

## **OPERATION BLESSING PREPARES FOR TROPICAL STORM SANDY HIT IN HAITI**

Charity Producing Chlorine Around The Clock To Help Avert Cholera Outbreak

Port au Prince, Haiti (October 24, 2012) – With Tropical Storm Sandy expected to bring flooding rains to Haiti, the American humanitarian organization Operation Blessing International (OBI) has ramped up efforts to avert another cholera outbreak.

Haiti is currently home to the world's largest cholera epidemic, which has claimed over 7,000 lives in 24 months.

Operation Blessing International, which has been working in Haiti since before the 2010 earthquake, has increased its production of sodium hypochlorite (food-grade bleach), utilizing their ClorTec CT-75 generation system. This device has the capability to produce 1200 gallons of liquid sodium hypochlorite daily, enough chlorine to disinfect 3.6 million gallons of drinking water each day. OBI is distributing this chlorine to hospitals, cholera clinics, orphanages, and tent city locations for the disinfection of drinking water, the treatment of gray water, surface disinfection and for general sanitation purposes.

“The heavy rains that are expected to begin in the next 24 to 36 hours will cause flooding and will spread cholera again,” said Bill Horan, president of Operation Blessing International. “Since Haiti has no effective water disposal system, it is imperative that we deliver as much chlorine as possible to avert this silent killer.”

Since its arrival in Haiti in 2009, a main focus of OBI has been water purification. The charity installed potable water systems in the country’s hospital system and has drilled dozens of wells.

After the earthquake, OBI brought in 35 WMI large-scale purification units, each unit having the capacity of providing 10,000 gallons of safe drinking water per day. Many units are still deployed in tent camps and strategic locations in Port Au Prince. At the height of the relief efforts, Operation Blessing was providing safe drinking water to over 100,000 people every day.

OBI was also a first responder to the cholera outbreak in October 2010 with water purification equipment, liquid chlorine and Lifesaver Jerrycans to the Artibonite region. OBI still operates five purification units in the region providing up to 50,000 gallons of safe water per day. The relief organization also worked with St. Damien’s/St. Luc’s children’s hospital in Tabarre to construct a cholera treatment center. The center has so far treated over 20,000 cholera victims.

For more information on OBI’s efforts in Haiti, or to make a donation to these efforts, please visit: [www.ob.org](http://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. OBI was awarded Charity Navigator’s coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the 7th year in a row (2011), a feat that only 2% of rated charities have ever achieved. In November 2010, Forbes named OBI as the 6th most efficient charity in America. 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 264 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$3.3 billion to date.

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