



Wednesday, October 27, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT

EOC SITUATION REPORT #6 Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

- The National Response Strategy to the Cholera Epidemic was presented by the MSPP (*Ministère de la santé publique et de la population*). It prioritizes measures to protect families at the community level, strengthen primary health care centers already operating across the nation, and establish a network of special Cholera Treatment Centers and designated hospitals for treatment for severe cases.
- The MSPP shared this strategy with all its international partners in Haiti, including members of the UN Health Cluster. It was developed in close collaboration with PAHO and other UN agencies, as well as major non-governmental and bilateral partners.
- As of today, data provided by the MSPP show that hospitalizations due to cholera totaled 4,722. The departments with confirmed cases are: Artibonte (76.5%), Central (22.9%), Nord-Est, and Nord. The total number of deaths due to cholera is 303.
- The MSPP is sending community health agents into poor and densely populated areas, including temporary settlement areas that were created after the earthquake, to actively seek out and refer the sickest people to the Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC), while at the same time giving them a first dose of oral rehydration salts. The Ministry also will be establishing a network of community health posts that will have the capacity to treat diarrhea.
- The emphasis is on disseminating community-based messages encouraging hand washing and sanitation measures, such as proper management of human feces and garbage, purification of drinking water by boiling or using chlorination tablets, and eating only cooked foods or peeled foods. These messages also describe how to prepare oral rehydration salts, how to care for cholera patients safely in the home, and when to take them to a health facility.



PAHO/WHO Response

- Using funds from the international cooperation, PAHO purchased additional IV fluids (Ringer's Lactate) to replenish the stock at the PROMESS warehouse. The first shipment, of 30,000 liters, is arriving Thursday afternoon, and another shipment of 20,000 liters will arrive Friday afternoon, both coming from the Dominican Republic. Next week, 10 diarrhea treatment kits will arrive, each one enough to treat 400 to 500 cases. The kits include, in addition to Ringer Lactate, intravenous and nasogastric catheters, and other supplies. The shipments will be delivered to PROMESS, Haiti's main medical storage and distribution facility, managed by PAHO/WHO.
- The strains of *Vibrio cholerae* O:1 isolated in Haiti and tested by the LNSP and the CDC showed resistance to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, furazolidone, nalidixic acid, and streptomycin. The strains are sensitive to tetracycline, doxycycline and ciprofloxacin. These results are of extreme importance to the recommendation of antibiotic treatment. PAHO, together with CDC and supported by regional experts, recommends the use of doxycycline as first line of treatment for both adults and children. In the case of pregnant women, azithromycin is recommended.
- To support the MSPP's planning efforts—and also the Dominican Republic's contingency planning—PAHO has been working with the CDC to develop projections of cases, estimates of cases, based on different modeling scenarios. Those estimates will help with planning efforts. It is impossible, however, to accurately predict the course of the epidemic, even with the best modeling.
- PAHO and CDC experts are also working together on improved surveillance and reporting of cases, analysis of water samples from rivers and other water sources, and monitoring of antibiotic resistance.
- PAHO continues to mobilize international experts including epidemiologists, risk communication, case management, laboratory, water and sanitation, logistics, and LSS/SUMA to Haiti and also to the Dominican Republic.
- PAHO coordinates these efforts with other UN agencies, and with health officials in the U.S. and Canada. Relief efforts continue as the government, MINUSTAH, UN agencies and NGOs continuing to provide assistance in a growing number of locations.

Health Partners Response

- France is sending two medical missions to Haiti and has released funds to combat cholera and to focus on the treatment of children. A support mission consisting of a doctor and two nurses are travelling to Port-au-Prince to strengthen medical aid, especially in nurseries and orphanages.

- As reported by OCHA, DINEPA (*Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement*) with support from logistic cluster helicopters has delivered approximately 1,200 kilograms of chlorine powder to treat water systems in 22 larger towns across the country.
- MSPP, with the support of PAHO, in close collaboration with UNICEF and NGOs, are refining public health messages to be distributed by radio and SMS to local communities. IOM (International Organization for Migration) and the Red Cross Movement have reached an estimated 880,000 people from the West and Artibonite departments with SMS text and voice messages on cholera prevention, treatment and hygiene.
- UNICEF has distributed medical supplies to three towns in the most heavily affected areas in Artibonite: Drouin, Dessalines, and St Michel de l'Attalaye. Bringing 10,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts to each area as well as boxes of Ringer's lactate, they also distributed 100 mattresses and a basic health kit for the town's health centre in Drouin, and a diarrhea kit to St Michel de l'Attalaye.
- On 26 October, in Saint Marc, a hostile demonstration took place around the new Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) that MINUSTAH was building in the locality with support of PAHO/WHO. A tent was partly damaged, however no injuries were noted by the people inside the health facilities. The CTC will be moved to a new location still to be decided. MINUSTAH military has started with the disassembling works.

THE RESPONSE FROM BRAZIL

The Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Brazilian private sector sent medicines and supplies for treatment of patients affected by cholera epidemic in Haiti. A military plane left Rio de Janeiro today containing several items, including 10,500 bottles of sodium hypochlorite (to purify water), 3,500 bottles of IV fluids (Ringer's Lactate) used to rehydrated severe cases, 12,600 sachets of oral rehydration therapy, and 16,200 injecting equipment kits.

Also today, two epidemiologists Brazilian Ministry of Health left Brasilia, and travelled to Port-au-Prince, to support the actions of Haiti's MSPP.

Last Monday nine Brazilian professionals began a training for community health agents in the town of Carrefour, which will continue to mid- December. Management of cholera was the subject of the first class.

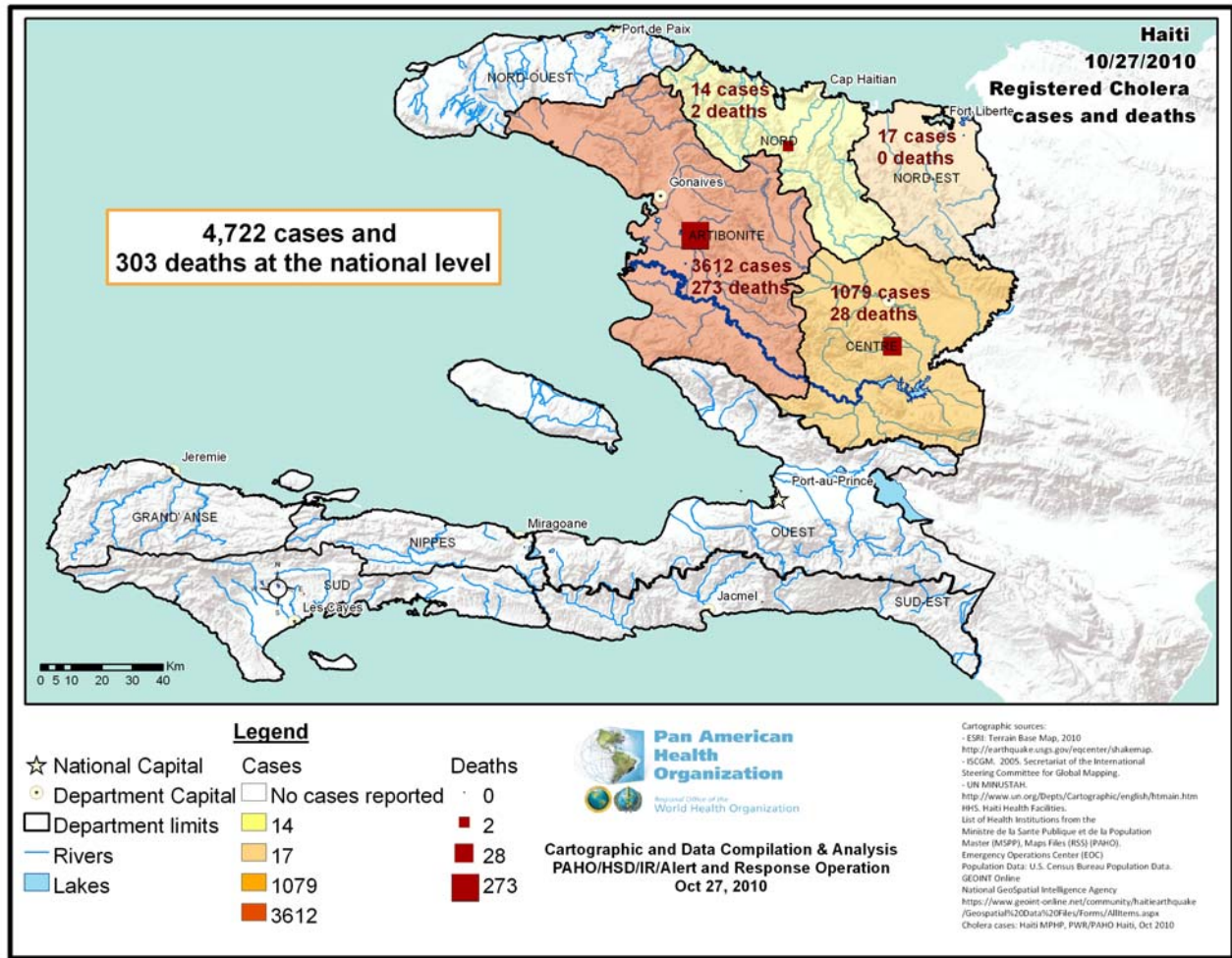
Cholera Key Facts

- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by exposition, ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* 0:1.
- 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.

Resources

- [PAHO disasters homepage](#) and [PAHO](#)'s main website.
- [Global Task Force on Cholera Control](#) and [WHO](#)'s main website.
- OCHA [Crisis Information Centre](#) on Haiti.
- [ReliefWeb Haiti Cholera Outbreak](#) page.
- [Post-Earthquake Health Resources for Haiti](#) by NIH Disaster Information Management Research Center (updated for the cholera outbreak).
- [MINUSTAH](#) (*Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haiti*).
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti and other international public health information please check the [PAHO EOC](#) channel in Twitter.

Situation Map



Updated maps will be posted on www.paho.org.

The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center will issue situation reports as the situation requires.

Contact the PAHO EOC at +1 202 974 3399 or eoc@paho.org
[Click here](#) to view previous situation reports from the PAHO Emergency Operations Center.