

**Friday, November 5, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT**

EOC SITUATION REPORT #11 Hurricane Tomas and Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

- According to the latest public advisory by US NOAA, Tomas passed northwestern Haiti as a category one hurricane (maximum sustained winds near to 140 km/hr). It is anticipated to strengthen during the next 24 hours followed by weakening on Saturday night and Sunday.
- Hurricane Tomas was expected to produce rain accumulations of 5 to 10 inches over much of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with possible isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches. This brings additional challenges to the current health situation, with reduced availability of drinking water, difficult hygienic conditions, and limited access to health services and to waste management.



Photo: Rosane Lopes (PAHO/WHO)

Hurricane Tomas

- A hurricane warning is still in effect for Haiti, also for the southeastern Bahamas, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- Hurricane Tomas is moving toward the northeast at 22 km/hr and this motion is expected to continue for the next day followed by a turn toward the east-northeast at a slower forward speed Saturday night and Sunday.
- PAHO/WHO has been informed that hospitals in Leogane and Les Cayes, as well as Saint Louis Hospital in Delmas (Port au Prince), have been evacuated. Many NGOs have evacuated their staff from Artibonite, but MSF remained in the area, as well as the Cuban Medical Brigades. Organizations taking care of the Artibonite CTC are relocating their patients or dismantling the tents.

- There are reports of localized floods in Port-au-Prince. Traffic in the road between Léogâne and Jacmel has been interrupted.
- As the hurricane Tomas approaches, the U.S. Southern Command directed the amphibious ship USS Iwo Jima toward Haiti, to provide medical and emergency relief.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) informed that the official warning website for tropical storms in Haiti is: <http://www.meteo-haiti.gouv.ht>. This site was established through WMO coordination with the National Meteorological Service of Haiti.
- CATHALAC, a UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office, is providing technical support and assessing the impacts caused by Tomas. Further information will be posted in the SERVIR website: <http://www.servir.net/en/disaster>.
- The International Charter, which aims to provide a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to those affected by natural or man-made disasters, has been activated for Hurricane Tomas. More information will be posted on the Charter website: <http://www.disasterscharter.org>.

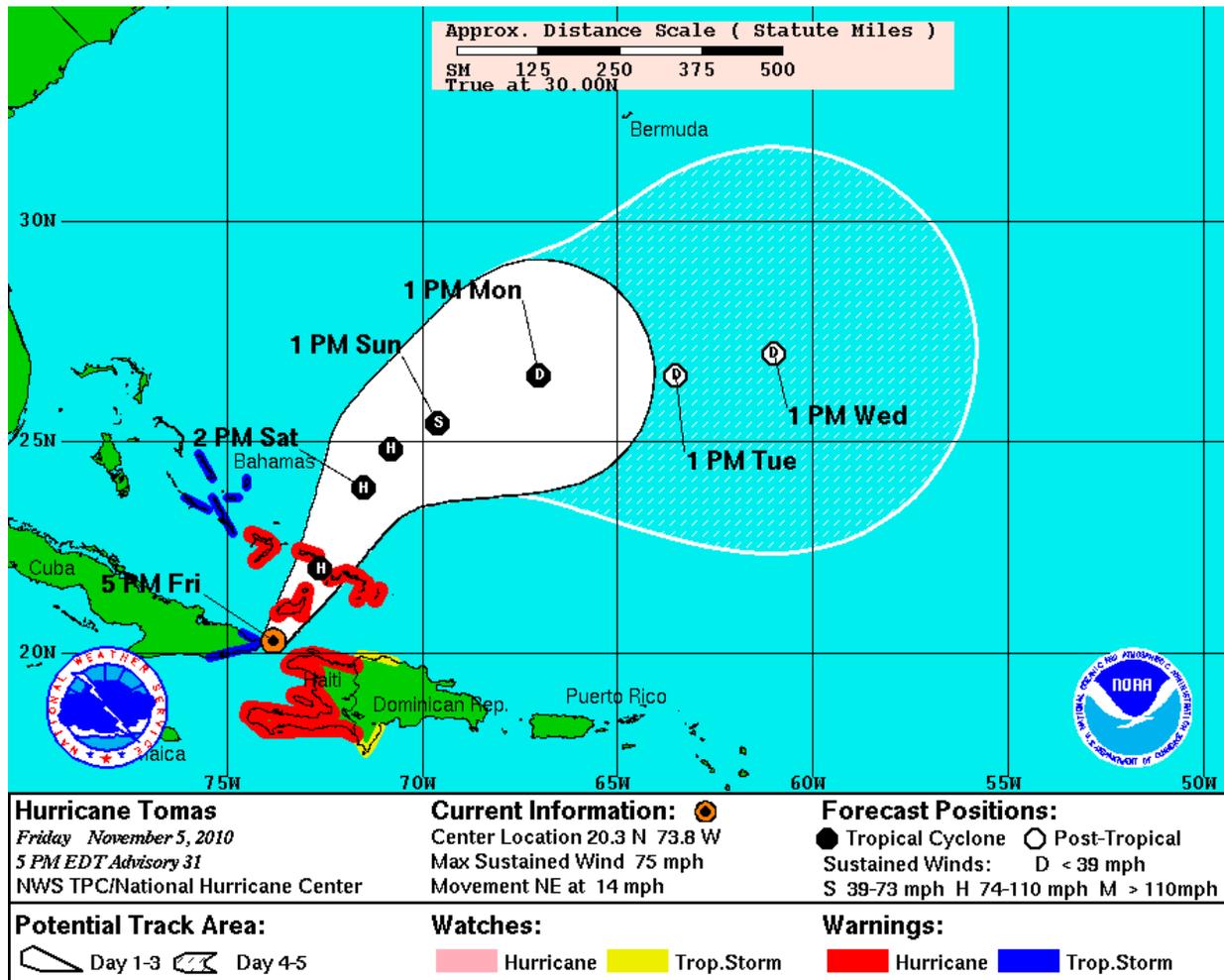
Health Cluster Response

- Health and hygiene messages have been developed by the MSPP in Creole and have been disseminated to the public. They focus on hand washing, good hygiene and sanitation measures, such as proper management of human feces and garbage, purification of drinking water by boiling and using chlorinated tablets, and eating only cooked or peeled foods. These messages also describe how to prepare oral rehydration salts, how to care for cholera patients safely in the home, and how to recognize when to take patients to a health facility.
- The Uruguayan Navy deployed in Haiti is cooperating with the transportation of military personnel to different parts of the country which are only accessible by sea. It is also performing security patrols in the areas most affected by the outbreak, and is the work of the United Nations staff in delivering cleaning and hygiene products to the population in Grand Saline. Also, in Dauphin, the Uruguayan Navy is transporting medical supplies and clean water.
- Brazil continues supporting the regional response to the cholera outbreak and has deployed a group of four epidemiologists who have been integrated in the PAHO/WHO response team to support the MSPP. They should be supporting the cholera surveillance in the metropolitan area. An aircraft left Thursday to Haiti carrying a donation of medical supplies and chlorine tablets.
- The Spanish government (through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development) is supporting the Haitian government through the DINEPA (*Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement*) with \$2.5 million from the Water and Sanitation Cooperation Fund. These two entities have started the distribution of 2 tons of chlorine and 24 millions of purification tablets. AECID has also provided 100,000 euros

to PAHO/WHO in order to mobilize a team of experts in communicable diseases, epidemiology and other disciplines

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams are currently supporting 2 MSPP hospitals in the Artibonite Region. At St. Nicholas Hospital, in St. Marc, an average of 170 people is admitted daily. Further south, in Petite Riviere, approximately 150 people are admitted daily to the local hospital. At MSF's five facilities in Port-au-Prince, more than 300 beds are already set aside for treatment in cholera treatment centers (CTCs). Up to 800 additional beds will be available soon in preparation for a possible spread in the outbreak.
- MSF activities are expanding in the north of the country. A 30-bed Cholera Treatment Center is being set up in Gonaives. Assessments are being carried out in Port de Paix, Pont Sonde, Dessaline, Villard, La Chapelle, and Lester, to determine if treatment interventions are necessary. Other assessments are being conducted south and east of St. Marc, in Archaie, Cabaret, and Verrettes. In Montrouis, MSF has provided treatment materials, including cholera beds, to the local health center. Additional explorations are planned for Gros Morne, Bassin Bleu, and Saint Michel de l'Attalaye.
- In a joint press conference with the Haitian Minister of Health, PAHO/WHO Representative reiterated the support of the organization to the response of the ongoing outbreak, with emphasis in providing support to those affected by the epidemic and in activities to prevent the disease; strengthening health facilities; and seeing that supplies and drugs reach the regions.
- On Wednesday, PAHO/WHO deployed an Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) to Les Cayes containing medical supplies sufficient to treat 10,000 patients over 3 months. Also on Wednesday, PAHO/WHO airlifted equipment to Cap-Haïtien to provide healthcare to a minimum of 10,000 people over the course of 3 months.
- The LSS/SUMA team is coordinating with the Directorate General of Civil Protection the consolidation process for shipments received since the beginning of the outbreak. Also, the MSPP and the LSS/SUMA team are coordinating the deployment of the system to compile and report the distribution of medical supplies.
- PAHO/WHO has recently published two new videos related to the ongoing outbreak: an [interview with PAHO/WHO Representative](#), Dr. Lea Guido, describing the overall response situation, and an [interview with Dr. Pradip K. Bardhan](#), cholera expert for the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a 7-minute video with a straightforward explanation on how to treat cholera.

Hurricane Tomas situation map – 5-day forecast cone



Source: US NOAA National Hurricane Center

Cholera situation map

PAHO/WHO is maintaining an interactive map with epidemiological information. Please follow [this link](#) to launch the map.

Cholera Key Facts

- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by exposition, ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* 0:1. Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical in reducing the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.
- Up to 80% of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts.
- There are an estimated 3–5 million cholera cases and 100,000–120,000 deaths due to cholera every year around the world.

Guidelines and Recommendations

| Title | Link |
|--|---|
| Acute diarrheal diseases in complex emergencies: critical steps | English French Spanish (new) |
| Be a Better Donor: Practical Recommendations for Humanitarian Aid | English Spanish |
| Cholera fact sheet | English French Spanish |
| Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness | English French Portuguese |
| Diagnóstico de <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> y Salmonella | Spanish |
| First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhea | English French Spanish |
| Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters: A Field Manual for First Responders | English French Spanish |
| Manual de Procedimientos Aislamiento, identificación y caracterización de <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> | Spanish |
| Five keys to safer food | Arabic Chinese Creole English French Russian Spanish |
| PAHO/WHO Position on Cholera Vaccination in Haiti | English French Spanish |
| Procedures for identification of <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> in the microbiology laboratory | Spanish |
| Recommendations for cholera clinical management | English |
| The Global Task Force on Cholera Control | English |

Other Resources

- [Ministère de la santé publique et de la population](#) (MSPP) in Haiti.
- [PAHO/WHO disasters homepage](#) and [PAHO/WHO](#)'s main website.
- [Global Task Force on Cholera Control](#) and [WHO](#)'s main website.
- OCHA's [Crisis Information Centre](#) on Haiti.
- [ReliefWeb Haiti Cholera Outbreak](#) page.
- [CDC Haiti cholera outbreak resource center](#).
- [Post-Earthquake Health Resources for Haiti](#) by National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s Disaster Information Management Research Center (updated for the cholera outbreak).
- [Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haiti](#) (MINUSTAH).
- [SUMA Logistics Support System](#).
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti and other international public health information please check the [PAHO/WHO EOC](#) channel in Twitter.

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