Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Friday, October 22, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT

EOC SITUATION REPORT #1
Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

- The outbreak of diarrheal diseases reported from the departments of Artibonite and Centre has been confirmed as due to cholera by MSPP (*Ministère de la santé publique et de la population*) and CDC.

- 1,526 cases and 138 deaths have been reported by MSPP since Tuesday (54 in institutions, and 84 in community). These are preliminary figures and are expected to change rapidly.

- Reported cases are mainly coming from communities along the Artibonite river basin that runs through the mentioned departments. The cases have come primarily from areas where there was no direct damage from the earthquake, more information on these vulnerable communities is being sought.

PAHO/WHO Response

- PAHO is deploying teams with experience in cholera consisting of epidemiologists, risk communication, case management, and water and sanitation experts to both Haiti and Dominican Republican to provide technical support to MSPP and to strengthen the PAHO offices.

- PAHO is also ready to provide the needed supplies identified by the Ministry of Health.

- PAHO currently has medicines and supplies to cover initial treatment needs in stock at the PROMESS warehouse near the Port-au-Prince airport. Haiti will need more supplies as cases continue to be reported.

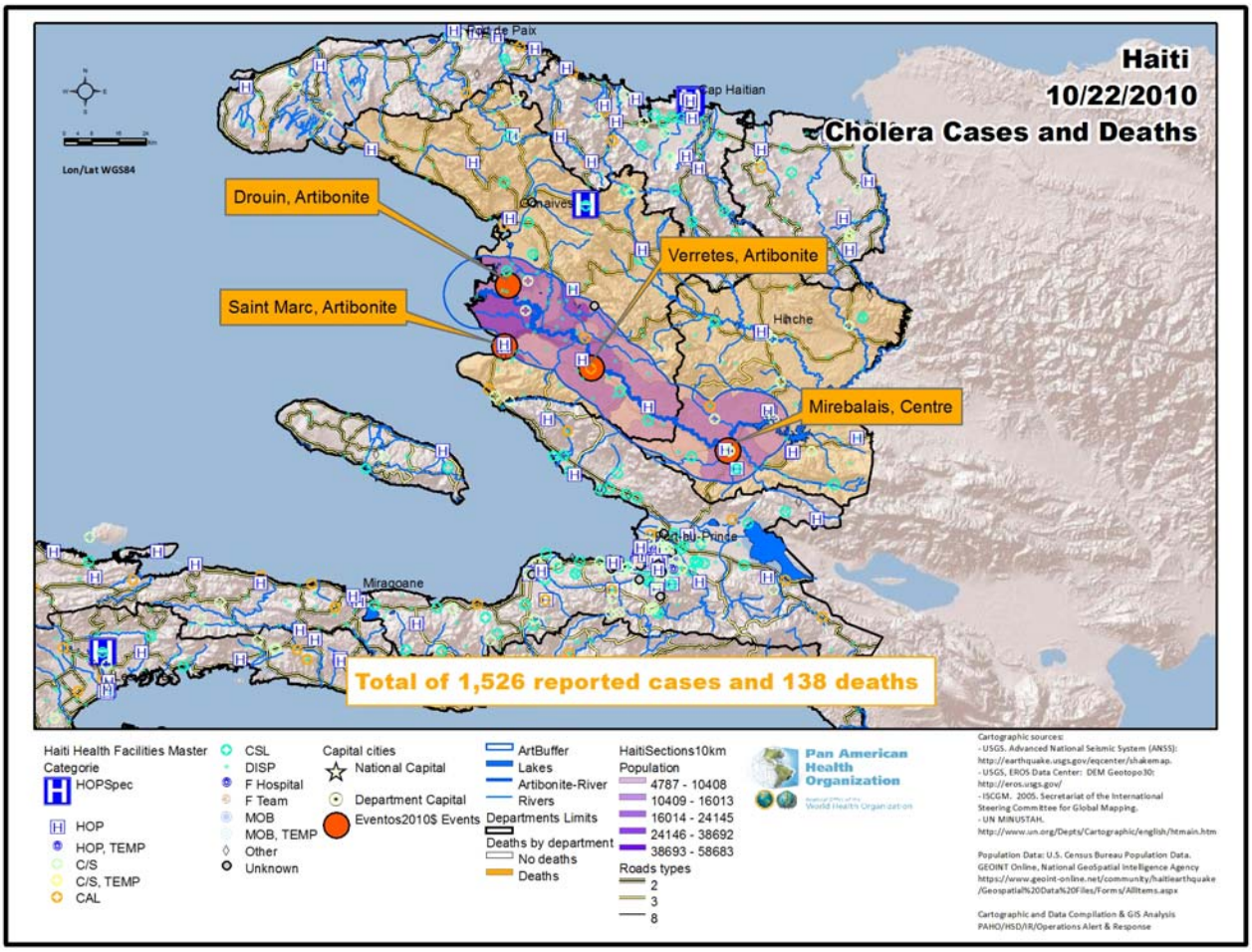
- PAHO is collaborating with health cluster partners, including the Cuban medical mission, MSF, MINUSTAH, OCHA, USAID, USCDC, UNICEF and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to respond to the outbreak.

- PAHO is also coordinating closely with health officials in the U.S. and Canada, including with HHS, the State Department, the CDC, NIH, the FDA, and USAID and in Canada, with Health Canada, PHAC, and CIDA.

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.

Situation Map



Resources

- PAHO Responds to Cholera Outbreak in Haiti (press release).
- World Health Organization's dedicated section to cholera (technical guidelines).
- Pan American Health Organization's main website.
- World Health Organization's main website.
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti, you can also check the PAHO and WHO channels in Twitter.

The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center Situation Report 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.