

HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HAITI – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010 – #7

Situation Overview

The Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP, the Ministry of Health) and PAHO/WHO recommend the installation of a prevention and hygiene promotion system associated with each Cholera Treatment Center (CTC). Awareness and prevention are critical tools to control the epidemic. Each member of the community must be informed.



Some stills from the video prepared by MMRC presenting the support provided to the coastal town of Borgne. The full video can be seen [here](#).

Epidemiology

On December 3, the Ministry of Health reported that the cumulative number of hospital visits and deaths due to cholera, as of November 30, was 84,391 and 1,882 respectively. According to the report, 39,010 of patients have been hospitalized due to cholera and 1,034 remain hospitals. The in-hospital case fatality rate for the whole country is 3.4%.

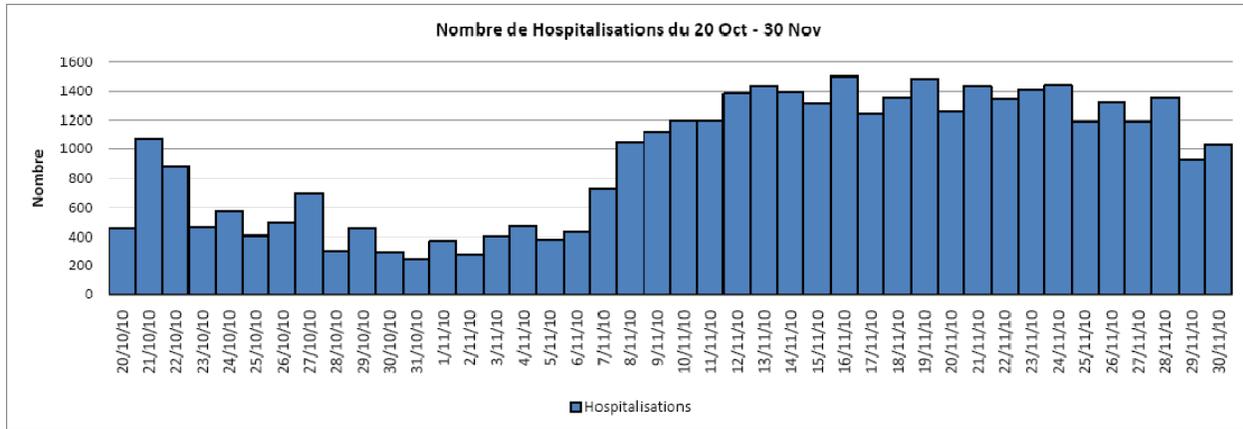
For Port-au-Prince, the cumulative number of hospital visits and deaths due to cholera was 11,852 and 181 respectively. Of those, 4,103 have been hospitalized. The in-hospital case fatality rate for Port-au-Prince is 4.2% while the case fatality rate at health services is 1.5%. The Ministry of Health daily reports available at <http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads>.



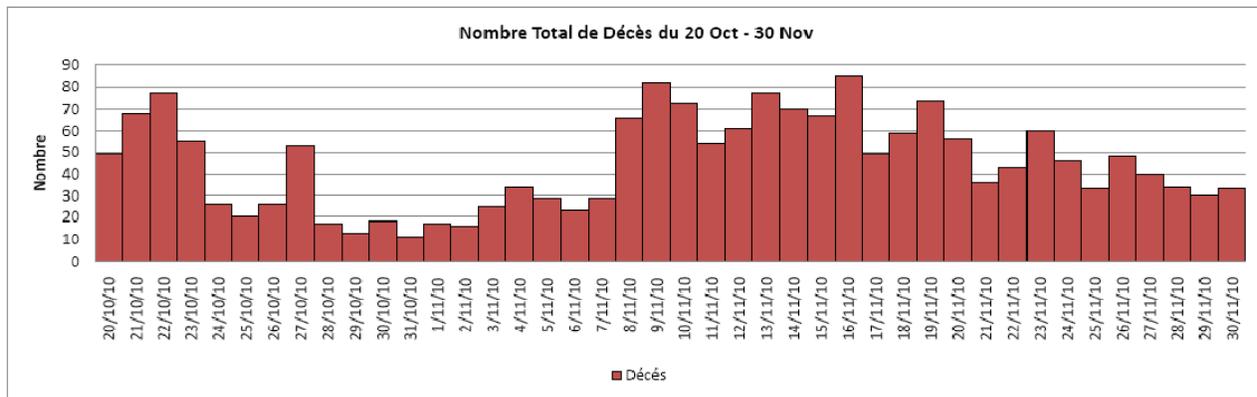
The Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) and PAHO, the Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Americas, coordinate the Health Cluster. **MSPP Cluster Contacts:** Dr. Claude Surena; Dr. Jean Hugues Henrys; **PAHO/WHO Contacts:** Dr. Dana van Alphen, Saran Koly; +(509) 3933-6875.



Health Cluster partners are asked to contribute to this bulletin with information on needs and activities as well as corrections to content, by emailing hai.clustersante@paho.org (subject heading: Health Cluster Bulletin). For useful information on meetings, guidelines, and CTC, CTU, and health facility locations, visit: <http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info>.



Total number of hospitalizations (20 Oct – 30 Nov)



Total number of deaths (20 Oct – 30 Nov)

Department Response Activities

West

The health center Chapi, in the heart of Cite Soleil, will open 24/7 hour services the first week of December, with expanded capacity 12 bedS. MDM Canada supports Chapi during the day, treating patients with cholera and transferring severe cases for hospitalization in a CTC.

The French Red Cross supports the public hospital's institutional capacity with training, supplies, motorcycle-decontaminators to help at-home disinfection, and other resources for the personnel of Chapi to continue services during the night.

Five new community oral rehydrations posts (ORPs), established and run by community members, will open on December 6 in Belekou, Waf Soleil, Boston, Bois Neuf and Fort Dimanche. Additional 12 ORPs are planned for the camps in which the mobile clinics circulate.

A new Cholera Treatment Unit (CTU) has been installed in a primary health centre of the metropolitan zone of Port-au-Prince. In total, French Red Cross has installed 15 CTU (12 in Port au Prince and 3 in Petit Goâve), in addition to the 13 are already operational. A CTU is considered operational when specific zones have been habilitated to receive sick people, staff has been

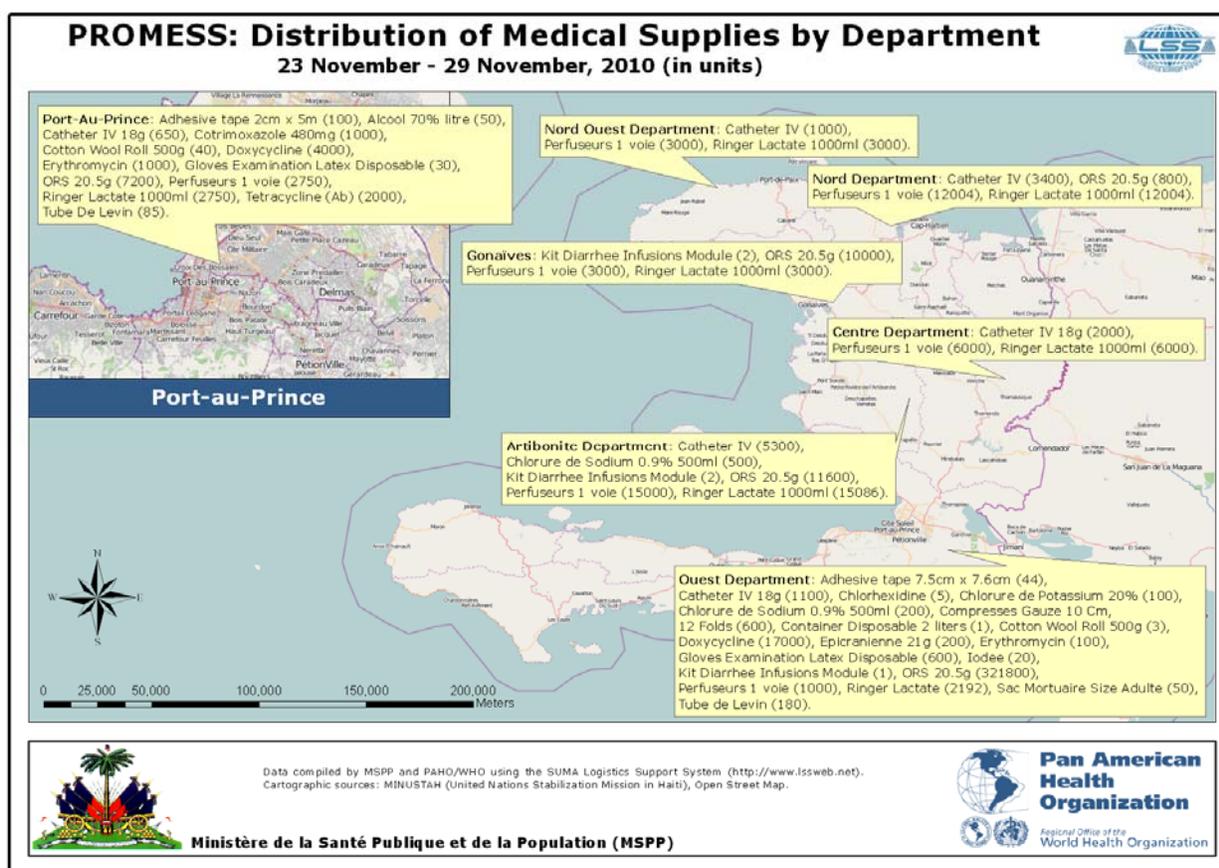
trained and material has been delivered. The plan is to install CTU in 34 primary health centres in the metropolitan area of Port au Prince.

An oral rehydration point (ORP) has been installed in Dahomey camp, in Port-of-Prince. Two other ORPs will be shortly installed in Accra Nord and Accra Sud camps. One ORP is operational in the camp of Bonnefil.

PROMESS

Since the beginning of the epidemic, PROMESS, Haiti’s central warehouse for health supplies, managed by PAHO/WHO, distributed cholera supplies worth US \$ 750,000 to government and non-government organizations working in the response to cholera in Haiti.

The following map summarizes the deliveries processed by PROMESS from November 23 to November 29, in units, by department:



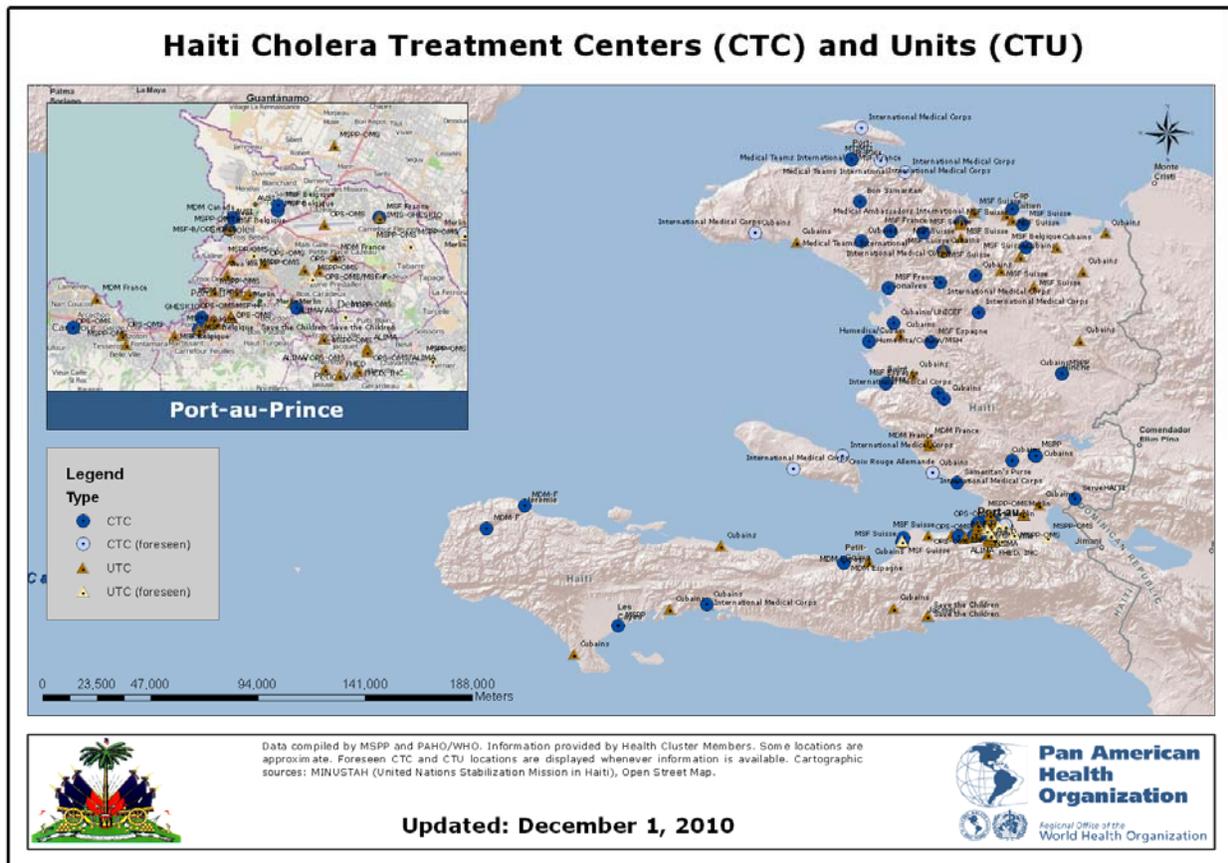
PROMESS is committed to ensure a constant level of stock for key products, through purchases and donations. Current stocks include, among other items, enough ORS sachets for the treatment of 87,500 mild cases and enough IV fluids for the treatment of 3,670 severe cases. Additional IV fluids to treat 53,700 cases have been procured or purchased.

PROMESS is now focusing on improving the strategy of pre-positioning stocks, which comprises of sending stocks of supplies to strategic locations ahead of the demand. It plans to pre-position the equivalent of US\$ 250,000 in supplies every week in the Ministry of Health’s 14 peripheral depots. This is

enough to meet the needs of 50 CTC of 50 beds each. As part of the improved strategy, PROMESS will continuously monitoring the stocks of these depots, assist the government in the management of stocks, and ensure that the areas most affected are prioritized.

Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) and Units (CTU)

The following map has been prepared with the feedback provided by the Health Cluster Members. If you want to provide any updates to the information presented below please send a message to hai.clustersante@paho.org.



Health Promotion & Training

On December 4 PAHO/WHO and MINUSTAH will hold a 4 hour training session for MINUSTAH health care workers about prevention, sensitization, case management and dead bodies management. On December 6, PAHO/WHO, the Brazilian battalion BRAVAT 2 and UNICEF will develop a plan to train and deploy community brigades for sensitization in camps.

The Ministry of Public Health and the CDC are providing—alongside with technical assistance, surveillance, and supplies—a tiered training program for Haitian health care workers. These trainings have been organized in three phases:

A “Training-of-Trainers” session was held to create a team of 37 “master trainers,” identified by the Ministry of Health and drawn from across Haiti. This training, presented over two days in Port-au-Prince, was led by CDC staff and other health partners. Dr. Azharul Islam Khan, head of the Short

Stay Unit, Clinical Sciences Division, Dhaka Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh, was invited by CDC to travel to Atlanta and assist with the emergency response as a representative of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) and then was deployed to Haiti as part of the training team.

In addition, Dr. Yves Lambert, infectious disease specialist with Haiti's State University Hospital and Director of the cholera treatment center (CTC) there, joined the training team.

CDC provided trainees with materials (translated into French and given in hard-copy format and electronically) which cover the training's seven standard modules, plus an additional optional module addressing community health workers. The standard training modules are:

- The cholera outbreak
- Pathophysiology of cholera
- Transmission Mode
- Clinical Presentation and Case Management
- Assessment of hydration status
- Treatment
- Cholera prevention

In the next phase of the training, these master trainers were sent to nine departments to deliver the training to department-level public health officials. At least 11 trainings were given, of six hours each, from November 19 to 26.

The final phase involves department-level health officials training community health workers (CHW) across the country. These CHW will go on to continue the training within their communities.

The CHW training materials were prepared and presented in Creole. This training consists of 12 modules covering everything from hand-washing and how to properly treat water to effective sanitation and how to prepare a body for burial, should someone die at home. Additionally, laminated cards for community education were provided on each of these topics. By December 3, CDC's cholera training had reached 519 people in cities across Haiti.

Whenever possible, CDC arranged for each training class to visit a functioning CTC in their area. Teams were also asked to conduct an assessment of each CTC visited and were often able to provide needed supplies such as ORS. To access CDC's cholera training documents (French and Creole versions available) please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/haiticholera/training>.

MDM Canada has trained 150 persons, including its entire staff working in the four mobile clinics and in the health center Chapi in Cité Soleil. Specific trainings have also begun for its community health outreach. At the moment there are five community brigades, with 18 agents providing sensitization on cholera prevention, treatment and disinfection in 5 neighborhoods: Belekou, Waf Soleil, Boston, Bois Neuf and Fort Dimanche. As of December 3, 116 sensitization meetings and training of trainers in all 14 camps and three neighborhoods were held, reaching 46,746 people and distributing 30,388 soap bars.

The French Red Cross (FRC) held trainings on cholera and disinfection methods for houses and corpses, in the East of Port de Paix (in the coastal villages concentrating most of cholera cases). Beneficiaries included medical and non-medical staff from health centers and local councils. Around 91 people have been trained and have received disinfection kits.

Hygiene promotion activities are also reaching schools and FRC camps in Port-au-Prince, in Artibonite and in Petit Goâve. On December 3, 58,000 people have benefited from hygiene promotion activities in Artibonite, 56,000 in Port-au-Prince and 7,200 in Petit Goâve.

In the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, activities are taking place in 50 kindergartens and orphanages, for the security of 2,000 children and 500 staff, including training of the management, hygiene promotion activities for children, and distribution of hygiene kits, such as soap bars, and chlorine tablets. Disinfections of houses, camps and public places in Port-au-Prince and Artibonite (by pulverizations) are still conducted on a daily basis. In Artibonite, 8,600 houses have been disinfected.

REFERENCES

- [Health Cluster](#) website.
- [Ministère de la santé publique et de la population](#) (the Ministry of Health).
- [Pan American Health Organization](#) (PAHO/WHO).
- [Interactive Atlas](#) (PAHO/WHO).