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## **Violence Halts Cholera Response in Haiti**

World Concern has closed all offices across Haiti for the second straight day because of rioting and violence. Much of the country has been in crisis since the results of the primary election were released on Tuesday.

“All businesses are closed,” said World Concern Haiti Country Director Christon Domond. “There is so much violence not only in Port-au-Prince but all over in Haiti.”

In the morning, Domond will evaluate security and determine if the organization can safely work. If not, World Concern Haiti should reopen Monday.

Cholera is at the forefront of Domond’s attention, but his staff cannot reach people with information and supplies to prevent and treat the disease. Cholera continues to spread throughout the country. So far, cholera has killed more than 2,000 people, some dying in the streets hours after they become ill.

“With the demonstrations that we have in all districts, we can expect cholera to spread quickly,” he said.

World Concern has distributed cholera prevention information and supplies to 5,000 people in Port-au-Prince, and helped thousands more in rural areas.

Community health trainers teach people about the disease, and distribute soap, bottles, water purification tablets and rehydrating solution packets as they are available. But for now, everything is on hold.

“My staff can do nothing, because there is no possibility to go out,” said Domond. “We need the leaders to talk to the population and get back into their homes.”

Domond says toilets have been moved out of displacement camps and into streets as barricades. He fears thousands more will be contaminated by cholera. Once the violence subsides, his staff has work to do.

“We can – we have to – make a difference,” said Domond.

Since the January earthquake, World Concern has helped more than 100,000 people in Haiti with emergency assistance, and helped thousands more restart businesses and build new homes.

For interviews with staff in Haiti or in the US, contact Derek Sciba at (206) 713-5564. You can also visit [www.worldconcern.org/haiti](http://www.worldconcern.org/haiti).

**World Concern**, part of CRISTA Ministries, is a Christian humanitarian organization that helps lift people out of poverty through activities including microfinance, agriculture, disaster response and small business development. World Concern works with the poor in 22 countries, with the goal of transforming the lives of those we touch, leading them on a path to self-sustainability. Worldwide, World Concern offers life, opportunity and hope to nearly six million people.