



Epidemiological Alert:

Weekly update on the Cholera situation

EW 1 (January 2 to January 8 2011)

(Published on 18 January 2011)

The purpose of this alert is to present the current epidemiological situation of the cholera outbreak in Haiti and the Dominican Republic updated as of epidemiological week (EW) 1, 2011. The information that is presented has been provided by the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) of Haiti which compiles the data obtained by the different partners of the Health Cluster and the Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic, respectively.

Haiti

Since the beginning of the cholera outbreak in the EW 42¹ (2010) as of EW 1 (2011) the MSPP registered a total of 183,906 cholera cases of which 55,9% (102,821) were hospitalized² and 2.0% died (global case-fatality rate).

New cases per week

During the EW 1 of 2011, there were 12,602 new registered cases, with a weekly incidence rate of 12.7 cases per 10,000 inhabitants. These represent a decrease of 47% from those that were registered in the previous week, when the incidence rate was 24.1 per 10,000 people.

Nine out of ten departments registered a decrease in its incidence rate, ranging from 22% to 56% when compared with the previous week. Sud was the only department that increased its incidence rate. While in the EW 52 it was 4.6 per 10,000 inhabitants, in the EW 1 it was rated in 13.9 per 10,000 inhabitants.

Although three departments, Nord Est, Grande Anse and Ouest, which includes Port-au-Prince continue registering the highest incidence rates at the national level (with 23.1, 22.6 and 15.7

Summary

Haiti

During the first EW of 2011 a decrease of 47% in the national incidence rate in comparison to previous week was reported.

The departments with the highest weekly incidence rate (Nord Est, Grande Anse y Ouest) also registered a decrease that ranged from 22% to 56%.

At national level, the in-hospital case fatality rate declined to 1.2%. Nonetheless several departments maintained higher rates, especially Nord (4.7%) and Grande Anse (3.4%).

Dominican Republic

The Ministry of Public Health informed that in the first week of the 2011 8 new cases were confirmed, raising the cumulative incidence to 160 cases. No deaths have been reported.

¹ On October 20, 2010 the first cases of cholera (V. cholerae O: 1 serotype Ogawa) are confirmed by via laboratory testing in patients hospitalized in the department of Artibone.

² A case of cholera is defined as a patient with profuse, acute, watery diarrhea, in a resident of a department in which at least one laboratory confirmed case of cholera has been confirmed by laboratory. Hospitalized cases are when a patient is admitted to a health facility (a hospital or cholera treatment center) during at least one night. A death due to cholera is the death of patient with the cholera disease that satisfied the definition of cholera cases. Any death that occurs due to cholera that occurs in a health facility, even if this person was admitted overnight or in the morning is considered a cholera hospital death.

cases per 10,000 inhabitants respectively) they registered a decrease in their incidence rates compared with the previous weeks.

Hospitalization trend and in-hospital case fatality rate

As observed in the report of new cases, the trend of hospitalizations registered a decline during this week. All departments, except Sud, registered a decrease in the number of new hospitalizations. At the national level this reduction during EW 1 was around 40.2%.

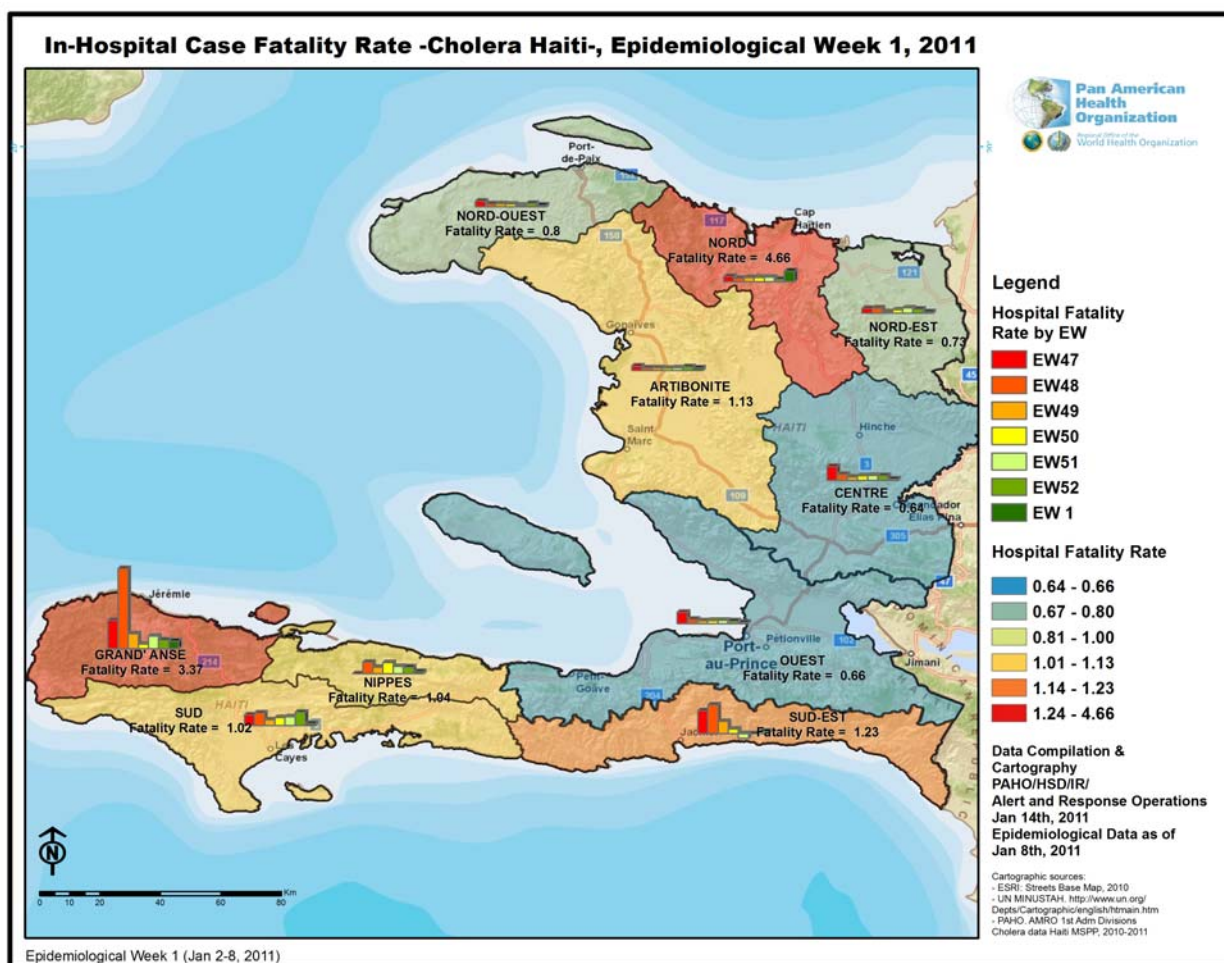
The department of Sud was the one that registered an increase in 66.6% in the number of new hospitalizations.

The percentage of cases that required hospitalization in the EW 1 was of 61%. In three departments the hospitalization rate was higher than 90% (Nord and Sud with 100%, and Nippes with 91.5%). Meanwhile Nord Est and Sud Est had hospitalization rates of 83.2% and 70.1%. The other five departments reported hospitalization rates lower than 50%.

The in-hospital case fatality rate (proportion of deaths among hospitalized patients) registered an important decrease in comparison to the previous week; from 1.8% to 1.2% at the national level. Nonetheless, there were departments that maintained considerably higher in-hospital case fatality rates, especially Nord (4.7%) and Grande Anse (3.4%).

Global case fatality rate

The global case fatality rate of the cholera epidemic in Haiti as of EW 1 of 2011 is of 2.0 % (with a range that goes from 0.9% in Port-au-Prince, to 10.4% in the department of Sud Est).



Dominican Republic

The Ministry of Public Health reported 21 new cholera cases during the first week of 2011, raising the cumulative number of cases to 212.

The cases were detected through the active search of cases nationwide.

The Dominican Republic is divided into 31 provinces and the National district. Cases of cholera and hospitalizations are registered in 15 provinces and the National District. Provinces where cases have been detected during the previous two weeks are Azua, Barahona, Elías Piña, Independencia, La Altagracia, Santiago, Valverde, Santo Domingo and Distrito Nacional.

The province of Elías Piña has notified up to this moment the highest incidence rate with an accumulated 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. So far, there is no death due to cholera registered in the country.

Note:

The daily updates with respect to the number of cases, hospitalizations and fatalities due to cholera are published through the Interactive Cholera Map which can be found through the following link:

http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas_IHR/CholeraHispaniola/atlas.htm

The report concerning the actions taken by the Health Assistance Group, at the national and department level can be found through the following link:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4404&Itemid=3487