

Current status of cholera outbreaks in the Region

In **Cuba**, no new cases have been reported. The situation continues to be the same as reported in the 26 September 2013 Epidemiological Alert, where 678 confirmed cholera cases,¹ including three deaths, have been reported since epidemiological week (EW) 27 of 2012 through EW 34 of 2013. The cases were registered in the provinces of Camaguey, Granma, Guantanamo, Havana and Santiago de Cuba, as well as in other towns associated with these provinces.

In the **Dominican Republic**, since the beginning of the epidemic (November 2010) through EW 38 of 2013, the total number of suspected cholera cases reported was 31,021, of which 456 died. As previously reported, Haiti, from EW 1 to EW 9 of 2013, the number of suspected cholera cases and deaths recorded nationwide was higher than the number recorded for the same period of 2012. The increase has been linked to cholera outbreaks registered in some provinces and in the Altagracia prison. Following this increase, there had been a decrease in the number of suspected cases and deaths recorded since EW 10 through EW 31 of 2013; however, between EW 32 and EW 38 the suspected cases increased, in particular due to outbreaks in the provinces of La Altagracia, Maria Trinidad Sanchez, San Cristóbal, and Santiago. With regards to the case-fatality, for 2011 the case-fatality rate was 1.7%, at the end of 2012 it was 0.8%, and thus far in 2013 it has been 2.1%.

In **Haiti**, since the beginning of the epidemic (October 2010) to EW 38 of 2013, the total number of cholera cases reached 678,840, of which 377,426 were hospitalized (55.5%) and 8,289 died. The global case-fatality rate has been 1.2% since November 2011, however, with variations between 4.3%, in the department of Sud Est to 0.6%, in Port-au-Prince.

Since EW 1 to EW 11 of 2013, the number of cases and deaths registered at a national level was greater than the respective numbers registered for the same period of 2012 due to outbreaks recorded in the departments of Artibonite, Centre, Grand Anse and Ouest. From EW 12 to EW 38 of 2013, the number of cases and deaths registered has been lower than what was registered for the same period in 2012.

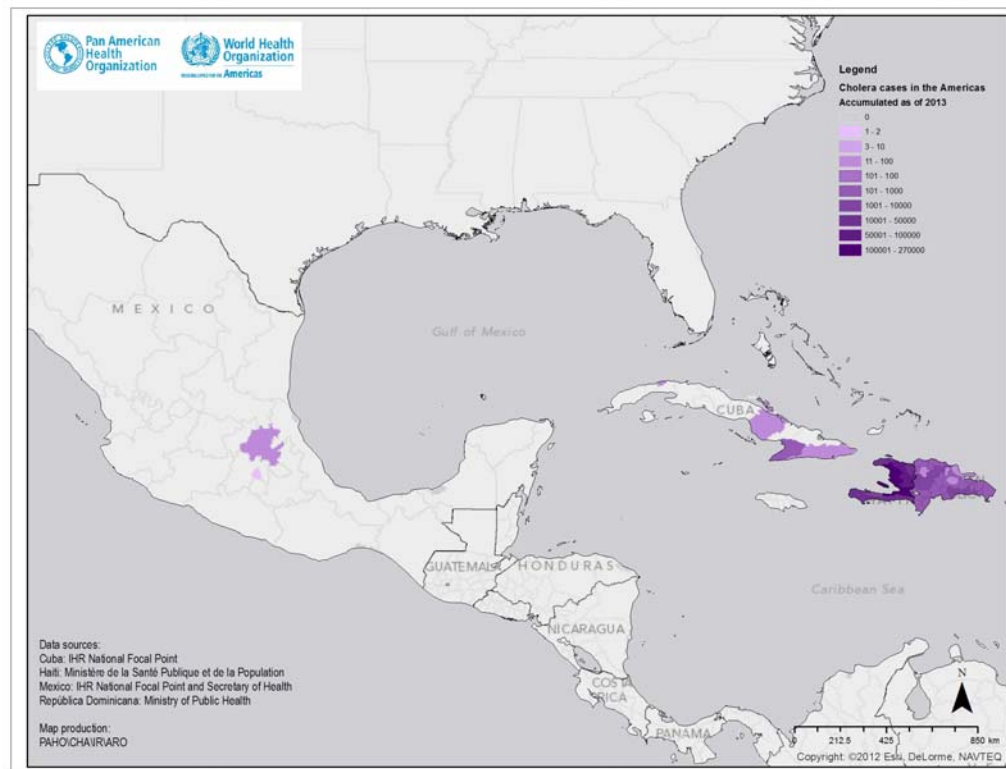
In **Mexico**, the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point of Mexico reported 36 new confirmed cases of autochthonous infection with *Vibrio cholerae* O:1 Ogawa toxigenic in the state of Hidalgo. With the additional confirmed cholera cases, the national total is now 46, including one death; with two of the cases in the Federal District and 44 in the state of Hidalgo.

The cases are 24 women and 22 men with ages ranging from 2 to 82 years old.

¹ Among the confirmed cholera cases are 12 persons who had travelled to Cuba from other countries.

The Mexico health authorities continue to: strengthen epidemiological activities at the national level; ensure the availability of inputs and quality of care in medical units; implement actions to ensure access to drinking water and basic sanitation at the community level; and monitor and check the chlorine levels.

Figure. Map of cumulative cholera cases in the Americas. October 2010 to 1 October 2013.



Recommendations

PAHO/WHO reiterates that the recommendations made in the [Epidemiological Alert](#) of November 2, 2012 continue to be applicable.

References

1. Ministry of Public Health and Population, Haiti: Rapports journaliers du MSPP sur l'évolution du cholera en Haiti. Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Ministry of Public Health and Population, Haiti; 2013. Available at: <http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/index.php>
2. The Dominican Republic Epidemiological Bulletin. Epidemiological Week 38 of 2013. Available at: http://digepisalud.gob.do/boletines/otras-publicaciones/cat_view/33-otras-publicaciones/63-boletines-semanales.html
3. Mexico Epidemiological Bulletin. Epidemiological Week 38, 2013. Available at: http://www.epidemiologia.salud.gob.mx/dgae/boletin/intd_boletin.html