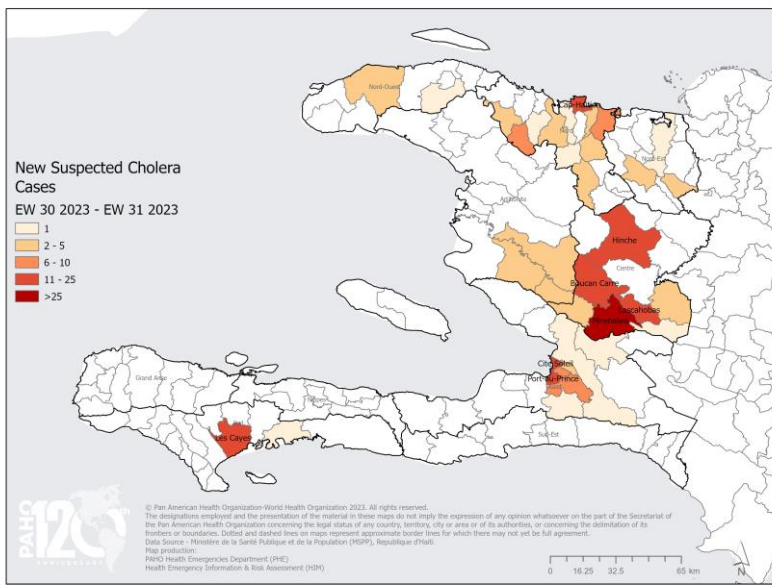


CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

8 August 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as of 5 August 2023, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) have reported 58,230 suspected cases and 3,696 confirmed cases in all 10 departments of the country.
- PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP) and partners, including in:
 - Strengthening surveillance by supporting epidemiological surveillance missions in Nord-Ouest, Nord, Artibonite, Ouest, and Sud Est departments.
 - Enhancing epidemiological and laboratory surveillance at the department level to improve the quality of data and reporting, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the regional laboratories for the rapid detection and diagnosis of cholera, including providing weekly transport of specimens from the Nord-Ouest and Artibonite department in partnership with United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).
 - Improving case management in Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) by supporting Health Directorates in clinical care, water, hygiene, sanitation and infection prevention and control, including training service providers in institutional management of cholera.
- In the Dominican Republic, the total number of confirmed cases is 111, of which 74 are reported in the capital city of Santo Domingo.



Reported Suspected Cholera Cases in Haiti by Department as of 5 August 2023

Source: Haïti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP). Data generated by PAHO/WHO

IN NUMBERS

As of 5 August 2023

Haiti

58,230 Suspected Cases *

3,696 Confirmed Cases

54,102 Hospitalized Cases

823 Deaths

1.44% Case Fatality Rate
(suspected cases)

1.08% Case Fatality Rate
(Hospitalized cases)

Dominican Republic

111 Confirmed Cases

0 Deaths

*Total suspected cases for Haiti include institutional and community cases as well as cases reported in the Civil Prison of PaP based on Department Epi cumulative data.

Source Haiti: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #149.
Source Dominican Republic: Ministerio de Salud Pública.



CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

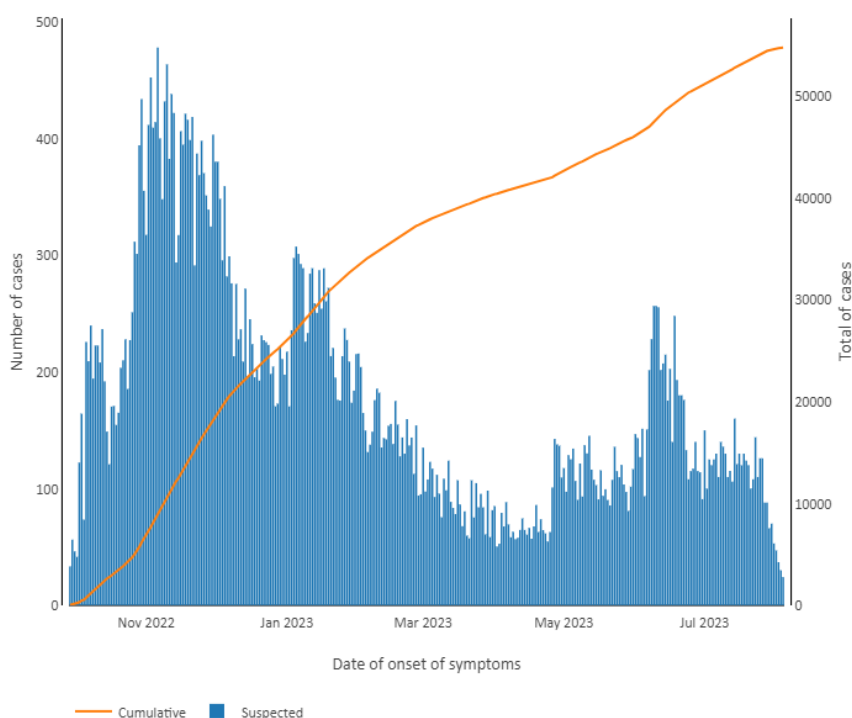
- In Haiti, the complex humanitarian and socio-political crisis, with high levels of insecurity, fuel shortages and economic instability, continue to be major challenges in the response to the cholera outbreak, limiting access to health and basic water, hygiene and sanitation services, as well supplies:
 - Lack of access to affected areas continue to hamper epidemiological surveillance, the installation of Oral Rehydration Points (ORP) and Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs), the transport of patients to CTCs, and health promotion, as well as community level water, hygiene, and sanitation activities.
 - Although fuel distribution has restarted in the Ouest Department, availability remains limited in other departments, hindering basic water and sanitation services (e.g., garbage collection) and the response and distribution of life-saving cholera medicines and supplies.
- The global cholera crisis generates a high demand for medical and non-medical supplies, including for the oral vaccine, resulting in limited cholera commodities for immediate distribution in all affected countries.



EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

- In Haiti, as of 5 August, a total of **58,230 suspected cholera cases** were reported in all ten departments in the country, (Figure 1) of which **3,696 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **823 deaths**.
- To date, all **ten departments have reported confirmed cases**, with the majority reported in Ouest (1,795), followed by Centre (457), Grand Anse (256), and Nord (242). The most affected municipalities in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétiion-Ville.
- Cases continue to be confirmed by culture in all departments of the country, indicating active circulation of *Vibrio cholerae* O:1.

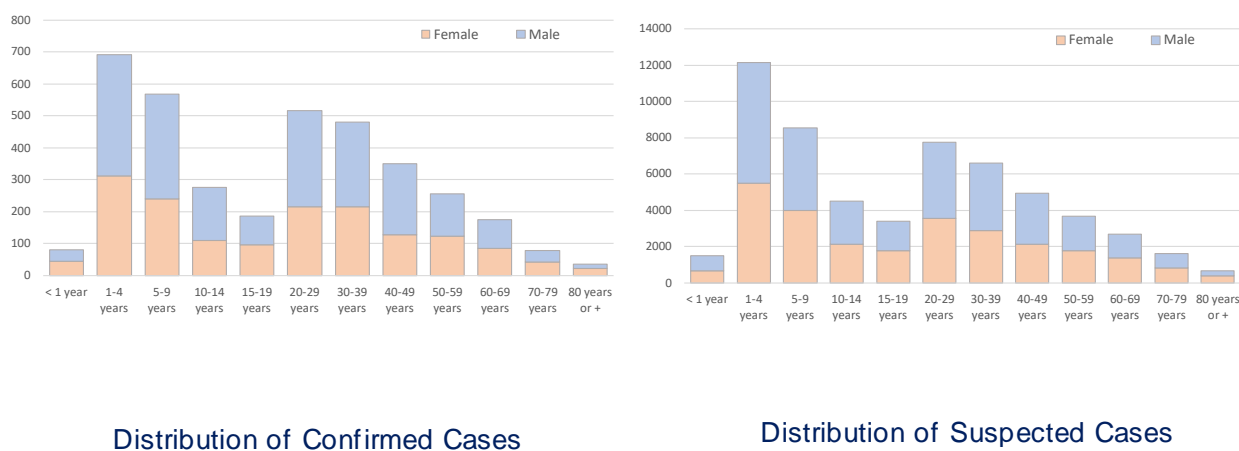
Figure 1. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 5 August 2023



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

- Based on MSPP information from 5 August, 53.44% of reported suspected cases are male, and 46.56% female (Figure 2).
- Since 3 August, **there has been an overall increase of 2.92% in suspected cases and a 2.33% increase in confirmed cases** across the country.
- The case fatality rate among suspected and hospitalized cases is 1.44% and 1.08% respectively.
- Age groups 1-4 (42.43%) and 5-9 (34.64%) are the most affected among the 3,696 confirmed cases.

Figure 2. Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 5 August



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



HEALTH NEEDS

- Medical and non-medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Ringer Lactate solution, cholera beds and WASH supplies.
- Human resources at CTC and at Department Levels.
- Laboratory reagents and Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) for the investigation and confirmation of cholera cases.
- Access to safe drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation.
- Access to sufficient fuel and transportation services (air and land) for the timely and effective distribution of essential cholera supplies.



PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

PAHO/WHO continues to support national health authorities and operational partners in prioritizing the cholera response in the departments and municipalities most affected based on the epidemiological situation as follows:

Coordination and leadership

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to strengthen coordination of the cholera response by supporting surge capacity in epidemiological surveillance, case management, water, hygiene, sanitation, community intervention and risk communication under the leadership of Department Health Directorates.

Epidemiological and laboratory surveillance

- PAHO/WHO continues to support the MSPP to strengthen the capacity of regional laboratories for the rapid detection and diagnosis of cholera, including in procuring equipment, laboratory materials and reagents. Additionally, PAHO/WHO in partnership with the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has supported the weekly transport of specimens from the Nord Ouest and Artibonite departments.
- In addition, PAHO/WHO continues to monitor and support the rapid investigation of cholera alerts and response activities including hiring of 10 PAHO assistant epidemiologists to support surveillance and alert investigation activities. Assistant epidemiologists also support departmental situation rooms, prepare weekly bulletins, and manage data validation at the health directorate level.
- Investigation and response missions were carried out in all departments. 100% of alerts were investigated within 48 hours by the surveillance teams of each department.
- PAHO/WHO supports the Directorate of Epidemiology Laboratory and Research (DELR) in case review workshops, revision of alert criteria, L'Equipe Départementale d'Investigation et de Réponse (EDIR) training in departments, Epidemiological Surveillance Officer (OSE) training and missions to the departments.
- The Labo- Moto, the motorbike laboratory team in Haiti, supported the collection and transportation of samples, trained institutional staff on sampling techniques, and participated in rapid investigation of new cases as a part of the Ministry of Health and Population (MSPP) departmental rapid mobile teams.

Case management

- PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (MSPP) in coordination, quality assessment, and supplying of CTC's and providing training to staff based on a series of in-depth evaluations.
- To date, PAHO/WHO evaluated 68 CTC's in across all departments and provided training to 126 service providers on the institutional management of Cholera. Additionally, working to ring 10 CTC's in the Centre Department up to standard.

WASH

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- PAHO/WHO employed eight WASH technicians to support departmental WASH activities including responding to cases in Grand Anse and Nord Est prisons, evaluating 14 prisons in nine departments, and training medical officers in communes in Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, and Sud-Est departments.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supported the Ouest Health department and the National Water and Sanitation Agency (DINEPA) in responding to 3000 displaced people due to violence who were encamped in a school with no sanitation services in Port au Prince.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO conducted a training of trainers (ToT) to train and support Polyvalent Community Health Workers, nurse supervisors and nurses responsible for community-level health centers in cholera response activities. These activities include house visits to raise awareness on preventing cholera transmission, ensuring delivery of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and chlorine tablets, and collaborating with epidemiological surveillance officers to ensure reporting and follow-up of cholera cases.

Vaccination

- PAHO/WHO received over 526,000 additional doses of the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) and is working with the MSPP to implement the second phase of the vaccination campaign in the Centre departments and prisons in the country. To date, 916 residents, of which 87% are male, in the prisons of Delmas, Croix des Bouquets, Petit Goave were vaccinated in July.
- PAHO/WHO coordinated with MSPP divisions, UN agencies, local and national NGO's vaccinated over 800,000 people in five communes in the Ouest department, one commune in the Centre department, and five prisons.

Supplies and Logistics

- PAHO/WHO continues to support the cholera response by distributing cholera medical and WASH supplies in the Nord-Est, Nord Ouest, Sud-Este, Centre, Artibonite, Grand Anse, Nippes, and Ouest departments.

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