

## **SUMMARY – REGIONAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE CHOLERA FROM HISPANIOLA - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS 2012 - 2015**



In January 2012, the presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic joined PAHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. CDC in issuing a “Call to Action” to eliminate cholera from the island of Hispaniola through major new investments in water and sanitation infrastructure. Six months later, the Regional Coalition for Water and Sanitation to Eliminate Cholera in the Island of Hispaniola was created by PAHO, UNICEF and CDC.

Members of the coalition have engaged in joint coordination, advocacy and information sharing; provided technical expertise to the two countries to help develop 10-year national plans to eliminate cholera, and liaised with the UN Assistant Coordinator for Cholera to mobilize resources to finance the plans’ implementation. By September 2015, the Regional Coalition had 23 members. PAHO has achieved a remarkable accomplishment catalyzing many organizations within the international community to come together for a common purpose – to combat cholera in Haiti through programs that provide not only immediate care (cholera treatment, vaccines and medical care) but also In term solutions to the underlying problems of poor sanitation and vulnerable populations (potable water supply, basic sanitation and improved health behaviors).

### **Key events & activities supported by the Coalition 2012 – 2015**

#### ***Launch, Advocacy, Technical Cooperation and Expansion of Coalition***

- **Launch of the Declaration & Coalition in Salvador, Brazil** (4 June 2012 ) founding Partners (*PAHO, CDC, UNICEF, AECID, IDB, AIDIS*)
- **OAS - PAHO USA launch:** (29 June 2012 ) Two new Partners (*FUNASA, AMHE Haiti Diaspora Feder'n*)
- **Pan American Sanitary Conference (PASC) Promotional Event** for Member Governments (18 September 2012 ) Four new Partners, *WB, IFRC, CARICOM, WASH Advocates*
- **National Plans of Action** developed over 10 months by Ministries of Health, DINEPA and INAPA with support from PAHO, CDC, UNICEF and some NGO partners (CRS, IFRC, WV) May 2012 – Feb. 2013
- **Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and OCV** in Washington DC (August 12 2012) Hosted by PAHO, UNICEF & CDC
- **Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on WASH** in PaP Haiti ( 2 Oct 2012 ) Hosted by DINEPA/MOH with support from PAHO and CDC
- **Bi-National Strategic Planning Meeting** in Santiago DoR – (8 – 9 Oct 2012)

## **SUMMARY – REGIONAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE CHOLERA FROM HISPANIOLA - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS 2012 - 2015**

- **CSIS-PAHO Seminar** in Washington DC (12 Oct. 2012) Five new partners (*PIH, Zanmi Lasante, CRS, Veolia, CWWA*)
- **UN Secretary General's Launch** in NY (11 Dec. 2012)
- **Official launch of the 2 and 10 year Plan of Action**, PaP Haiti (Feb 27, 2013)
- **Millennium Water Alliance (MWA)** joins the coalition (18 March, 2013)
- **First Donor Meeting of Partners** at PAHO Hdq (31 May, 2013) \$26 million committed
- **USAID and World Vision** join the coalition (28 June, 2013)
- **Capitol Hill Event** (PAHO, WASH Advocates, ASTMH, CSIS, PIH) (23 Oct 2013) 125 attendees and participants
- **Coalition Partners Meet** at PAHO to discuss the way forward (Feb 4, 2014)
- **World Bank Meeting of Global Experts** in Cholera in DC (April 11, 2014) (DINEPA, MOH, PAHO, CDC, Experts, WB)
- **MOH Technical Meeting** in Port au Prince with cholera experts (April 22, 2014)
- **GHESKIO and Fondation Merieux** join Coalition (September 2014)
- **World Bank** High Level Meeting on Hispaniola (9 October 2014) \$50 million committed for WASH in Haiti
- **Caribbean Waste Water Alliance (CWWA)** – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting attended by PAHO, DINEPA and Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) 6 – 9 October 2014
- A survey conducted in October 2014, partners summarized the principal successes of the Coalition as being **advocacy, coordination, information sharing and dissemination.**
- **WASH Advocates** and PAHO promote World Water Day March 2015
- **CARIWOPS-CWWA** mission to Haiti in February 2015. Work Plan developed with DINEPA for peer-to-peer collaboration funded by CDB and the Utilities.
- **CWWA-AWWA Annual Conference** August 2015 included DINEPA Haiti. A subsequent meeting in Argentina approved the workplan.
- **World Bank** \$50 million project for WASH is approved in May 2015
- **GHESKIO, Red Cross, and World Vision** continue health care & promotion, vaccination, water and sanitation, chlorination in the communities 2015
- PAHO, UNICEF, MOH, PIH, GHESKIO collaborate on **OCV campaign** 2015
- IFRC, World Vision, UNICEF, PAHO note that funds expiring in March 2016
- **WASH Advocates** closes its office – December 31 2015
- **High Level Commission** on Cholera meet in Haiti – December 2015 attended by some members of the Coalition. (PAHO, UNICEF, World Bank)

## **SUMMARY – REGIONAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE CHOLERA FROM HISPANIOLA - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS 2012 - 2015**

### **Conclusions:**

The Coalition has been **a great platform on which a unique message could be crafted**. Between 2012 and 2015 a growing presence of Government representatives from Health, Water, Public Works and Finance at various high-level meetings demonstrated the degree to which the cholera elimination initiative spearheaded by PAHO, CDC and UNICEF has managed to bring the sectors together. A major message has been that this should be **a model for many other diseases**.

The Coalition's efforts to date in achieving its objective have been acknowledged by the Government of Haiti and constitute a good legacy. Government ownership of the national plan has been evident. In the past, Minister Guillaume and M. Dumay were mutually supportive. The UN in NY was also pleased that all partners could rally around the same goals.

DINEPA (Department of Potable Water and Sanitation) authorities have also acknowledged the pressure for it to lead the coordination with other Government ministries. They also have acknowledged the importance of their liaising more effectively with selected NGOs that are based in the country and able to implement activities in targeted communities. This is a positive step forward.

PAHO's key message has been that safe water and hygiene are a basic human right. Access to and use of safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene remain the cornerstone of the public health effort to prevent cholera and many other enteric diseases, which remain leading causes of childhood illness and death. While controlling cholera, we will also be helping to establish permanent systems that will reduce illness and deaths among Haitians and their children from other water-borne diarrheal diseases.

From an equity perspective, PAHO has consistently noted that Haiti is the most underserved country in the Americas in terms of water and sanitation, a situation arising from decades of under-investment; that water and sanitation insecurity is evident in both urban and rural areas in Haiti, and affects millions of men, women and children. Only 59% of Haitians have access to improved drinking water, and 17% have access to improved sanitation, and toilets. 47 % of hospitals are lacking either in potable water or sanitation.

The overall thrust of the Coalition's work under PAHO's stewardship has been to:

- Support the development and funding of the national ten-year plan of action in Haiti, while sharing information on our respective institutional interventions;
- Maintain international attention on Haiti and its basic right to achieve the same level of water and sanitation coverage as the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean through Congressional hearings and the news media;
- Highlight the need for capacity building for DINEPA and the MOH as an essential priority.
- Offer financial and technical assistance and/or programming support for improved capacity to tackle cholera prevention and control. Of note, however, is that this support has been through individual organizational responses rather than a consolidated program involving all organizations in specific geographic zones.

## **SUMMARY – REGIONAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE CHOLERA FROM HISPANIOLA - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS 2012 - 2015**

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

The question remains – what can be done with the Coalition and with the interest and momentum built over the past four years. Answers to this question must be found or the coalition is likely to fall away and disperse

#### **1. Has the Coalition served its purpose? Should the Coalition be ended on a positive note with a press statement outlining history and evolution?**

If there is consensus among the partners to close the Coalition, each Coalition member could be encouraged to continue to implement their respective institutional activities in the health, water and sanitation sectors, and to coordinate wherever possible with former partners of the Coalition, and the Government of Haiti.

#### **2. Should the scope of the Coalition be reduced or more specifically defined? If so how?**

For example: Continue as an international monitoring group by tracking cholera and the interventions made to control it.

#### **Advocacy:**

- Advocate to producer (Sanchol) to increase its annual production of OVC. In previous years between 4 – 5 million doses a year had been produced. Advocacy to donors to underwrite the costs of increased number of dosages would need to accompany such action.
- Advocate to the new Government of Haiti in 2016 to increase the number of CHWs being paid from funds in its national budget.
- Sponsor social marketing campaigns to raise awareness on equity and increased access to health and water sectors

#### **Coordination and information sharing:**

- Host an annual face-to face meeting among partners to share interventions, studies, findings and evaluations, reports and news. Venue – Washington DC
- Generate reports for policymakers on achievements to date and policy action items
- Coalition partners and other stakeholders organize a side event at University of North Carolina's Annual Conference on water and sanitation producing evidence-based case studies on Haiti to policy makers and funding agencies.
- Produce an annual publication of key studies on the impact of OCV, WASH etc. on the reduction of cholera in Haiti.
- Produce a short electronic bulletin informing partners of upcoming key events, relevant research studies, comparative legislation, & epidemiological surveillance data pertaining to cholera control. Partners could also advertise any job postings of interest.

**SUMMARY – REGIONAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE CHOLERA FROM HISPANIOLA - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS 2012 - 2015**



Coalition as of January 1, 2016



Haitian Diaspora Federation

