



More about the project: "Emergency Response and Early Recovery for the most vulnerable people affected by Hurricane Sandy in Dominican Republic"

- Funded by the European Community Humanitarian Aid with a budget of 550K reaching 25000 people in four southern provinces of DR.
- WASH interventions were conducted with communities through hygiene promotion and distribution of non-food items.
- The role of the Ministry of Public Health MSP and the National Institute of Water and Sewer INAP was strengthened through the development of training materials for hygiene promotion and health, water quality monitoring plans and rehabilitation of water supply points for water trucking distribution.

The Ministry of Public Health's health promotion strategy is based on the promotion of the water treatment at household level following such events in order to reduce health risks. As a result of the frequency of such events and the strength of the public health campaigns, many Dominican families are accustomed to disinfecting water using chlorine at home. This chlorine is available on the market and usually at a relatively low cost.

Six months after the passage of Hurricane Sandy, Oxfam and its local partner CEDESO initiated the project

"Emergency response and early recovery for the most vulnerable people affected by Hurricane Sandy in Dominican Republic" funded by the European Community Humanitarian Aid. Within the Disaster Risk Approach, the project team identified the importance of the access to chlorine by populations in a humanitarian response and decided to analyze the market of

CASE STUDY: Emergency Market Mapping Analysis of Chlorine IN DOMINIC REPUBLIC

Dominican Republic is a country geographically exposed to the potential impact of multiple threats (hurricanes, tropical storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc) causing recurrent devastating human and material loss. Although DR is middle-income country the country it suffers from high inequality, mostly in terms of access to essential services including: education, water and public health and largely among those already most vulnerable and exposed to risk.

23% of the population of DR accesses their water from unsafe sources including the street, open springs, contaminated rivers etc. Among low income and most vulnerable populations, this increases to 40% in rural contexts and up to 70% among the urban poor.

When natural disasters hit the country, these numbers soar as both urban and rural affected families are forced to seek water from contaminated sources.

This high risk situation was again evident post Hurricane Sandy, that hit the island between 23 and 27 October 2013, producing floods and collapsing national water networks and consequently deteriorating public health conditions causing a significant increase in the incidence diarrheal diseases, cholera, leptospirosis and dengue.

Oxfam works closely with Dominican and Haitian communities through health promoters to promote good hygiene and health. The ECHO-funded project helped to consolidate the practice of disinfection at the most vulnerable households through the distribution of chlorine dispensers and practical demonstrations on their use.



chlorine and capacity and of governmental institutions to supply the population in the case emergency through the EMMA methodology (Emergency Market Mapping Analysis).

EMMA tools have been published and made available since 2010, including 25 market analyses of market systems in over 15 countries. These experiences have been developed largely in Food Security projects and, currently Oxfam is exploring its application with good results and lessons learned in WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) projects such as DR.

The EMMA study on the chlorine market found that, over a period of 15 days after an event, the provincial departments of public health in the area are able to produce enough chlorine to supply the population, and the private sector made up of small distributors, is a key player to ensure distribution to remote communities. Furthermore, our community team members identified vulnerable populations who, most affected by the storms were unable to purchase chlorine as a result of income barriers.

Mindful of the impact that such an environmental event can have on the economy of households, Oxfam Dominican Republic has now adapted a future project to set up a voucher system for chlorine purchase to the affected families, in order to ensure chlorine access for all families following the disaster. Furthermore, Oxfam teams will work to facilitate access to small distributors within the private sector, thereby ensuring there is enough chlorine available during these key periods.