

PRESS RELEASE

Welthungerhilfe warns against Cholera outbreaks in Haiti

Bonn, 14.10.2016. Hurricane “Matthew” survivors are now facing the biggest threat that comes from Cholera outbreaks. In hurricane affected areas, wells were flooded and contaminated. Thus, for some days, people have been drawing their water from standing waters. Latrines were destroyed, too. This disastrous situation provides good conditions for Cholera infections. After hurricane Matthew, a total of about 1.4 million people in the poor Caribbean country are depending on aid. In the regions of Nippes and Petit-Goâve, Welthungerhilfe focuses on the distribution of soap and water cleaning tablets to avoid an outbreak of Cholera there. At the same time, the organisation continues its support of local emergency units. The World Health Organisation (WHO) had launched an appeal to increase the support of local institutions instead of creating parallel structures. From a Welthungerhilfe point of view, this approach of “helping people to help themselves” has proven to be effective even after the disastrous earthquake in 2010. In the organisation’s project regions, the local catastrophe brigades were able to get operational much faster now after the hurricane.

Staff members of Welthungerhilfe are available for interviews on the ground.

Further information and press material:

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Welthungerhilfe has been working in Haiti since 1974. Programme and project activities focus on disaster preparedness, emergency aid and rehabilitation after disasters, rural development, food security and improvement of basic infrastructure (WASH). Welthungerhilfe is one of the largest private aid organisations in Germany. It provides aid from a single source: from rapid disaster relief to reconstruction and long-term development cooperation projects with local partner organisations based on the principle of help for self-help. Since its establishment in 1962, more than 8,120 overseas projects in 70 countries have been supported with 3,033 billion euro - for a world without hunger and poverty.

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