

TOMAS HAS POTENTIAL TO BE *A PERFECT STORM OF SUFFERING* FOR HAITI

Port au Prince, Haiti (November 4, 2010) – As Haiti is bracing for what may become its second cataclysmic event of 2010, the humanitarian organization Operation Blessing International (OBI) has mobilized its disaster relief team and is ready to respond.

Bill Horan, president of OBI, said, “As Tropical Storm Tomas moves relentlessly towards the beleaguered island nation, storm clouds of fear hang heavy in the superheated air of Port-au-Prince as a confluence of horrible events aligns into what may become...a perfect storm of suffering.”

The quake-ravaged capital is home to over a million people living in tents and makeshift shelters. Horan says that hurricane-force winds would likely rip the tents to shreds, strip camp dwellers of any shelter, and leave them more vulnerable than they already are. “There are no storm shelters to hunker down in, no place to hide.”

In addition, sanitary conditions in the camps are marginal. “Torrential rains would flood thousands of latrines and cause millions of gallons of raw sewage and human waste to flood the city, downing children and contaminating most drinking water,” adds Horan.

Should the rains come, Horan says the recent outbreak of Cholera “could spread like gasoline thrown into a campfire, as contaminated rivers burst their banks and poison meager water supplies.”

Operation Blessing International is staged and ready to respond in the following ways:

- Prepared truck-mounted WMI water purification unit that can be immediately driven to hardest hit areas and up to 10,000 gallons of clean water daily to affected communities
- Two additional WMI units readied for emergency water filtration if needed
- Producing liquid chlorine round-the-clock for additional water purification
- Assembled emergency kits for 200 families consisting of sheet metal, wood planks, plastic tarp, hammer, nails, disinfectant liquid, a portable water filtration unit and ready to eat meals.
- Debris Removal: Chainsaws ready to help clear roads and remove obstructive debris
- Boat access: 17-foot aluminum boat with outboard motor to deliver relief supplies and medical teams to communities cut off by flooding.
- Medical partnership: OBI has partnered with St Luc hospital to deploy medical teams as needed

For more information on OBI humanitarian efforts in Haiti or around the world, please log on to www.ob.org.

ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 23 countries around the world on a daily basis. In 2009, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row, a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. Forbes, which currently ranks OBI as one of "America's Most Efficient Charities," awarded OBI a perfect 100% rating in fundraising efficiency and 99% efficiency in charitable commitment. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy currently ranks OBI as the 23rd largest charity and the 6th largest international charity. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 235 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.7 billion to date.

OBI has been working in Haiti on HIV/AIDs initiatives for more than 5 years. During 2009, OBI expanded their efforts in Haiti to also focus on projects with Partners in Health (PIH) and the Haiti Ministry of Health. Those efforts include providing potable water systems for PIH hospitals, launching a nationwide anti-parasite initiative to treat all school-age children and partnering in an innovative microenterprise fish farm project to help some of Haiti's most impoverished families.

When the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck in Haiti, OBI mobilized its international disaster relief teams and provided emergency aid to tens of thousands of Haitians in the most devastated areas. Included in the relief efforts, OBI donated over 120 tons of medicine to the Haitian Ministry of Health, ran a medical clinic inside the Sylvio Cator Soccer Stadium where displaced people had set up a camp, and deployed over 30 water purification plants throughout Port-au-Prince – including in National Stadium and in General Hospital, the largest hospital in Haiti. OBI's ongoing efforts include water purification efforts to combat the cholera outbreak, support of numerous schools, orphanages and tent camps with food, water and relief supplies, in addition to establishing Zanmi Beni, a home for disabled orphans and abandoned children in partnership with Zanmi Lasante (PIH).

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For on-the-ground interviews, photos or broadcast-quality videos please contact:

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