



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Haitian Community Leaders Task Force Meeting Hurricane Tomas & South Cholera Outbreak, South Florida Response**

**Miami, November 8** – Leaders of the South Florida Haitian community, as well as the relevant members of the NGO community, met at the Jean Jacques Dessalines Center in Miami to discuss the current status of Haiti in regards to Hurricane Tomas and the recent cholera outbreak. Consul Ralph Latortue of the Consulate General of Haiti in Florida called the meeting in order to organize the relief effort by the South Florida community.

The meeting was supplemented by a briefing from a representative on the ground for the American Red Cross, who gave an assessment of the current situation in Port-au-Prince and other areas of the country and also explained the efforts of the American Red Cross in regards to Hurricane Tomas and the cholera outbreak. It was established by both Consul Latortue and the American Red Cross that the most pressing issue, on which the South Florida community can work, is the prevention of the spread of cholera. This is most effectively done by providing basic amenities, such as soap, hand sanitizer, washcloths, etc to those in tight living conditions. High importance is also placed on access to clean water, therefore all means of water purification (but not water itself) is needed.

The participants came up with a strategy to get the South Florida community involved in collecting hygiene kits, which include the essentials for keeping sanitary and stopping the spread of cholera. Among other locations in the South Florida area, hygiene kits can be dropped off at Laparkan, 3775 NW 77 Street in Miami (contact Rafael Mejias, 305-836-4393), which houses Americas Relief Team's Community Emergency Response Center. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, please contact Americas Relief Team at [info@americasrelief.org](mailto:info@americasrelief.org).