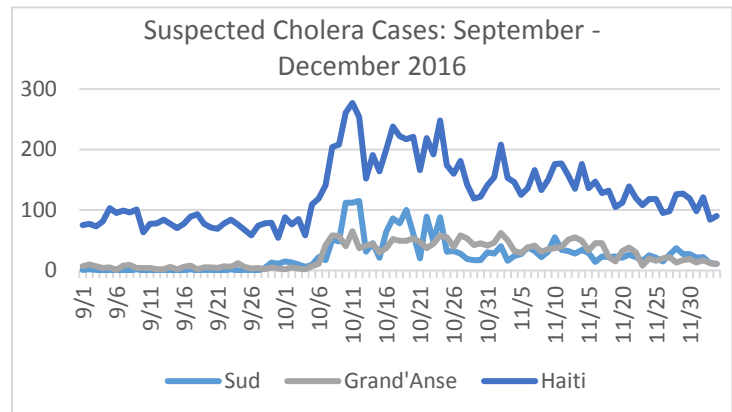
- International Medical Corps mobile teams have conducted approximately 8,300 consultations following Hurricane Matthew
- The November OCV Campaign concluded, reaching approximately 729,000 people
- Oral rehydration points are expanding dehydration and cholera treatment for isolated communities

new people. In Les Cayes and Jérémie, where most remaining shelters are located, Return Task Forces have been established to facilitate peaceful departures and provide assistance, such as relief supplies and food vouchers, for departing families so that they are not left entirely without resources.

As of December 7, the UN World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) had reported approximately 9,600 suspected cholera cases in Haiti since Hurricane Matthew.

Weekly case counts nationwide have been decreasing since mid-November, although cases are still far above pre-hurricane levels in Sud and Grand'Anse—two departments that typically had a lower number of cholera cases annually than other parts of the country. From November 8 to 19, International Medical Corps, WHO/PAHO, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other response actors supported the Government of Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) in the implementation of an oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign in Grand'Anse and Sud, aiming to mitigate the spread of cholera. The campaign covered seven communes in Sud and nine in Grand'Anse. Final figures for the campaign indicate more than 90 percent of targeted people were provided with OCV, with approximately 729,000 people reached. International Medical Corps provided operational support for the campaign, including payment and logistics for vaccinators, monitoring and evaluation capacity, and other activities.

Relief actors have raised concerns about deteriorating food security and malnutrition rates in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew. Malnutrition rates and food insecurity were significant in Haiti prior to the storm, particularly given the impact of the 2010 earthquake. Hurricane Matthew has exacerbated the situation by destroying crops and straining the financial resources of affected families, limiting their ability to purchase food. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), nutrition screenings in Grand'Anse and Sud appear to indicate a rise in acute malnutrition rates in heavily affected communities. International Medical Corps' mobile medical teams are conducting nutrition screenings as part of their routine care and sharing findings with MSPP.



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



A MSPP vaccinator administers OCV to a child as part of the Government of Haiti's OCV campaign in Sud and Grand'Anse. International Medical Corps and several other organizations provided support for the campaign.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

International Medical Corps' emergency response team (ERT) is implementing Hurricane Matthew response programs in Grand'Anse and Sud, focused on delivering integrated primary health care and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to address health needs and mitigate the spread of cholera. Six mobile medical teams—each staffed with two doctors and two nurses—are helping to restore access to health care in Sud and Grand'Anse for populations with limited or decreased access to health facilities as a result of the storm. From the start of operation on October 15 to November 29, mobile teams conducted more than nearly 8,300 medical consultations, serving 15 communes in Sud and one in Grand'Anse. As health

facilities are repaired and resuming services, International Medical Corps mobile activities will soon begin to transition, with mobile staff supplementing activities at health centers in need of additional support, as well as implementing more targeted activities such as cholera outreach, reproductive health care, and nutrition interventions.

In Sud's Les Anglais commune, International Medical Corps continues to operate a 26-bed cholera treatment center (CTC) at the Les Anglais Health Center, in cooperation with MSPP. International Medical Corps has 24 staff working alongside MSPP staff at the facility. From November 28 to December 4, the CTC received 22 suspected cholera cases, and has seen 230 cases since opening in mid-October. Most recent cases have come to the CTC from Tiburon commune. To improve access to treatment for people who live in mountainous or otherwise isolated communities, International Medical Corps has set up oral rehydration points (ORPs)—sites where community members can receive oral rehydration salt solution. To date, International medical Corps has established 15 ORPs in Les Anglais and Tiburon communes. Three of the ORPs are more extensive, staffed by nurses on a 24-hour basis and providing IV rehydration for more serious cases. In the coming days, International Medical Corps will close four ORPs due to decreased volume of patients presenting at those locations, taking into consideration the availability of a nearby ORP for support. In Cavaillon, International Medical Corps is working with MSPP to operationalize a cholera treatment unit (CTU) at the commune's local health center. The CTU opened on December 5 with an 11-person capacity. For both cholera treatment facilities, International Medical Corps is conducting or coordinating with partners for contact tracing, paired with hygiene promotion, household-level disinfection, and distribution of water treatment supplies.

In November, International Medical Corps WASH teams continued basic repairs, cleaning, and disinfection, as well as checking water quality to ensure access to safe water, in Les Cayes school-based shelters. WASH teams also distributed hygiene kits when conditions permitted, including to 54 families staying at Ecole Demian. However, several of the larger shelters where International Medical Corps operated were emptied due to the election and the desire to restart schooling, disrupting plans for further kit distribution. Although evacuees have left the shelters, International Medical Corps' work—including laying gravel for drainage, installing water tanks, and repairing sanitation facilities—will continue to benefit the community once classes resume. As additional shelters close, WASH teams will transition to activities that prepare schools to reopen, such as cleaning and disinfection.



International Medical Corps has established 15 ORPs, which enable community health workers and local health staff to treat mild cases of suspected cholera, addressing the illness early and avoiding unnecessary hospitalization.



A doctor checks a patient at International Medical Corps' cholera treatment center in Les Anglais, Haiti.

In addition to ongoing health and WASH programs, International Medical Corps is launching prevention of gender-based violence activities, as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions. These include trainings for health personnel, include MSPP staff, on basic concepts of caring for GBV survivors and ensuring safe referrals. International Medical Corps also plans work with health facilities on mapping referral pathways to ensure appropriate linkages between mental health, psychosocial support, and medical services, and will conduct trainings for health staff on the clinical

management of rape (CMR). International Medical Corps has also deployed a technical advisor to southwestern Haiti to assess MHPSS needs in affected departments.

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.

For additional information, please contact:

Sean Casey, Acting Director, Emergency Response Unit
Response Management Team Leader
SCasey@internationalmedicalcorps.org

Francois de la Roche
Emergency Team Leader, Haiti
FDelaroch@InternationalMedicalCorps.org