

## **OPERATION BLESSING HAITI PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE “TSUNAMI OF CHOLERA” FOLLOWING HURRICANE MATTHEW**

PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI (October 3, 2016) – Operation Blessing International’s team in Haiti (OB Haiti) is preparing for a direct hit by Hurricane Matthew, a huge category 4 storm that is expected to bring not only massive flooding to the densely populated country, but also an equally devastating increase in cholera.

“Hurricane Matthew's flood waters will likely kill innocent Haitians twice: first with raging flood waters in the next 48 hours and then with the disease of cholera that will last for weeks following the storm,” said Bill Horan, president of Operation Blessing International. “Based on the rainfall predictions and how slow this storm is moving, we fear that Matthew will bring a tsunami of cholera cases unseen since post-earthquake days.”

A recognized leader in providing safe water solutions following natural disasters, team leaders at the OB Haiti headquarters in Port au Prince have ramped up chlorine production in advance of the storm. OB Haiti can produce 1,200 gallons of chlorine per day, which will be used for surface disinfection on a large scale and to sanitize water for drinking. According to OB Haiti, 1,200 gallons of chlorine can potentially disinfect up to 3.6 million gallons of drinking water; however, much of the chlorine is expected to be utilized for surface disinfection.

“OB Haiti is well positioned to provide massive quantities of life-saving chlorine to hospitals, clinics, schools, orphanages, churches and residents,” adds Horan. “Chlorine kills the cholera bacteria on contact. We can save an untold number of lives, but we need funding to help us distribute chlorine on a massive scale immediately following the storm's passing.”

In addition to producing chlorine, the OB Haiti team is purchasing quantities of emergency supplies such as emergency rations and tarps, as many homes in Haiti are made of dried mud that will not survive the storm. OB Haiti has also prepared a boat for rescue operations, and the charity has also set up both of the school buildings it owns as emergency shelters.

Operation Blessing has been working in Haiti since 2009, preceding the earthquake that devastated the tiny Caribbean nation. When the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck, the humanitarian organization 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, Operation Blessing donated over 2.4 million pounds of emergency supplies, food, water and medicine, ran a medical clinic inside the Sylvio Cator Soccer Stadium and deployed over 30 water purification plants throughout Port-au-Prince – including in National Stadium and in General Hospital, the largest hospital in Haiti. Operation Blessing was also a first responder to the cholera outbreak, installing water purification units throughout the country to provide millions of gallons of safe water for drinking and sanitation. Additionally, Operation Blessing also built a home for abandoned children and children with disabilities – Zanmi Beni – that is run in conjunction with Partners in Health. OB Haiti also established the largest fish farm in

Haiti, which provides food and jobs for Haitians. OB Haiti regularly hosts medical teams from the Mayo Clinic, and the charity partnered with Greif Corp and the Clinton Foundation to build a school and help a village near Lake Azuei.

To donate to the relief efforts in Haiti:

[https://secure.ob.org/site/Donation2?df\\_id=7963&7963.donation=form1](https://secure.ob.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7963&7963.donation=form1)

For more information about Operation Blessing: [www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org)

#### ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing humanitarian services such as strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 37 countries in the last year. Forbes currently ranks OBI as one of its "100 Largest Charities" with an efficiency rating of 99%. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 292 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$4.2 billion.

-  
\* \* \*