

### Situation Overview

A meeting on Cholera vaccination was held by PAHO/WHO in Washington on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2010. The main recommendations were creating an international stockpile and using available doses for a Haitian pilot study, which could include other Caribbean countries upon availability of additional doses.

As of January 17<sup>st</sup> 2011, there were 199 497 cases, 112 656 hospitalized and 3 927 deaths in Haiti. There are currently 85 Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs) and 129 Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs) which are operational.

The first Caribbean cholera cases outside Haiti were confirmed in Santo Domingo and Santiago, Dominican Republic (DOR), in week 47. By the end of the epidemiological year 2010, there were 154 confirmed cases in the Dominican Republic. No cases have been reported in any other Caribbean country but 21 imported cases have been reported in Venezuela. As of January 27<sup>th</sup> 2011, there were 238 cases in DOR. The affected provinces include Elías Piña, San Juan, Santiago, Santo

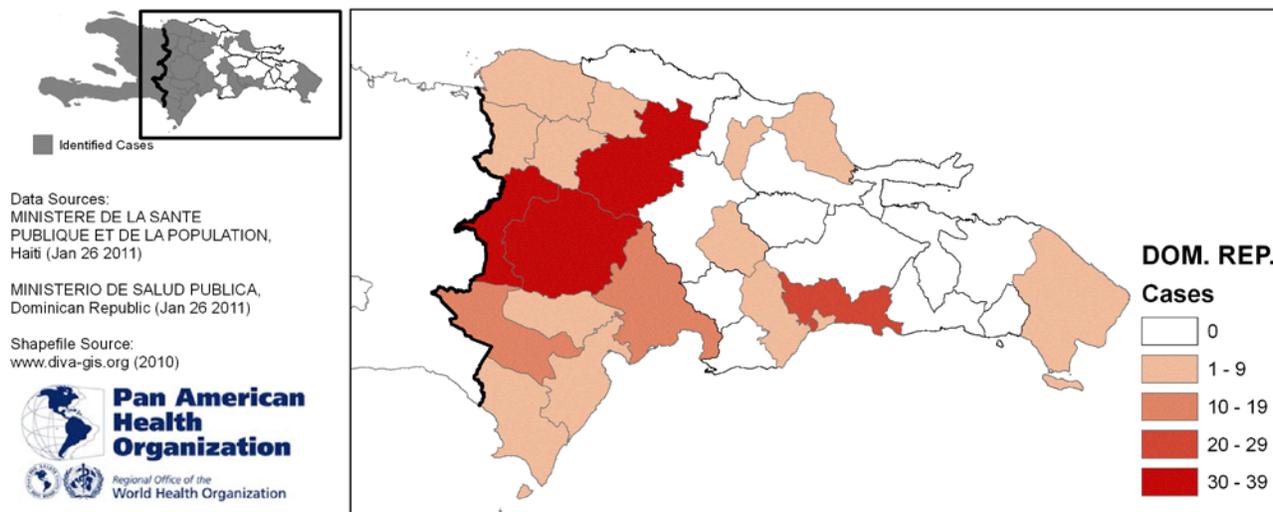
Domingo, Azua, Dajabón, Independencia, Distrito Nacional, Monte Cristi, Valverde, Bahoruco, Barahona, María Trinidad Sánchez, La Altagracia, Santiago Rodríguez, San Cristóbal, Pedernales, Hermanas Mirabal and Monseñor Nouel (see Figure 1). One death has been reported.

### Activities

PAHO/WHO deployed a Cholera expert and a communications specialist to Turks and Caicos Islands from December 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to assist with preparedness planning. Contingency plans for certain institutions have been established or revised (e.g. HM Prison Grand Turk) however the national plan remains under revision. A dynamic list of key stakeholders has been created, which will be updated regularly.

The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) has conducted an assessment of the preparedness level of its 23 member countries in the Caribbean. According to the survey only 27% of countries had the necessary transport media for the shipment of stool samples and

**Figure 1:** Reported Cholera Cases in Dominican Republic



43% had cholera response plans ready to be employed.

A bilingual (Spanish and Creole) training workshop was held in Santo Domingo on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2011. This workshop was organized by the Catholic Church and coordinated by the Dirección General de Promoción y Educación para la Salud (DIGPRES) with support from PAHO/WHO and UNICEF. Thirty-five health promoters from Santo Domingo's Haitian community were in attendance to learn about Cholera prevention, identify communication measures and plan prevention activities.

A Cholera Prevention Project for the Dominican Republic-Haiti border has been in place for the months of December 2010 and January 2011. This project was run by the Organization for the Promotion of Eco-Clubs in collaboration with the Ministries of Public Health and Education and PAHO/WHO. All five border provinces were involved and beneficiaries included over 20 000 from all age groups, and both countries.

PAHO/WHO is compiling a detailed inventory on current stocks of Cholera-related medicines. An illuminate session will be held with CMOs and Chief Pharmacists throughout the Caribbean to

discuss medicines, their use, guidelines and protocols in the context of Cholera preparedness.

### References

Area on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Office of Caribbean Program Coordination, PAHO [http://new.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=828&Itemid=807](http://new.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=828&Itemid=807)

Ministry of Public Health (*Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social* - SESPAS), Dominican Republic, <http://www.sespas.gov.do/>

Ministry of Public Health and Population (*Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population* - MSPP), Haiti, [http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=1](http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=1)

PAHO/WHO, Cholera Outbreak on the Island of Hispaniola, [http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4500&Itemid=3527&lang=en](http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4500&Itemid=3527&lang=en)

PAHO/WHO, Dominican Republic (*Spanish*), <http://new.paho.org/dor/>



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