

## NEWS

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### **Global Links Responding to Cholera Outbreak in Haiti**

#### **Critically Needed Materials Heading Out Thursday in Response to Urgent Requests by Pan American Health Organization**

(PITTSBURGH – October 26, 2010) – In response to the recently tracked outbreak of cholera in the Artibonite Valley of Haiti, Pittsburgh-based international medical relief agency Global Links is shipping critically needed medical supplies and equipment to hospitals preparing for what could be a national epidemic.

**On Thursday, October 28, the first of two shipments of mattresses, linens, IV poles, and soap will be deployed** to Haiti, in response to a specific request by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization. With more than a million Haitians still living in crowded encampments where there is a shortage of clean, potable water, the potential for the rapid spread of the disease is great.

“Cholera is a highly infectious bacterial disease that is usually spread by contaminated water, with an extremely short incubation period,” says Global Links CEO Kathleen Hower. “The disease can cause violent diarrhea and vomiting, and the subsequent dehydration can kill a person if untreated in a matter of hours; children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable. Clean water and sanitation, IV equipment, clean beds and linens, and soap are imperative to maintaining hygienic conditions, and hospitals there are just not equipped to handle the numbers of patients that we believe will need urgent critical care in the coming weeks.”

Global Links is seeking financial donations to help cover the cost of shipping and for purchasing hospital-grade linens. Donations of gently used compact, home-care IV poles are also sought. To learn more, click [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org) or call Global Links at 412.361.3424.

About Global Links:

Global Links is a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that collaborates with U.S. institutions to recover surplus medical materials before consignment to land-fills and makes them available to hospitals abroad through their ongoing programs. Because poorly planned donations can be worse than no aid at all, each donation is carefully tailored to meet the needs of the recipient institution. Dedicated volunteers help Global Links to maintain high quality standards and low costs. Since its founding in 1989, Global Links has provided more than \$160 million in critical medical aid to developing nations, including Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua. More information at: [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org) .

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