DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Assessments and Events
- One month after Tropical Storm Noel wreaked havoc in the Caribbean, a new tropical storm, Olga, hit the region on 11 December. Official reports put the number of displaced people from the floods caused by Olga at more than 61,500, including 14,000 who are now in temporary shelters prepared by the Government. Up to 35 people were killed.
- There has been no reported damage to the health infrastructure.
- On 12 December, the State Department for Public Health and Social Support issued a epidemiological alert on the possible rise of waterborne diseases.

Actions
- Five mobile clinics are being installed in the north of the country to help strengthen the affected health system, in addition to medical staff and resources.
- WHO is monitoring water and sanitation needs, shelters, and the control and prevention of infectious diseases.

The UN Country Team has drafted a revision to the Flash Appeal, to deal with new needs arising Tropical Storm Olga.

BANGLADESH – CYCLONE SIDR

Assessments and Events
- Overall, the trend for diarrhoeal and respiratory infections is constant, with some areas signalling a decline. The disease surveillance system set up in the nine affected districts has notified 3849 cases of diarrhoea, 4858 cases of respiratory infections and 12,353 cases of fever and suspected typhoid fever. Bagerhat is confirmed as the most affected district.

Actions
- WHO continues supporting the MoH in identifying the priority health needs and in strengthening the timely collection of health (reproductive, nutritional, psychosocial, mental) data for surveillance.
- A health assessment methodology is being finalized that will provide a better picture of the needs and current status of health services in the affected districts. The exercise is conducted in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services, WHO and MERLIN as the main partner among NGOs.
- Headquarters is providing technical back-up on recovery and logistics issues.
- As the lead of the Health Cluster, WHO prepared a six-month plan proposing interventions to reduce mortality and morbidity by addressing the main risk factors in the 21 affected districts. The plan requires an estimated US$ 4.3 million, of which 2.5 million are already available.
- WHO and the MoH have started discussing the possibility of establishing a national health disaster management institute.
- Support for WHO’s emergency activities in Bangladesh is provided by Italy, Japan, Norway and the UNCERF.

More information is available at SEARO Emergencies and Humanitarian Action

The fourth Health Cluster meeting was held on 17 December.

UGANDA

Assessments and Events
- As of 15 December, 121 suspected cases of Ebola haemorrhagic fever have been reported in the western Bundibugyo district. Five sub-counties are affected with a total population of approximately 250,000.

Actions
- A national task force is coordinating the response. The WHO Country office is assisting the MoH national field team and the district health officials to help build up confidence, preparedness, and community awareness.
- The MoH is planning to position Ebola investigation and staff deployment kits in selected health facilities. The MoH and IFRC are conducting intensive social mobilization activities, including radio broadcasts, mobile film vans, fact sheets, brochures and posters.
- Contributions for WHO’s public health response activities in Uganda were received from Norway, Sweden, the UK and the US.
### HORN OF AFRICA

**Assessments and Events**
- FAO reports that the desert locust situation remains serious in northeast Kenya and southeast Ethiopia. There have been new reports of infestations in Borena zone, Oromiya Region and Gode zone, Somali Region.
- In **Somalia**, at least 1.5 million people are in need of assistance and protection, a 50% increase since the beginning of 2007; 600,000 people were displaced this year as a result of conflict and the deterioration in the humanitarian situation.
- In **Ethiopia**, despite poor completeness, the acute watery diarrhoea outbreak continues its decline. A new suspected outbreak was reported on 1 December in Degehamedo woreda, Degehabur zone, Somali Region.
- In **Kenya**, a cholera outbreak has killed at least seven people and infected 33 others over the past week in in Sindo and Mbita trading posts in Suda District. Public health officers have shut public eateries and markets in the district.

**Actions**
- In **Somalia**, WHO donated one basic kit to Muslim Aid UK and the International Medical Corps to support the mobile clinics providing basic healthcare to the IDP settlements along the Mogadishu-Afgoye road.
- In **Ethiopia**, case investigation on the suspected AWD outbreak in Degehamedo is under way. The Federal MoH is revitalizing the Emergency Health and Nutrition Taskforce to step up prevention and control measures to avert a re-emergence of AWD. Risk factors include inadequate safe water supply, poor personal and environmental hygiene and limited accessibility to health facilities.
- WHO activities are supported by Australia, Belgium, the CERF, Canada, Finland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and the United States in Somalia and cluster coordination, by the CERF and the local Humanitarian Response Fund in Ethiopia and by the CERF in Kenya.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

More information is available at [WPRO Updates on Emergencies](http://www.who.int/hac/)

**Assessments and Events**
- Following the passage of Tropical Cyclone Guba in Oro Province, water, food, medicines are running critically low in affected areas.
- Further gaps identified by a government health survey include the unavailability of maternal and child health services, limited assessment and medical evacuation in areas only accessible by air and lack of funds and vehicles.

**Actions**
- A US$ 2.2 million plan was drawn up for immediate and medium-term interventions such as the rehabilitation of damaged facilities and the provision of back-up and replacement water tanks for hospitals and health centres, and of fuel, transport equipment, materials and supplies. The plan is also to improve emergency and pathology services and to ensure overtime and allowances to health workers and the recruitment of extra staff.
- WHO is supporting the National Department of Health for emergency response and is coordinating with other national and international health partners.

### INTER-AGENCY ISSUES

- An inter-agency meeting on the **Central Emergency Response Fund** was held on 17 December.
- **Clusters.** A face-to-face IASC Training Advisory Team meeting took place in Geneva on 18 December.
- On 19 December, the **IASC weekly meeting** in Geneva debriefed on the IASC Principals meeting (10 December), the ad-hoc IASC working group meetings (10-11 December) and the Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop in Johannesburg (5-7 December).
- The **77th United Nations Civil-Military Coordination** (UN-CMCoord) training course will take place on 13-18 January in Kuopio, Finland.
- The UN Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs will next meet on 17 January.

Please send any comments and corrections to crises@who.int

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Health Action in Crises
WHO is working with partners to address the health aspects of crises in more than 40 countries. Check the Health Action in Crises Web site for more details: [http://www.who.int/hac/](http://www.who.int/hac/)