



International Medical Corps has been operating mobile medical teams in Sud and Grand'Anse in response to Hurricane Matthew. To date, teams have conducted more than 2,600 consultations across the departments. International Medical Corps is also operating a cholera treatment unit in Sud's Les Anglais commune.

SITUATION UPDATE

Over October 21 and 22, heavy downpours complicated and delayed the delivery of aid and efforts to mitigate the spread of cholera in areas heavily affected by Hurricane Matthew. The rains led to significant flooding in Sud and Grand'Anse departments, given that the land remains saturated and numerous rivers swelled their banks. In Sud's Les Cayes commune, International Medical Corps' emergency response team (ERT) observed waist-high water levels in some areas. Flood waters have now receded and relief activities have resumed.

Humanitarian conditions for storm-affected residents in Sud and Grand'Anse were already problematic prior to the rains. Approximately 90 percent of homes in the two departments were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Matthew; additional homes were flooded in the recent rains. Crops and livestock had already suffered widespread destruction. Government figures indicate nearly 141,500 people remained in 204 shelters as of October 21; approximately 97 percent of the shelters are in Grand'Anse and Sud. Many school buildings are being used as shelters and the conditions are extremely poor. The ERT conducted rapid assessments of 15 temporary shelters in Les Cayes, finding that the schools lacked

FAST FACTS

- An estimated 1.4 million people are in need of assistance in Haiti due to Hurricane Matthew
- More than 3,400 suspected cholera cases have been reported since October 4
- More than 141,500 people have been displaced to evacuation shelters

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

- International Medical Corps mobile medical teams have conducted more than 2,600 consultations in Sud and Grand'Anse
- Many schools are being used as shelters and are overcrowded, with poor water and sanitation conditions
- A large-scale oral cholera vaccination campaign is being planned for November 2016

adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure to support the number of displaced households staying there. In many cases, the sanitation facilities were non-functioning and were overflowing, and water sources—while present—were unprotected from contamination. Occupancy of the shelters varied, with some housing approximately 50 people while others had hundreds of evacuees, crowding together in classrooms. Evacuees were sleeping on the floor with little to no bedding, and reported receiving limited external assistance, including food. The Government of Haiti would prefer shelters be emptied soon; however, there is no clear timeline for closure and plans for housing the evacuees elsewhere remain unclear. Furthermore, Haiti's presidential elections—postponed due to the hurricane—have been rescheduled for November 20, and many schools double as polling stations.



Recent heavy rainfall caused additional flooding in areas of southwestern Haiti already suffering due to Hurricane Matthew.

Haiti's cholera caseload remains high, although new admissions at cholera treatment facilities in Grand'Anse and Sud have begun to stabilize, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). From October 4 to 24, at least 3,423 new suspected cases of cholera were reported, including 1,065 cases in Sud and 752 in Grand'Anse, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The number of suspected cholera cases rose in Anse d'Hainault and Jérémie communes in Grand'Anse, as well as in Chardonnières and Moron communes in Sud, in the aftermath of the rains. To help mitigate the spread of the waterborne disease, the Government of Haiti and relief actors are gearing up for a large-scale oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign in November, covering a number of communes in Grand'Anse and Sud.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS: HAITI

In support of Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), International Medical Corps is closely coordinating with partners to prepare for the upcoming OCV campaign. Some 500,000 of the 1 million doses of vaccine obtained by WHO have already arrived in Port-au-Prince, with the remainder to follow. International Medical Corps is providing extensive operational support for the campaign, including payment and logistics for vaccinators, monitoring and evaluation capacity, community outreach support, and other activities. The campaign will initially target approximately 800,000 people across seven communes in Sud and nine communes in Grand'Anse.



A nurse with International Medical Corps prepares a prescription for a young child during a mobile medical visit to Cavallion. (Photo by Jefferson Mok)

Along with other response actors, International Medical Corps' ERT has been working since the hurricane to restore access to health services, repair and reactivate health and cholera treatment facilities, and address immediate WASH needs. Mobile medical activities continued in Sud and Grand'Anse, although movement of staff was hampered by poor weather conditions. International Medical Corps currently has six mobile teams active in the two departments, working closely with local health centers and traveling to communities to provide additional outreach. Overall, the mobile teams had conducted more than 2,600 consultations in communities and at shelters as of October 26. In Sud's Les Anglais commune, the cholera treatment unit (CTU) run by International Medical Corps has received approximately 45 patients since it opened on October 16. There were eight patients staying in the CTU as of October 26.

In Les Cayes, the ERT's WASH teams have been working to improve conditions for people displaced by Hurricane Matthew and subsequent floods. Following rapid assessments, the ERT is addressing needs in four shelters that have very poor WASH conditions. Activities include cleaning and disinfecting latrines; improving drainage systems around the shelters; and initiating minor repairs of pipe systems and other WASH infrastructure. International Medical Corps is also working to install water storage tanks where needed; form hygiene committees to maintain WASH facilities; and begin solid waste disposal. In addition, International Medical Corps has begun implementing hygiene promotion activities in Les Cayes, disseminating key messages on handwashing, safe food storage, and cholera prevention measures.

Generous contributions from in-kind partners continue to support International Medical Corps' Hurricane Matthew response in Haiti, with nearly 38,000 pounds of medicines, medical supplies, hygiene items, and other commodities delivered to date to support the provision of life-saving assistance. Additional flights containing donated supplies are expected in the coming weeks.

In other parts of the country, International Medical Corps' Haiti Country Team is implementing ongoing health, nutrition, and WASH programs in Nord, Nord-este, Artibonite, and Ouest departments. Working closely with MSPP, International Medical Corps is managing a cholera treatment and prevention program reinforcing 36 existing health facilities with integrated treatment programs and three mobile medical teams in Nord, Nord-este, and Artibonite. International Medical Corps is also addressing severe acute malnutrition in Fond Verrettes, Ouest Department.

International Medical Corps ERT Mobile Team Consultations by Commune		
Department	Commune	Number of Medical Consultations
Grand'Anse	Les Irois	214
Sud	Chardonnières	456
	Saint Jean du Sud	211
	Roche a Bateau	130
	Aquin	100
	Tiburon	299
	Arniquet	48
	Les Cayes	172
	Cavaillon	125
	Ile à Vache	68
	Tiburon	72
	Chantal	335
	Les Cayes	92
	Torbeck	112
	Les Anglais	199
	Total Consultations as of October 26	

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