

## **Update from Pam Lownik – October 21, 2016**

The Fall Rainy Season has arrived in Latiboliere, right about on time. Usually, the rains are welcome, as they provide moisture for the crops planted in September. "The rains bring life," people say. Good rains now mean a bountiful harvest in January.

After Hurricane Matthew, these same rains are unwelcome. Crops were already washed away. Homes with no roofs are soaked again. Travel becomes difficult on hilly, muddy roads. Fears of cholera rise as potential for flooding rises.

In Latiboliere, it rained all day Sunday and intermittently since then. People who had left the shelter of the schools have returned. Their hopes of a quick recovery are being dashed by the reality of another month or so of rainy weather.

The current situation:

- There will be no harvest in January, nor will there be fruit from the trees that have been toppled or stripped of their leaves.
- Clothes won't dry and what little the people still have may be ruined by prolonged exposure to moisture.
- Flu, bronchitis, pneumonia and other rainy season diseases will threaten children and others already weakened by malnutrition.
- Increased fear of cholera.

The rains make it much harder to move food and other supplies to the area. Large dump trucks, which can carry large quantities of food and supplies, cannot make it up the hill until the mud and gravel road dries out. Smaller vehicles can make the hill, but with fewer provisions on each run. Larger and heavier items must await a several day break in the weather. Multiple runs with heavy loads increases fuel usage, as well as the cost of maintenance and repairs on ancient vehicles.