

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HAITI

Situation Report # 1

13 October 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- After more than 3 years with no cases of cholera reported in Haiti, on 2 October 2022, the national authorities reported two confirmed cases of *Vibrio cholerae* O1 in the greater Port-au-Prince area. As of 12 October, the Ministry of Health (MSSP) has reported 47 cases confirmed and 35 deaths in Ouest and Center Departments.
- Civil unrest, lack of access to affected populations and fuel and logistics constraints are hindering the emergency response operations.
- Difficulties accessing water presents a high risk to expand the epidemic to other departments in the country.
- PAHO/WHO is working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health (MSPP) and other international agencies and partners in support of the National Cholera Response plan, which includes the following 5 pillars defined by health authorities:
 - Laboratory and epidemiological surveillance
 - Case management
 - Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
 - Communications and community engagement
 - Vaccination
 - Crosscutting sectors logistics and coordination
- To avoid the loss of life, PAHO/WHO is supporting the scale up of case management by providing lifesaving medical supplies to the MSPP and partners to open and run Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) in the most affected areas.

IN NUMBERS*

As October 12, 2022

560 Suspected Cases

47 Confirmed Cases

296 Hospitalized Suspected Cases

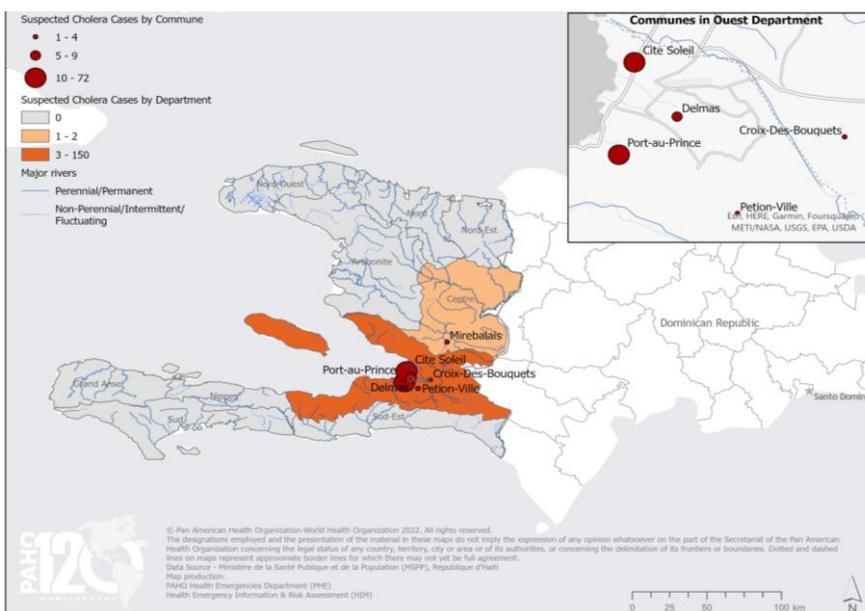
35 Institutional Deaths

**Total numbers include community cases as well as cases reported in the Civil Prison of PaP*

Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #8 and PAHO/WHO Country Office Situation Report #3

Link to PAHO/WHO Cholera website [Cholera - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization](#)

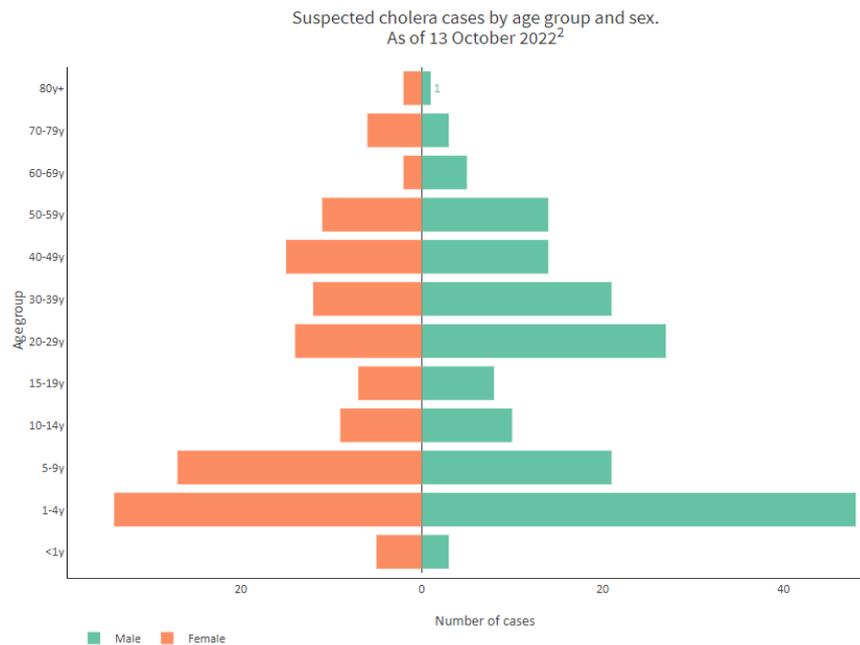
For more information contact: eoc@paho.org



Map of cumulative cases of cholera in Haiti in 2022, as of 12 October 2022

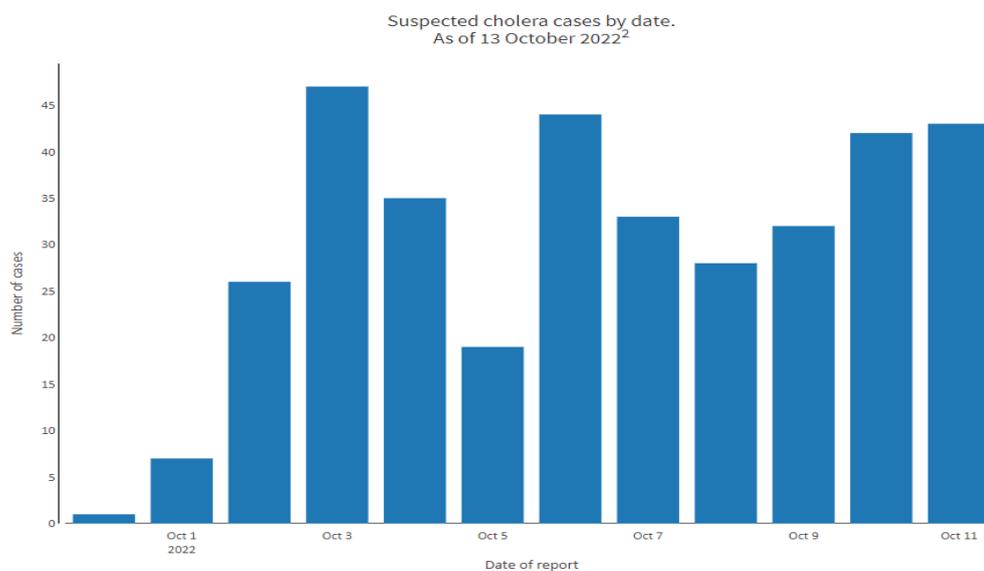
- From the Ministry of Health report on 12 October, 53% of total reported cases are male and 47% female, with an important number of cases reported in children and adolescents.
- According to Health Directorate of the Ouest (DSO) there are 396 cholera beds installed and 296 hospitalized patients (bed occupancy rate of 74%).
- At the civil prison of Port-au-Prince, there has been 203 suspected cases, 12 confirmed and 14 deaths reported.

Figure 1. Distribution of suspected cases of cholera by age group in Haiti in 2022, as of 12 October



Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population

Figure 2. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti in 2022, as of 12 October 2022



Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population



RISK ASSESSMENT AND CHALLENGES

- Lack of access to the affected areas due to insecurity is hindering the epidemiological surveillance, the installation of Oral Rehydration Points and Cholera Treatment Centers, the transport of patients to CTCs and health promotion and sensitization activities at the community level.
- Access to fuel is hampering the functioning and scale up of CTCs, the National Laboratory of Public Health, and the transportation of health staff, samples, and other critical and lifesaving supplies.
- Difficulties accessing drinking water due to lack of fuel and insecurity in addition to inadequate sanitation further exacerbates the risk of an expansion of the outbreak.
- Facing multiple challenges for the procurement of cholera response supplies due to a high demand for resources from several Cholera outbreaks ongoing at the global level, impeding the access of essential medical supplies for scaling up the response



HEALTH NEEDS

In coordination with the health authorities, the following **priority needs** have been identified to reduce morbidity and mortality:

- Cholera beds and tents
- Laboratory reagents and rapid diagnostic tests
- Medicines and medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts
- Access to fuel for the operations of CTCs, laboratories, and other essential Ministry of Health units
- Access to safe drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation



PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

According to the 5 pillars defined by the MSPP for the Cholera outbreak response PAHO/WHO is supporting with the following:

Coordination

- PAHO/WHO continues to support coordination efforts by the Health Directorate of the Ouest department (DSO) for information sharing, to detect gaps, obstacles and needs for the response to the cholera outbreak in the Ouest department.
- PAHO/WHO is supporting response efforts by the MSPP in other departments with multidisciplinary teams for preparedness activities related to the rapid detection of cases and timely case management, including in the departments that have not yet reported cases.

Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- PAHO/WHO is supporting the implementation of an information system for data retrieval from CTCs for the departmental and national levels.
- PAHO/WHO will expand the strategy of departmental epidemiologists to continue supporting the investigation of suspected cases in the community.

- The Labo-moto strategy that is responsible for the supply, training, monitoring and transport of cholera samples, which go from CTCs or from the community to the laboratory is being strengthened.
- At laboratory level, PAHO/WHO is supporting the capacity to diagnose cholera by culture and the activation of another 5 subnational laboratories.
- In the other departments that do not yet have confirmed cases of cholera, the preparation phase is activated and PAHO/WHO is strengthening local capacities for the rapid detection of suspected cases, diagnosis, and timely access to appropriate care.

Case management

- PAHO/WHO continues supporting the set-up of cholera treatment centers with the provision of lifesaving medicines and essential supplies.
- As of 12 October, the DSO informs that 14 CTCs have been installed and are operational (including one in the Civil prison of Port-au-Prince and one in Mirebalais in Centre Department) with a total of 388 beds available. 3 Oral Rehydration Points are functional and able to provide intravenous rehydration.
- PAHO/WHO is supporting the Direction of Organization of Health Services (DOSS) for the validation of the cholera case management protocol to be diffused to cholera treatment centers nationwide.
- An integrated quality assessment tool destined to identify the minimum requirements for the opening of cholera treatment facilities was elaborated by DOSS with PAHO/WHO support.
- For the cholera outbreak reported in the National Prison of Port-au-Prince, PAHO/WHO provided medicines, medical supplies, and cholera beds for the care of patients.
- Support to the DSO for the monitoring of the availability of beds (Ouest and Center departments), the number of hospitalizations, and the needs and gaps of CTCs.
- To ensure a comprehensive response to the cholera outbreak, efforts are being geared towards integrating Mental Health in the National Response. To this effect, a module was developed on psychological first aid (PFA) with PAHO/WHO's support.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WaSH) / Infection prevention and Control (IPC)

- Technical advice is provided by PAHO/WHO on WaSH and IPC requirements for CTCs to ensure preventive and protecting measures are implemented.
- PAHO/WHO assisted the MSPP to finalize the list of WaSH supplies required to ensure the implementation of appropriate IPC and WaSH protocols in treatment centers and health facilities providing care for Cholera patients.

Communications and community engagement

- The elaboration of the MSPP Cholera Communication strategy is being supported by PAHO/WHO, including the elaboration of training material on cholera and community engagement.
- PAHO/WHO is providing technical advice for the implementation of a capacity building plan for 300 Polyvalent Community Health workers that will work on prevention actions at community level.
- A radio spot with preventive actions to adopt for the prevention of Cholera infection has been elaborated with the MSPP and is being transmitted across 11 stations in the metropolitan area.

Logistics

- With PAHO/WHO support, the DSO and the National Ambulance Center were delivered 1,200 gallons of fuel to ensure the continuation of their operations.