

Situation Report

Haiti – No. 19/2010

ACT Alliance Update on the Cholera and Tropical Storm Tomas

Geneva, 11 November 2010

Tomas

According to the Civil Protection Direction, DPC, Hurricane Tomas caused 21 deaths and made 6,610 people homeless. 48,235 people were evacuated of which 24,212 sought refuge in 75 temporary shelters. To date the DPC has reported 2,008 houses destroyed and 5,336 damaged. With planning figures of 100,000 affected families, the impact was less consequential than originally thought. The department of Grande Anse was the most affected with the destruction of 70 to 90 percent of its farm land. Assessments are also ongoing in the South-East, Centre, Northwest, North and Nippes departments which have equally experienced severe losses in the agricultural and fishery sectors. Floodings occurred in the centre of Leogane as well as in the Artibonite department.

ACT members have taken the following measures:

Christian Aid is assessing the situation with partners Koral in the South department, and Gramir in the departments of Nippes and Grande Anse.

Church World Service, CWS, is assisting 400 families in the North West and Artibonite areas where they support agricultural cooperatives with their partner, the Christian Centre for Integrated Development, SKDE. Damage to houses and gardens, as well as loss of livestock, has been reported. 1,200 tarpaulins and 2,000 hygiene kits were delivered on Monday. Food kits will be delivered. CWS is currently assessing the needs for a longer-term response.

Diakonie Katastrophe Hilfe, DKH, is participating in a multi-sectorial assessment this week together with the DPC and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA. DKH has provided 10 tents to from its contingency stock to the International Organisation for Migration, IOM, for distribution to vulnerable families in two camps situated in Jacmel whose tents were severely damaged during the passage of hurricane Tomas. Damage to agriculture was reported from communities in Bainet and Cote de Fer. DKH will provide support to these communities through its existing agriculture projects and is currently evaluating further needs that cannot be met through these projects.

The Lutheran World Federation, which office in Grande Anse got partially destroyed during the storm, is planning to respond in this Department with a project targeting 4,000 families. Activities will include distribution of food and emergency items such as water and sanitation, recapitalization of farmers and fishermen, and income generating activities for women. An assessment is currently taking place.

Finn Church Aid, FCA, has done a rapid assessment of the situation in the Gressier, Leogane, Grand Goave and Petit Goave. One of the FCA partner school sites located in the centre of Leogane was flooded due to the passage of Tomas. The ongoing assessment has shown that at least 9 other schools in Leogane were destroyed by floodwater and numerous schools in the area were flooded.

Norwegian Church Aid, NCA, reported floods in Cité Soleil. Its wash teams and partners have assessed the camps however damage are not significant. Activities are focusing mostly on the cholera epidemic.

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, CRWRC, has assessed the area of its emergency project close to Leogane, but Tomas caused no damage.

ACT member organisations have decided on Tuesday 9 November to not issue an appeal to respond to Tomas. The level of support for an appeal specific to Tomas would not be sufficient according to the first indication received. In addition, the damages are localized and responding organisations can access funds through their own agency, government and constituencies. These funds might not, however, provide total coverage of the needs and agencies are willing to receive available support in particular to replenish their stocks of emergency materials.

Another reason for not issuing an appeal is that ACT Members consider important to give a strong attention to the Cholera epidemic which is now spreading in additional departments with cases reported in Port-au-Prince. On Thursday 11 November the Ministry of Health (MSPP) announced 9971 cases of cholera and 643 deaths. Cases have been confirmed in the West, Northwest, North, Centre and Artibonite departments. A total of 14 cholera treatment centres are reported to function. Concern has been expressed by several NGOs in the health sector and media about the amount of unreported cases noting that numbers could be much higher.

A standard operating procedure for reporting and identifying cases of severe diarrhoea and/or cholera has been developed by the health cluster. The MSPP, UN and NGO actors are replying through increased water and sanitation, health and information interventions.

Cholera

ACT members are currently implementing the following activities for the cholera outbreak:

Christian Aid:

1. POZ (within USAID-funded PROMARK programme). As soon as the outbreak of cholera was confirmed, POZ intensified their sensitisation sessions on hand washing and safe hygiene practices (referred to within the programme as Child Survival activities). Usually, POZ's team in the field work on 3 thematic areas (HIV Prevention, Child Survival, and Family Planning), but since the 26th October, 80% of the sessions have been on cholera prevention throughout the 4 departments (west, south, south east, Nippes). A total of 11,951 people were sensitised between 26th October and 8th November 2010.
2. APROSIFA (please note that these are NOT funded by CA). Launched a sensitisation campaign on October 26 in camps and in other high-risk areas (Carrefour Feuilles and Martissant) on hygiene

practices in order to prevent the spread of cholera. Further sensitisation activities were carried out relating to hurricane Tomas with the same populations; Distribution of water purification tablets; Ongoing meetings with field agents to understand changing context.

3. GARR: (activities have not yet started but will be funded by balance remaining from ACT appeal programme): Radio campaigns on hygiene measures to prevent cholera (with radio stations in areas on the border with Dominican Republic); Radio campaigns by mobile DJs on hygiene measures (border areas and Port-au-Prince); Hygiene training for GARR teams. Field staff will subsequently run sensitisation workshops (border areas and Port-au-Prince); Distribution of water purification tablets, soap, oral serum and treated water.

NCA and its partners are responding with increased chlorination of water and increased amount of water given in the camps and neighbourhoods in the poorest parts of the capital (Bel Air and Cité Soleil). In the camps, the number of hand washing facilities is being increased as well as the frequency of cleaning of latrines. Hygiene promotion activities and monitoring of hygiene and sanitary conditions will be done daily with the present spreading of the disease in the camps and neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince area. Camp committees and neighbourhood brigades are being trained to know how to react in case of suspicion of cholera. Distribution of material for the cleaning brigades (protective material, tools) has been added to the regular distribution of clorox and other cleaning material. Distribution of hygiene kits and clorox as well as oral rehydration salts, ORS, and soap has been done from the stocked materials and there will be larger distribution of aquatabs (provided by FCA), jerry cans, ORS, soap and clorox in the weeks to come. NCA is also exploring with its partners possibilities to intervene in the worst hit area of Artibonite with water provision and distributions as well as intensive hygiene promotion activities, the key element in the prevention. Psychosocial needs have not yet been assessed but will probably need to be addressed soon, with the larger outbreak in the capital area. Protection issues are of particular concern.

CWS continues to watch the situation with its partner SKDE in the Artibonite and North-West department.

FCA is assisting in the post-flood clean-up efforts to reopen schools in Leogane. FCA is distributing water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts, jerry cans, hygiene kits and other essential items to 5000 families in the flood-affected areas through the network of schools. FCA is also partnering with the Lutheran World Federation to address cholera prevention in communities that were not directly affected by flooding through hygiene promotion and water purification. These activities will reach 20,000 students, their families and community members, totalling approximately 100,000 people.

LWF has been spreading information in the camp of Nerette. They have distributed hygiene kits, soap, and chlorine. Staff of the entire different department where LWF is present has been instructed and hygiene kits distributed.

Lutheran World Relief, LWR, is working on prevention with its partners and Community Based Organisations in the Centre, North and North West Departments. In addition to spreading of information, planned activities include distribution of aquatabs and the acquisition of water filters for school.

DKH is supporting the local organization OSAPO that is running a health clinic in a rural area near the town Montrouis (about 80 km north of Port-au-Prince). So far OSAPO provided professional cholera

treatment to 435 patients and has started a widespread awareness raising campaign in the communities around the clinic reaching out to around 5.000 Families. Part of this campaign is also the distribution of aquatabs and soap to families in order to facilitate the adaption of hygiene measures.

If ACT members can currently meet their need in term of stocks of hygiene, water and sanitation stocks, the situation might be different in the cholera epidemic keeps spreading at a high pace over the next few days. In order to keep the ACT Alliance informed of the situation as well as actions taken and planned, further updates will be issued.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to ACT Chief Finance Officer, Jean-Daniel Birmele (jbi@actalliance.org).

For further information please contact:

In Haiti

Geneviève Cyvoct - Coordinator for the ACT Emergency response (phone +509 3485 8698 - email: act.haiti@yahoo.com)

Maria Halava - ACT Communication and Security Advisor (phone + 509 3900 5237- email: comms_acthaiti@yahoo.com)

In Geneva

ACT Deputy General Secretary, Jill Hawkey (phone +41 22 791 6069 or mobile phone +41 79 376 1711, email: jha@actalliance.org)

ACT Regional Program Officer for Latin America & the Caribbean, Carlos Rauda (phone +41 22 791 6420 or mobile phone +41 79 608 8133, email: cra@actalliance.org)

Thank you for your attention.