

Brief Overview from 16th District Emergency Preparedness Director

Cholera Epidemic and the AME Constituents and AME Churches

November 19, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Situation Overview

The latest statistic reports on the cholera epidemic from the Ministry of Public Health (MSPP) stand as **1110 deaths** and **18,000 hospitalized cases** around the country. To date, cases have been confirmed in the Artibonite Centre which is the highest risks areas: North, Northwest, Northeast, South and West departments including **Port-au-Prince** with **953 reported cases and 46 deaths** (PAHO sources).

So far the Government has put in place around the country 30 cholera treatment centers (CTC) and 27 cholera treatment units (CTU). These units are established for mild cases where patients can be treated and send home. Also there are number of rehydration stations where oral rehydration salts are distributed.

Experts accordingly said that the epidemic will be here for months to come and the spreading of the epidemic is escalating due to the rapid population movement from river banks to the remote mountain sites.

Update Concerning Our African Methodist Episcopal Churches in Haiti:

Thus far no direct report from churches other than those in the Artibonite Region where concern is growing.

* **Anabelle Freeland AMEC** reported 2 church members were sick and got treated but cases are increasing the neighborhood localities around church area.

* **L.L. Berry AMEC** - reporting members are sick but not yet received statistical numbers

A massive raising of awareness and hygiene promotion are ongoing in these regions, but will need to be continued more extensively in the remote areas.

Since number keep increasing we have to focus on preparedness and response to contain the spread of cholera through hygiene promotion in churches, schools, public markets etc

Actions taken by the churches to date:

1. Washing hands stations have been set up at the church doors
2. Public awareness on the cholera manifestation as well as attention to hygiene, the promotion for food and water awareness are being put in place. We are calling to the people's attention the fact that we must change our mode of living.

3. Plans being made to distribute Oral Rehydration Salt (which at this time a bit scarce).
4. Leaflets distribution when received from other organizations

Needs and perspectives:

- a. Training of volunteers - youths as well as Emergency Committees
- b. Distribution of leaflets,
- c. Jerry cans
- d. Soap
- e. Water purification tablets (Aqua-tab) for Household
- f. Oral Rehydration Salt

A proposal is being prepared outlining how we will work to meet the needs identified above in coordination with AME-SADA.

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