



**Friday, October 29, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT**

**EOC SITUATION REPORT #8
Cholera Outbreak in Haiti**

Summary

- As of today, Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP - *Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population*) has reported 4,714 cases and 330 deaths at national level. Artibonite is the department with the highest cumulative incidence rate, followed by Central, and Ouest.
- MSPP continues the implementing of the three components outlined in the national strategy for cholera with PAHO providing technical support in epidemiology and surveillance. Also, the MSPP is training community health workers on the use of oral rehydration salts in order to provide treatment rapidly to the population. Public health messages have been developed for dissemination to the public regarding hand washing, good hygiene and sanitation, safe food handling and others that prevent the spread of disease.
- PAHO was made aware of concerns regarding a request this week for cholera-related supplies by the U.S.-based nongovernmental organization J/P HRO. PAHO's inquiry into the matter determined that J/P HRO requested and received 500 IV catheters, 2,000 liters of IV fluids, 10,000 doxycycline tablets, and body bags from PROMESS since the start of the cholera outbreak. A delay in distributing 1,000 liters of IV fluids occurred when PROMESS attempted to verify directly with medical personnel at the St. Nicholas Hospital in Artibonite whether these fluids were urgently needed, as they are currently in short supply. J/P HRO did receive the fluids and reportedly delivered them to St. Nicolas Hospital later the same day.



Health Partners Response

- UNAIDS, the National HIV Program (PLNS), the Haitian Platform of Associations of People Living with HIV (PHAP+), and the co-chairs of the IASC Task Force for HIV in

emergencies, have jointly prepared key messages to be disseminated to people with HIV through media. The messages for people with HIV in the current outbreak are:

1. Continue your HIV treatment;
 2. Seek medical help to ensure you receive treatment quickly for any opportunistic infections;
 3. Ensure you listen and take advice of cholera prevention messages;
 4. Don't panic and if you need to talk to someone for support go to associations of people with HIV.
- The Ministry of Health of Ecuador is sending several tons of medical supplies by air and sea to Haiti which will be used for oral rehydration and cholera treatment. These supplies, that include items as IV fluids, oral rehydration salts, disinfectants, catheters, and other medical items, will greatly augment the stocks already present and on their way to the country.
 - In Artibonite, Partners in Health (PIH) has established an effective process for triaging cholera and non-cholera patients at Hôpital St Nicholas (HSN) in St. Marc. This is being done in partnership with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Spain. PIH has also established an emergency health center unit, particularly to care for non-diarrhea related illnesses running 24 hours/day at the Ministry of Health Outpatient Clinic in St Marc (SSPE – Soins de Santé de Premier Echelon). In addition, PIH is providing administrative, supply chain and logistics support to St. Nicholas hospital administration as well as coordination, food, lodging and transport of non-PIH volunteer medical staff at the hospital.
 - In Jacmel, the Health Directorate and the Directorate of the Ministry of Environment of South-East has circulated a list to partners identifying needs in the South-East as they prepare for the possibility of a cholera outbreak. In the days ahead, health cluster partners in will work to reinforce health facilities for cholera cases.
 - In Leogane all suspected cholera cases are being referred to the MSF hospital Swiss Chatuley and the MSPP is now chairing a committee to address the cholera outbreak through development of an operational action plan.
 - The Water Sanitation and Hygiene cluster (WASH) reports that almost two thirds of communities in the 15 communal sections at the epicenter of the outbreak have received water purification tablets and supplies in the past five days. PAHO will be assisting DINEPA regarding communication, discussions, distribution, and chlorination of ice producing factories.
 - A team of White Helmets from Argentina is being mobilized to support LSS/SUMA (the Logistics Support System) and other response activities and will arrive in Haiti on Saturday.
 - The Ministry of Health of Peru is sending a team to the Dominican Republic to support response efforts including an epidemiologist, a case management specialist, and a risk communicator.

PAHO/WHO Response

- PAHO has trained 60 community health workers whose role will be to provide public information related to hygiene, sanitation, treatment and locations of public health centers. 8 Hospitals are being prepared for increased cases load, and 3 currently are ready. Among the 10 CTC planned for metropolitan Port-au-Prince, 5 are ready, with a bed capacity of 450 against a target of 2,000 beds.
- 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.
- PROMESS, a PAHO-managed warehouse in Port-au-Prince that is the main source of essential medicines and medical supplies in Haiti, has distributed these supplies free of charge to hospitals and health facilities, including many that are staffed by international non-governmental organizations.

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.

Guidelines and Recommendations

| Title of Guideline | Link |
|---|---|
| Acute diarrhoeal diseases in complex emergencies: critical steps | English French |
| Be a Better Donor: Practical Recommendations for Humanitarian Aid | English Spanish |
| Cholera fact sheet | English French Spanish |
| Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness | English French Portuguese |
| Diagnóstico de Vibrio cholerae y Salmonella | Spanish |
| First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhoea | English French Spanish |
| Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters: A Field Manual for First Responders | English French Spanish |
| Manual de Procedimientos Aislamiento, identificación y caracterización de Vibrio cholerae | Spanish |
| Five keys to safer food | Creole English French Spanish Arabic Chinese Russian |
| Procedures for identification of Vibrio cholerae in the microbiology laboratory | Spanish |
| Recommendations for cholera clinical management | English |
| The Global Task Force on Cholera Control | English |

Other 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.
- [CDC Haiti cholera outbreak resource center](#).
- [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.

If you would like to subscribe/unsubscribe to the distribution of this situation report, please drop a message to the e-mail address below. 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.**