

October 29, 2007

HAITI AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – TROPICAL STORM NOEL

The eye of tropical storm Noel has passed over Hispaniola today with violent storms in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. An estimated rainfall between 10-30 inches with major flash floods and landslides is expected.



Vast zones of the Dominican Republic have been affected by Noel, causing obstruction and damage on many roads and bridges. More than 2,000 families have been evacuated, 301 homes have been affected, 3 people are missing, and 8 persons are officially confirmed dead. Dr. Juan Rodriguez, health emergency coordinator, reports minor damage to some health facilities, however they are still operational. Red alert is in effect for the Province of Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional, San Cristobal, Saint Kitts, Peravia, Azua, Barahona, Pedernales, Independencia, Baoruco, San Juan de la Maguana, and the entire coast of southern Dominican Republic.

Emergency Operation Centers throughout Haiti have been activated since Saturday (10/27). Hospitals have been advised to prepare themselves and activate their emergency contingency plans. Several radio messages warning the population of the possible effects of Noel have been broadcasted and preparations are under way to evacuate people from flood prone areas. Excessive rainfall has been reported in the Southeastern province capital Jacmel. PAHO/WHO coordinators in Les Cayes and Jeremie, western side of Southern peninsula, report no damage and are closely monitoring the situation. Other departments bordering Dominican Republic, Artibonite and Northern Departments still have not reported. Pre-positioned stocks of medicines are ready to support the health sector, if needed.

The Ministries of Health of Haiti and Dominican Republic, as well as PAHO/WHO, other UN Agencies and humanitarian partners are in continuous contact at all levels (local, departmental, national).

For more information: <http://www.paho.org/disasters>



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