

Wednesday, December 15, 2010  
6:00 PM, EST

## EOC SITUATION REPORT #17 Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

### Summary

- Today the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) reported that the cumulative number of cases and deaths due to cholera, as of 12 December, is 109,196 and 2,405 respectively. 54,595 patients have been hospitalized. The in-hospital case fatality rate for the country is 3.0%, while the overall fatality rate remains at 2.2%.
- Recent episodes of violence impacted the delivery of care. However, Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC), Cholera Treatment Units (CTU) and Oral Rehydration Posts (ORP) are still functioning and supplies are reaching the areas of need.
- Due to the security situation, a curfew remains in place for all UN personnel including PAHO/WHO staff in Haiti. In spite of a relative calm since December 14<sup>th</sup>, the situation remains unstable and new episodes of violence are possible.
- At this moment, the focus is on planning and on restocking supplies. Large number of local and international NGOs continues to go to PROMESS to collect cholera medicine and supplies, as well as supplies for other health needs. PAHO/WHO staff is also working on other areas such as vaccination programs, maternal and child care, and nutrition.
- Experts and epidemiologists from PAHO/WHO, Cuban Medical Brigade, and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) developed a contingency plan for emergencies. The plan consists



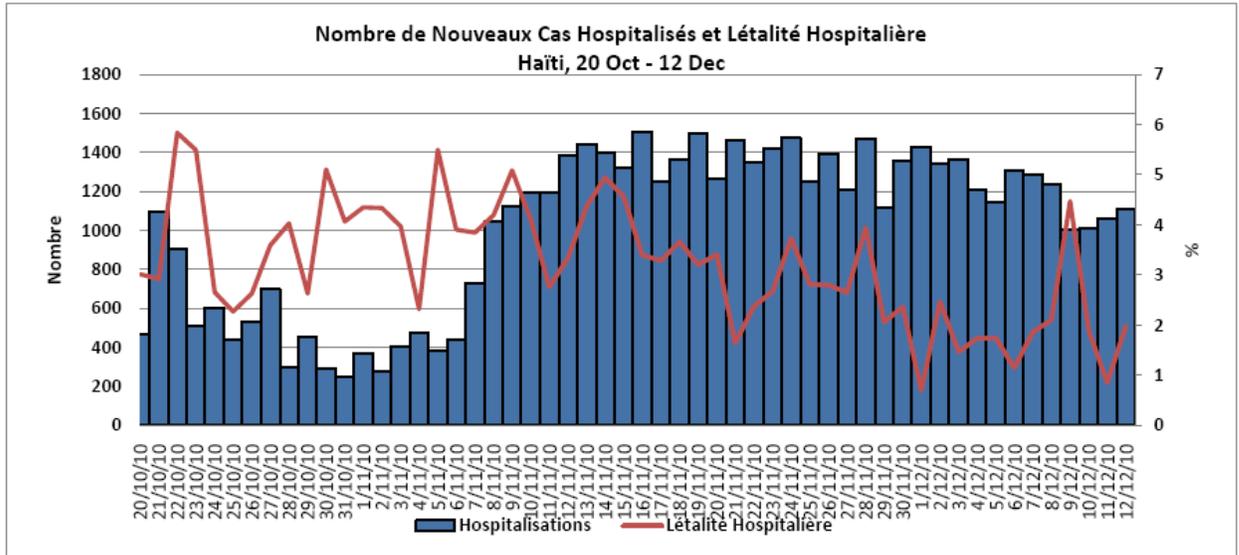
Haitian worker assembles a special cholera bed at the PROMESS warehouse. Five hundred units have already been produced. Photo: Manuel Calvit (PAHO/WHO).

The Situation Report is produced by the PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center to inform about recent developments on the cholera outbreak in Haiti. New editions will be issued as the situation requires, in a complementary way to the Haiti Health Cluster Bulletin. To subscribe or unsubscribe to these reports please [visit this page](#). For previous editions of these reports, click [here](#).

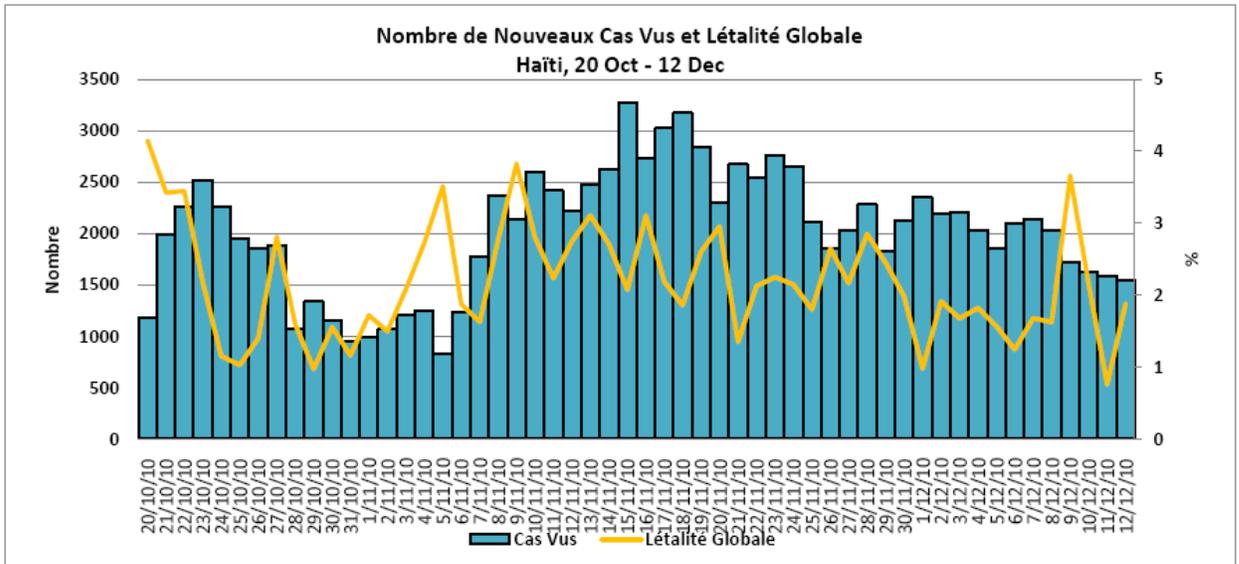
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of three areas (surveillance, alert & response, and departmental coordination) and will result in a more efficient response to future security emergencies.

- In another coordination meeting, PAHO/WHO and Cuban Medical Brigade developed a plan for deployment of staff and supplies into areas that are difficult to access.



Number of Hospitalized Cases and In-hospital Fatality Rate



Number of Cases and Overall Fatality Rate

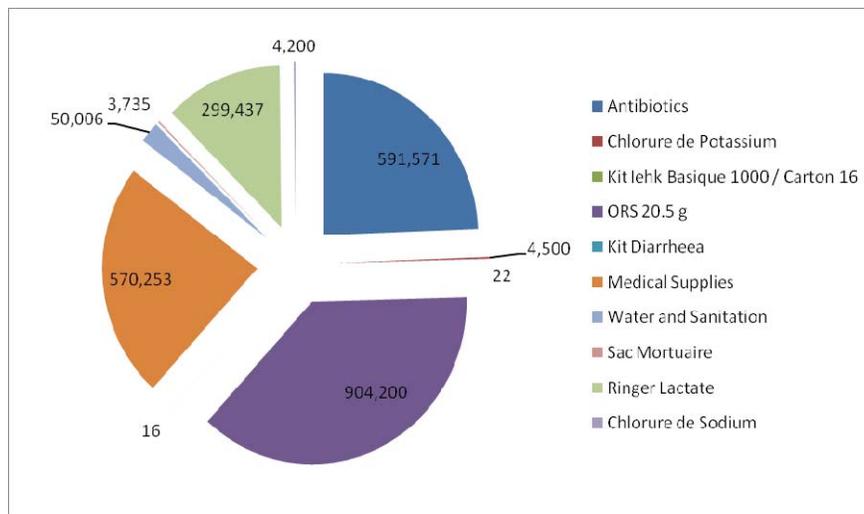
## Health Partners Response

- As part of the current staff rotation exercise, PAHO/WHO staff held an important reporting and analysis session where field epidemiologists and sanitary engineers presented information and data to the PAHO/WHO Representative and experts involved in the response. The field experts deployed to different departments of the country such as Grand Anse, Les Cayes, Hinche, and St. Marc focused their presentations around the areas of security, access to water and sanitation, stocks of medicines and other supplies, and sanitary alerts.
- The PAHO/WHO representative attended the launch of a religious partnership to fight the cholera epidemic. In the event, Catholic, Protestant and Episcopal Church leaders, as well as representatives from DINEPA and MSPP delivered strong cholera messages. About 20 Haitian journalists attended the meeting, which included demonstrations on proper hand washing, use of the ORS sachets, and preparation of homemade ORS.
- PAHO/WHO Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Logistic Team (WASH) developed a training session with two engineers from the Ministry of Health and Population (MSPP), focusing on the set-up of CTCs, management of infection, hygiene continuous quality control. After the first training session at the PROMESS Emergency Operation Center, the engineers accompanied by a logistician visited two CTCs in Port-au-Prince for hands-on experience, the first at the Pernier Hospital, still under construction, and the second at the St. Camille Hospital, already operational.
- With the cooperation of NGO Terre des Hommes, The WASH team coordinated an emergency response in the Savanne neighborhood in Les Cayes. The very poor neighborhood had been identified as a location with high cholera prevalence. The emergency response will facilitate access to safe water and other preventive interventions.
- According to the MSPP and Health Cluster Members in Haiti, as of 13 December, 63 CTCs and 123 CTUs are operational across the county. CTCs are larger units with an average of 50 beds each, and some reaching hundreds of beds. CTUs are smaller units usually attached to existing health facilities. It is estimated that the bed capacity of both centers is 5,479 and 1,860 respectively (see map below).
- For more information on the response of the health partners, please check the Health Cluster Bulletin which is published twice a week and available [here](#).

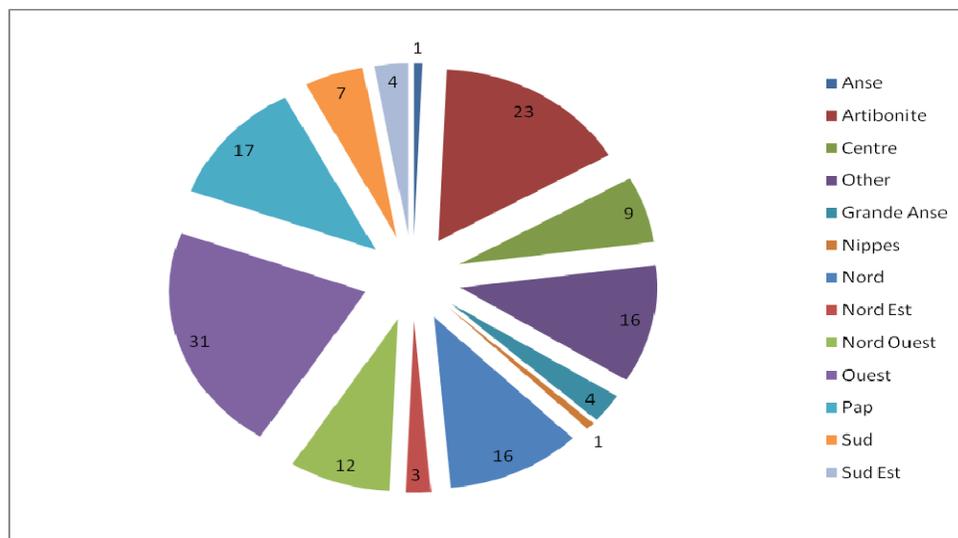
## Delivery of Cholera Supplies

- PAHO/WHO Haiti logisticians, taking advantage of the relative calm in the city, were quickly deploying all their efforts and expertise to continue setting up, restocking medicines and supplies and following up on the needs of CTCs, CTUs, ORPs.
- In the last few days PAHO/WHO, WFP and partners delivered 18 tons of additional cholera supplies to Gonaives and Jacmel and three tons to Cap-Haïtien and Jeremie. The other three areas, Fort Liberté, Les Cayes and Leogane are scheduled to receive new supplies soon.

- The distribution of supplies constitute part of an overall, countrywide distribution plan, both responding to the Alert System and filling gaps, as well as in the effort to strategically preposition medicines and supplies throughout all 10 Departments of Haiti. During this exercise, 60 tons of supplies will be strategically distributed between 13-23 December.
- Haitian workers manufactured 500 special cholera beds inside the PAHO/WHO PROMESS warehouse. These beds are designed to allow the patient to pass stool directly to a waste bucket without having to get up, as cholera patients are often too weak to get to the bathrooms while they are still being rehydrated. An additional 1,000 beds are expected to be ready for shipment in the next 10 days. Once ready, they are shipped by truck and helicopters to cholera treatment centers, hospitals and other health facilities throughout the country. To meet the urgent demand, two crews of metal cutters, welders and assistants are working seven days a week producing the beds.
- Since the beginning of the epidemic, PROMESS, Haiti’s main medicine warehouse managed by PAHO/WHO, has distributed enough medicines to treat 71,261 mild cholera cases and 33,672 severe cases. Current stocks include enough treatments for 49,685 mild cases and for 5,858 severe cases. For planning purposes, 10 ORS sachets are set aside for each mild case and 10 liters of IV fluids and 6 ORS sachets for each severe case. Additional supplies arrive continuously.
- The following chart summarizes the donations performed by Governments and other Institutions to the Haitian Ministry of Health through PROMESS and partners:



Supply units distributed by PROMESS (processed by SUMA, 21 October – 12 December)



Deliveries of PROMESS by department (processed by SUMA, 21 October – 12 December)

- NGOs are invited to use SUMA to monitor their inventories and consolidate their supplies information. Implementing the SUMA system in an emergency facilitates the preparation of reports. A special list of key items which are important for dealing with the cholera outbreak has been drawn up and staff can normally be trained in a day. The software is provided free-of-charge to all organizations wishing to use it. For more information please contact Mr. Jeronimo Venegas, SUMA team leader in Haiti ([venegasj@paho.org](mailto:venegasj@paho.org), + (509) 3419-9509) or Mr. Antonio Zugaldia, PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center ([zugaldia@paho.org](mailto:zugaldia@paho.org), +1 (202) 974-3399).

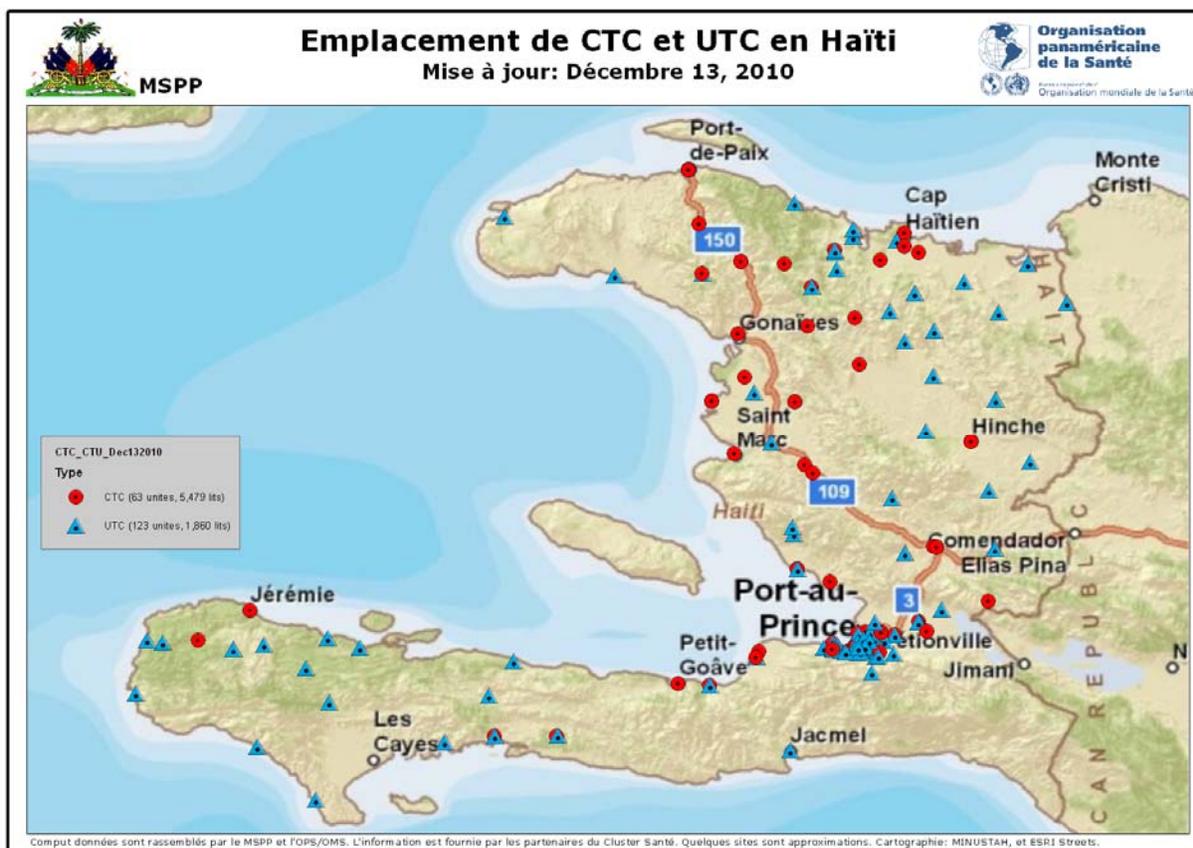
## Cholera Situation Map

- PAHO/WHO produces an Interactive Atlas with epidemiological information. Please follow [this link](#) to launch the map. The map reflects the situation of the epidemiological weeks. To access the daily total number of cases and deaths, please click on *Situation Updates*.

## Cholera Key Facts

- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae O:1*. Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical in reducing the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.
- Up to 80% of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts.
- There are an estimated 3-5 million cholera cases and 100,000-120,000 deaths due to cholera every year around the world.
- **More information:** cholera fact sheet – [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

## Location of Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) and Units (CTU) in Haiti



## Guidelines and Recommendations

<i>Case Management and Vaccination</i>	
Infection control precautions in cholera outbreaks	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Recommendations for cholera clinical management	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
PAHO/WHO position on cholera vaccination in Haiti	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
<i>Laboratory</i>	
Manual of procedures for isolation, identification and characterization of <i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>
Procedures for identification of <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> in the microbiology laboratory	<a href="#">Spanish</a>
Search procedures for <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> in environmental samples	<a href="#">Spanish</a>
Diagnóstico de <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> y <i>Salmonella</i>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>

<i>Outbreak Control in Complex Emergencies</i>	
Be a better donor: practical recommendations for humanitarian aid	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Management of dead bodies after disasters	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Cholera in Disasters Situations	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Acute diarrhoeal diseases in complex emergencies: critical steps	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Portuguese</a>
First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhoea	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
<i>Prevention</i>	
Poster 1: Protect yourself not to get cholera	<a href="#">Creole</a>
Poster 2: What to do when someone has diarrhea and vomiting	<a href="#">Creole</a>
Preventions messages to protect us against cholera	<a href="#">Creole</a>
5 key ways project: adapting the WHO manual on food safety for use in Guatemalan elementary schools	<a href="#">English</a>
Five keys to safer food	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Prevention of foodborne disease: the five keys to safer food	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>

## Other Resources

- [Ministère de la santé publique et de la population](#) (MSPP).
- [PAHO/WHO disasters](#), [Haiti emergency blog](#), and [PAHO/WHO](#)'s main website.
- [Global Task Force on Cholera Control](#) and [WHO](#)'s main website.
- OCHA's [Crisis Information Centre](#) on Haiti.
- [ReliefWeb Haiti Cholera Outbreak](#) page.
- [Haiti Resource Finder](#) (Google) and [Health Facilities Master List](#) (Travax).
- [Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haiti](#) (MINUSTAH).
- [SUMA Logistics Support System](#).
- [CDC Haiti cholera outbreak resource center](#).
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti and other international public health information please check the [PAHO/WHO EOC](#) channel in Twitter.