

Haiti Cholera Outbreak Update

(As of Oct. 27, 2010)

The number of new suspected cases of cholera continues to rise but at a slower rate than the previous days. The number of treated cases reported according to the World Health Organization (WHO) today is 3769 and 284 deaths as a result. The death rate of approximately 7.5 percent is substantially higher than the normal 1 percent that WHO considers normal.

While the rate of new cases and deaths being reporting is now at a slower pace than last week, Dr. Claire Lise Chagnat, head of the WHO global task force on cholera told a news conference that “we have a serious cholera epidemic going on in Haiti”. Every effort is being made to keep the outbreak from reaching the capital city of Port au Prince and the campsites that now provide temporary shelter for thousands of individuals made homeless by the earthquake.



AME SADA is one of the agencies working around the clock to alleviate the suffering. Doctors and nurses have been working around the clock to handle the epidemic. According to Mr. Robert Nicolas, Executive Director of AME SADA, a total of 219 cases are now being treated by AME SADA at its Pont Matheux facility (located on the main Highway 40 miles north of Port –au-Prince. They have reported six (6) deaths since they began receiving patients at the facility. This facility has a total of 5 beds. Patients are being placed on chairs, benches, and floors and Mr. Nicolas reports that the staff is being “taxed severely”. The other SADA locations are out-patient clinics only. Mr. Nicolas reported that three of the locations may be transformed into treatment centers is additional staffing, supplies and equipment is made available.



The Government of neighboring Dominican Republic (one of the conferences of the 16th District) has closed its borders to all non essential travel between the two countries which share the island. However, the World Health Organization said closing the border will not necessary stop the spread of the disease.

Bishop Davis continues to work out of the AME SADA headquarters building in Haiti and pledge to provide additional financial assistance to AME SADA during this crisis.