

Coordination in a cholera epidemic

Dana van Alphen
PAHO/WHO Panama



Cholera response strategy

1. Save lives

Reducing mortality through treatment and active case detection

2. Prevent spread of the disease through health promotion, hygiene, water and sanitation

3. Coordination : at national level and of the international assistance



Coordination

- Establishment of a Task force at national level: includes WASH, Tourism, Custom, Policeall not only health
- International assistance: UN cluster mechanism and inter cluster coordination
- Ex: Haiti 128 International Agencies, only 5 INGO's were responsible for treating 70% of the patients
- Pakistan: cholera is endemic, 42 NGO's

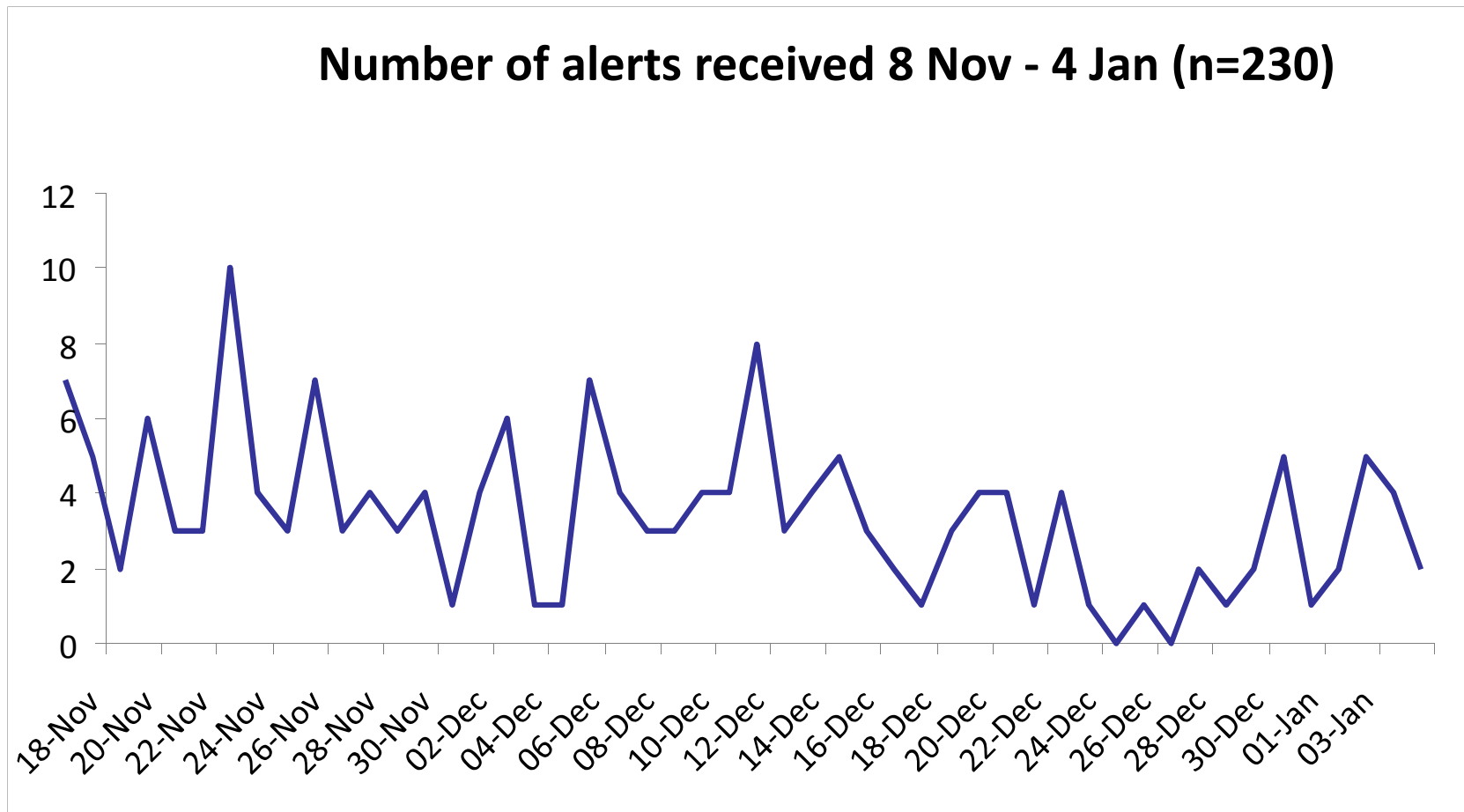


The importance of coordination

- Cholera attracts international assistance
- Big INGO's: respond rapidly, have the expertise and experience but...
- Depend on external funding
- And when they leave??
- Management of information is critical and causes the most criticism



Alerting system : case detection

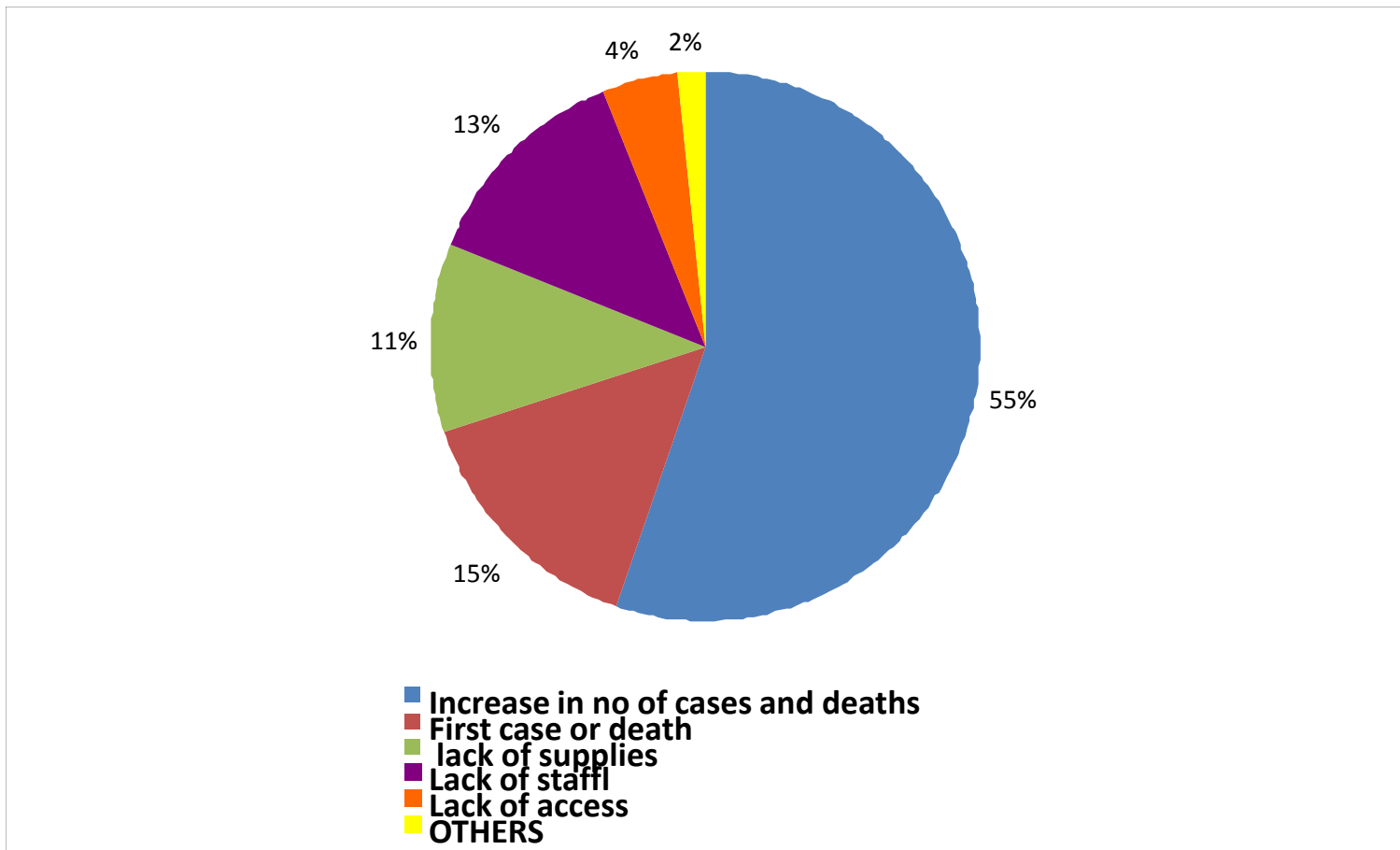


Systeme de Surveillance d'alerts:

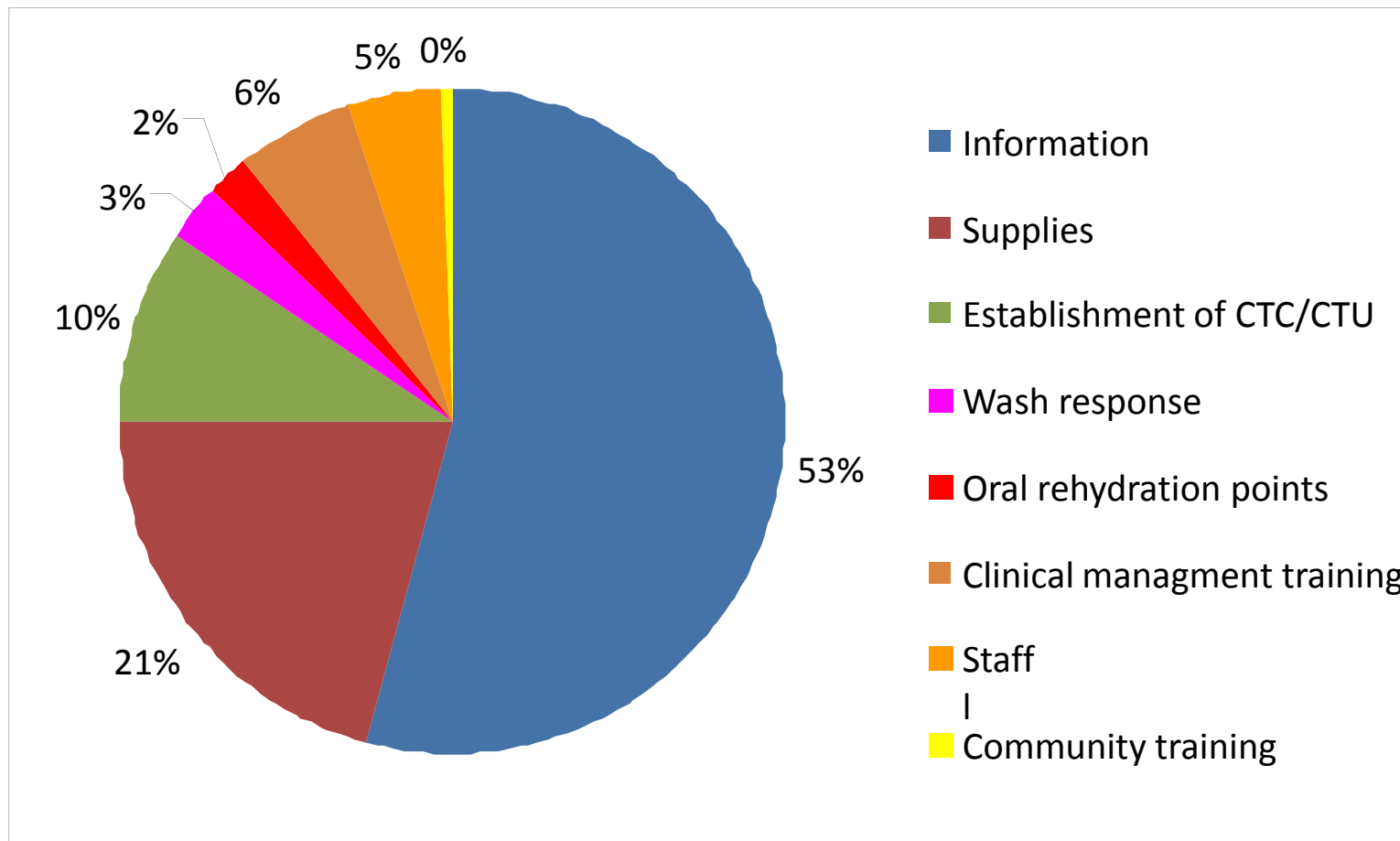
Nombre d'alertes reçues entre 18/11/2010 – 04/01/2011, Total alertes (n): 230



Types of alerts



Type de Response



Alert and response:

- Does not replace surveillance system but is more agile
- Can detect other outbreaks within an outbreak
- : methanol, AFP, Diphtheria
- Can identify other problems:
 - need for medical and wash supplies(8-10 L/pers Ringer) and staff are under estimated
 - the more vulnerable groups are not the children
 - The management of dead bodies: they are infectious



Cholera deaths

- In a CTC: locate the mortuary in a closed tent, next to waste area
- Think of drainage, soakaway pit
- Body fluids highly contagious, disinfect with 2%% chlorine solution
- All orifices plugged with cotton soaked in 2% solution
- Always use PPE
- Bodybags/ cotton sheet soaked in 2% Chlorine



Cholera deaths in the community

- Disinfect the body but also the area where the body was(house)
- Avoid returning the body to the family whenever possible(even after disinfection and in a bodybag)
- Identify an area where abandoned bodies can be burried(In Haiti the cimitery refused cholera deaths)
- Ensure the public is informed



Burrial practices

- Where many bodies are stored, use CaO(quicklime) to neutralize liquids and odours
- Bury as soon as possible
- Limit viewing and funeral feasts(minimize contact with corpse)
- Those preparing bodies should not prepare the food
- Hygiene promotion, hand washing facilities

