HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HAITI –SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010 – #9

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The violence and instability in Haiti due to results of the November 28th election has had a detrimental effect on the fight against the cholera epidemic. The epidemiological data reported indicates that the disease has reached all 10 department of the island nation, and will continue to spread.

Health Cluster Crisis Operations Cell

Nevertheless, the security situation has deteriorated making much more difficult to move resources around.

Several shipments to the North and South departments were delayed up to 2 to 3 days. Fortunately, the situation improved by the end of the week. On 10 December, two U.N. helicopters each carrying three tons of medicines and supplies for cholera treatment to the city of Cap Haitien in the North department and to Jérémie in the Grand'Anse department. The cargo went under the protection of the Bolivian and Guatemalan units in MINUSTAH, and on Saturday December 11th, three more air deliveries were made to Fort Liberté in the North-East department and to Aquin and Les Cayes in the South via Miragoâne located in Nippes department.

The crisis has also affected the operation of the Health Cluster due to the meetings being

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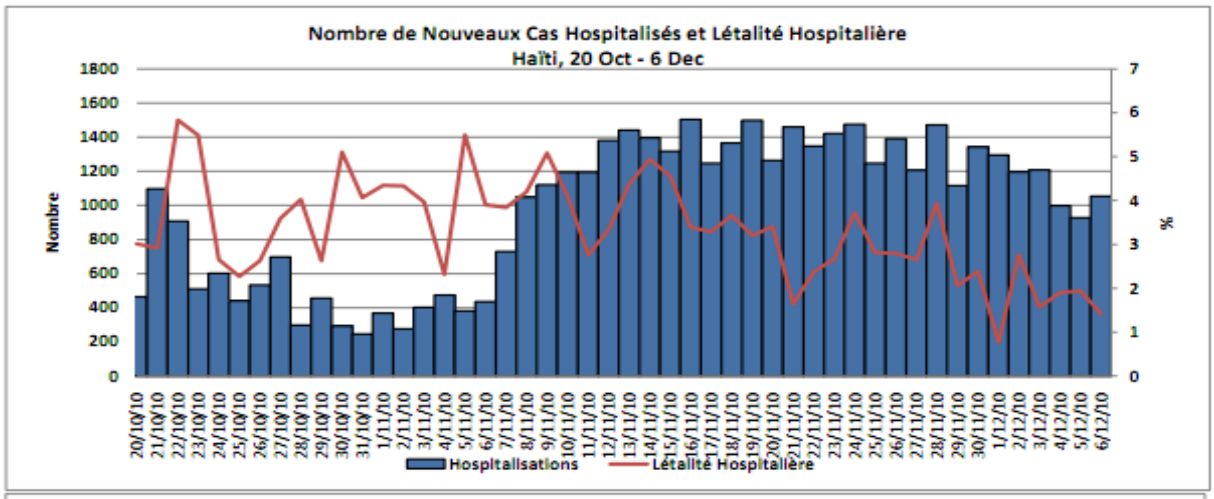
Health Cluster partners are asked to contribute to this bulletin with information on needs and activities as well as corrections to content, by emailing hai.clustersante@paho.org (subject heading: Health Cluster Bulletin). For useful information on meetings, guidelines, and CTC, CTU, and health facility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

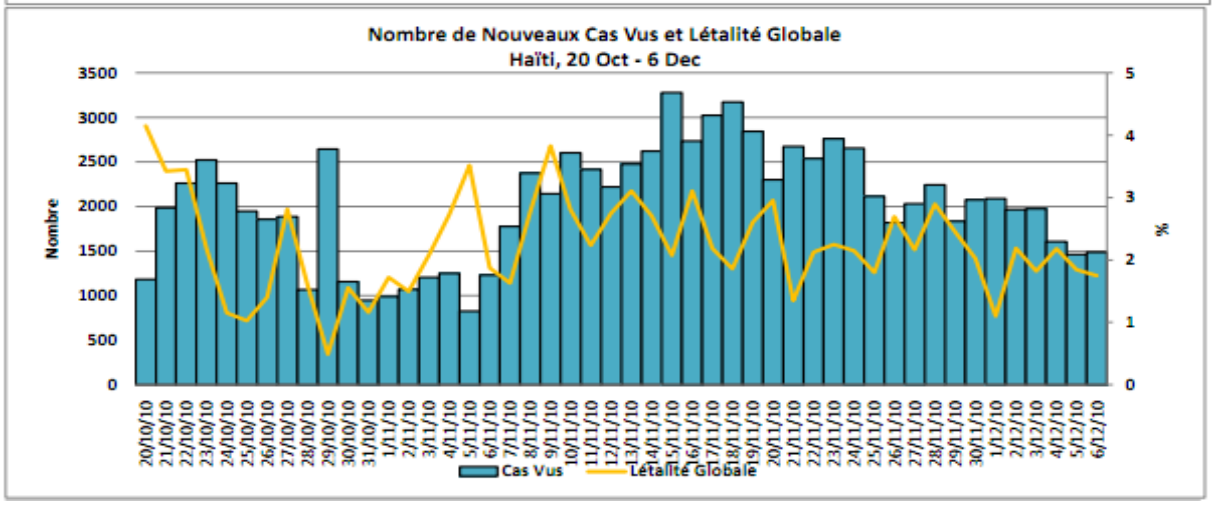
postponed several times. Working from their living quarters, PAHO/WHO staff remained operational and maintained communication with the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) and main partners by phone and email. Moreover, several new hot spots have been reported and addressed with effective interventions among which rapid assessments, and deployment of both human resources and supplies. The decentralization of staff to the Departments has been critical for the success of these interventions.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

On December 10th, MSPP reported that the cumulative number of hospital visits and deaths due to cholera, as of December 6th, was 97,595 and 2,193 respectively, giving an overall Case Fatality Rate of 2.2%. Of this total, 46,749 of patients have been hospitalized due to cholera. The in-hospital case fatality rate for the whole country is 3.2%.

For Port-au-Prince, the cumulative number of hospital visits and deaths due to cholera was 13,969 and 186 respectively. Of those, 4,904 have been hospitalized. The case fatality rate for Port-au-Prince area is 1.4% while the case fatality rate at in-hospital facilities in Port-au-Prince is 3.8%. The Ministry of Health daily reports available at http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/





DEPARTMENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

WEST

A CTC with 45 beds was opened in Grand Goave last week by the Swiss and Norwegian Red Cross Societies. This facility can be extended to 80 beds if necessary. The Swiss Red Cross made donations of 3,450 buckets and 3,900 jerry cans to International Federation of Red Cross cholera operation and is seconding a logistician to IFRC for two months. The Swiss RC is also providing staff to Médecins du Monde-Suisse until the end of February 2011 including doctors, nurses, logistician, and a WASH specialist.

The health center CHAPI, located at heart of Cité Soleil**,** is supported by Médecins du Monde Canada and French Red Cross. CHAPI is operational 24/7 and continues to provide round the clock treatment to cholera patients. MDM Canada trained CHAPI medical staff, and is planning for 26 additional staff for night services. After MDM Canada personnel leave the field at 3pm. The French Red Cross supports the UTC with materials and motorcycle decontamination service. 18th community brigade will circulate for the activities of sanitation and decontamination in CHAPI neighborhood.

Save the Children is currently operating three CTUs. On is in Maissade in the Central Plateau and two located in Gaston Margon and Delmas 56, subsections of Port-au-Prince. A fourth CTU is expected to open in Port au Prince early next week, with a current target of 16 CTUs in total. Plans are in place to construct a CTU in Léogâne (West), a facility that is greatly needed, as there is currently just one operational CTU in the area, run by MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières).

Once the security situation in Port-au-Prince stabilizes, MDM Canada is ready to open 17 community oral rehydration posts (ORPs), which will be run by community members in 5 neighborhoods: Belekou, Bois Neuf, Boston, Fort Dimanche, and Waf Soleil. 12 ORPs will open in the following camps in which 4 mobile clinics circulate: Annexe à la Marie, Aral 45, Athlétique I, Athlétique II, Bas Fontaine, Centre Pilote, Fontaine Drouillard, La Couronne, Parc Barbancourt, Parc Cheval, Sarthe 55, and Village Rapatriers.

Central

In the central department, there were no major security problems in the town of Hinche. With the coordination of the Health Department, PAHO/WHO trained CTC support staff on the disinfection measures. This was part of a program implemented to improve the conditions of CTC's. PAHO/WHO also visited the CTU's in rural communities close to the Dominican Republican border.

Artibonite

In Gonaïves, there were restrictions in movement for UN personnel due to the unstable security situation. Needed material has been donated to the Cuban medical brigade in Capiti, close to Gonaive, in response to the increase in number of cases.

South

In les Cayes, there were restrictions of movement and all UN staff was required to stay at the base. The situation continues to be instable. Some staff was evacuated from Les Cayes except PAHO/WHO and UNICEF staff.

There will be greater need for medical and other materials in Saint Louis as expressed by the Cuban Medical Brigade due to the increasing number of cholera cases. MSF partners that work in Les Cayes has expressed increase in medical needs as well. PAHO/WHO field teams collaborated with MSPP and MSF to conduct inspections of developing cases in Ile a Vache.

Nord

In Cap Haitien, UN staff is restricted to stay in their hotels with limited movement permitted. There will be a meeting with MINUSTAH to determine the security level. The security situation has made it difficult to build the newly planned ORP's in the communities. Partners have asked for materials to build a CTU in Plain du Nord in preparation for the increase in cholera cases.

There is increased number of patients and deaths but exact number has not been reported due to the unstable security. The alert system indicated a possible outbreak of cholera in a town of Ranquitte. MSF France partners located in Pignon, a nearby down, will evaluate the situation.

Grande-Anse

Situation has been relatively calm in Jérémie, Dame Marie, and Anse d'Haineault. However, there has been difficulties in bringing supplies to Grand'Anse due to the road block. MINUSTAH is currently working to deliver the supplies to the department. MSPP plans to dispatch an epidemiology team for investigation of cases.

LOGISTICS

PROMESS

From 21 October until 4th December PROMESS distributed:

- Ringer 1L: 252,040; Ringer 500 ml: 5,400; ORS: 393,200.

As of December 5th, the stock at PROMESS :

- 144,261 Ringer 1L

In the pipeline

Approximately 405,000 Ringers as follow:

- 150,000 Ringers scheduled to arrive by 15 December from Brazil (waiting for confirmation)
- 55,000 scheduled to arrive by 10 December from Dominican Republic
- 200,000 scheduled to arrive by 10 January (Baxter de Columbia)

SUMA

SUMA continues to support PROMESS operations through a tracking system with precise data of beneficiaries, destinations, and recipients. SUMA also prepares detailed reports and summaries of key cholera items needed for the response. Information regarding needs and provisions of international donations is relayed to important decision makers. Further implementation of SUMA in the field is planned, a system which will allow other organizations and partners to report and track their inventories.

WASH Cluster is supporting this intervention through a series of training sessions for SUMA users.

HEALTH PROMOTION & TRAINING

Camps

Save the Children continues cholera prevention activities in 8 camps (Delmas 56, Acra 1, Archachon 34, Fontamara 27, Diquini 63, St. Therese, Silo, and Lakou Issa). These activities include use of mega phone to impart messages, trainings on cholera prevention and water treatment to hygiene volunteers, child to child awareness activities on cholera prevention.

Since November 30, the Child Protection team in the Port au Prince Field office has conducted cholera and hygiene awareness activities in 9 vulnerable camps that reached up to 295 participants. The team conducted hygiene evaluations in Camp Siloe and Primature, with 125 community members from each camp in attendance. The team also worked with 15 community leaders to provide an orientation to hygiene practices for the camps of Carradeux and Paloma.

Schools

Hygiene promotion activities go on in schools and French Red Cross camps in Port-au-Prince, in Artibonite and in Petit Goâve. By December 6, 75,000 people have benefited from

hygiene promotion activities in Bas Artibonite, around 60,000 people in Port-au-Prince and 7,200 people in Petit Goâve since the beginning of the operation (around 125,200 in total). There are hygiene promotion activities for children, training of management staff, and hygiene kit distribution for 50 kindergartens and orphanages in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area for the security of 2,000 children and 500 staff. Disinfections of houses, camps and public places in Port-au-Prince and Artibonite (by pulverizations) are continued on a daily basis. In Artibonite, 10,000 houses have already been disinfected. The distribution of 100 litter bins in FRC camps in Port-au-Prince has been finished this week in 17 camps and 50 additional bins will be installed.

Public Messaging

The North East unit of Plan Haiti has secured a one month contract with a top radio station that covers four departments in the region to disseminate cholera-related messages. The youth media club of the North east, the department director, and the cholera specialist will participate in the radio shows with the support of the Communications and Advocacy Team. The show will be recorded Monday through Friday starting at 2 pm in the studio of Radio Idéal à Fort Liberté. It will broadcast Monday and Friday from 6 pm to 7 pm on Radio Idéal 92.9; and Tuesday and Thursday at 5 to 6 pm, and Saturday from 9 to 10 am on Radio Universelle 93.5 in Ouanaminthe.

Future Plans

Plan Haiti's Education Advisor, Plan's Humanitarian Response Coordinator and Plan's cholera consultant from Boston University's School of Public Health have been working on adapting a cholera awareness training manual for Haiti's children. A concept note has also been submitted for cholera awareness training and special materials for the ECCD level. Training modules will be standardized for all Plan Units.

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).