

SitRep

Haiti – No. 20/2010

Port-au-Prince, 14 December 2010

Highlights

- Security consultancy has concluded a revised security framework for the ACT Alliance members in Haiti.
- Political turmoil around the election has created a new set of challenges for the humanitarian response.
- The cholera continues to progress and will threaten 200,000 people in the next few months.
- The post-earthquake emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities continue with an increase in the present funding level required to meet the planned activities, as well as meet the additional challenges brought by the current context.

ACT Coordination

Security:

The security consultancy, Paul Van't Wout, was contracted from 19 November to 8 December to review and provide advice on the security plan and strategy of the ACT Alliance members and give support to the ACT Security Advisor to revise security guidelines and tools, including hibernation, relocation and evacuations plans.

The main findings indicate that instead of providing ACT Alliance members with one ACT Alliance Haiti security plan, it is best in the long term to support each organisation with feedback in developing their own plans. For the purpose of information sharing and benchmarking on important security parameters and decisions, it is advisable to create a Security Focal Point group through which ACT members can share experience and strengthen their capacities. The emphasis is therefore on capacity strengthening and handing over knowledge/skills to ACT members SFP and staff members in security planning, measures and compliance. An action plan has been developed to finalise a number of security tools by end of January / early February 2011.

Communications and advocacy

ACT Communications and Advocacy Advisor is preparing material for the one year commemoration. The material will include a table form with ACT members' information concerning humanitarian and development activities since January 12, 2010.

ACT members are also asked to inform the Communications and Advocacy Advisor if they are sending communicators/photographers/journalists to Haiti for the one year commemoration in January, in order to coordinate work on the ground and possibly share material.

A partner consultation on climate change and disaster risk reduction was planned for December 9 with the aim of discussing the possible new joint CC/DRR project among ACT members and partners based on the findings of NCA's climate change mapping carried out at the end of this year. The purpose was also to see what ACT Alliance and members' partners could best offer CC/DRR at project level, as well as at advocacy level. Due to the turmoil following the announcement of the preliminary election results, it has been decided to postpone the consultation. A new date will be scheduled early 2011.

ACT Communications and Advocacy Advisor Maria Halava's secondment to ACT Alliance comes to end on December 31. Maria will continue working as a communications / advocacy officer for Finn Church Aid Haiti Field Office next year. As of beginning of next year, all questions concerning ACT's communications and advocacy work should be directed to ACT Emergency Response Coordinator Genevieve Cyvoct.

Psychosocial

Mikael Wiking has been seconded by Church of Sweden to work until July 2011 as 50% psychosocial specialist primarily for the Lutheran World Federation (the other 50% being for global funding). However by early 2011 his services as psychosocial specialist will be available to other ACT members. Mikael Wiking will work with them to achieve higher synergies in that particular field.

Current country situation

Two days of massive demonstrations followed the release of the preliminary election results on December 7 throughout the country. While it has brought a serious slowing down of humanitarian activities, many of which had to be postponed, ACT Alliance shared the concerns of the population and called for respect of the people's voice. Since December 10, the situation has slowly returned to normal, but with the definitive results of the first round yet to come, it is important to carefully monitor the situation.

Cholera outbreak situation overview and ACT members activities

As of 4 December, the Ministry of Health reported 2120 deaths and 44,157 hospitalization cases due to the cholera outbreak. Over 93,222 people have been examined by medical specialists since the disease started to spread. The education cluster reports that approximately 2.2 million school-going age children need to be protected. The focus remains on cholera prevention efforts in schools targeting teachers and students, as well as their parents. The need for information, particularly on preventing the disease, and how and where to get the appropriate treatment remains a critical issue throughout the country. One of the main challenges in terms of communications or public information remains how to fight misconceptions regarding the cholera outbreak.

Through meetings and Skype consultation, ACT members have decided to not issue a specific appeal concerning the cholera response. ACT members are responding with bilateral support, and through the current earthquake appeal. As indicated previously, an increase of funding support is needed for ACT members to meet the challenges brought by the current epidemic.

There is an important amount of support across ACT members, which are sharing skills, knowledge, human and material resources to address the needs of the most vulnerable and hardest-stricken areas of the country, including the North West department, the region of Jacmel in the southeast, and highly vulnerable areas of Port au Prince such as Cité Soleil.

ACT members, as with all WASH actors, underline that the effective eradication of cholera will only be possible if some fundamental issues related to access to adequate sanitary conditions and safe water are solved, as well as awareness of the disease and hygiene standards and knowledge are improved. Haiti has a long history of catastrophic disasters which continue to hinder the development of the country. It is imperative that projects and financing be directed to reducing the vulnerability of the Haitian people in such disasters.

Action ACT members have put in place in relation to the cholera outbreak include:

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee: In Leogane, two series of awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted two weeks apart with pre-recorded messages, impromptu visits in several schools, door-to-door visits to people, distribution of flyers and soap. Community committee members were provided with materials to prepare Oral Rehydration Salts (sugar, salt, lemon). The committees will operate as “rehydration stations” at the first signs of diarrhoea or vomiting. CRWRC has been regularly testing the 19 deep-water wells installed in the communities and assessed water and sanitation situation in schools in five communities. Analysis is underway to determine next steps and appropriate plan of action. CRWRC is coordinating with the Leogane Education Clusters.

In Port au Prince, an information workshop was conducted with a total of 25 participants from seven partner organisations on December 2. Tool kits for prevention, including posters and material for explanation and education, are being prepared and will be given out to members’ partners with appropriate explanation in the coming days.

CRWRC is preparing a cholera response project which will include Public Hygiene Promotion (PHP) for schools in five communities in Leogane, the installation of drinkable water infrastructure and adequate sanitation infrastructure on school grounds, as well as support to long-term partners on cholera prevention.

Church World Service: In response to the cholera epidemic, CWS local partners are doing outreach and education to the communities they serve. CWS has also distributed over 3000 hygiene kits through local partners and ACT members and has received over 100,000 Aquatabs (water purification tablets) from FCA for use in affected areas.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe: DKH’s local partner organisation OSAPO (Oganizasyon Sante Popile) has set up a Cholera Treatment Unit (CTU) in the locality of Rousseau near the village of Montrouis on the border between the West and Artibonite departments. Between October 24 and November 30, OSAPO treated 688 people who had cholera. Apart from the medical treatment, OSAPO has also distributed Aquatabs, Clorox (liquid chlorine) and soap to more than 3558 families in the surrounding communities and dispatched community promoters to sensitise and inform the population about the epidemic and hygiene measures to be taken in order to prevent infection. The situation is particularly critical in far-off mountainous areas where the epidemic has widely spread in the last two weeks as access to health facilities is very difficult. As a response to this situation, OSAPO has started increasing the number of health educators in the communities and will install oral rehydration points in localities like Piattre, Gresseau and La Coline.

As cholera cases are also increasing in the South East Department, DKH is intensifying preventive measures in this region. Training and sensitisation sessions are being organised for members of established OCBs, water committees, camp committees and local structures of the Haitian Civil Protection. Non food items like aquatabs, jerry cans and Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) will be distributed to 1000 highly vulnerable families in the commune of Baintet. DKH and its local partner organisation Concert Action are preparing a proposal to increase WASH activities in the communes of Jacmel and Baintet where post-earthquake reconstruction projects are ongoing.

Finn Church Aid: FCA has started a large-scale cholera response through the network of schools it is working with in the post-earthquake emergency education response. FCA has begun distributing aquatabs, jerry cans, soap, hygiene kits and other essential items to 24,000 families through 83 schools in the areas of Gressier, Leogane, Grand Goave and Petit Goave.

In this response, FCA is partnering with the Lutheran World Federation to raise awareness on cholera prevention and hygiene promotion in the schools. Distributions include awareness sessions on prevention and long-term programmes are being planned through the establishment of 'Club de Santé' in the schools.

FCA is also partnering with NCA to provide latrines to the most vulnerable schools in Leogane. The installation of 150 temporary latrines has begun to improve sanitation at schools and help reduce the spread of cholera.

In addition to these actions, FCA has also made available 1 million aquatabs to the national education cluster to help fill gaps nationally in the delivery of clean water at schools. Partners of ACT Alliance members have also received over 1 million aquatabs from FCA to target vulnerable, high-risk populations in various parts of the country.

The Lutheran World Federation: In response to the cholera crisis, LWF Haiti/Caribbean was able to address around 1000 families (5000 individuals) in the camps in the Petion Ville area in the first days of the outbreak. Following the activity, LWF strengthened the capacity of the camp committees and their monitoring of the situation, in close contact with LWF camp management teams. A case of early infection in Nerette camp was addressed immediately by also disinfecting the area the person was located. The reported case has been referred to CTC and Cholera Treatment Units via international NGOs in charge.

To avoid the spread of the epidemic into rural areas, LWF is about to distribute necessary preventive (aquatab, chlorine, water buckets, etc) and treatment supplies (Oral Rehydration Solution) among the more than 60 target schools in collaboration with FCA, and in our livelihood intervention area in the coming week.

LWF is working with its national partners on the wider geographical coverage in Macaya, St.Marc and Grand-Anse when security permits. A proposal is currently being written for support of partner organisations in Gressier, Central Plateau and Grand Anse.

Norwegian Church Aid: NCA has increased its support to water deliveries to around 400,000 litres of clean water daily in 31 locations (including 14 camps) in areas of Bel Air and Cité Soleil in the capital, with a high number of cholera cases. More than 100 hygiene promoters and brigadiers are mobilised by partners in neighbourhoods and camps. All in all, it is estimated that 140,000 people are reached by one or several of the activities. NCA implements its cholera response through its local partners already involved in the earthquake response: Viva Rio, MISSEH, Fondation le Berger and MOFECS. NCA co-ordinates its activities with the WASH and Health clusters, as well as with the 11 members of the ACT Forum in Haiti. It also supports ACT members with WASH and hygiene promotion expertise. NCA has given small-scale support to Service Chretien d'Haiti to assist rural communities in the Artibonite and might extend its assistance there through MISSEH, providing funding allows.

In total, 121 hygiene promoters and brigadiers are mobilised by NCA's partners. Hygiene promoters have organised sensitisation sessions to all camps as well as in the neighbourhoods (Viva Rio) to community leaders, religious communities and schools. Camp committee members keep regular contact with partners and NCA to advise when people get sick. NCA and partners are responsible for either building and cleaning and/or de-sludging sanitation facilities in 26 different points. NCA uses a

private company to de-sludge latines. In most camps, the goal of cleaning up latrines twice daily has been achieved.

A Cholera Treatment Unit, which is being operated in Bel Air by partner Viva Rio, is treating 10-15 patients daily. A total of 28 Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) points are operated in the neighbourhood (10) and schools (18).

NCA has purchased 120,000 packs of ORS shipped to Haiti to be distributed in camps and neighbourhoods through ORS points. Half a million aquatabs, donated by Finn Church Aid, will be distributed in camps and neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince and in Artibonite through partners. Soap and chlorox, aquatabs and jerrycans are being delivered, in particular to the camp population.

An important challenge will be to tackle the psychosocial effects of the disease, which is accompanied by stigmatisation and shame, for the ill but also highlighting protection issues especially for children.

Post earthquake emergency, early recovery and reconstruction

ACT members report the following on the post earthquake emergency, early recovery and reconstruction related activities:

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

CRWRC has started a six-week economic recovery and development project with funding from UNDP (via CIDA). Activities include demolition and removal of earthquake debris in three communities in Léogâne, demolition and rubble removal of a minimum of 150 destroyed homes in the three communities combined, and drainage canal rehabilitation. CRWRC currently has 17 field teams constituting 361 people. CRWRC has cleared 17 home sites and a further 13 sites are being worked on. A total of 7054 cubic meters of rubble has been removed and 2000m of drainage canals cleared. Almost 800 core houses have been completed. A total of 19 deep-water wells have been drilled and four more are to be completed. Work to start on permanent community latrines is to start soon (22 temporary latrines for a total of 86 stalls have already been built).

Church World Service

The six months cash assistance and case management programme for People with Disabilities has come to an end for the first 600 people enrolled in the programme. A second group of 600 people with disabilities will soon be selected. Beneficiaries have received capital to restart micro businesses that were destroyed in the earthquake. The first beneficiaries to receive the capital were referred to CWS partner Service Chretien d'Haiti in coordination with the Secretary of State for the Inclusion of Disabled People.

At the end of the year 2010, the logistical services provided by Dominican Republic ACT member, SSID, will come to a close. These services include transport of material aid and personnel, purchasing and warehousing, and other logistical support to Haiti from Dominican Republic. SSID remains engaged and committed to cross-border work, humanitarian relief and advocacy with Haiti.

A pilot project has been completed for house repair for people with disabilities. Thirty houses have been repaired by partner SKDE and families have left tent camps to return to their homes. The project will continue, with a goal of repairing 170 homes for people with disabilities in the next six months.

With the support of CWS and Christian Aid, SSID had been working in two camps for displaced people in Haiti, near the Dominican border. In consultation with people in the camps, SSID developed

a plan for relocation which included the distribution of cash, food and work tools. All families have now left the camps. Most of them live in the nearby communities and SSID, CWS, and Christian Aid will continue to work with these same families to provide house repair and construction to those who need it.

A project by local partner FOPJ to provide working capital to micro-businesses destroyed in the earthquake has exceeded its goals. Originally designed to benefit 90 families, the programme provided capital to 123 families in Carrefour Feuilles.

Following Hurricane Tomas, CWS provided US \$30,000 in emergency food to 400 families that are members of agricultural cooperatives in the area. A total of 1200 tarpaulins and 2000 hygiene kits were also provided to these communities in the Northwest and Artibonite departments.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

DKH has finalised the rehabilitation / reconstruction of 300 houses and three schools in Jacmel. Outside the ACT appeal, the rehabilitation / reconstruction of 264 houses in the commune of Bainet is ongoing. In order to increase the response to the cholera situation, DKH is preparing a proposal for complementary WASH (construction of household and public latrines) activities which will be integrated into the running ACT appeal. Activities should start in January 2011.

Finn Church Aid

The reconstruction of two schools continues. FCA is now launching a larger-scale reconstruction programme of 10 schools to be rebuilt in 2011.

Finn Church Aid (FCA) in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

FCA/LWF is working with 60 schools as part of the emergency education project in Gressier, Leogane, Grand Goave and Petit Goave. A total of 110 temporary (school tent) classrooms are operational, serving the needs of about 30 schools. Tents have been installed in Leogane and in difficult-to-reach mountain school sites. The construction of 120 semi-permanent classroom buildings has been completed (serving another 25 schools - 15 in Gressier, five in Leogane and five in Grand Goave/Petit Goave). School kits, early childhood development kits and teacher kits have been distributed at 30 schools.

Water and sanitation activities have included: 15 boreholes drilled with a hand pump installed at school sites that also serve the community; water tanks and distribution systems installed at 25 school sites and installation of additional water tanks ongoing; permanent latrine blocks have been constructed at five schools. Work is ongoing at the other school sites.

School kitchen facilities have been constructed at five schools. Work is ongoing at the other school sites. School kitchen materials have been procured and are awaiting installation.

International Orthodox Christian Charities

As of December 1, 2010, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) had provided nearly US \$4 million in aid to earthquake survivors. The distribution of relief supplies, which began arriving in

Haiti within one week of the disaster, has directly served nearly 200,000 people. Aid to survivors has been provided in cooperation with ACT Alliance members, the local Orthodox community and other partners. Medicines, medical equipment, water purification and sanitation equipment, tents, hygiene kits, shelter materials, fuel, food, blankets, jerry cans for water and mattresses have been shipped to and distributed in Haiti.

IOCC continues supporting the work of ACT Alliance members NCA, LWF and FCA. IOCC is supporting the development of an environmentally-friendly solution to manage human waste and to produce energy and fertilizer. The project, implemented by ACT Alliance partner Norwegian Church Aid and local partner Viva Rio, will improve sanitation through the installation of "biogas digester" systems in four newly-rebuilt schools in Port-au-Prince, benefiting directly some 14,000 students.

IOCC is funding the work of ACT Alliance partner Finn Church Aid (FCA) for the reconstruction of permanent school facilities to accommodate 450 students and 15 teachers in the rural regions of Embouchure. The school will also serve as an emergency hurricane shelter for 1350 people, and is designed to be earthquake and hurricane resistant. The project also provides temporary employment for 50 local residents.

Deforestation has long been a challenge in Haiti, but was worsened by the earthquake, leading to further erosion and landslides. In partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, the project will provide for the sustainable management of two forest areas and will improve the livelihood of people in adjacent communities through reforestation and preservation of vital watersheds. Reforestation efforts will target the highly deforested areas of Macaya and Forêt des Pins where the local communities will manage the long-term environmental protection of these areas.

IOCC support for the Orthodox communities in Haiti continues, with recent emphasis on support for the four Orthodox schools, including the completion of a temporary site for the school Notre Dame des Petites in Port-au-Prince, for which NCA/LWF provided latrines and FCA provided two school tents. Emphasis has been put also on assistance to the Greek Orthodox Church in helping residents of a camp on church property move back in to their homes by completing minor repairs and providing training on basic home repairs.

The Lutheran World Federation

Activities of LWF under ACT Appeal HTI101 have continued as planned with more intensified actions under the primary health promotion component due to cholera preventive measures in all the intervention areas. More partner organisations specialised in health will be involved in fighting epidemics in various parts of the country, via application to rapid funding opportunities. Positive developments under the shelter sector (release of materials at customs), and alternative relocation sites offered by the local authorities, indicate a speedy move in the coming months. By entering the next phase in the rehabilitation of community infrastructure and income generation, it is intended LWF will help rural communities ensure sustainable livelihoods and mitigate natural calamities. The newly approved school list for another set of 110 hanger installations in Leogane and Gressier are to start by the end of the year in collaboration with FCA.

Norwegian Church Aid

NCA and partners continue working in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion as well as psychosocial activities. However, the cholera outbreak has meant WASH activities, originally planned for earthquake response, have been intensified and expanded by all partners as the people affected by the earthquake who remain either in camps or badly destroyed neighbourhoods, are heavily exposed to

the cholera outbreak. This high vulnerability was accentuated by the passage of the cyclone Tomas, that partly flooded the camps in Cité Soleil where NCA is working.

The reconstruction part (related to construction and supporting the development of an environmentally-friendly solution to manage human waste and to produce energy and fertilizer) has gained new momentum in the present cholera situation. Norwegian Church Aid and local partner Viva Rio, are installing "biogas digester" systems in four newly-rebuilt schools in Port-au-Prince and one in Leogane. This linking of a solution for sanitation problems to solving some more long-term problems of energy in the country have gained new importance in the present cholera situation and have gained support from several ACT members.

For more information on the ACT response, including the ACT Appeal HTI101, contact ACT Emergency Response Coordinator Geneviève Cyvoct, act.haiti@yahoo.com

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to ACT Finance Officer Roshan Rajaratne, rra@actalliance.org.

Thank you for your attention.

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>